



POLICY

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

AUG 07 2021

The Honorable James Lankford
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Lankford:

On behalf of President Biden, thank you for your May 25, 2021, letter sharing your views on the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of closing the detention facility at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO).

As you know, Secretary of Defense Austin supports President Biden's intent to close the detention facility at GTMO. However, the Department takes your concerns seriously. We will continue to consult with Congress as we review way-forward options that will preserve U.S. national security interests and address detainee dispositions. We continue to support Executive Branch interagency review processes regarding the disposition of the remaining 39 detainees held at Guantanamo Bay.

We recognize the importance of congressional oversight regarding the future of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the imperative of continuing our dialogue on this issue.

Thank you for your continued support of the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colin H. Kahl", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Colin H. Kahl, PhD

