

Sept. 12 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2013

confirmations and the great teams they put around them, I know that they're hitting the ground running. All right?

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:17 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov of Russia.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Principles for Modernizing the Military Compensation and Retirement Systems
September 12, 2013

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 674(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, Public Law 112-239, January 2, 2013, I hereby transmit principles for modernizing the military compensation

and retirement systems requested by the Act.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
September 12, 2013.

Letter to the Chairman of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission Transmitting Principles for Modernizing the Military Compensation and Retirement Systems
September 12, 2013

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to section 674(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, Public Law 112-239, January 2, 2013, I hereby transmit to you and the other members of the Military Compensation and Retirement Commission, the principles for modernizing the military compensation and retirement systems requested by the Act.

I wish the Commission success in its important work.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: The letter was sent to Alphonso Maldon, Jr., Chairman, Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Amir Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah of Kuwait
September 13, 2013

President Obama. It's a great pleasure to welcome our friend, the Amir of Kuwait, to the Oval Office. Kuwait is one of our most important partners in the region, and we have a very strong bilateral defense agreement, as well as working together on a whole range of economic and social and security issues.

We had the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues. Obviously, at the top of the list

was the situation in Syria. Our two countries are in agreement that the use of chemical weapons that we saw in Syria was a criminal act and that it is absolutely important for the international community to respond in not only deterring repeated use of chemical weapons, but hopefully, getting those chemical weapons outside of Syria.

I shared with the Amir my hope that the negotiations that are currently taking place be-