

From: [Raughter, John B.](#)
To: [All Legion Leadership](#)
Subject: Release: American Legion on Syria: Proceed with Caution
Date: Tuesday, September 03, 2013 3:12:35 PM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The American Legion on Syria: proceed with caution

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3 -- The leader of the nation's largest veterans' service organization, The American Legion, is urging Congress to consider national interests carefully before deciding whether or not to take military action against Syria.

"While we have not addressed the Syrian situation as such," said Daniel M. Dellinger, newly elected national commander of the 2.3 million member Legion, "we commend Congress for its due diligence under its Constitutional authority. The American Legion also urges Congress and President Obama to be guided in their decisions by principles outlined in our organization's relevant resolutions. That is, American national interests should be clearly identified and defined before military action is taken."

A vote is expected as early as next week by members of the U.S. House and Senate on the issue. In the meantime, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will be conducting its first hearing on Syria today with Secretary of State John Kerry, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey are scheduled to testify.

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Contacts: Craig Roberts (202) 263-2982, c: (202)406-0887; Marty Callaghan, (202) 263-5758, c: (202)215-8644.