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From DNI Clapper: Furlough Decision Announced

Today, the Secretary of Defense announced that, due to an O&M shortfall of more than \$30 billion this fiscal year, DoD civilian employees will be subject to 11 furlough days.

During the past several months, Secretary Hagel and I discussed the issue of furloughs as they relate to DoD civilian employees funded under the National Intelligence Program. We agree that NIP funded DoD civilians are a critical element of the Intelligence Community's mission and that furlough decisions regarding these employees should be made within the IC. Several months ago, I challenged IC leaders to develop strategies to minimize furloughs across the community. Through their effort and that of many others, I'm pleased to announce that I do not envision mandating furloughs to IC employees funded in the National Intelligence Program.

As DNI, I have a responsibility to preserve our ability to deliver the most insightful intelligence possible. You've heard me say it before—our people are our most valuable asset and our mission depends on making sure intelligence professionals are focused on the threats facing our nation.

Secretary Hagel and I share the belief that furloughs disrupt lives, negatively impact national security and hinder our ability to carry out our mission. I support his efforts to continue to seek solutions to further reduce the number of furlough days imposed on DoD civilian employees particularly funded under the Military Intelligence Program, and the Information Systems Security Program.

There is no question that under sequestration we will have to do less with less. Over time, the significant impact of these cuts will force us to prioritize our intelligence activities with increasingly limited resources. During these challenging times, when the array of threats we face is so vast, we need every intelligence professional focused on our mission.

Throughout this process, you have been exceedingly patient and professional and, most important of all, you have remained focused on our top priorities—continuing to integrate the IC and providing the most insightful intelligence possible.

I appreciate your continued patience and commitment to our mission as we work through the impacts of sequestration together. Thank you for all you do for the IC and for our nation.

James R., Clapper Director of National Intelligence