

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 3, 2018

The Honorable Richard V. Spencer  
Secretary of the Navy  
1200 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350-1200

Secretary Spencer:

We write to you with concern regarding Department of Defense (DOD) efforts to recover years of salary paid to nearly 200 civilian police officers at Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, California.

On March 27, 2018, the Orange County Register reported that nearly 100 civilian police officers currently serving in the Provost Marshal's Office at Camp Pendleton, as well as nearly 100 retired officers, were ordered to repay a portion of salaries earned between 2008 and 2017. Each officer was instructed to immediately repay the debt, apply for a repayment plan, or submit repayment waiver request. Some debts are upwards of \$50,000, an immense burden that can account for more than a year's salary for some Camp Pendleton civilian police officers.

We are troubled that these officers, many of who are Marine Corps veterans, are being forced to expeditiously repay thousands of dollars as the result of a Defense Financial and Accounting Service (DFAS) clerical error that went unnoticed for nearly a decade. They face the threat of wage garnishments totaling up to 15 percent of net disposable pay, as well as tax liens. This is unsuitable treatment of those who have honorably served our country, the United States Marine Corps, and Camp Pendleton base personnel.

We support the decision to suspend debt collection until a final determination can be made regarding each repayment waiver application. We encourage DFAS to conduct a thorough review of each waiver application with appropriate consideration to the financial hardship an officer may endure. We look forward to an immediate response. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Mimi Walters  
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress

Cc: Defense Finance and Accounting Service