



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dear Service Members and Department of Defense Civilians Serving Overseas:

It is a privilege and an honor to serve again as the chair of the Department of Defense Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas (DoD CFC-O). The CFC-O is your annual opportunity to support the charities that are meaningful to you.

United States service members, DoD civilians and family members have answered our nation's call, serving every day in defense of the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. You have seen firsthand the hardships people endure around the globe. In addition to your committed service, many of you gave generously to the 2008 campaign raising more than \$15.8 million for people in need.

The funds raised through the CFC-O support many national and international participating charities, as well as your own overseas Family Support and Youth Programs (FSYP). Funds given to FSYP totaled nearly \$700,000 in 2008 and support quality of life programs in your local military community.

This year's CFC-O Charity Listing contains more than 2,000 participating organizations that support important causes that are close to our hearts. I know at one time or another, some of these charities may have helped you, your family or a friend. The CFC-O theme, *Make a World of Difference*, underscores that our shared contributions can make the world a better place.

Please join me in donating to the charity or charities of your choice. Giving to the campaign is easy – you can donate via cash, check, payroll deduction or credit card. It is a wonderful feeling to know that you have helped someone in need.

Thank you for your service to our Nation and for your support of the CFC-O.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Gates".

Robert M. Gates