

March 17, 2006

Major General Paul J. Sullivan  
Chief of Staff  
North American Aerospace Defense Command  
United States Northern Command  
250 Vandenberg Street, Suite B016  
Peterson AFB, Colorado 80914

Dear General Sullivan:

I want to express my appreciation to you and your staff for the opportunity to visit NORAD-USNORTHCOM Headquarters. The exchange of information that occurred during the February 2006 visit was extremely valuable to me and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) senior management team in further refining NRC's processes for mitigating the effects of an aircraft attack upon a nuclear power plant. In addition, I commend you for the level of performance and efficiency that you and your staff displayed during the Amalgam Arrow exercise. Based upon my observations, I have directed the NRC staff to develop refined procedures for imminent aircraft threats to NRC-licensed facilities in coordination with your staff.

Colonel Wesley McClellan, Major Donald Gillich, and other members of your Interagency Coordination Directorate deserve my special recognition for their efforts in coordinating the February 2006 visit. These officers were able to make the visit both enjoyable and effective despite the many challenges presented by poor weather conditions. I am pleased to know that these highly capable individuals are serving as your liaisons to NRC.

Finally, I want you to know that I have been thoroughly impressed by and greatly value the level of dedication that both NORAD and USNORTHCOM have demonstrated toward the protection of critical infrastructure assets, such as nuclear power plants, from both foreign and domestic threats. Your mission is truly vital to the common defense and security of our Nation. On behalf of the Commission, I thank you for your outstanding support.

Sincerely,

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Nils J. Diaz