

RICHARD SHELBY
ALABAMA

RANKING MEMBER—COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING,
& URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

RANKING MEMBER—SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION & RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON RULES & ADMINISTRATION

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

304 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103
(202) 224-5744

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103

19 December 2012

General Raymond T. Odierno
Army Chief of Staff
200 Army Pentagon, Room 3E528
Washington, D.C. 20310-9999

Dear General Odierno,

My staff recently received an update on the Army's Stryker "DVH" combat vehicle program and the Army's plan to procure a third brigade set of DVH vehicles. The briefing team stated that the Army is in the process of defining the requirement for these upgraded vehicles but could not provide a detailed timeline to getting them under contract and into production.

I understand it takes time to formalize a requirement and work through the weapon system acquisition process. However, my concerns over the length of time it is taking for these Stryker DVH vehicles are two fold:

1. The DVH configuration of the Stryker combat vehicle clearly saves lives. As I understand it, there are more than 600 Stryker DVH vehicles deployed today and they represent an exponential increase in soldier safety in Afghanistan and wherever they are or will be deployed. Therefore, it is prudent that we work together to contract, build and field additional Stryker DVH vehicles as fast as possible.
2. The ongoing Stryker DVH Exchange program is rapidly coming to an end which would cause tremors in the Stryker industrial base. Failure to contract for the additional Stryker DVH vehicles will cause layoffs to occur and the loss of the quality workforce that now produces the Stryker DVH vehicle.

I ask that you personally engage on this issue to ensure our bureaucracy does not unnecessarily limit the rapid production and fielding of this needed capability. Furthermore, I request that you provide clarification on when the Army anticipates formalizing the requirement no later than January 9, 2013.

Sincerely,



Richard Shelby
United States Senator

STATE OFFICES:

- 1800 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH
321 FEDERAL BUILDING
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203
(205) 731-1384
- HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
1000 GLENN HEARN BOULEVARD
BOX 20127
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35824
(256) 772-0460
- 113 SAINT JOSEPH STREET
445 U.S. COURTHOUSE
MOBILE, AL 36602
(251) 694-4164
- 15 LEE STREET
FMJ FEDERAL BLDG., SUITE 208
MONTGOMERY, AL 36104
(334) 223-7303
- 1118 GREENSBORO AVENUE, #240
TUSCALOOSA, AL 35401
(205) 759-5047