Dear Sir or Ma’am,

I am writing today regarding the proposed plan to remove all AH-64D Apaches helicopters from the National Guard and transfer them to the Active Duty Army. As a concerned citizen who supports the [INSERT STATE HERE] National Guard’s [INSERT UNIT HERE] Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB), I strongly request your assistance in stopping our nation from this crucial mistake.

The Guard is the ideal place for an AH-64D unit for the following reasons:

* The National Guard has more experienced pilots. Many of these pilots have spent more than twenty years in the same National Guard unit, where they have trained new pilots and developed strong teams.
* The National Guard operates at one third of the cost of an Active Army unit.
* The safety record of the National Guard is incomparable; in the last five years, Active Duty has crashed 12 Apaches due to “pilot error,” whereas the Guard has lost zero in the same time frame. One Apache costs about $30 million. 30 million multiplied by 12 aircraft lost equals a $360 million dollar loss by Active Duty.

If the Guard were able to keep all eight of its Combat Aviation Brigades, and acquire two more from Active Duty, this would save nearly $1 BILLION ANNUALLY! And if the Guard were to keep all BCTs, and acquire three more from Active Duty, this would save nearly $9 BILLION ANNUALLY! **Together, these savings would equal a staggering $10 Billion annually.**

Our founding fathers designed this country to have a small standing military (Active Duty) and a large ready reserve (National Guard and Reserves). Due to the last 13 years of combat, the founding fathers’ vision has been lost; we now have a large standing military and a small operational ready reserve. It is not in the best interest of the United States of America to remove the combat effectiveness of the National Guard. I strongly urge you to consider the dire consequences of the elimination of the [INSERT UNIT HERE] ARB and the associated resources from the [INSERT STATE HERE] National Guard.

The unit is stationed in [INSERT CITY HERE] and has a complement of 402 part-time and 212 full-time soldiers employed in support of AH-64D Apache attack helicopter operations. They have deployed to the Middle East [INSERT NUMBER HERE] times in the last 13 years and have distinguished themselves with superb performance both overseas and at home.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this concern. **I strongly believe it is an important issue, and would like to see action taken to ensure the National Guard remains a key component in the defense of our great nation and a pillar of our community.** This petition is not in strictly in self interest; rather, in the interest of prudent financial and force structure measures for defense of the nation.

Sincerely,

**Know the facts! To learn more, check out:** <http://www.savetheguard.weebly.com/>

**View the Guard in action in Afghanistan:** <http://youtu.be/VbU_HOS7n9E>

**Petition2Congress:** <http://www.petition2congress.com/13714/stop-active-duty-plan-to-take-all-apache-helicopters-from-nationa/>

**Sign White House Petition:** <http://wh.gov/llllw>