



**NOVEMBER 12, 2013**

Dear Joe,

In honor of Veterans' Day, I would like to recognize and thank the men and women who have served our nation through military service. The mining sector is proud to support those who protect our country by producing the building blocks for the technologies and equipment that help protect them -- minerals.

The **U.S. Department of Defense uses nearly three-quarters of a million tons of minerals every year** in the technologies that protect our troops and our nation. Minerals -- including **copper, lead and nickel** -- are used in life-saving military gear and defense technologies to keep our troops safe, both home and abroad.

**Beryllium** is also an important mineral to national defense. It is integral in weaponry used to detect and destroy improvised explosive devices and tactical minefields. In military helicopters, **beryllium optical systems provide enhanced weapons surveillance, keeping pilots and crews safe**. In addition, armor for military vehicles; advanced communication technologies including satellites, wireless and microwave technologies; and computers and routers used to detect security threats all function with the use of beryllium.

The Department of Defense, in its "Strategic and Critical Materials 2013 Report on Stockpile Requirements," **deemed beryllium critical to national defense**. Beryllium performs a unique function and, because no other material can be substituted, its availability and use in national defense can determine the safety of our troops.

Through continued production of beryllium and other minerals integral to their safety, the mining sector honors the brave men and women that protect and serve our nation -- on Veterans' Day and every day.

Learn more about how minerals make national security and other ways the mining sector supports our troops by visiting our **Minerals Make Life blog**.

Best regards,  
Hal Quinn

## DID YOU KNOW?



In addition to military applications, beryllium has many uses, ranging from x-ray scanners in hospitals and airports to electronic ignition systems that increase energy efficiency in automobiles.



Beryllium is commercially mined and processed in only three areas of the world -- the United States, China and Kazakhstan. The world's leading producer of beryllium and its alloys is **Materion Natural Resources** based in suburban Cleveland, Ohio.

