

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 6, 2014

His Excellency Adel A. Al-Jubeir
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
601 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20037

Dear Ambassador Al-Jubeir,

I write to you today concerning the strong relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and in particular current defense cooperation opportunities. The developing security environment faced by both of our countries has made this historic cooperation all the more important.

I would like to highlight one particular cooperation program. The sale and upgrading of M1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, beginning over two decades ago, has been a model of security cooperation and provided a significant capability to the Royal Saudi Land Force. The M1 Abrams series of tanks remains the most capable main battle tank in the world and we are reassured by the interoperability and capability it provides to our allies who have integrated the platform into their ground forces. The workforce and capabilities at the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima, Ohio, where these tanks were originally produced and continue to be upgraded, make it the most advanced armored vehicle production facility in the world.

As you know, the next increments of this program are currently being negotiated by our governments. Increments 5 and 6, for a total of 90 upgraded M1A2S Tanks, will continue to provide additional critical capabilities to the Royal Saudi Land Force. We look forward to the swift agreement of Increment 5 and advancing the details to an agreement on Increment 6. As these discussions continue, please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

I look forward to discussing this project and our larger cooperation efforts at our next opportunity.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman