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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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December 17, 2007

General John P. Abizaid (Retired)
Hoover Institution
434 Galvez Mall
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-6010

Dear General Abizaid:

This letter follows up on your testimony before the Oversight Committee during our August 1, 2007, hearing on the death of Corporal Pat Tillman. We appreciate your willingness to testify at that hearing. We are also familiar with the sworn testimony you provided on December 13, 2006, on this matter to the Department of Defense Inspector General. We are writing because the Committee has several related questions to clarify the record.

During the hearing, you testified that General Stanley McChrystal informed you of Corporal Tillman's death via telephone "about" April 23, 2004. You also testified that you subsequently "discussed" Corporal Tillman's death with General Richard Myers, then the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. You also testified that you traveled to Afghanistan on April 28, 2004, and met with Admiral Eric T. Olson, then deputy commander of USSOCOM; Lieutenant General David W. Barno, then commander of Combined Forces Command, Afghanistan; and Lieutenant David Uthlaut, Corporal Tillman's platoon leader.

With respect to this portion of your testimony, we would appreciate written responses to the following questions:

1. During your telephone conversation with General McChrystal on April 23, 2004, did he inform you that Corporal Tillman's death was a possible fratricide? What did he tell you about the circumstances of Corporal Tillman's death?
2. During your trip to Afghanistan beginning on April 28, 2004, did you meet with Specialist Jade Lane, a member of Corporal Tillman's platoon injured on April 22, 2004? Did you meet with any members of the 75th Ranger Regiment aside from Lt. Uthlaut?

General John P. Abizaid
December 17, 2007
Page 2

3. While in Afghanistan, did you meet with General McChrystal? If so, did you discuss Corporal Tillman's death?
4. While in Afghanistan, did anyone inform you that Corporal Tillman's death was a possible fratricide? If so, who informed you?
5. Did anyone inform you that Corporal Tillman's death was a possible fratricide at any time prior to your receipt of the P4 message from General McChrystal? If so, who informed you and how?
6. Did you inform anyone else that Corporal Tillman's death was a possible fratricide prior to your receipt of the P4 memo? If so, who did you inform?

Please provide responses to these questions by January 15, 2007. If you have any questions, please contact John Williams or Russell Anello of the majority staff at (202) 225-5420 or Christopher Bright of the minority staff at (202) 225-5074.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives and has broad oversight jurisdiction as set forth in House Rule X.

Thank you again for your cooperation with the Committee's investigation.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman



Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member

John P. Abizaid
Hoover Institution
Stanford, CA 94305-6010

January 15, 2008

Henry A. Waxman, Chairman and Tom Davis, Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Fax to 202-225-4784

Dear Congressman Waxman and Congressman Davis:

The following responds to your letter of December 17, 2007 regarding questions to clarify the record concerning the death of Corporal Pat Tillman.

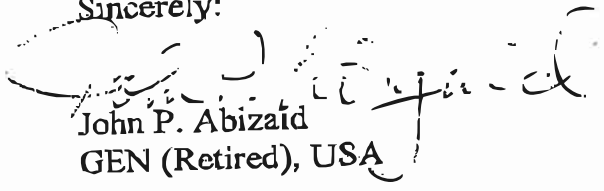
In your second paragraph you note that I traveled to Afghanistan on April 28, 2004 and met with Admiral Eric T. Olson, the deputy commander of USSOCOM. In fact I met with Eric Olson, MG, USA commander of the 25th Infantry Division.

As to your particular questions:

1. When General McChrystal called on or about 23 April he did not mention any possibility of friendly fire. He told me that Corporal Tillman had been killed in a fire fight in Afghanistan.
2. To the best of my recollection, I met with 1LT Uthlaut only.
3. I did not meet with General McChrystal in Afghanistan on that trip.
4. No
5. No
6. No

During the trip to Afghanistan on 28 April I also met with General's Olson and Barno, neither of whom mentioned any possibility of friendly fire in the incident.

Sincerely:



John P. Abizaid
GEN (Retired), USA