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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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April 30, 2007

Colonel Jeryl C. Ludowese
Inspector General
U.S. Central Command
7115 S. Boundary Blvd
MacDill AFB, FL 33621

Dear Colonel Ludowese:

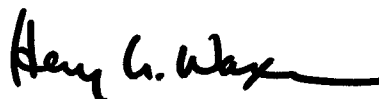
On Tuesday, April 24, 2007, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Misleading Information on the Battlefield." At that hearing, the Committee received testimony from former Army Private Jessica Lynch about false stories that circulated after her rescue from the Saddam General Hospital in An Nasiriyah, Iraq on April 1, 2003.

During the Committee's hearing, Thomas A. Gimble, the acting Department of Defense Inspector General, was asked whether he had investigated the false information relating to Private Lynch. He responded, "We didn't do the investigation, the Central Command IG did the investigation." CentCom officials subsequently confirmed to Committee staff that a report was in fact completed, but stated that it was classified at the Top Secret level.

In order to assist the Committee with its investigation, I ask that you provide a copy of the CentCom report by **Friday, May 11, 2007**. I also request a staff briefing by that date on the scope of the report, including whether the Inspector General examined the role of officials at the CentCom press office in distributing information regarding Private Lynch.

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. If you have any questions, please contact David Rapallo or Susanne Sachsman of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman

cc: Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member