

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

25TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

MEMBER OF REPUBLICAN WHIP TEAM



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0525

April 26, 2010

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The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

My concern over the implementation of the Obama Administration's insourcing policy in the Department of Defense continues to grow.

As of today, we have not received a response to the letter sent by Chairman Ortiz and Ranking Member Forbes on February 4, 2010, asking you to direct a re-evaluation of insourcing efforts at Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, California. I find it very troubling that despite the bi-partisan request from the Committee, you have disregarded Congressional concern about this matter and allowed hiring actions to be initiated for the firefighting positions at Plant 42.

I appreciate the Department's desire to reduce its overreliance on contractors, but I have concerns with the arbitrary targets mandated to the military services. This is forcing installations to insource some jobs that are better served as a contracted function, such as the firefighters at Air Force Plant 42. Unlike traditional military installations, Plant 42 is a government-owned, contractor-operated facility. There are over 6,500 total contractor positions at Plant 42, compared with 10 civilian Air Force slots and one uniformed position at the plant. The cost savings estimated for this insourcing effort is 2.5 percent, a savings that easily could be recouped by re-competing the contract. Because these jobs are not inherently governmental, and the cost savings is minimal, I can only conclude that this action is being done solely to comply with quotas imposed to meet the Department's overall goal to reduce contractor levels.

Furthermore, I am aware that Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 1400.24, Volume 336, dated April 6, 2009 implements policy and establishes procedures regarding civilian personnel management for civilian firefighters and law enforcement officers. I am also aware that, in the case of the insourcing efforts at Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, California, the Air Force has petitioned your office for an exception to the maximum entry age established by DODI 1400.24, V336.

OSD 05500-10



Despite the Air Force's stated desire to minimize the impact of insourcing, their request for relief from your policy on age limitations has not been taken up. Allowing hiring actions to begin before the request for waiver was adjudicated will lead to confusion, and ill-advised hiring actions, and may likely prevent an experienced, established workforce from being able to compete for the newly created government positions.

With these concerns in mind, I ask that you immediately hold any further efforts to insource the contract workforce at Plant 42 until providing the Committee a response to the review requested by Mr. Forbes and Mr. Ortiz and issuance of waiver to DOD I 1400.24, Volume 336 for the positions targeting for insourcing at Plant 42.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
CHAIRMAN

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
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Majority (202) 225-6051
Minority (202) 225-6074

December 29, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Gates:

Please find enclosed copies of letters previously sent to you. We have not yet received responses to those letters. We ask that you please review the enclosed letters and respond accordingly.

We look forward to your response. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please contact the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member

cc Edolphus Towns
Chairman

OSD 00170-11



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Minority (202) 225-9074

June 3, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to request documents and information relating to the extent to which White House political personnel are involved with planning, directing, or coordinating your travel to participate in public events – official or political – which may have a political benefit for elected Democratic officials or Democratic candidates for office.

As you may know, during the last Congress then-Chairman Waxman and this Committee invested substantial time and effort to investigate the use of official resources at the behest of the White House for political purposes. During the Committee's investigation – which spanned nearly two years – the staff interviewed or deposed 18 political appointees, including President Bush's political directors, and received nearly 70,000 pages of documents from the White House and 29 agencies.

At the conclusion of his years-long investigation, Chairman Waxman's staff prepared a staff report entitled "The Activities of the White House Office of Political Affairs."¹⁷ Chairman Waxman called for the elimination of the Office. The Waxman Report stated:

The White House Office of Political Affairs has been controversial since President Reagan created the office in 1981. . . . But the extent of political activity by the . . . White House and its deep and systematic reach into the federal agencies is unprecedented. **Congress should amend the Hatch Act, the federal law**

¹⁷ Democratic Staff, H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform, 110th Cong., "The Activities of the White House Office of Political Affairs," Oct. 2008, <http://oversight.house.gov/documents/20081015105434.pdf>.

OSD 06687-10



restricting political activity by federal officials, to eliminate the White House Office of Political Affairs. If the political affairs office is retained, its activities should be restructured to ensure that it serves the interests of the taxpayer, not the political party of the President.¹⁸

In the report, the Waxman staff concluded that the White House organized the travel of senior administration officials around politically advantageous locations and specifically used travel as a tool to help elect or re-elect members of their party to public office.¹⁹ The report counted events that were attended personally by senior administration officials. It reported that 303 events required travel outside of Washington, D.C. The Waxman staff concluded that these events violated the Hatch Act. They wrote the events “established precisely the type of ‘political boiler-room’ that the Congress warned against when it amended the Hatch Act in 1993.”²⁰ The report stated that the taxpayers “should . . . not pay the travel expenses of cabinet and other senior officials to fly across the country” for political purposes.²¹

During President Obama’s short time in office, there has been some indication that the White House has ignored Chairman Waxman’s concerns. For example, according to a *Washington Post* story last year about travel related to marketing of the President’s stimulus plan, “public policy and electoral politics have come together seamlessly in his domestic travel itinerary.”²² The *Post* reported:

Since becoming president, he hasn’t set foot in a state he won by nearly 40 percentage points in November’s general election.

But thousands have heard Obama speak in Ohio, North Carolina, Missouri, Indiana and Florida, all among the 16 states he has visited since taking office. In each of those places, his margin of victory or defeat last November was fewer than five percentage points.

* * *

On nearly every trip he has taken, **Obama has followed the timeworn path of presidential travel -- go where the votes matter most.**

* * *

¹⁸ *Id.* at ii (emphasis supplied).

¹⁹ *Id.* at i (Executive Summary).

²⁰ *Id.* at 23.

²¹ *Id.*

²² Scott Wilson, *Obama’s Travel Mixes Policy, Politics*, WASH. POST, June 21, 2009.

But the travel suggests a White House far more interested in electoral politics than its leader and senior staff members publicly acknowledge. **The swing-state stops are just one element of a West Wing political operation** that has preserved many practices of preceding ones, and that takes into account the dynamics of the 2010 midterm elections and the next presidential race in deciding where to spend Obama's time.

Of the 16 states Obama has visited, nine shifted from the Republican to Democratic column in 2008. Five of the states are among the six that posted the narrowest margins of victory for either Obama or Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), and are likely to remain the most closely divided through the coming campaign cycles.

* * *

Obama has raised money in California, Indiana and Nevada, and election law calls for the government to be reimbursed for those explicitly political aspects of his travel.²³

Last June, *Politico* similarly reported administration officials have traveled to at least 66 events across the country to tout the stimulus program, but the events were almost exclusively tied to obviously politically motivated destinations. According to *Politico*:

Since Congress passed President Barack Obama's \$787 billion economic stimulus bill in February, **administration officials have traveled to at least 66 events across the country** to tout the massive spending program or hand out stimulus cash to grateful local officials.

* * *

Top officials have hosted events predominantly in states that Obama won in 2008.

What's more, the examination revealed that Obama officials all but avoided Southern states that Obama lost.

* * *

²³ *Id.* (emphasis added).

But the numbers tell the tale: 52 of the 66 events were in states that backed Obama. And taken together, the itineraries amount to a veritable map of Obama's election-night victories — big-money states like California and New York, swing states like Ohio and Colorado that Obama turned blue and other solidly Democratic states Obama kept in his column.²⁴

This is precisely the type of political travel former Chairman Waxman spent years investigating. This is what he deemed Hatch Act violations.

I am interested in developing a better understanding of whether the types of political travel Chairman Waxman invested so much time and energy attempting to eradicate are still occurring. To assist the Committee in learning more about this Administration's practices with regard to political travel, I request that you provide the Committee with the following information:

1. Provide a list of all events with elected officials or candidates for office that you attended outside of Washington, D.C., in an official capacity during the time period February 1, 2009 to the present. For each event, please provide the date and location of the event, a brief description of the purpose of the event, the identity of the elected officials or candidates for office attending the event, and a statement declaring whether taxpayer funds were used to travel to the event.
2. Provide a list of all events with elected officials or candidates for office that you attended outside of Washington, D.C., for political purposes, whether it be a fundraiser, rally, or other political function, during the time period February 1, 2009 to the present. For each event, please provide the date and location of the event, a brief description of the purpose of the event, the identity of the elected officials or candidates for office attending the event, and a statement declaring whether taxpayer funds were used in part to travel to the event.
3. All documents, including emails, that relate to the involvement of White House officials in scheduling, suggesting, coordinating, or directing public events with elected officials or candidates for office for any official at the Department during the time period February 1, 2009 to the present.

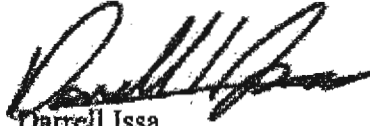
The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives and has broad oversight jurisdiction as set forth in House Rule X.

²⁴ Eamon Javers, *A Political Pattern to Stimulus Tour*, POLITICO, June 5, 2009 (emphasis added).

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
June 3, 2010
Page 5

We look forward to your response by June 17, 2010. You may contact Steve Castor of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074 if you have any questions about this request. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrell Issa", written over a horizontal line.

Darrell Issa
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Edolphus Towns, Chairman

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September 21, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to follow up on my letter to you dated June 3, 2010. In that letter, I requested documents and information about the involvement of White House political personnel in coordinating your travel to official and political events that may have benefited Democratic candidates for office. This investigation continues the work this Committee began in the last Congress under then-Chairman Waxman. To date, I have not received the information I requested or any explanation about the delay. Ordinarily, the Department of Defense (DoD) is more cooperative.

Recently, a DoD insider provided information and email correspondence to my staff confirming that your staff issued what appears to be a "stop work order" with respect to my request. An email exchange between senior officials granted the Office of the General Counsel's request that the suspense date (i.e., due date) be "turned off due to this letter going to 21 Agencies, and response requiring Administration guidance." Essentially, Michael Bruhn and Christian Marrone, both top aides in your office, ensured that all work on my request would stop and the due date would be ignored. The correspondence also indicates that Mr. Marrone would provide an explanation offline, effectively obscuring his motives from scrutiny.

The actions of senior DoD officials are inconsistent with the President's commitment "to making his administration the most open and transparent in history."¹ They are also inconsistent with federal law under 5 U.S.C. § 552. At the outset of his presidency, President Obama reiterated that "the way to make government accountable is make it transparent so that the American people can know exactly what decisions are

¹ The White House Blog, Change Has Come To WhiteHouse.gov, http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/change_has_come_to_whitehouse.gov/ (Jan. 20, 2009).

OSD 11300-10



The Honorable Robert M. Gates
September 21, 2010
Page 2

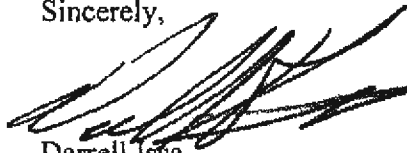
being made, how they're being made, and whether their interests are being well served."²
He went on to state as follows:

I will also hold myself as President to a new standard of openness. Going forward, anytime the American people want to know something that I or a former President wants to withhold, we will have to consult with the Attorney General and the White House Counsel, whose business it is to ensure compliance with the rule of law. Information will not be withheld just because I say so. It will be withheld because a separate authority believes my request is well grounded in the Constitution.³

The President further urged federal agencies "to adopt a presumption in favor of disclosure."⁴ It is in the interests of transparency to disclose all information related to the White House's involvement in Cabinet officials' travel. Moreover, this Committee has broad jurisdiction to conduct oversight of the federal government.

I trust that you will reconsider my original request. If it is your position not to provide the requested materials, I request that you articulate the basis for this position in writing. Additionally, to better understand the status of my letter request, I ask that you make Michael Bruhn and Christian Marrone available for transcribed interviews. Please contact Steve Castor or Ashok Pinto of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Edolphus Towns, Chairman

² Remarks by The President in Welcoming Senior Staff and Cabinet Secretaries to the White House, http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/RemarksOfThePresidentInWelcomingSeniorStaffandCabinetSecretariestotheWhiteHouse/ (Jan. 21, 2009).

³ *Id.*

⁴ Memorandum for the Heads of Departments and Agencies regarding Freedom of Information Act, http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Freedom_of_Information_Act/ (Jan 21, 2009).

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January 25, 2010

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ANH "JOSEPH" CAO, LOUISIANA

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

The Honorable Eric H. Holder
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Secretary Clinton, Secretary Gates, and Attorney General Holder:

As you know, in the past three months, there have been two terrorist attacks on our homeland. On Christmas Day, a terrorist acting under Al Qaeda's direction was arrested after attempting to bomb a fully-loaded passenger plane over the United States. Eight weeks before, U.S. Army Major Nidal Hasan took the lives of thirteen American soldiers and civilians at Fort Hood after apparently having received the sanction of a radical American-born terrorist cleric living in Yemen.

The actions of these terrorists have rightly spurred an examination of their backgrounds and associations. Reports indicate the men were connected with terrorist operations in Yemen with support coming directly from former detainees of the United States military in Guantanamo Bay. According to recent press reports, dozens of former detainees have resumed plotting and executing terrorist attacks on American military personnel and civilians.

OSD 01102-10



The Honorable Hillary Clinton
The Honorable Robert M. Gates
The Honorable Eric H. Holder
January 25, 2010
Page 2

Following the Christmas Day terrorist attack, the Administration announced it had "suspended" the release to Yemen of detainees held at Guantanamo Bay and declared that "in the near term" no more detainees will be sent to Saudi Arabia.¹ The timing of this announcement has raised important questions about the handling of detainees, and why the decision only took place after the terrorist attacks occurred when dangers were, apparently, known beforehand. Obtaining information about this decision is necessary for this investigation to confirm that national security determinations on detainees are being made as a result of careful evaluation by career professionals and that such decisions are not being driven or hindered for primarily political purposes.

The decision to release six Yemeni detainees despite mounting intelligence of increased terrorist activity in Yemen and credible reports of detainee recidivism only days before the failed attack on Northwest Flight 253 raises obvious concerns. It clearly should not have required both the murder of 13 at Fort Hood nor the near-death of hundreds of American civilians on board Northwest Flight 253 for this Administration to reevaluate the policy for releasing terrorist detainees from Guantanamo Bay. Such events raise disturbing questions about a possible return to a reactive pre-9/11 mindset that must be addressed.

In light of this situation, and in order to evaluate more fully the Administration's detention program, it is necessary for Congress to obtain specific details which are not readily available.

Accordingly, I request:

1. All information on known or suspected recidivism of terrorist or terrorist related activity among those released from U.S. custody at Guantanamo Bay;
2. Details of agreements, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), or informal expectations placed on nations which have received detainees, and the extent to which the Administration assesses these have been met or are being followed;
3. Specifics about the Administration's plans to ensure that the Yemenis transferred in December remain imprisoned there; and

I respectfully ask that this material be conveyed by 3:00 P.M. **February 8, 2010**. The Committee has the facilities, procedures, and staff necessary to receive classified information. As you know, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives. House Rule X grants the

¹ Peter Finn, "Return of Yemeni detainees at Guantanamo Bay is suspended," *Washington Post*, 5 January 2010; Susan Crabtree, "No Saudi transfers planned in 'near term'," *The Hill*, 12 January 2010.

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
The Honorable Robert M. Gates
The Honorable Eric H. Holder
January 25, 2010
Page 3

Committee broad responsibilities, including for undertaking wide-ranging evaluations of government operations and administrative functions.

Questions on this request can be directed to Christopher Bright, Professional Staff Member, at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Robert Bauer, White House Counsel

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK,
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ANN "JOSEPH" CAO, LOUISIANA

February 4, 2010

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

As the Ranking Member for the House Committee with primary jurisdiction over federal procurement policy, I have a responsibility to conduct meaningful oversight of federal contracts that run the risk of wasting taxpayer dollars.

I am writing to seek additional information about a pending sole-source contract award to Kuwait & Gulf Link Transport Company (KGL), a Kuwait-based company, under Solicitation Number SP3300-10-R-0014 ("the solicitation").

As you may know, this Committee has long been a skeptic of sole-source contracts. My colleagues on the Committee were encouraged last March when the President, in his first pronouncement about federal procurement policy railed against the use of sole-source arrangements. The President stated:

Excessive reliance by executive agencies on sole-source contracts (or contracts with a limited number of sources) and cost-reimbursement contracts creates a risk that taxpayer funds will be spent on contracts that are wasteful, inefficient, subject to misuse, or otherwise not well designed to serve the needs of the Federal Government or the interests of the American taxpayer.

* * *

It is the policy of the Federal Government that executive agencies shall not engage in noncompetitive contracts except in those circumstances where their use can be fully

OSD 01621-10



The Honorable Robert Gates
February 4, 2010
Page 2

justified and where appropriate safeguards have been put in place to protect the taxpayer.¹

The President's memorandum then directed all executive departments and agencies to exercise the strictest of scrutiny on all sole-source contracting vehicles.


In light of the President's specific guidance on sole-source contracts, I was disturbed to learn that the Defense Logistics Agency has made the decision to award KGL the contract on a sole-source basis. According to FedBizOpps.gov at least three additional contractors are identified as interested vendors under the solicitation.

On or before February 18, 2010, please produce all documents related to the pending KGL contract, including the contract file for the solicitation. With your document production be sure to include all email correspondence relating to KGL or the potential award by and to the contracting officer Medard R. Kowalski.

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 for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Steve Castor or Ashley Callen of the Committee staff at 202-225-5074.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Edolphus Towns, Chairman

¹ The President, Government Contracting, Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Memorandum-for-the-Heads-of-Executive-Departments-and-Agencies-Subject-Government (last visited Jan. 21, 2010).

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA

LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

February 10, 2011

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to inform you that in my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I will lead a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) on official business to France and Belgium from Sunday, March 20, 2011, through Sunday, March 27, 2011. Several Members of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform are expected to accompany me, along with appropriate Committee staff, and I will provide those names at a later date.

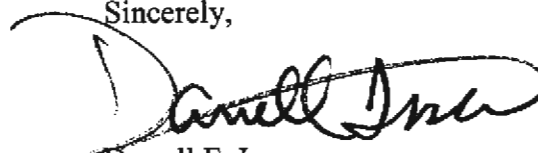
The purpose of the travel to France is to visit La Hague Nuclear Reprocessing Center and WWII battlefield memorials. In Belgium, I will lead the House delegation to the annual Brussels Forum, and we will also meet with NATO officials to discuss commitments to European security and Afghanistan.

Spouses are authorized to travel at no expense to the U.S. Government.

I request the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual expenses of such transportation as may be required is authorized by Title 31, U.S.C. 1108(g). Travel will be conducted by military and /or commercial aircraft up to business class, including foreign flag carriers when U.S. carriers are not available, and in accordance with House rules. The CODEL requests Marine liaison support for this trip.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Laura Rush, Deputy Chief Clerk, at (202) 226-4603. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell E. Issa
Chairman

OSD 02394-11



DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

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CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA

LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

February 16, 2011

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

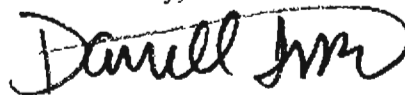
I write to authorize Representative Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), Chairman, Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations, to lead a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) on official business to Haiti and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from March 28-29, 2011. Representative John F. Tierney, Ranking Minority Member, Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations, along with other members of the Subcommittee, will accompany the delegation.

The purpose of the travel to Haiti is to assess the progress and accountability of USAID's \$3.5 billion relief and reconstruction efforts since the 2010 earthquake. The purpose of the travel to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is to tour the detention facilities and evaluate the need for them to remain open despite the President's 2009 Executive Orders mandating closure.

I request the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual expenses of such transportation as may be required is authorized by Title 31, U.S.C. 1108(g). Travel will be conducted by military and /or commercial aircraft up to business class, including foreign flag carriers when U.S. carriers are not available, and in accordance with House rules. The CODEL requests Navy liaison support for this trip.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Laura Rush, Deputy Chief Clerk, at (202) 226-4603. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell E. Issa
Chairman

OSD 02396-11



EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
CHAIRMAN

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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March 16, 2010

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

As you know, the Department of Defense handles the bulk of the earmarks intended for for-profit entities included in the annual appropriations bill(s). Much emphasis has been placed on the efforts of the House appropriators to ensure that earmarks intended for for-profit entities are competitively bid. We are interested in understanding the efficacy of the new language requiring "full and open competition" for Congressional earmarks¹ and the overall acquisition process at the Department. Therefore, we are writing to request all information associated with the full and open acquisition process utilized for the attached list of fiscal year 2010 defense earmarks.

The Department previously stated that earmarks are awarded in a manner consistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), which implements the Competition in Contracting Act.² Regardless, past practices and a review of contracting information for a subset of earmarks by Congressman Flake's staff indicate that in large part earmarked funds are in fact awarded to the intended for-profit entity listed in the earmark certification letters provided to the House Committee on Appropriations by the sponsor. We understand, as the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Mr. Shay Assad, noted in response to Congressman Flake, "that there are other legitimate

¹ See P.L. 111-118, Section 8121.

² Shay Assad response CHARRTS No.: HOG-03-006.

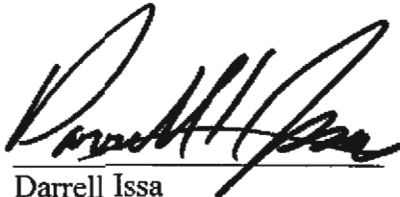
OSD 03467-10



means of competition.”³ Indeed, the FAR contains provisions allowing for other than full and open competition.

We appreciate that a one size fits all approach will not work for Defense Department procurement. Mr. Assad acknowledged as much in responding to Congressman Flake when he stated that “imposing a requirement for [earmarks] to be awarded using full and open competition is not appropriate.”⁴ Congress, however, deemed full and open competition for earmarks to be the preferred manner for award. To help us understand how this legislative requirement is being implemented, we request that your office provide the Committee with all information showing that a full and open acquisition process was used in awarding the attached list of fiscal year 2010 defense earmarks, as it becomes available. If you have questions regarding this request, please contact Chandler Morse in Congressman Flake’s office, 202-225-2635. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this request.

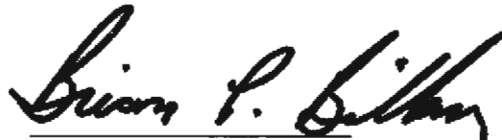
Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member



Jeff Flake
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs



Brian Bilbray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Management,
Organization, and Procurement

Encl.

³ Shay Assad response CHARRTS No.: HOG-03-007.

⁴ *Ibid.*

Select FY2010 Defense Earmarks*
For which All Information Related to the Acquisition Process is Requested

Project Name	Amount	Account	Requesting Member	Recipient
Enhanced Navy Shore Readiness Integration	\$4,000,000	OM, N	Dicks	CTC
AARGM Counter Air Defense Future Capabilities	\$2,000,000	RDTE, N	Mollohan	Alliant Tech
Ultra Low Profile EARS Gunshot Localization System	\$1,200,000	RDTE, DW	Moran (VA)	Planning Systems Inc -- QinetiQ
Body Armor Improved Ballistic Protection, Research and Development	\$1,760,000	RDTE, AF	Murtha	KDH Technologies
Reduced Manning Situational Awareness	\$4,000,000	RDTE, A	Young (FL)	DRS Technologies
Gulf Range Mobile Instrumentation Capability	\$3,000,000	RDTE, DW	Miller (FL)	ProLogic
AN/SLQ--25D Integration	\$6,400,000	RDTE, N	Murtha	ArgonST
Lightweight Metal Alloy Foam for Armor	\$3,200,000	RDTE, A	Kaptur	Imaging Systems Technology, Inc.
Common Air Mine Countermeasures Tow Cable	2,400,000	RDTE, N	Boyd	ITT Corp.
Environmentally Intelligent Moisture and Corrosion Control for Concrete	\$1,680,000	RDTE, A	Rothman	Hycrete, Inc.
Execution of a Quality Systems Program for FDA Regulation Activities	\$1,200,000	RDTE, A	Bishop	Amethyst Technologies
Superlattice Semiconductors for Mobile SS Lighting and Solar Power Applications	\$2,800,000	RDTE, A	Hinchey	C9 Corporation
HBCU Applied Research Incubator	\$800,000	RDTE, N	Kilpatrick, Connolly, Cummings, Thompson	In Depth Engineering
Large Area, APVT Materials Development for High Power Devices	1,600,000	RDTE, AF	Frelinghuysen	II-VI Corporation
Radio Personality Modules for SINCGARS Test Sites	\$3,000,000	OP, A	Tiahrt	Aeroflex

Select FY2010 Defense Earmarks*
For which All Information Related to the Acquisition Process is Requested

Project Name	Amount	Account	Requesting Member	Recipient**
Electronic Combat and Counter Terrorism Threat Developments to Support Joint Forces	\$3,000,000	RDTE, A	Kingston	Scientific Research Corporation
Intelligent Energy Control Systems	\$2,400,000	RDTE, A	Granger	Williams Pyro
Submarine System Biometrics Access Control	\$2,000,000	RDTE, N	Rogers, Hal	Progency Systems Corporation
Advanced Composite Ammunition Magazine/Mount System	\$1,600,000	RDTE, A	Obey	Nobles Manufacturing
Inter Turbine Burner for Turbo Shaft Engines	\$2,400,000	RDTE, A	Lewis, J	Advanced Projects Reseach, Inc.
Advanced Composite Manufacturing for Composite High-Speed Boat Design	\$1,600,000	RDTE, N	Pingree	Hodgdon Defense Composites
Advanced Development of Antiviral Prophylactics and Therapeutics	\$3,000,000	RDTE, DW	Pelosi	Prosetta Bioconformatics, Inc.
High-Volume Manufacturing Development for thin-film Lithium Stack Battery Technologies	\$800,000	RDTE, A	Honda; Carter	Applied Materials
Micromachined Switches in Support of Transformational Communications Architecture	\$2,400,000	RDTE, A	Miller, George (CA)	MicroAssembly Technologies, Inc.
Advanced logistics Fuel Reformer for Fuel Cells (Phase II)	\$2,400,000	RDTE, N	DeLauro	Precision Combustion, Inc.
Integrated Condition Assessment and Reliability Engineering	\$800,000	RDTE, N	Connolly	EMSolutions and Ultra Electronics
Antioxidant Micronutrient Therapeutic Countermeasures	\$800,000	RDTE, A	McCarthy (NY)	Premier Micronutrient Corporation
Potent Human Monoclonal Antibodies Against BoNT A, Band ESuited for Mass Production and Treatment of Large Populations	\$1,000,000	RDTE, DW	Gerlach	Morphotek, Inc.
Marine Species Mitigation	\$2,295,000	RDTE, N	Brown (FL)	Analysis, Design and Diagnostics, Inc.

Select FY2010 Defense Earmarks*
For which All Information Related to the Acquisition Process is Requested

Project Name	Amount	Account	Requesting Member	Recipient
Shared Vision	\$2,400,000	RDTE, A	Latham	Mechdyne Corporation
Algal-Derived Jet Fuel for Air Force Applications	\$2,700,000	RDTE, AF	LaTourette	Phycal, LLC
Medium Caliber Metal Parts Upgrade	\$3,000,000	RDTE, A	Kanjorski	Medico Industries, Inc.
Hybrid Electric Heavy Truck Vehicle	\$1,600,000	RDTE, A	Bartlett	Volvo Powertrain of North America
Joint Services Aircrew Mask Don/Doff Inflight Upgrade	\$2,400,000	RDTE, DW	Castle	ILC Dover LP
Fire Shield	\$3,200,000	RDTE, A	Dreier	Chang Industry, Inc.
Advanced Packaging Materials for Combat Rations	\$800,000	RDTE, A	Gingrey	Printpack, Inc.
Tactical Cogeneration System	\$2,400,000	RDTE, A	Hastings (WA)	Infinia
Enhanced Small Arms Protective Insert	\$1,600,000	RDTE, N	King (NY)	American Defense Systems, Inc.
High Power Density Motor Drive	\$2,880,000	RDTE, N	Murphy, Tim (PA)	Curtiss Wright
Enhancement of Geo-location Systems	\$3,200,000	RDTE, DW	Posey	Soneticom, Inc.
Domestic Production of Nanodiamond for Military Applications	\$1,600,000	RDTE, A	Thompson (PA)	NanoBlox, Inc.
Pacific Command Renewable Energy Security Systems	\$2,400,000	RDTE, A	Abercrombie	Pacific Biodiesel
Medical Biosurveillance and Efficiency Program	\$1,600,000	RDTE, A	Altmire	Process Proxy Corporation
Soldier Situational Awareness Wristband	\$1,120,000	RDTE, A	Capuano	E Ink Corporation
EP-3E Requirements Capability Migration Systems Integration lab	\$5,000,000	RDTE, N	Edwards (TX)	L-3 Communications Integrated System
Neural Control of External Devices	\$2,000,000	RDTE, A	Kennedy	Blackrock Microsystems

Select FY2010 Defense Earmarks*
For which All Information Related to the Acquisition Process is Requested

Project Name	Amount	Account	Requesting Member	Recipient
Reduced Cost Supply Readiness	\$1,200,000	RDTE, DW	Lynch	2Is, Inc
Infection Prevention Program for Battlefield Wounds	\$1,600,000	RDTE, A	McGovern	Arteriocyte Medical Systems, Inc.
Tire to Track Transformer System for Light Vehicles	\$1,600,000	RDTE, A	Peterson	Mattracks Sales, Inc.
Mold-in-Place Coating Development for the US Submarine Fleet	\$2,000,000	RDTE, N	Taylor	Seeman Composites, Inc.

* as included in the Explanatory Statement for H.R. 3326 Disclosure of Congressional Earmarks and Congressionally Directed Spending Items (appearing in the Congressional Record on Dec. 16, 2009; H15370-H15414)

** as include in the 2010 Earmark Certification Letters made available on the House Committee on Appropriations website

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STAFF DIRECTOR

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March 22, 2011

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write in further reference to my letters of February 16, 2011, and March 21, 2011, authorizing Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), Chairman, Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations, to lead a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) on official business to Haiti and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from March 28-29, 2011.

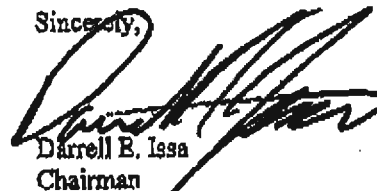
Rep. John F. Tierney (D-MA) will no longer accompany the delegation; however, Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle (R-NY) will now join the delegation.

Here is the latest delegation list: Reps. Chaffetz, Platts, Lynch, Quigley and Buerkle. Staffers Thomas Alexander and Christopher Knauer will also travel with the delegation.

I request the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual expenses of such transportation as may be required is authorized by Title 31, U.S.C. 1108(g). Travel will be conducted by military and /or commercial aircraft up to business class, including foreign flag carriers when U.S. carriers are not available, and in accordance with House rules. The CODEL requests Navy liaison support for this trip.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Laura Rush, Deputy Chief Clerk, at (202) 226-4603. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell E. Issa
Chairman

OSD 03451-11



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LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States

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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA

March 24, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Gates:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is conducting an investigation into the appearance of impropriety related to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) contract award HR0011-10-C-0068. According to press reports, the Director of DARPA, Regina Dugan, has a financial interest in RedXDefense, the company receiving the contract.¹ As part of this investigation, I am writing to request documents and information relating to this award.

RedXDefense was founded in 2005 by Dugan and her father.² As I understand it, the company also currently employs Dugan's uncle and sister.³ Dugan was sworn in as DARPA Director on July 20, 2009, and six months later, RedXDefense was awarded a \$400,000 research contract.⁴ In August 2010, the contract was extended.⁵ The Committee is aware of Dugan's recusal pursuant to Department of Defense ethics regulations, and the investigation by the DARPA General Counsel finding no impropriety in the award to RedXDefense. However, writer, David Wallechinsky, and Project on Government Oversight Spokesman, Joe Newman, raised valid concerns about Dugan's subordinates at the programmatic level being hesitant to *not* make an award to a company she helped found.⁶

¹ Sarah Chacko, *DARPA Director Has Ties to Company Receiving Agency Contract*, FED. TIMES, Mar. 7, 2011.

² David Wallechinsky, *Defense Agency Awarded Contract to Director's Father's Company*, ALLGOV.COM, Mar. 2, 2011.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*; Nick Farrell, *DARPA Boss Gave Research Money to Dad*, TECHEYE.NET, Mar. 7, 2011; John T. Bennett, *Government Agency Under Fire for Contract to Director's Ex-Firm*, THE HILL NEWS, Mar. 6, 2011.

There are also reports that Dugan continues to own stock in RedXDefense valued at more than \$15,000.⁷ Transparency organizations point out that “her continued ownership of \$15,000 or more in RedXDefense stock creates the potential for the appearance of a conflict of interest.”⁸ These organizations use former Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England’s General Dynamics stock sale to illustrate the precedent for Dugan divesting herself of stock in RedXDefense upon her return to public service.⁹ This Committee takes potential conflicts of interest and even the appearance of impropriety in government contracting very seriously.

The Committee requests that DARPA produce the following documents, in electronic format, for the time period July 1, 2009 to the present:

1. All documents and communications relating to RedXDefense’s current or prospective contracts with DARPA.
2. All documents and communications between Director Dugan and any DARPA employee or other Department of Defense employee concerning RedXDefense.
3. All documents and communications between the contracting officer(s) on award HR0011-10-C-0068 or solicitation DARPA-BAA-09-31, Dugan, or any other DARPA employee relating to RedXDefense.
4. All documents and communications between Robert Leheny and any other government official or employee regarding RedXDefense.
5. All documents and communications in the contract file for award HR0011-10-C-0068 or solicitation DARPA-BAA-09-31.
6. All documents and communications supporting the DARPA General Counsel’s finding of no wrongdoing on the RedXDefense contract and any documentation memorializing the General Counsel’s conclusion(s).

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at “any time” investigate “any matter” as set forth in House Rule X. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about responding to the Committee’s request.

⁷ Noah Shachtman & Spencer Ackerman, *DARPA Chief Owns Stock in DARPA Contractor*, WIRED MAGAZINE, Mar. 7, 2011.

⁸ *Id.*

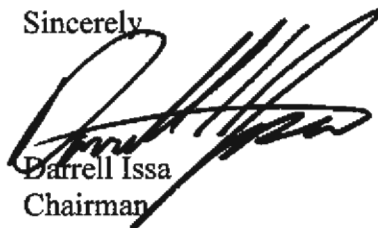
⁹ *Id.*

The Honorable Robert Gates
March 24, 2011
Page 3

We request that you provide the requested documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 6, 2011. When producing documents to the Committee, please deliver production sets to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The Committee prefers, if possible, to receive all documents in electronic format.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Ashley Callen or Steve Castor of the Committee Staff at 202-225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrell Issa", written over a white background.

Darrell Issa
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5074
Minority (202) 225-8051

Responding to Committee Document Requests

1. In complying with this request, you should produce all responsive documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, and representatives acting on your behalf. You should also produce documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy or to which you have access, as well as documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party. Requested records, documents, data or information should not be destroyed, modified, removed, transferred or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.
2. In the event that any entity, organization or individual denoted in this request has been, or is also known by any other name than that herein denoted, the request shall be read also to include that alternative identification.
3. The Committee's preference is to receive documents in electronic form (i.e., CD, memory stick, or thumb drive) in lieu of paper productions.
4. Documents produced in electronic format should also be organized, identified, and indexed electronically.
5. Electronic document productions should be prepared according to the following standards:
 - (a) The production should consist of single page Tagged Image File ("TIF"), files accompanied by a Concordance-format load file, an Opticon reference file, and a file defining the fields and character lengths of the load file.
 - (b) Document numbers in the load file should match document Bates numbers and TIF file names.
 - (c) If the production is completed through a series of multiple partial productions, field names and file order in all load files should match.

6. Documents produced to the Committee should include an index describing the contents of the production. To the extent more than one CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, box or folder is produced, each CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, box or folder should contain an index describing its contents.
7. Documents produced in response to this request shall be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers or identifying markers with which they were associated when they were requested.
8. When you produce documents, you should identify the paragraph in the Committee's request to which the documents respond.
9. It shall not be a basis for refusal to produce documents that any other person or entity also possesses non-identical or identical copies of the same documents.
10. If any of the requested information is only reasonably available in machine-readable form (such as on a computer server, hard drive, or computer backup tape), you should consult with the Committee staff to determine the appropriate format in which to produce the information.
11. If compliance with the request cannot be made in full, compliance shall be made to the extent possible and shall include an explanation of why full compliance is not possible.
12. In the event that a document is withheld on the basis of privilege, provide a privilege log containing the following information concerning any such document: (a) the privilege asserted; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter; (d) the date, author and addressee; and (e) the relationship of the author and addressee to each other.
13. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, identify the document (stating its date, author, subject and recipients) and explain the circumstances under which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control.
14. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this request referring to a document is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, you should produce all documents which would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.
15. The time period covered by this request is included in the attached request. To the extent a time period is not specified, produce relevant documents from January 1, 2009 to the present.
16. This request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly-discovered information. Any record, document, compilation of data or information, not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date, shall be produced immediately upon subsequent location or discovery.

17. All documents shall be Bates-stamped sequentially and produced sequentially.
18. Two sets of documents shall be delivered, one set to the Majority Staff and one set to the Minority Staff. When documents are produced to the Committee, production sets shall be delivered to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building.
19. Upon completion of the document production, you should submit a written certification, signed by you or your counsel, stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in your possession, custody, or control which reasonably could contain responsive documents; and (2) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced to the Committee.

Definitions

1. The term "document" means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, inter-office and intra-office communications, electronic mail (e-mail), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.
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3. The terms "and" and "or" shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information which might

otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neuter genders.

4. The terms "person" or "persons" mean natural persons, firms, partnerships, associations, corporations, subsidiaries, divisions, departments, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, or other legal, business or government entities, and all subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, or other units thereof.
5. The term "identify," when used in a question about individuals, means to provide the following information: (a) the individual's complete name and title; and (b) the individual's business address and phone number.
6. The term "referring or relating," with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with or is pertinent to that subject in any manner whatsoever.

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5051
Minority (202) 225-5074

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Gates:

On his first full day in office, President Obama proclaimed his Administration's commitment to openness and transparency by signing a memorandum that urged the federal agencies to adopt a presumption in favor of disclosure in response to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. The Freedom of Information Act grants the public access to federal agency records unless the requested information is protected by any of nine exemptions or three exclusions. Two recent audits demonstrate that the agencies have failed to implement the President's first-day FOIA guidance to such an extent that we are concerned the records and information of the federal government are no more, and possibly less, available to the public than they were during previous administrations.

President Obama promised taxpayers "a new era of openness in our country" and a presidency built on "transparency and the rule of law."¹ To that end, on January 21, 2009, President Obama issued new guidance on FOIA, via a memorandum to the heads of executive departments and agencies. The President stated that "all agencies should adopt a presumption in favor of disclosure, in order to renew their commitment to the principles embodied in FOIA, and to usher in a new era of open Government."² Additionally, agencies were instructed that "[n]ondisclosure should never be based on an

¹ CNN.com, *Vowing transparency, Obama OKs ethics guidelines*, <http://www.cnn.com/2009/POLITICS/01/21/obama.business/index.html> (last visited March 22, 2010).

² Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, President, Freedom of Information Act, January 21, 2009, available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/FreedomofInformationAct/

OSD 03722-10



effort to protect the personal interests of Government officials at the expense of those they are supposed to serve.”¹

As directed by President Obama, on March 19, 2009, Attorney General Holder issued a memorandum to the heads of executive departments and agencies to “underscore” the President’s FOIA commitment and “ensure” that it was realized in practice.² The memorandum stressed two points: 1) an agency should not withhold information simply because it may do so legally; and 2) whenever an agency determines that it cannot make full disclosure of a requested record, it must consider whether it can make partial disclosure.³ Additionally, presumably to discourage FOIA denials, the Attorney General limited the Department of Justice’s defense of FOIA denials to those that 1) the department reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of the statutory exemptions, or 2) disclosure is prohibited by law.⁴

Despite these memoranda stressing the importance of openness and transparency, an audit by the National Security Archive, an open-government project at George Washington University, found that only four agencies have increased the release of information and decreased denials under FOIA, the majority of agencies have not responded to either the Obama or Holder memos with concrete changes in their FOIA practices, and ancient requests still persist in the FOIA system.⁵ Additionally, despite receiving 48,686 fewer FOIA requests in the past fiscal year than in 2008, the number of rejections rose by 154,189.⁶ In direct opposition to Obama’s memorandum, the use of FOIA exception 5, which more than any other exemption protects the personal interests of Government officials, has risen, from 47,395 in fiscal year 2008 to 70,779 in the past fiscal year.⁷

During a March 18, 2010 Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives hearing on current trends in the administration of FOIA, several witnesses expressed frustration with the current climate surrounding FOIA. One witness, a director of a FOIA litigation group, testified that he has observed no improvement since President Obama signed the January 21, 2010 FOIA memorandum: “We [are] unable to discern any real difference between the manner in which the disputed information was handled first under the Bush policy, and later under the Obama policy.”⁸

¹ *Id.*

² Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, Attorney General, Freedom of Information Act, March 19, 2009.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Sunshine and Shadows: The Clear Obama Message for Freedom of Information Meets Mixed Results, The National Security Archive, George Washington University, March 15, 2010, available at <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB308/2010FOIAAudit.pdf>

⁶ *Gastongazette.com, Promises of openness are yet unfulfilled*, <http://www.gastongazette.com/articles/openness-45091-promises-span.html> (last visited March 22, 2010).

⁷ Sharon Theimer, *Promises, Promises: Is Gov’t More Open with Obama?* ASSOC. PRESS, Mar. 16, 2010.

⁸ Written Testimony of Electronic Frontier Foundation Senior Counsel David Sobel, prepared for the H. Oversight and Gov’t Reform Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives hearing on “Administration of the Freedom of Information Act: Current Trends,” Mar. 18, 2010.

Another witness, representing perhaps the most active FOIA requestor and litigator operating today, stated plainly "The Obama administration is less transparent than the Bush administration."⁹

So that we may better understand the failure of the federal agencies to implement the directives of the White House and Justice Department, and to facilitate openness and transparency in the future, we request the following documents:

1. Your agency's complete FOIA log, including the identity of each party that requested records and/or information, the date the request was received, the date the request was fulfilled, whether the request was rejected, and if so, what exemption or exclusion was cited.
2. A complete explanation for each full or partial FOIA rejection since January 21, 2009.
3. All records and communications referring or relating to a full or partial FOIA rejection since January 21, 2009.
4. All records and communications referring or relating to the implementation of President Obama's January 21, 2009, memorandum on the Freedom of Information Act and/or Attorney General Eric Holder's memorandum of March 19, 2009, on the Freedom of Information Act.

We respectfully request that you provide the requested information **no later than Monday, April 26, 2010**. Please note that, for purposes of responding to this request, the terms "records," "communications," and "referring or relating" should be interpreted consistently with the attached Definitions of Terms.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the main investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Pursuant to House Rule X, it has authority to investigate the subjects within the Committee's legislative jurisdiction as well as "any matter" within the jurisdiction of the other standing House Committees. This broad jurisdiction includes the oversight of Executive Branch operations and administrative functions.


⁹ Written Testimony of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton, prepared for the H. Oversight and Gov't Reform Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives hearing on "Administration of the Freedom of Information Act: Current Trends," Mar. 18, 2010.

March 25, 2010

Page 4 of 5

If you have any questions or comments please contact Marvin Kaplan or Jonathan Skladany of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Patrick McHenry
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Information Policy,
Census, and National Archives



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform

Attachment

Definitions of Terms

1. The term "record" means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, interoffice and intra office communications, electronic mail (e-mail), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape or otherwise. A record bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate record. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate record within the meaning of this term.
2. The term "communication" means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether face-to-face, in a meeting, by telephone, mail, telexes, discussions, releases, personal delivery, or otherwise.
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DAN BURTON, INDIANA
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
PATRICK McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
JIM JORDAN, OHIO
JASON CHAFFETZ, UTAH
CONNIE MACK, FLORIDA
TIM WALBERG, MICHIGAN
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
JUSTIN AMASH, MICHIGAN
ANN MARIE BUEKLE, NEW YORK
PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S., ARIZONA
PAUL R. LABRADOR, IDAHO
PATRICK MEEHAN, PENNSYLVANIA
SCOTT DESJARLAIS, M.D., TENNESSEE
JOE WALSH, ILLINOIS
TREY GOWDY, SOUTH CAROLINA
DENNIS A. ROSS, FLORIDA
FRANK C. GUINTA, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BLAKE FARENTHOLD, TEXAS
MIKE KELLY, PENNSYLVANIA

LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-6074
FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<http://oversight.house.gov>

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
GERALD E. CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA
MIKE QUIGLEY, ILLINOIS
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
BRUCE L. BRALEY, IOWA
PETER WELCH, VERMONT
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA

April 8, 2011

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is conducting oversight of agency operations in the absence of appropriations. While the Majority has made clear it does not want a government shutdown, the potential failure of the President and Congress to reach an agreement on funding for the remainder of the current fiscal year requires the Committee ensure the executive branch it has effective contingency plans in place. Such review is important in the event of a shutdown.

As part of this oversight, I am writing to request the agency produce the following documents and information related to its shutdown plan as required by Section 124 of *Circular No. A-11*:³

- (1) the list of agency activities and functions that will continue during a lapse in appropriations because they qualify as exceptions to the Antideficiency Act restrictions;
- (2) the list of employees who will be retained during a lapse in appropriations organized by administrative subdivision, occupational category, functional classification, and location.
- (3) the agency plan for communicating information to its employees.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about responding to the Committee's request.

³ U.S. Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, *Circular No. A-11: Preparation, Submissions, and Execution of the Budget*, July 2010, Section 124.

OSD 04294-11

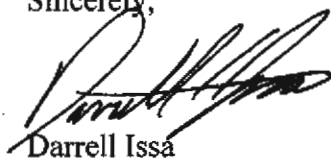


The Honorable Robert Gates
April 8, 2011
Page 2

We request that you provide the requested documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than 1 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 2011. When producing documents to the Committee, please deliver production sets to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The Committee prefers, if possible, to receive all documents in electronic format.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Jennifer Hemingway or Tabetha Mueller of the Committee Staff at 202-225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrell Issa", written over a horizontal line.

Darrell Issa
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

We have united with small business, minority interest groups, and federal contractors in opposition to the implementation of President Obama's February 11, 2009 executive order, E.O. 13502, encouraging federal agencies to consider the use of a project labor agreement (PLA) on large scale construction projects, where the total cost to the Government is \$25 million or more.¹ Despite promises of greater efficiency and labor peace, ample evidence shows that PLAs do not promote efficiency or labor peace and are discriminatory, wasteful, and anticompetitive. This Administration has chosen to adopt a final rule to reward its union allies at the expense of jobs. We have instructed our staffs to conduct meaningful oversight into all PLAs on large scale federal construction projects to evaluate the value and cost of these programs to the American taxpayer.

Project Labor Agreements Do NOT Promote Efficiency

PLAs use uniform collective bargaining agreements that cover all crafts on a construction project - setting work schedules, hours, payment arrangements, grievance procedures, and other terms and conditions of employment. These uniform contracts limit both employee and employer choice and innovation. Employees have no choice in representation. Contractors and subcontractors are forced to accept the PLA conditions, eliminating any chance of efficiency through innovation and forcing many employers to overhaul their structures to accommodate the new requirements.

Project Labor Agreements Do NOT Promote Industrial Peace

There is no evidence that PLAs are more successful than traditional contracts at securing industrial peace. A recent study by the Beacon Hill Institute found that the Bush Administration initiated 57,287 construction projects worth \$25 million or more without a single PLA.² None of these projects suffered from labor strife, slowdowns, or

¹ Letter from Rep. Darrell Issa, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform to Supervisor Hada Flowers, General Services Administration, Sept. 23, 2009.

² David G. Tuerch, Sarah Glassman, and Paul Bachman, *Project Labor Agreements on Federal Construction Projects: A Costly Solution in Search of a Problem*, The Beacon Hill Institute, Aug. 2009, at 5.



The Honorable Robert M. Gates
April 22, 2010
Page 2 of 4

significant cost overruns.³ Clearly, PLAs and their grievance provisions are not necessary to ensure industrial peace on federal projects.

Project Labor Agreements are Wasteful

It is estimated that PLAs increase the costs of projects by between 20 and 26 percent.⁴ If PLAs had been used on all federal construction projects financed by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, assuming PLA agreements increase project costs by 20 percent, the federal government would have spent \$131 billion on work that could have been done for \$109 billion without the PLA.⁵ This labor windfall will cost the American taxpayer billions of dollars and innumerable jobs.

Project Labor Agreements are Anticompetitive

In 2001, approximately 80 percent of all construction workers were not affiliated with a union organization, and 75 percent of all construction projects nationwide were completed with non-union labor. To avoid the difficulties inherent in PLAs, many employers who are capable of managing and completing large projects choose not to bid on construction projects covered by a PLA. This response reduces competitive bidding and quality of workers. The 1995 study of the Buffalo Roswell Park project estimated that a PLA reduced total bidders by 30 percent.⁶ All federal contracts should be open to competitive bidding without PLAs to ensure best value and quality of work.

Project Labor Agreements are Discriminatory

The underrepresentation of minorities in unions, and the lack of non-union contractor bidding on construction projects covered by PLAs, act as barriers for minority workers and contractors. In 2008, approximately 73 percent of union members were white, 13 percent were African-American, four percent were Asian, and 11 percent were Hispanic.⁷ Further, 98 percent of black construction workers and construction companies are non-union.⁸ The National Black Chamber of Commerce, Women Construction Owners & Executives USA, Bay Area Black Contractors Association, Latin Builders

³ *Id.*

⁴ Paul Bachman and David G. Tuerck. "Project Labor Agreements and Public Construction Costs in New York State." Beacon Hill Institute at Suffolk University, 2006. Association of Builders and Contractors to Harry Robinson, Apr. 6, 1995 available at <http://opencontracting.com/studies/pdfs/Letters.pdf>; Ernest and Young, Erie County Courthouse Construction Projects, Sept. 10, 2001, available at <http://opencontracting.com/studies/pdfs/Erie.pdf>.

⁵ Elise M. Carlin, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and Its Impact on Federal Construction Contracting, Feb. 18, 2009, available at <http://federalconstruction.phslegal.com/tags/american-recovery-and-reinvest/>.

⁶ Ernest and Young, Erie County Courthouse Construction Projects, Sept. 10, 2001, available at <http://opencontracting.com/studies/pdfs/Erie.pdf>.

⁷ Household Data Annual Averages, available at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat40.pdf>.

⁸ *The Games They Play on Blacks*, National Black Chamber of Commerce, available at http://www.nationalbcc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=752:the-games-they-play-on-blacks&catid=63:beyond-the-rhetoric&Itemid=8.

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
April 22, 2010
Page 3 of 4

Association Inc., United States Pan-Asian-American Chamber of Commerce, American Asian Contractors Association, and National Association of Women Business Owners recognize that these disparities ensure that small and minority businesses are not able to compete on PLAs.⁹

Despite significant opposition from small business, federal contractors and minority interest groups, on April 13, 2010, the Federal Acquisition Regulation Council amended the Federal Acquisition Regulation to implement President Obama's February 11, 2009 executive order, E.O. 13502. The final rule:

- Encourages agency planners to consider use of PLAs early in the acquisition process;
- Clarifies that if an agency decides to use a PLA on a particular project, then the contractor must submit an executed PLA, meaning that a contractor can no longer merely bargain in good faith;
- Provides a non-exhaustive list of factors agencies may consider when deciding, on a case-by-case basis, whether to use a PLA;
- Allows agencies to either dictate the terms and conditions of the PLA or solicit a PLA from offerors;
- Requires PLAs to bind all contractors and subcontractors engaged in construction on the construction project to comply with the PLA;
- Requires PLAs to set forth mutually binding procedures for resolving labor disputes arising during the term of the PLA; and
- Requires contractor to provide a copy of the PLA to the contracting agency.¹⁰

In light of the leeway granted to agencies in the use, procedure, and terms of PLAs on large scale federal construction projects and the waste, discrimination, and anticompetitive elements of PLAs, we have instructed our staffs to monitor all large scale federal construction project that use a PLA very closely. In the event that your agency chooses to use a PLA on a large scale federal construction project, we would anticipate sending a letter requesting detailed documentation covering all levels of the decision making process and implementation.

⁹ *Union-Only PLAs Discriminate*, Put Freedom to Work, available at <http://opencontracting.com/info/index.cfm?page=5>.

¹⁰ 75 FR 19168-19179, available at <http://frwebgate6.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/PDFgate.cgi?WAISdocID=344120141976+0+2+0&WAIAction=retrieve>.

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
April 22, 2010
Page 4 of 4

To assist the Committees in developing a better understanding of your agency's position on this rulemaking and to facilitate future investigations, please provide the following information and documents:

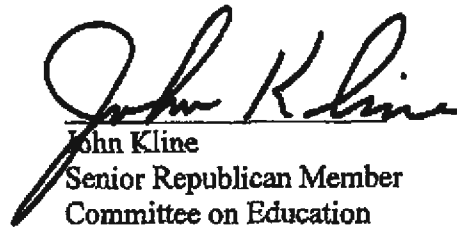
1. Produce any guidance memorandums or other documents prepared by agency officials relating to this rulemaking, the implementation of a PLA, or any other document relating to the agency's contemplation of implementing a PLA.
2. Identify all large scale construction projects on which the agency is considering the use of a PLA. Provide the location and nature of the construction project, the source of financing, identity of the unions and contractors involved, and the expected cost.
3. Should your agency use a PLA on a large scale construction project, we may request that you brief our staffs about the decision-making process, the mechanics of implementation, and terms of the PLA. To facilitate the Committees' oversight work in this area, please identify a staff contact with subject matter expertise on PLAs to serve as a liaison between the agency and our Committees.
4. Please provide any and all documents and communications with persons, groups, or organizations outside the agency regarding the use of PLAs, and identify any policy decision(s) or programmatic requirement(s) made or included (for example, apprenticeship requirements) based on consultation with these parties.

We request that you provide the information by May 6, 2010. If you have any questions or comments please contact Marvin Kaplan or Steve Castor of the Oversight Committee staff at (202) 225-5074 or Loren Sweatt of the Education and Labor Committee staff at (202) 225-7101.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform



John Kline
Senior Republican Member
Committee on Education
and Labor

cc: Chairman Edolphus Towns, Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Chairman George Miller, Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK,
CHAIRMAN

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STEVE DREBAUER, OHIO
JUDY CHU, CALIFORNIA

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
FACSIMILE (202) 225-4784
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

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May 19, 2010

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA,
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

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ANH "JOSEPH" CAO, LOUISIANA

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to request that you provide this Committee with important documents and legal findings which will allow us to appropriately oversee the Administration's antiterrorism efforts.

On March 23, the Committee's National Security and Foreign Affairs subcommittee held an oversight hearing that focused on the Administration's successful use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) to attack terrorists. Although I commend the Administration for aggressively taking the fight to the enemy in this manner, I was concerned to learn from the expert testimony that the Administration had not clearly articulated the legal basis upon which drone strikes are conducted or otherwise declared that the strikes conform with U.S. and international law.

Two days following the hearing, the Administration took steps to ameliorate the concerns expressed. On March 25, Harold Hongju Koh, the Department of State's Legal Advisor, announced in a widely heralded speech in Washington that "it is the considered view of this Administration . . . that lethal operations conducted with the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, comply with all applicable law, including the laws of war."

Because it came so soon after the issue was raised at our subcommittee hearing, I am pleased with this explicit and official declaration. Now individuals operating drones at the behest of the U.S. government can continue to fight the enemy without fearing trumped up allegations of illegality or impropriety lodged by those who desire to curtail or otherwise inhibit our nation's antiterrorist efforts.

According to *The New York Times*, however, disputes remain between the departments of Justice, State, and Defense about other legal aspects of the

OSD 06145-10



The Honorable Robert M. Gates
May 19, 2010
Page 2

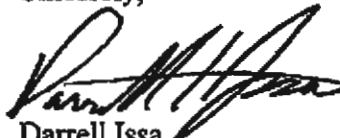
Administration's anti-terrorism policies. One disagreement apparently surrounds the type of terrorist activity which warrants indefinite detention by the United States without trial. Mr. Koh reportedly has written a memorandum suggesting that if an individual has only what is considered an indirect connection to terrorism, indefinite detention of this individual should not be permissible. Apparently, Jeh C. Johnson, the Defense Department's General Counsel, and David Barron, the acting director of the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel, have written memoranda which express different opinions.¹ It is precisely this sort of bureaucratic discord that impedes an effective and unified cross-government war against terrorists.

Congress must have a full understanding of the Administration's anti-terrorism policies and the legal framework that underlie them. We must also ensure that departments are fully and properly interacting in a coordinated manner, thus avoiding the kind of interdepartmental fractures evident prior to the 9/11 attacks. Therefore, I respectfully request that you provide the Committee with a copy of the Johnson memorandum. I ask that this be conveyed by June 2, 2010.

As you know, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the main investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Pursuant to House Rule X, it has authority to investigate the subjects within the Committee's legislative jurisdiction as well as "any matter" within the jurisdiction of the other standing House Committees. This broad jurisdiction includes the oversight of Executive Branch management, operations, and administrative functions, and interagency operations.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this very important matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. Should your staff require additional information, they may reach Thomas Alexander, Senior Counsel, at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Edolphus Towns, Chairman

¹ Charlie Savage, Obama Team Is Divided on Anti-Terror Tactics, *New York Times*, 28 March 2010.

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
CHAIRMAN

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5051
Minority (202) 225-5074

June 3, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to request documents and information relating to the extent to which White House political personnel are involved with planning, directing, or coordinating your travel to participate in public events – official or political – which may have a political benefit for elected Democratic officials or Democratic candidates for office.

As you may know, during the last Congress then-Chairman Waxman and this Committee invested substantial time and effort to investigate the use of official resources at the behest of the White House for political purposes. During the Committee's investigation – which spanned nearly two years – the staff interviewed or deposed 18 political appointees, including President Bush's political directors, and received nearly 70,000 pages of documents from the White House and 29 agencies.

At the conclusion of his years-long investigation, Chairman Waxman's staff prepared a staff report entitled "The Activities of the White House Office of Political Affairs."¹⁷ Chairman Waxman called for the elimination of the Office. The Waxman Report stated:

The White House Office of Political Affairs has been controversial since President Reagan created the office in 1981. . . . But the extent of political activity by the . . . White House and its deep and systematic reach into the federal agencies is unprecedented. **Congress should amend the Hatch Act, the federal law**

¹⁷ Democratic Staff, H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform, 110th Cong., "The Activities of the White House Office of Political Affairs," Oct. 2008, <http://oversight.house.gov/documents/20081015105434.pdf>.

OSD 06687-10



The Honorable Robert M. Gates

June 3, 2010

Page 2

restricting political activity by federal officials, to eliminate the White House Office of Political Affairs. If the political affairs office is retained, its activities should be restructured to ensure that it serves the interests of the taxpayer, not the political party of the President.¹⁸

In the report, the Waxman staff concluded that the White House organized the travel of senior administration officials around politically advantageous locations and specifically used travel as a tool to help elect or re-elect members of their party to public office.¹⁹ The report counted events that were attended personally by senior administration officials. It reported that 303 events required travel outside of Washington, D.C. The Waxman staff concluded that these events violated the Hatch Act. They wrote the events "established precisely the type of 'political boiler-room' that the Congress warned against when it amended the Hatch Act in 1993."²⁰ The report stated that the taxpayers "should . . . not pay the travel expenses of cabinet and other senior officials to fly across the country" for political purposes.²¹

During President Obama's short time in office, there has been some indication that the White House has ignored Chairman Waxman's concerns. For example, according to a *Washington Post* story last year about travel related to marketing of the President's stimulus plan, "public policy and electoral politics have come together seamlessly in his domestic travel itinerary."²² The *Post* reported:

Since becoming president, he hasn't set foot in a state he won by nearly 40 percentage points in November's general election.

But thousands have heard Obama speak in Ohio, North Carolina, Missouri, Indiana and Florida, all among the 16 states he has visited since taking office. In each of those places, his margin of victory or defeat last November was fewer than five percentage points.

* * *

On nearly every trip he has taken, **Obama has followed the timeworn path of presidential travel -- go where the votes matter most.**

* * *

¹⁸ *Id.* at ii (emphasis supplied).

¹⁹ *Id.* at i (Executive Summary).

²⁰ *Id.* at 23.

²¹ *Id.*

²² Scott Wilson, *Obama's Travel Mixes Policy, Politics*, WASH. POST, June 21, 2009.

The Honorable Robert M. Gates

June 3, 2010

Page 3

But the travel suggests a White House far more interested in electoral politics than its leader and senior staff members publicly acknowledge. The swing-state stops are just one element of a West Wing political operation that has preserved many practices of preceding ones, and that takes into account the dynamics of the 2010 midterm elections and the next presidential race in deciding where to spend Obama's time.

Of the 16 states Obama has visited, nine shifted from the Republican to Democratic column in 2008. Five of the states are among the six that posted the narrowest margins of victory for either Obama or Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), and are likely to remain the most closely divided through the coming campaign cycles.

* * *

Obama has raised money in California, Indiana and Nevada, and election law calls for the government to be reimbursed for those explicitly political aspects of his travel.²³

Last June, *Politico* similarly reported administration officials have traveled to at least 66 events across the country to tout the stimulus program, but the events were almost exclusively tied to obviously politically motivated destinations. According to *Politico*:

Since Congress passed President Barack Obama's \$787 billion economic stimulus bill in February, administration officials have traveled to at least 66 events across the country to tout the massive spending program or hand out stimulus cash to grateful local officials.

* * *

Top officials have hosted events predominantly in states that Obama won in 2008.

What's more, the examination revealed that Obama officials all but avoided Southern states that Obama lost.

* * *

²³ *Id.* (emphasis added).

The Honorable Robert M. Gates

June 3, 2010

Page 4

But the numbers tell the tale: 52 of the 66 events were in states that backed Obama. And taken together, the itineraries amount to a veritable map of Obama's election-night victories — big-money states like California and New York, swing states like Ohio and Colorado that Obama turned blue and other solidly Democratic states Obama kept in his column.²⁴

This is precisely the type of political travel former Chairman Waxman spent years investigating. This is what he deemed Hatch Act violations.

I am interested in developing a better understanding of whether the types of political travel Chairman Waxman invested so much time and energy attempting to eradicate are still occurring. To assist the Committee in learning more about this Administration's practices with regard to political travel, I request that you provide the Committee with the following information:

1. Provide a list of all events with elected officials or candidates for office that you attended outside of Washington, D.C., in an official capacity during the time period February 1, 2009 to the present. For each event, please provide the date and location of the event, a brief description of the purpose of the event, the identity of the elected officials or candidates for office attending the event, and a statement declaring whether taxpayer funds were used to travel to the event.
2. Provide a list of all events with elected officials or candidates for office that you attended outside of Washington, D.C., for political purposes, whether it be a fundraiser, rally, or other political function, during the time period February 1, 2009 to the present. For each event, please provide the date and location of the event, a brief description of the purpose of the event, the identity of the elected officials or candidates for office attending the event, and a statement declaring whether taxpayer funds were used in part to travel to the event.
3. All documents, including emails, that relate to the involvement of White House officials in scheduling, suggesting, coordinating, or directing public events with elected officials or candidates for office for any official at the Department during the time period February 1, 2009 to the present.

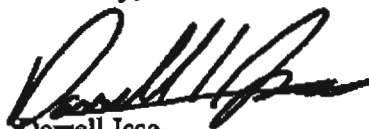
The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives and has broad oversight jurisdiction as set forth in House Rule X.

²⁴ Eamon Javers, *A Political Pattern to Stimulus Tour*, POLITICO, June 5, 2009 (emphasis added).

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
June 3, 2010
Page 5

We look forward to your response by June 17, 2010. You may contact Steve Castor of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074 if you have any questions about this request. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrell Issa", written over a horizontal line.

Darrell Issa
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Edolphus Towns, Chairman

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

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LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

June 1, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

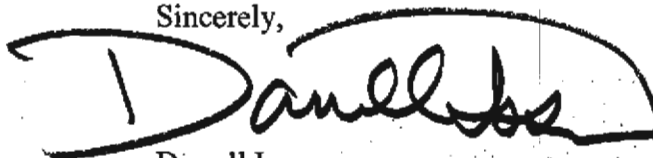
Dear Secretary Gates:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hereby requests your testimony at a hearing on **June 23, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building**. The hearing is entitled, "Is This Any Way to Treat Our Troops? Part IV: Lack of Progress and Accountability."

The hearing will examine the federal government's efforts to ensure that wounded warriors receive the appropriate care upon their return from the battlefield. You should be prepared to provide a five minute opening statement and answer questions posed by Members.

Instructions for witnesses appearing before the Committee are contained in the enclosed Witness Instruction Sheet. In particular, please note the procedures for submitting written testimony at least two business days prior to the hearing. We ask that you please contact the Committee by June 3, 2011, to confirm your attendance. If you have any questions, please contact Thomas Alexander of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Elijah Cummings, Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

OSD 06889-11



DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
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LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

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House of Representatives

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July 25, 2011

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Panetta:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is investigating the extent to which U.S. taxpayer money is directly or indirectly funding criminal patronage networks, power brokers, and the Taliban in Afghanistan. On July 25, 2011, it was reported that Department of Defense investigators have found "documented, credible evidence . . . of involvement in a criminal enterprise or support for the enemy" by multiple prime contractors.¹ According to *The Washington Post*, investigators also cited cases of profiteering, money laundering and kickbacks to Afghan power brokers, government officials and police officers.² If accurate, these findings could serve as a major setback for the United States and its efforts in Afghanistan.

To assist the Committee in its oversight, I request that the Department provide a copy of the report referenced by *The Washington Post* and arrange to brief staff on the findings contained therein. This should occur no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 2, 2011. When producing documents to the Committee, please deliver production sets to the Majority Staff in room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The Committee prefers, if possible, to receive all documents in electronic format.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about responding to the Committee's request.

¹ Karen DeYoung, "U.S. Trucking Funds Reach Taliban, Military-Led Investigation Concludes," THE WASHINGTON POST, July 24, 2011.

² *Id.*

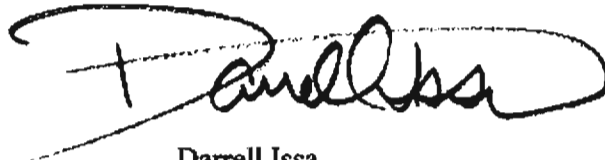
OSD 09051-11



The Honorable Leon Panetta
July 25, 2011
Page 2

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Thomas Alexander or Brien Beattie of the Committee Staff at 202-225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrell Issa". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Darrell Issa
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Elijah Cummings, Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
CHAIRMAN

PAUL B. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
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September 21, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to follow up on my letter to you dated June 3, 2010. In that letter, I requested documents and information about the involvement of White House political personnel in coordinating your travel to official and political events that may have benefited Democratic candidates for office. This investigation continues the work this Committee began in the last Congress under then-Chairman Waxman. To date, I have not received the information I requested or any explanation about the delay. Ordinarily, the Department of Defense (DoD) is more cooperative.

Recently, a DoD insider provided information and email correspondence to my staff confirming that your staff issued what appears to be a "stop work order" with respect to my request. An email exchange between senior officials granted the Office of the General Counsel's request that the suspense date (i.e., due date) be "turned off due to this letter going to 21 Agencies, and response requiring Administration guidance." Essentially, Michael Bruhn and Christian Marrone, both top aides in your office, ensured that all work on my request would stop and the due date would be ignored. The correspondence also indicates that Mr. Marrone would provide an explanation offline, effectively obscuring his motives from scrutiny.

The actions of senior DoD officials are inconsistent with the President's commitment "to making his administration the most open and transparent in history."¹ They are also inconsistent with federal law under 5-U.S.C. § 552. At the outset of his presidency, President Obama reiterated that "the way to make government accountable is make it transparent so that the American people can know exactly what decisions are

¹ The White House Blog, *Change Has Come To WhiteHouse.gov*, http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/change_has_come_to_whitehouse-gov/ (Jan. 20, 2009).



The Honorable Robert M. Gates
September 21, 2010
Page 2

being made, how they're being made, and whether their interests are being well served."²
He went on to state as follows:

I will also hold myself as President to a new standard of openness. Going forward, anytime the American people want to know something that I or a former President wants to withhold, we will have to consult with the Attorney General and the White House Counsel, whose business it is to ensure compliance with the rule of law. Information will not be withheld just because I say so. It will be withheld because a separate authority believes my request is well grounded in the Constitution.³

The President further urged federal agencies "to adopt a presumption in favor of disclosure."⁴ It is in the interests of transparency to disclose all information related to the White House's involvement in Cabinet officials' travel. Moreover, this Committee has broad jurisdiction to conduct oversight of the federal government.

I trust that you will reconsider my original request. If it is your position not to provide the requested materials, I request that you articulate the basis for this position in writing. Additionally, to better understand the status of my letter request, I ask that you make Michael Bruhn and Christian Marrone available for transcribed interviews. Please contact Steve Castor or Ashok Pinto of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Edolphus Towns, Chairman

² Remarks by The President in Welcoming Senior Staff and Cabinet Secretaries to the White House, http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/RemarksOfThePresidentInWelcomingSeniorStaffandCabinetSecretariestotheWhiteHouse/ (Jan. 21, 2009).

³ *Id.*

⁴ Memorandum for the Heads of Departments and Agencies regarding Freedom of Information Act, http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Freedom_of_Information_Act/ (Jan 21, 2009).

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
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LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

September 13, 2011

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Panetta:

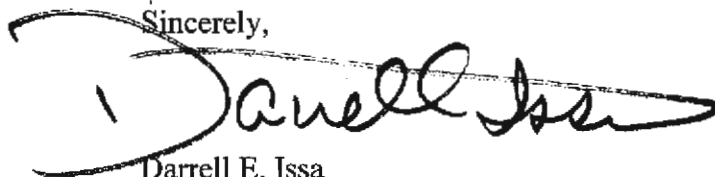
I write to inform you that in my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I will lead a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) on official business to Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan and Kyrgyzstan from December 15 – 22, 2011. I will be accompanied by a bipartisan group of Members of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, with particular focus on Members who have not travelled to Afghanistan and Iraq.

The purpose of the travel to Afghanistan and Iraq is to conduct oversight regarding reported misuse of government funds through the contract process. The purpose of the travel to Kyrgyzstan is to conduct oversight of the U.S. logistical efforts for the Afghanistan war. The purpose of travel to Jordan is to discuss regional security with U.S. and local officials.

I request the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual expenses of such transportation as may be required is authorized by Title 31, U.S.C. 1108(g). Travel will be conducted by military and /or commercial aircraft up to business class, including foreign flag carriers when U.S. carriers are not available, and in accordance with House rules. The CODEL requests U.S. Marine liaison support for this trip.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Laura Rush, Deputy Chief Clerk, at (202) 226-4603. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell E. Issa
Chairman

OSD 11311-11



DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
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LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

September 22, 2011

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Panetta:

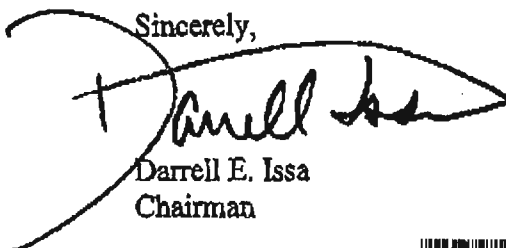
This letter is to authorize Rep. Jason Chaffetz, Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to lead a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) on official business to Germany, Italy, Morocco, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya from October 14 - 23, 2011. I also authorize Cong. Tierney and Cong. Lynch, two Members of the committee, to travel on the CODEL. Tom Alexander, a Member of the Committee Staff is also authorized.

The purpose of the official travel is to conduct oversight of civil, political, and military initiatives in the AFRICOM areas of responsibility. This includes the oversight of U.S. foreign assistance administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The delegation will request meeting with senior leaders of foreign governments as well as U.S. personnel.

I request the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual expenses of such transportation as may be required is authorized by Title 31, U.S.C. 1108(g). Travel will be conducted by military and /or commercial aircraft up to business class, including foreign flag carriers when U.S. carriers are not available, and in accordance with House rules. The CODEL requests U.S. Navy liaison support for this trip.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Laura Rush, Deputy Chief Clerk, at (202) 226-4603. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell E. Issa
Chairman

OSD 11788-11



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CHAIRMAN

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LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

September 29, 2011

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Panetta:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is investigating contracts awarded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to a company co-owned by DARPA Director Regina Dunn. The Committee is in receipt of the Department's document production dated April 13, 2011, related to contracts with RedXDefense.¹ Our review of these documents has raised additional questions.

To assist the Committee in its investigation, please make the following individuals available for transcribed interviews:

1. Dr. Cynthia "Cindy" Daniel, Program Manager, DARPA
2. Dr. William Coblenz, Program Manager, DARPA
3. Ms. Deidra Eberhardt, Assistant Director, Program Management, DARPA
4. Mr. Ryan Paterson, Deputy Director for the Adaptive Execution Office, DARPA
5. Mr. Daniel Kaufman, Director, Information Innovation Office, DARPA

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X.

¹ Sarah Chacko, *DARPA Director Has Ties to Company Receiving Agency Contract*, FED. TIMES, Mar. 7, 2011.

OSD 12156-11



The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
September 29, 2011
Page 2

We would appreciate a prompt response to this request. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Ashley Callen or Jonathan Skladany of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrell Issa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "I".

Darrell Issa
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA

October 13, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
10000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is investigating the facts and circumstances surrounding alleged corruption and mismanagement at the Dawood National Military Hospital in Afghanistan. The *Wall Street Journal* recently detailed disturbing accounts of substandard patient care, corruption and malfeasance in the operation and provision of basic medical care to Afghan soldiers wounded or injured in the line of duty.¹ As part of the Committee's oversight, we are writing to request documents and information regarding this U.S. taxpayer-funded institution.

Dawood National Military Hospital ("Dawood Hospital") was designed to facilitate the recovery of Afghan soldiers wounded on the battlefield. According to reports, however, Afghans routinely experienced "willful" neglect at the hands of medical providers.² Time and again, caregivers denied or withheld the most rudimentary services if patients did not pay bribes. In some cases, surgeons operated without sedatives or provided counterfeit medicine that failed to work. Those who asked for medicine received a beating instead. In all, according to these accounts, the horrific conditions resulted in crippling bedsores, extreme starvation, and death.

While the wounded suffered, the Afghan Army's Surgeon General, Ahmed Zia Yaftali, reportedly diverted millions of dollars in cash and pharmaceuticals earmarked for Dawood Hospital. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, General Yaftali pilfered roughly \$20 million dollars from the Afghan defense ministry and \$153 million in medical supplies provided by the U.S.³ Though he appears to have been removed from that post and the U.S. military has taken some remedial measures, there is little assurance that he will be held accountable for mistreating Afghans and fleecing the American people. This is an unacceptable result given the sacrifices made by Americans and Afghans over the past ten years.

Unfortunately, this behavior is emblematic of a wider culture of corruption in Afghanistan. As the *Wall Street Journal* observes, "[t]he way senior Afghan officials tolerated such deadly graft shows

¹ *At Afghan Hospital, Graft and Deadly Neglect*, *Wall Street Journal* (September 3, 2011).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

OSD 12410-11



just how deeply rooted corruption has become in President Karzai's administration, as well as the limits of Washington's ability to rein it in."⁴ Indeed, the inability of all parties to purge corruption from the Afghan government is a detriment to U.S. efforts. The ability of the Afghan people to place trust in their institutions – and by extension, the U.S. government – is the cornerstone of the counterinsurgency strategy. Holding General Yaftali and others accountable for their actions at Dawood Hospital would be a step in the right direction.

To assist this Committee with its oversight, we request that the Department produce the following information and documents in hard copy and electronic format:

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to Dawood National Military Hospital and allegations of corruption;
2. The total amount, by fiscal year, of U.S. funding provided for Dawood National Military Hospital. This should include FY-12 projections;
3. The type, quantity, and value of pharmaceuticals provided by the U.S. government for the Dawood National Military Hospital;
4. A timeline and description of events detailing how, when, and in what manner Defense Department officials became aware of mistreatment and mismanagement at Dawood National Military Hospital. This should include the names and contact information of those who were informed, and by whom they were informed;
5. A timeline and description of events detailing the actions taken by the U.S. government to remedy the mistreatment and mismanagement at the Dawood National Military Hospital;
6. A list of all similar instances of corruption involving Dawood National Military Hospital or any other medical facility paid for by U.S. taxpayer dollars;
7. The total amount, by fiscal year, of U.S. funding provided for all other medical facilities in Afghanistan since 2001. This should include a list of the medical facilities, the number of U.S. and Afghan personnel serving at each facility, as well as the geographical coordinates of each facility;
8. The total amount, by fiscal year, of all U.S. funding provided for medical supplies to Afghanistan. This should also include the total amount known to be lost due to waste, fraud, and abuse; and
9. All documents describing the extent to which the Afghan government is prosecuting those guilty of corruption, including General Ahmed Zia Yaftali and all others connected to the mistreatment and mismanagement at Dawood National Military Hospital.

We request that you provide the requested documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than October 27, 2011. Documents produced in response to this request must include an index

⁴ Id.

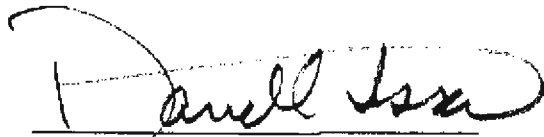
The Honorable Leon Panetta
October 13, 2011
Page 3

describing the contents of production. When producing documents to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, please deliver production sets to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

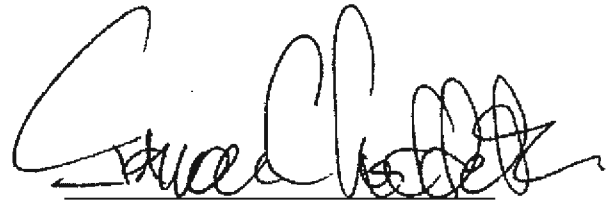
The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about responding to the Committee's request

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Tom Alexander or Rich Beutel of the Oversight and Government Reform staff at 202-225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Chairman



Jason Chaffetz
Chairman, Subcommittee on National
Security, Homeland Defense, and
Foreign Operations

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Elijah Cummings, Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable John F. Tierney, Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense, and Foreign Operations

Colonel Richard D. Root, HQ ISAF, Afghanistan

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October 25, 2011

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301-3000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your recent letter in response to my request that MSgt Damion Jacobs, a military fellow assigned to my personal office, be authorized to travel on a CODEL I will lead to Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan and Kyrgyzstan from December 15-21, 2011.

I am disappointed in the response and respectfully request that you reconsider. I believe that MSgt Jacobs will be an asset to the Members of the CODEL as he has first-hand experience and valuable knowledge of the areas we plan to visit. The value of MSgt Jacobs' Congressional fellowship is greater than just what he learns on Capitol Hill; it is also about what he can teach us. I have no doubt that MSgt Jacobs' immense knowledge of the Marines, and military life in general, would be most valuable to a Member of Congress or staff who may have little or no information about our military, or what it is like to be a Marine who faces the daily challenges of a combat wounded veteran.

As you may know, MSgt Jacobs has sacrificed tremendously for his country. He is an exemplary Marine who has overcome many obstacles. His representation of the Wounded Warriors Project is a positive example of courage to all Members and staff that he works and interacts with here in Congress. Including MSgt Jacobs on this CODEL will enable him to have invaluable one-on-one contact with key Members of Congress, and will serve as a means to provide them with as much information as possible so they are able to make informed decisions regarding legislation that affects our Nations' armed forces and veterans.

I respectfully ask that you rethink your decision and grant MSgt Jacobs permission to travel on my upcoming CODEL. Additionally, I will ensure that the Department of Defense is reimbursed, out of Committee funds, any costs associated with his travel.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Chairman

OSD 13016-11



DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

DAN BURTON, INDIANA
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
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DENNIS A. ROSS, FLORIDA
FRANK C. QUINTA, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BLAKE FARENTHOLD, TEXAS
MIKE KELLY, PENNSYLVANIA

LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-6074
FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974
MINORITY (202) 225-6051
<http://oversight.house.gov>

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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MIKE QUIGLEY, ILLINOIS
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
BRUCE L. BRALEY, IOWA
PETER WELCH, VERMONT
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA

November 28, 2011

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
4000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-4000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is conducting oversight of the Defense Department's efforts to properly care for injured and fallen service members. As part of this oversight, we are writing to request information regarding recent reports in the *Washington Post* and several other news outlets of the improper handling and preparation of remains at Port Mortuary at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.¹ According to an investigation of whistleblower reports completed by the Office of Special Counsel, there were "serious violations of rules and regulations, gross mismanagement, dishonesty and misconduct" by individuals employed at Port Mortuary.²

To assist with the Committee's oversight, we ask that you please produce the following information:

1. A copy of the Defense Department's policies and procedures regarding the handling, preparation, and burial of remains;
2. A list and description of all allegations involving improper handling, preparation, and burial of remains since January 1, 2002. This should include, but shall not be limited to, the incidents that occurred at Port Mortuary;
3. All documents and communications referring or relating to allegations involving improper handling, preparation, and burial of remains since January 1, 2002. This should include, but shall not be limited to, the incidents that occurred at Port Mortuary;

¹ *Air Force Mishandled Remains of War Dead, Inquiry Finds*, Washington Post (Aug. 8, 2011) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/air-force-mishandled-remains-of-war-dead-probe-finds/2011/11/08/gIQAkKuEIM_print.html).

² Office of Special Counsel, *Analysis of Disclosures, Agency Investigations and Reports, and Whistleblower Comments* (OSC File Nos. DI-10-2151; DI-10-2538; and DI-10-2734) (undated) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/documents/usaf-special-counsel-analysis.html).

OSD 14238-11



4. A list of all personnel involved in any allegation of improper handling, preparation, and burial of remains since January 1, 2002. This should include, but shall not be limited to, the incidents that occurred at Port Mortuary;
5. A list of personnel found to have violated policies and procedures regarding the handling, preparation, and burial of remains. This list should describe any discipline imposed by the Department of Defense. This should include, but shall not be limited to, the incidents that occurred at Port Mortuary;
6. All documents and communications referring to mismanagement, dishonesty, and misconduct at Port Mortuary; and
7. A staff-level briefing on the allegations involving Port Mortuary, any Department investigations thereof, and a description of the Department's efforts to remedy the deficiencies allowing such incidents to occur.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about responding to the Committee's request.

We request that you provide the requested documents and information as soon as possible, but **no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 9, 2011**. When producing documents to the Committee, please deliver production sets to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The Committee prefers, if possible, to receive all documents in electronic format.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Tom Alexander of the Majority Staff at 202-225-5074, or Scott Lindsay of the Minority Staff at 202-225-5051. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



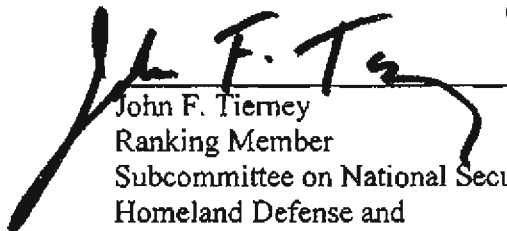
Darrell E. Issa
Chairman



Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security,
Homeland Defense and
Foreign Operations



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member



John F. Tierney
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security,
Homeland Defense and
Foreign Operations

Enclosure

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-6074
Minority (202) 225-6051

Responding to Committee Document Requests

1. In complying with this request, you should produce all responsive documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, and representatives acting on your behalf. You should also produce documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy or to which you have access, as well as documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party. Requested records, documents, data or information should not be destroyed, modified, removed, transferred or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.
2. In the event that any entity, organization or individual denoted in this request has been, or is also known by any other name than that herein denoted, the request shall be read also to include that alternative identification.
3. The Committee's preference is to receive documents in electronic form (i.e., CD, memory stick, or thumb drive) in lieu of paper productions.
4. Documents produced in electronic format should also be organized, identified, and indexed electronically.
5. Electronic document productions should be prepared according to the following standards:
 - (a) The production should consist of single page Tagged Image File ("TIF"), files accompanied by a Concordance-format load file, an Opticon reference file, and a file defining the fields and character lengths of the load file.
 - (b) Document numbers in the load file should match document Bates numbers and TIF file names.
 - (c) If the production is completed through a series of multiple partial productions, field names and file order in all load files should match.

6. Documents produced to the Committee should include an index describing the contents of the production. To the extent more than one CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, box or folder is produced, each CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, box or folder should contain an index describing its contents.
7. Documents produced in response to this request shall be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers or identifying markers with which they were associated when they were requested.
8. When you produce documents, you should identify the paragraph in the Committee's request to which the documents respond.
9. It shall not be a basis for refusal to produce documents that any other person or entity also possesses non-identical or identical copies of the same documents.
10. If any of the requested information is only reasonably available in machine-readable form (such as on a computer server, hard drive, or computer backup tape), you should consult with the Committee staff to determine the appropriate format in which to produce the information.
11. If compliance with the request cannot be made in full, compliance shall be made to the extent possible and shall include an explanation of why full compliance is not possible.
12. In the event that a document is withheld on the basis of privilege, provide a privilege log containing the following information concerning any such document: (a) the privilege asserted; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter; (d) the date, author and addressee; and (e) the relationship of the author and addressee to each other.
13. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, identify the document (stating its date, author, subject and recipients) and explain the circumstances under which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control.
14. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this request referring to a document is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, you should produce all documents which would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.
15. The time period covered by this request is included in the attached request. To the extent a time period is not specified, produce relevant documents from January 1, 2009 to the present.
16. This request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly-discovered information. Any record, document, compilation of data or information, not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date, shall be produced immediately upon subsequent location or discovery.

17. All documents shall be Bates-stamped sequentially and produced sequentially.
18. Two sets of documents shall be delivered, one set to the Majority Staff and one set to the Minority Staff. When documents are produced to the Committee, production sets shall be delivered to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building.
19. Upon completion of the document production, you should submit a written certification, signed by you or your counsel, stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in your possession, custody, or control which reasonably could contain responsive documents; and (2) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced to the Committee.

Definitions

1. The term "document" means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, inter-office and intra-office communications, electronic mail (e-mail), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.
2. The term "communication" means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether in a meeting, by telephone, facsimile, email, regular mail, telexes, releases, or otherwise.
3. The terms "and" and "or" shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information which might

otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neuter genders.

4. The terms "person" or "persons" mean natural persons, firms, partnerships, associations, corporations, subsidiaries, divisions, departments, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, or other legal, business or government entities, and all subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, or other units thereof.
5. The term "identify," when used in a question about individuals, means to provide the following information: (a) the individual's complete name and title; and (b) the individual's business address and phone number.
6. The term "referring or relating," with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with or is pertinent to that subject in any manner whatsoever.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 4, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

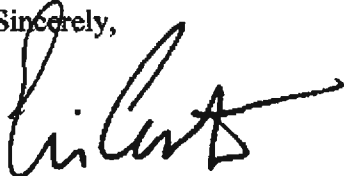
We recently discovered that the Air Force has rescinded an invitation to Dr. Tony Perkins to speak at its National Prayer Luncheon, because statements posted on the website of the organization he leads are purportedly at odds with the positions of the President. This action troubles us a great deal, not only in this particular case, but because of the implications for anyone who might disagree with the Administration in the future.

The luncheon in which Dr. Perkins, a former Marine, was scheduled to participate was designed as a time of prayer, not a policy discussion. With a brief letter sent on January 29, Chaplain Lt. Col. Gary Bertsch informed Dr. Perkins that he was rescinding the invitation "due to statements posted on the Family Research Council website which are incompatible in our role as military members who serve our elected officials and our Commander in Chief." No further explanation of these statements nor the alleged incompatibility was provided.

What is clear from this letter, however, is the establishment of a new litmus test: if one disagrees with the President, that person is not welcome to participate in military activities. Holding private citizens to such a standard – one not even expected of senior military officials who are often asked to give their expert opinion to Congress – is incredibly disconcerting. The chilling impact such a standard could have on the free speech of private citizens and those who serve in our armed forces – guaranteeing precisely these types of freedoms – cannot be allowed to stand.

We respectfully ask for a reply to this letter, informing us of the written or unwritten policies that led to the decision to rescind Dr. Perkins's invitation to participate in the Air Force's National Prayer Luncheon. Specifically, is it the policy of the Air Force and/or other branches of the armed services to allow only those individuals who agree with the President on all matters of policy to participate in ministry events they host?

Sincerely,



Eric Cantor
Member of Congress



Roy Blunt
Member of Congress





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
January 21, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

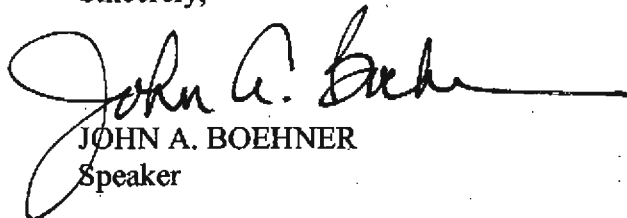
This letter will authorize the Honorable David Dreier, Chairman of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), to lead a delegation to Kuwait, Iraq, Indonesia and Timor-Leste on official business during the approximate time period of February 18-27, 2011.

The main purpose of this trip is to renew partnerships with the legislatures of Indonesia and Timor Leste in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. In Iraq, the delegation will meet with members of the national parliament and the national executive to assess the potential of a future program with the Council of Representatives. A crew rest stop is scheduled in Kuwait. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date. Spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government for protocol purposes only.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Marine escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


JOHN A. BOEHNER
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 01013-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
February 9, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of January 21, 2011, regarding Codel Dreier to Kuwait, Iraq, Indonesia and Timor-Leste on official business during the approximate time period of February 18-27, 2011. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable David Dreier (R-CA), Chairman, HDP
The Honorable David Price (D-NC), Ranking Democratic Member, HDP
The Honorable Lois Capps (D-CA)
The Honorable Sam Farr (D-CA)
The Honorable Jim McDermott (D-WA)

The Honorable Brian Monahan, Attending Physician
Mr. John Lis, Staff Director, HDP
Ms. Rachael Leman, Policy Director, House Rules Committee
Mr. Asher Hildebrand, PSM, House Committee on Appropriations
Mr. Brad Smith, PSM, House Rules Committee
Mr. Robert Lawrence, PSM, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


JOHN A. BOEHNER
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 01968-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 4, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader, to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Afghanistan and Italy during the approximate period of March 17-23, 2011. The purpose of the trip is to assess the activities of US and coalition forces in Afghanistan and meet with Afghan government leaders, diplomatic, aid and development personnel, key NATO partners and others as appropriate. In Italy the delegation will meet with Italian government leaders to discuss bilateral and multilateral collaboration related to NATO efforts in Afghanistan and other defense issues impacting international security. For protocol purposes only, spouses may travel at no cost to the government. A list of authorized travelers will follow at a later date.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Air Force escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

JOHN A. BOEHNER
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02012-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 14, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Michael Turner, to lead a delegation to Belgium during the approximate period of February 19-23, 2011. The purpose of this trip is to attend the winter meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Michael Turner (R-OH)
The Honorable Mike Ross (D-AR)
The Honorable Jefferson Miller (R-FL)
The Honorable Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)

Mr. Riley Moore, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Air Force escort (Col Eric Mann). Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


JOHN A. BOEHNER
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02086-11



JOHN A. BOEHNER
OHIO
SPEAKER



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
H-232 U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-0600

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 15, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Further to my letter of February 14, 2011, please amend the dates of the Honorable Michael Turner's Congressional Delegation to Belgium to the period of February 18-23, 2011. Additionally, the following staff member has been added to the authorized traveler list:

Mr. Doug Seay, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

JOHN A. BOEHNER
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02201-11



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 8, 2011

Secretary Robert M. Gates
Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

With the recent passing of Frank W. Buckles of West Virginia, the last surviving American to have served during the First World War, America has lost its final living connection to a war that saw our nation emerge as the world's preeminent defender of liberty and democratic values.

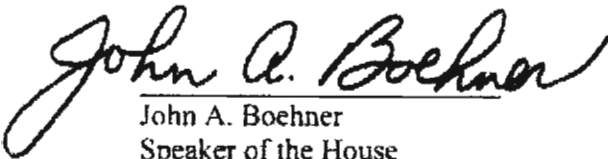
Between 1916 and 1918, more than 116,000 Americans gave their lives – and an additional 200,000 suffered injury – on the battlefields of Western Europe and on the high seas. The loss of Frank Buckles provides an opportunity for every American to pause and reflect on the sacrifices his entire generation made to secure the blessings of freedom.

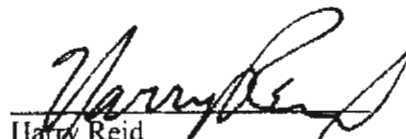
To this end, we respectfully request, in addition to his interment in Arlington Cemetery, that the remains of Corporal Frank Buckles, U.S. Army, August 1917-January 1920, be allowed to lie in honor for a period of time in the cemetery's Memorial Amphitheater.

On November 11, 1921, at a ceremony marking the burial of the Unknown Soldier from the First World War, President Warren G. Harding said, "Standing today on hallowed ground, conscious that all America has halted to share in the tribute of heart and mind and soul to this fellow-American, and knowing that the world is noting this expression of the republic's mindfulness, it is fitting to say that his sacrifice, and that of millions dead, shall not be in vain."

Like the Unknown Soldier buried that day in 1921, Frank Buckles answered the call of duty to defend his country. He loved America and was assured of its ultimate victory. His contributions and sacrifice on behalf of the Republic mark him as true patriot worthy of the hallowed grounds of Arlington.

Sincerely,


John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House


Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 16, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to inform you of my intention to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Germany during the approximate period of April 15-21, 2011. The purpose of the trip is to conduct oversight, including meetings with members of the military, civilian agencies, and foreign officials, to assess ongoing U.S. strategies in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan. In addition, the delegation will also visit wounded warriors and medical facilities in Germany. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable John A. Boehner, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Dan Boren (D-OK)
The Honorable Mac Thornberry (R-TX)
The Honorable K. Michael Conaway (R-TX)
The Honorable Thomas J. Rooney (R-FL)
The Honorable Joseph J. Heck (R-NV)

Mr. Barry Jackson, Chief of Staff to the Speaker
Mr. Kevin Smith, Communications Director, Office of the Speaker
Ms. Jennifer Stewart, National Security Advisor, Office of the Speaker

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as two Marine military escorts and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Please also note that it is requested that CENTCOM allocate box dates in Iraq on April 16 and 17 (RON in Baghdad April 16), and box dates in Afghanistan on April 18, 19, and 20 (RON in Kabul on April 18 and 19) for the entire 12 member delegation.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".
John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk

OSD 03417-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 16, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of February 4, 2011 regarding Codel Pelosi to Afghanistan and Italy during the approximate period of March 17-23, 2011. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Democratic Leader, and Mr. Paul Pelosi
The Honorable John Mica (R-FL) and Mrs. Pat Mica
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
The Honorable Leonard Boswell (D-IA)
The Honorable Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ)

The Honorable Wilson Livingood, House Sergeant at Arms
The Honorable Brian Monahan, Attending Physician
Mr. John Lawrence, Chief of Staff to the Democratic Leader
Mr. John Coon, Chief of Staff, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Ms. Bridget Fallon, Protocol Director to the Democratic Leader
Mr. Nadeem Elshami, Communications Director to the Democratic Leader
Ms. Kate Knudson, Executive Assistant to the Democratic Leader

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03434-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 29, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

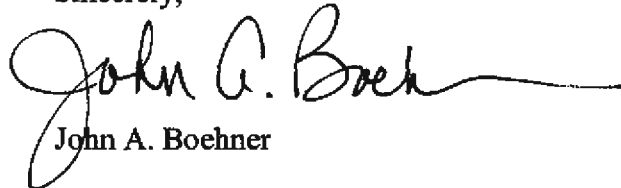
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Mr. George Rogers, Assistant to the Speaker for Policy, to travel with Staffdel Cimino (authorized by the Committee on Financial Services) to Singapore, Vietnam, and Hong Kong during the approximate period of April 15-23, 2011. The purpose of the trip is to obtain information on developments in an important emerging financial market.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Navy escort. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04575-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 1, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of March 16, 2011 regarding my upcoming congressional delegation. Please note that we will no longer be traveling to Germany, but will travel to Belgium instead. The purpose of the visit to Mons, Belgium is to meet with Supreme Allied Commander Europe to discuss NATO contributions to Operation Enduring Freedom and ongoing operations in North Africa.

Please also note that Mr. James Gottshall, U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Security, has been invited to travel with the delegation.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04577-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 1, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Michael Turner, Chairman of the NATO PA, to lead a delegation to Bulgaria during the approximate period of May 26-30, 2011. The purpose of this trip is to attend the Spring meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. For protocol purposes only, spouses may travel with the delegation at no cost to the government. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Air Force escort. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04579-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 12, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Democratic Whip, Mr. John Hughes, Senior Policy Advisor to the Democratic Whip, and Mr. David Stewart, Senior Policy Advisor to the Speaker, to travel with Codell Camp (authorized by the Committee on Ways and Means) to Colombia during the approximate period of April 18-20, 2011.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Air Force escort. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05109-11



JOHN A. BOEHNER
OHIO
SPEAKER



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
H-232 U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-0900

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 20, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader, to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Iraq, Qatar, and Israel during the approximate period of May 5-10, 2011. The purpose of the trip is to assess the activities of US and coalition forces and the implementation of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) in Iraq. In Qatar and Israel, the delegation will meet with foreign government leaders and U.S. military and civilian officials to discuss bilateral and multilateral collaboration related to the Middle East peace process; operations in South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa; regional political and social transition; and counterterrorism and counter proliferation. For protocol purposes only, spouses may travel at no cost to the government. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Democratic Leader
The Honorable Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD)
The Honorable George Miller (D-CA)
The Honorable Nick Rahall (D-WV)
The Honorable Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
The Honorable Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)

Mr. John Lawrence, Chief of Staff to the Democratic Leader
Ms. Reva Price, Office of the Democratic Leader
Ms. Stacy Kerr, Office of the Democratic Leader
Ms. Bridget Fallon, Office of the Democratic Leader
Mr. Andrew Hammill, Office of the Democratic Leader

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Air Force escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Hsias, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05115-11



S17

20 APR 11



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 20, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of April 1, 2011, regarding Codel Turner to Bulgaria during the approximate period of May 26-30, 2011. Please note that Germany has been added to the itinerary and the trip will return to Washington on May 31, 2011. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Mike Turner (R-OH), Chairman, US Delegation to the NATO PA and Mrs. Lori Turner
The Honorable Mike Ross (D-AR) and Mrs. Holly Ross
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and Mr. Ron Gladney
The Honorable Jeff Miller (R-FL) and Mrs. Vicki Miller
The Honorable Ben Chandler (D-KY)
The Honorable Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Mrs. Roxanne Wilson
The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)

Mr. Riley Moore, Secretary, US Delegation to the NATO PA
Mr. Greg McCarthy, PSM, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. David Fite, PSM, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John A. Boehner in black ink.
John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06699-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
May 24, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

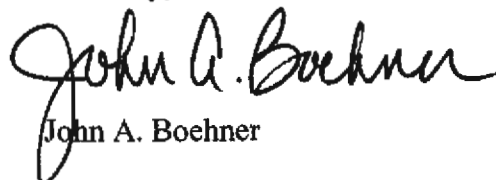
This is in further reference to my letter of April 29, 2011 regarding Codel Dreier (HDP) to Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Ukraine on official business during the approximate time period of June 4-13, 2011. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable David Dreier (R-CA), Chairman, HDP
The Honorable David Price (D-NC), Ranking Member, HDP
The Honorable Brad Miller (D-NC)
The Honorable Susan Davis (D-CA)

Mr. John Lis, Staff Director, HDP
Ms. Rachael Leman, PSM, House Rules Committee
Mr. Asher Hildebrand, House Appropriations Committee

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06701-11



JOHN A. BOEHNER
OHIO
SPEAKER



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
H-232 U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-0600

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 25, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of May 20, 2011, regarding Codel Turner to Bulgaria and Germany during the approximate period of May 26-31, 2011. Please note that Luxembourg has been added to the itinerary and Dr. Wil Peralta, USN, will travel with the delegation.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06705-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 3, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Cliff Stearns, Chairman of the Transatlantic Legislator's Dialogue (TLD), to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Belgium and Hungary during the approximate period of June 28 – July 2, 2011. The purpose of the trip is to attend the 70th meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD). For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government. A list of authorized travelers will follow at a later date.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Air Force escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07368-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
April 29, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

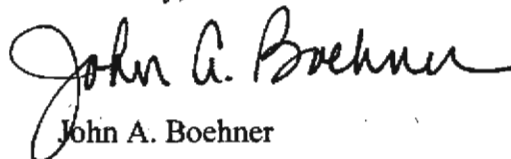
This letter will authorize the Honorable David Dreier, Chairman of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), to lead a delegation to Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Ukraine on official business during the approximate time period of June 4-13, 2011.

The main purpose of this trip is to renew partnerships with the legislatures of Georgia, Ukraine, and Mongolia in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. In Kyrgyzstan, the delegation will meet with members of the national parliament and the national executive to assess the potential of a future program with the Jogorku Kengesh. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Marine escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07453-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
April 28, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

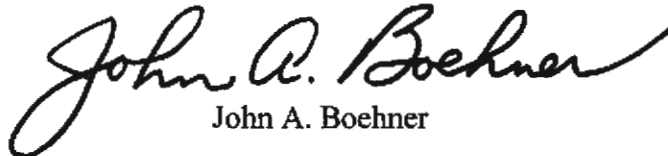
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Mr. John Lawrence, Chief of Staff to the Democratic Leader, to travel with Codel Hall (authorized by the Committee on Science, Space and Technology) to Florida on April 29, 2011. The purpose of this trip is to attend NASA's STS-134 launch.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Air Force escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07454-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 4, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of April 20, 2011 regarding Codel Pelosi to Iraq, Qatar, and Israel during the approximate period of May 5-10, 2011. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Democratic Leader and Mr. Paul Pelosi
The Honorable Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD) and Mrs. Ellen Bartlett
The Honorable George Miller (D-CA)
The Honorable Nick Rahall (D-WV)
The Honorable Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
The Honorable Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)
The Honorable Edward Markey (D-MA) and Dr. Susan Blumenthal
The Honorable Steve Israel (D-NY)
The Honorable Cedric Richmond (D-LA)

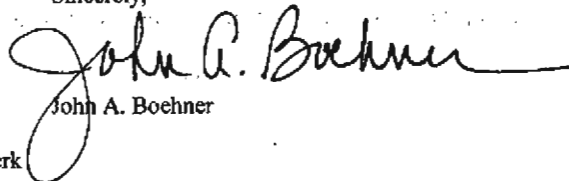
The Honorable Brian Monahan, Attending Physician
Mr. John Lawrence, Chief of Staff to the Democratic Leader
Ms. Reva Price, Office of the Democratic Leader
Ms. Stacy Kerr, Office of the Democratic Leader
Ms. Bridget Fallon, Office of the Democratic Leader
Mr. Andrew Hammill, Office of the Democratic Leader
Mr. Alston Richardson, DSS Agent (State Department Orders)

Per the request of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, I am including the information that the Democratic Leader has made the following requests directly to the Office of the Secretary of Defense:

- allowing nine Members of Congress to travel into Iraq; and
- supporting the mission with a second augmented crew.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07456-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 12, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

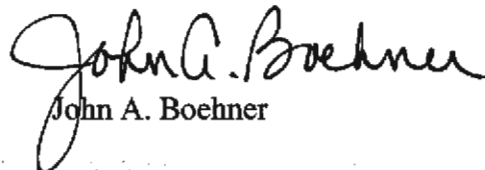
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Whip, to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Poland, Hungary, Germany, the Czech Republic, and the United Kingdom during the approximate period of June 25 – July 4, 2011. The purpose of the trip is to meet with government officials to discuss issues of mutual interest, including foreign affairs, international trade, and our global economy. For protocol purposes only, spouses may travel at no cost to the government to participate in official events in each country.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Air Force escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07457-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 16, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

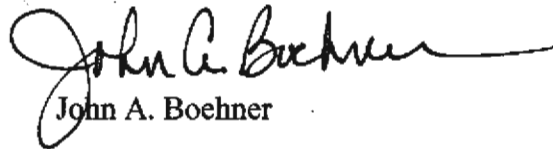
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Ms. Jennifer Stewart, Assistant to the Speaker for Policy, to travel with Codel Thornberry (authorized by the House Armed Services Committee) to Afghanistan, UAE, Estonia, Germany and Belgium during the approximate period of May 26-30, 2011. The purpose of the trip is to review ongoing overseas contingency operations, special operations, and cyber activities.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Army escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07458-11



HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, CALIFORNIA, CHAIRMAN
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
MAC THORNBERRY, TEXAS
WALTER B. JONES, NORTH CAROLINA
W. TODD AKIN, MISSOURI
J. RANDY FORBES, VIRGINIA
JEFF MILLER, FLORIDA
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
FRANK A. LOBIONDO, NEW JERSEY
MICHAEL TURNER, OHIO
JOHN KLINE, MINNESOTA
MIKE ROGERS, ALABAMA
TRENT FRANKS, ARIZONA
BILL SHUSTER, PENNSYLVANIA
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS
DOUG LAMBORN, COLORADO
ROB WITTMAN, VIRGINIA
DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
JOHN C. FLEMING, M.D., LOUISIANA
MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO
TOM ROONEY, FLORIDA
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
SCOTT RIGELL, VIRGINIA
CHRIS GIBSON, NEW YORK
VICKY HARTZLER, MISSOURI
JOE HECK, NEVADA
BOBBY SCHILLING, ILLINOIS
JON RUINYAN, NEW JERSEY
AUSTIN SCOTT, GEORGIA
TIM GRIFFIN, ARKANSAS
STEVEN PALAZZO, MISSISSIPPI
ALLEN B. WEST, FLORIDA
MARTHA ROBY, ALABAMA
MO BROOKS, ALABAMA
TODD YOUNG, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON
SILVESTRE REYES, TEXAS
LORETTA SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
MIKE MCINTYRE, NORTH CAROLINA
ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
SUSAN A. DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
JAMES R. LANGEVIN, RHODE ISLAND
RICK LARSEN, WASHINGTON
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GUAM
JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
DAVE LOEBSACK, IOWA
GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA
NIKI TSONGAS, MASSACHUSETTS
CHELIE PINGREE, MAINE
LARRY KISSELL, NORTH CAROLINA
MARTIN HEINRICH, NEW MEXICO
BILL OWENS, NEW YORK
JOHN R. GARAMENDI, CALIFORNIA
MARK S. CRITZ, PENNSYLVANIA
TIM RYAN, OHIO
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER, MARYLAND
HANK JOHNSON, GEORGIA
KATHY CASTOR, FLORIDA
BETTY SUTTON, OHIO
COLLEEN HANABUSA, HAWAII

ROBERT L. SIMMONS, II, STAFF DIRECTOR

June 9, 2011

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Christopher Bright, Professional Staff Member, and Brian Garrett, Professional Staff Member, to travel on official business to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on or about June 13, 2011. They will be travelling with Senator Risch as part of the Congressional Delegation tour that has been arranged to visit the detention facility at Guantanamo and to be briefed on its operations.

Per diem expenses are not to exceed the rate established by the General Services Administration or, if applicable, the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, transportation costs, and other travel-related expenses are authorized and shall be paid from appropriations available in accordance with provisions of Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)).

It would be appreciated if your staff would make whatever arrangements may be necessary for this travel.

Sincerely,



Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman

HPM:lh

OSD 07460-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
July 18, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable David Dreier, Chairman of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), to lead a delegation to Haiti and the Dominican Republic on official business during the approximate time period of July 29-30, 2011. The main purpose of this trip is to renew partnerships with the Haitian legislature in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable David Dreier (R-CA)
The Honorable David Price (D-NC)
The Honorable Lois Capps (D-CA)
The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)
The Honorable Susan Davis (D-CA)
The Honorable Gwen Moore (D-WI)

Mr. John Lis, Staff Director, HDP
Ms. Rachael Leman, Professional Staff, House Rules Committee
Mr. Asher Hildebrand, Office of Representative Price
Mr. Brad Smith, Professional Staff, House Rules Committee
Mr. Robert Lawrence, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Marine escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".
John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 09042-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 21, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of May 12, 2011, regarding Codel McCarthy to Poland, Hungary, Germany, the Czech Republic, and the United Kingdom during the approximate period of June 25 – July 5, 2011. The purpose of the trip is to meet with government officials to discuss issues of mutual interest, including foreign affairs, international trade, and our global economy. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

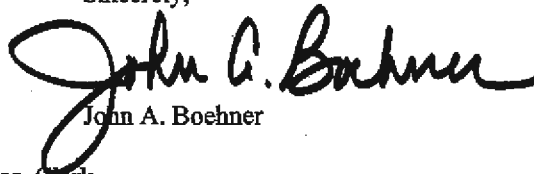
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Majority Whip, and Mrs. Judy McCarthy
The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Mr. Dexter Lehtinen
The Honorable Karen Bass (D-CA)
The Honorable Elton Gallegly (R-CA) and Mrs. Janice Gallegly
The Honorable Greg Walden (R-OR) and Mrs. Mylene Walden
The Honorable Mac Thornberry (R-TX) and Mrs. Sally Thornberry
The Honorable Lynn Westmoreland (R-GA) and Mrs. Joan Westmoreland
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Mr. Charles Capito, Jr.
The Honorable Steve Scalise (R-LA) and Mrs. Jennifer Scalise
The Honorable Aaron Schock (R-IL)

Ms. Natalie Buchanan, Office of the Majority Whip
Ms. Janice Robinson, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
Ms. Emily Henehan Murry, Office of the Majority Whip
Mr. Riley Moore, PSM, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. John Stipicevic, Office of the Majority Whip
Ms. Kristin Thomson, Office of the Majority Whip

Dr. Rachel Villacorta, USA (Army orders)
Mr. Steve Miller, DSS (State Department orders)

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 09156-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 23, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:


This is in further reference to my letter of June 3, 2011 regarding Codel Stearns to Belgium and Hungary during the approximate period of June 28 – July 2, 2011. The purpose of the trip is to attend the 70th meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD). The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Cliff Stearns (R-FL) and Mrs. Joan Stearns
The Honorable Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)
The Honorable Ed Whitfield (R-KY) and Mrs. Connie Harriman Whitfield
The Honorable Jim Costa (D-CA)
The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
The Honorable Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and Mrs. Sandy Buchanan
The Honorable Brian Bilbray (R-CA) and Mrs. Karen Bilbray

Ms. Sarah Blocher, PSM, HFAC
Mr. Ed Rice, PSM, HFAC
Ms. Jean Carroll, Dir. of Cmte. Ops, HFAC

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 09157-11



JOHN A. BOEHNER
OHIO
SPEAKER



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
H-232 U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-0600

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 29, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of June 23, 2011 regarding Codell Stearns to Belgium and Hungary during the approximate period of June 28 – July 2, 2011. The purpose of the trip is to attend the 70th meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD). Please note that in addition to the previously authorized travelers, Mr. Stefan Whitney, Political Officer at U.S. Embassy Brussels, is authorized to travel with the delegation from Belgium to Hungary.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".
John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 09174-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 2, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to inform you of my intention to lead (or designate a lead), three delegations of Members and staff to Shanksville, Pennsylvania, New York, New York, and Arlington, Virginia during the approximate period of September 10-11, 2011. The purpose of the trips is to attend official ceremonies in conjunction with the observance and recognition of the 10th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation and Air Force escort, to facilitate this mission. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 09870-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

September 8, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of August 2, 2011 regarding the two delegations of Members and staff to Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and New York, New York, during the approximate period of September 10-11, 2011.

The following Members and staff are authorized to travel to Shanksville, Pennsylvania on September 10, 2011:

The Honorable David Dreier (R-CA)
The Honorable Sam Farr (D-CA)
The Honorable Doc Hastings (R-WA)
The Honorable Blake Farenthold (R-TX) and Mrs. Debbie Farenthold

Father Patrick Conroy, Chaplain of the House
Mr. Ted Daniel, Office of the Sergeant at Arms
Mr. Trevor Kolego, Office of the Speaker
Ms. Marybeth Carozza, Office of Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH)

The following Members and staff are authorized to travel between Penn Station and Ground Zero in New York on September 11, 2011:

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel (D-NY)
The Honorable Joseph Crowley (D-NY)
The Honorable Eliot Engel (D-NY)
The Honorable Gregory Meeks (D-NY)
The Honorable James Himes (D-CT)
The Honorable Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)
The Honorable Jose Serrano (D-NY)

The Honorable Wilson Livingood, House Sergeant at Arms
Mr. Don Kellaher, Deputy Sergeant at Arms

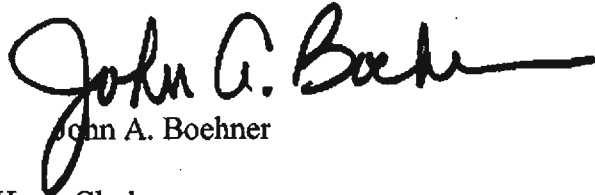
OSD 11624-11



Mr. Robert Fitzpatrick, Office of the Sergeant at Arms
Mr. Jack DeWolfe, Office of the Sergeant at Arms

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

September 13, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

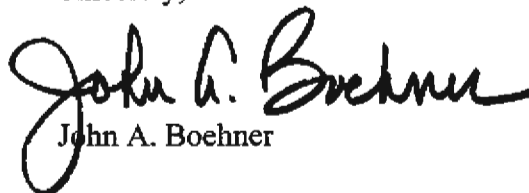
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Michael Turner, Chairman of the NATO PA, to lead a delegation to Romania during the approximate period of October 6-10, 2011. The purpose of this trip is to attend the Fall meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. For protocol purposes only, spouses may travel with the delegation at no cost to the government. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Air Force escort. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 11627-11



JOHN A. BOEHNER
OHIO
SPEAKER



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
H-232 U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-0600

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
September 20, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable David Dreier, Chairman of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Ireland on official business during the approximate time period of September 24 – October 3, 2011.

The main purpose of this trip is to conduct training in furtherance of the HDP program in Lebanon, initiate a program in Iraq, and conduct meetings with key leaders in democracy-building efforts in each country. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable David Dreier (R-CA), Chairman
The Honorable David Price (D-NC)
The Honorable Jim McDermott (D-WA)
The Honorable Gwen Moore (D-WI)
The Honorable Keith Ellison (D-MN)

Mr. John Lis, Staff Director, HDP
Ms. Rachael Leman, Professional Staff, House Rules Committee
Mr. Brad Smith, Professional Staff, House Rules Committee
Mr. Asher Hildebrand, Legislative Director to Rep. Price
Mr. Robert Lawrence, Professional Staff, HCFA

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Marine escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 11632-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
September 26, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable David Dreier, Chairman of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Haiti on official business during the approximate time period October 10, 2011.

The main purpose of this trip is to conduct training and meetings with government officials in conjunction with the mission of the Partnership. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable David Dreier (R-CA), Chairman
The Honorable David Price (D-NC)
The Honorable Donald Payne (D-NJ)
The Honorable Lois Capps (D-CA)
The Honorable Rush Holt NJWI
The Honorable Susan Davis (D-CA)

Mr. John Lis, Staff Director, HDP
Ms. Rachael Leman, Professional Staff, House Rules Committee
Mr. Brad Smith, Professional Staff, House Rules Committee
Mr. Asher Hildebrand, Legislative Director to Rep. Price
Mr. Robert Lawrence, Professional Staff, HCFA

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Marine escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 12121-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 3, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of September 13, 2011 regarding Codel Turner, Chairman of the NATO PA, to Romania. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Mike Turner (R-OH) and Ms. Jessica Turner (adult daughter)
The Honorable Mike Ross (D-AR) and Mrs. Holly Ross
The Honorable Jeff Miller (R-FL) and Mrs. Vicki Miller
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)
The Honorable Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)
The Honorable David Scott (D-GA) and Mrs. Alfredia Scott
The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)

Mr. Riley Moore, Secretary, NATO PA Delegation
Ms. Janice Robinson, Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
Mr. David Fite, PSM, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. Tim Morrison, PSM, House Armed Services Committee

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 12408-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 4, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of October 3, 2011 regarding Codel Turner, Chairman of the NATO PA, to Romania. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Mike Turner (R-OH) and Ms. Jessica Turner (adult daughter)
The Honorable Mike Ross (D-AR) and Mrs. Holly Ross
The Honorable Jeff Miller (R-FL) and Mrs. Vicki Miller
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)
The Honorable David Scott (D-GA) and Mrs. Alfredia Scott
The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)

Mr. Riley Moore, Secretary, NATO PA Delegation
Ms. Janice Robinson, Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
Mr. David Fite, PSM, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. Tim Morrison, PSM, House Armed Services Committee
Mr. Greg McCarthy, PSM, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

You will note that Congressman Gus Bilirakis is no longer traveling and that Mr. Greg McCarthy has been added to the trip.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk

OSD 12412-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
October 5, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of September 20, 2011 regarding Codel Dreier to Haiti on official business during the approximate time period October 10, 2011.

The main purpose of this trip is to conduct training and meetings with government officials in conjunction with the mission of the Partnership. The following revised list of Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable David Dreier (R-CA), Chairman
The Honorable Lois Capps (D-CA)
The Honorable Susan Davis (D-CA)
The Honorable Donald Payne (D-NJ)
The Honorable Maxine Waters (D-CA)
The Honorable Donna Christensen (D-VI)
The Honorable Adam Schiff (D-CA)
The Honorable Gwen Moore (D-WI)

Mr. John Lis, Staff Director, HDP
Mr. Barry Jackson, Chief of Staff to the Speaker
Ms. Rachael Leman, Professional Staff, House Rules Committee
Mr. Asher Hildebrand, Legislative Director to Rep. Price
Mr. Robert Lawrence, Professional Staff, HCFA

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 12413-11



JOHN A. BOEHNER
OHIO
SPEAKER



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
H-232 U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-0600

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
October 6, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of September 20, 2011 regarding Codel Dreier to Haiti on official business during the approximate time period October 10, 2011.

I would like to add The Honorable Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and The Honorable Brian Monahan, Attending Physician, to the list of members and staff authorized to travel.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 12414-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
October 6, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable David Dreier, Chairman of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), to lead a delegation to Peru, Columbia, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Panama on official business during the approximate time period of November 4-14, 2011.

The main purpose of this trip is to conduct training in furtherance of the Commission's program in Peru, to conduct a preliminary assessment of the feasibility of programs in El Salvador and Guatemala, and to meet with government officials and business leaders in Colombia and Panama. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Marine escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 12417-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
October 14, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Ms. Jennifer Stewart, Assistant to the Speaker for Policy, to travel with Codel Frelinghuysen (authorized by the Committee on Appropriations) to Oman, Afghanistan, Egypt, and the United Kingdom during the approximate time period of November 4-12, 2011. The purpose of this trip is to review ongoing operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Odyssey Dawn.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Army escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 12613-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
October 31, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of October 6, 2011 regarding Codel Dreier to Peru, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Panama on official business during the approximate time period of November 4-14, 2011. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable David Dreier (R-CA)
The Honorable Sam Farr (D-CA)
The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE)
The Honorable Susan Davis (D-CA)
The Honorable Dennis A. Cardoza (D-CA)

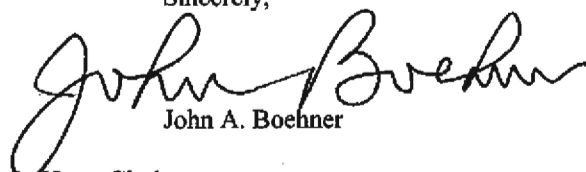
Mr. Barry Jackson, Chief of Staff to the Speaker
Mr. John Lis, Staff Director, House Democracy Partnership (HDP)
Ms. Rachael Leman, Policy Director, House Rules Committee
Mr. Brad Smith, Professional Staff, House Rules Committee
Mr. Asher Hildebrand, Legislative Director, Rep. David Price (D-NC)

In addition, the following U.S. government personnel have been invited to travel with the delegation from Lima to Tarapoto, San Martin, Peru on November 8, 2011:

Mr. Michael J. Fitzpatrick, DCM, Embassy Lima
Ms. Julia E. Hawley, RSO, Embassy Lima
Mr. Philip Kaplan, POL, Embassy Lima
Mr. James B. Fennell, PAS, Embassy Lima
Mr. Bruce N. Abrams, USAID, Lima
Ms. Cara L. Thanassi, USAID, Lima

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 22, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to ascertain your Department's implementation and enforcement of the relevant provisions of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act (P.L. 111-195), which the President signed into law on July 1, 2010.

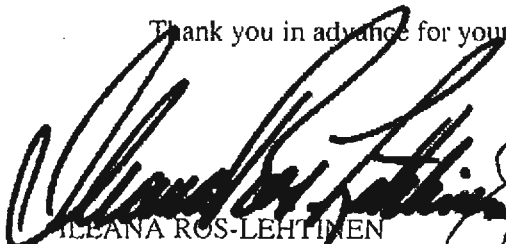
As you know, section 102(b)(3) of that legislation amended the Iran Sanctions Act (50 USC 1701 note) to require that the Federal Acquisition Regulation be revised by not later than September 29, 2010, "to require a certification from each person that is a prospective contractor that the person, and any person owned or controlled by the person owned or controlled by the person, does not engage in any activity for which sanctions may be imposed under section 5" of the Iran Sanctions Act. Section 102(b)(3) also requires the head of an executive agency, if he "determines that a person has submitted a false certification" in this regard, to "terminate a contract with such person or debar or suspend such person from eligibility for Federal contracts for a period of not more than 3 years."

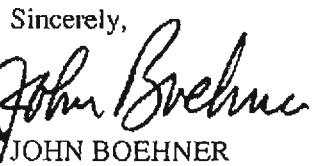
Reports indicate that the Department of Defense has contracted with numerous entities that may have conducted sanctionable activities under section 5 of the Iran Sanctions Act, including: Aker Solutions; Daelim Industrial Corporation; Eni; Inpex; Komatsu; Maersk; Repsol; Royal Dutch Shell; Sasol Limited; ThyssenKrupp AG; Total; and WorleyParsons.


Therefore, we would respectfully request information on your Department's plans or actions already undertake to come into compliance with the statutory requirements, including by requiring the above-referenced certifications and ceasing any contracting with entities that continue to conduct sanctionable activities under section 5 of the Iran Sanctions Act.

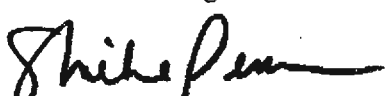
Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request.


Sincerely,



ILLEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress



JOHN BOEHNER
Member of Congress


ERIC CANTOR
Member of Congress



MIKE PENCE
Member of Congress


THADDEUS McCOTTER
Member of Congress


CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS
Member of Congress

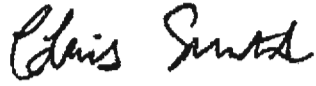

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON
Member of Congress


PETER T. KING
Member of Congress


JOHN KLINE
Member of Congress


DAN BURTON

Member of Congress



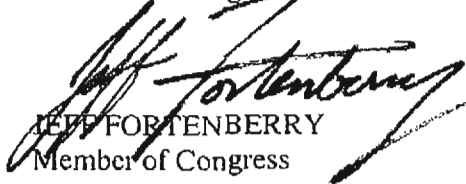
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Member of Congress



CONNIE MACK

Member of Congress



JEFF FORTENBERRY

Member of Congress



BOB INGLIS

Member of Congress



W. TODD AKIN

Member of Congress



ROB BISHOP

Member of Congress



DUNCAN D. HUNTER

Member of Congress



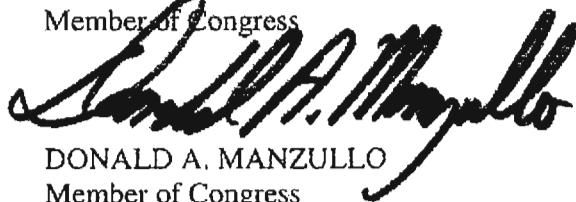
CHARLES K. DJOU

Member of Congress



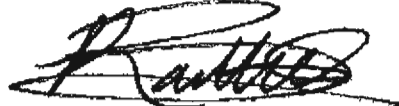
EDWARD R. ROYCE

Member of Congress



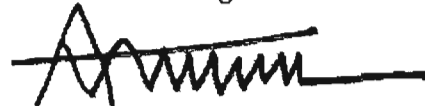
DONALD A. MANZULLO

Member of Congress



ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

Member of Congress



TED POE

Member of Congress



MIKE ROGERS (AL)

Member of Congress



FRANK A. LoBIONDO

Member of Congress



MIKE COFFMAN

Member of Congress



THOMAS J. ROONEY

Member of Congress



BILL SHUSTER

Member of Congress



MICHAEL R. TURNER
Member of Congress



SCOTT GARRETT
Member of Congress



J. GRESHAM BARRETT
Member of Congress



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
November 4, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Cliff Stearns, Chairman of the Transatlantic Legislator's Dialogue (TLD), to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Jacksonville, Florida during the approximate period of Dec 2 - 4, 2011. The purpose of the trip is to attend a meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD). For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Cliff Stearns (R-FL) and Mrs. Joan Stearns
The Honorable Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)
The Honorable John Mica (R-FL)
The Honorable Jim Costa (D-CA)
The Honorable John Duncan, Jr. (R-TN) and Mrs. Duncan
The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)
The Honorable Corrine Brown (D-FL)
The Honorable Henry Johnson, Jr. (D-GA) and Mrs. Johnson

Ms. Sarah Blocher, PSM, HFAC
Mr. Ed Rice, PSM, HFAC
Ms. Janice Robinson, Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
Ms. Kelly Craven, Assistant Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Air Force escort. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 13663-11



JOHN A. BOEHNER
OHIO
SPEAKER



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
H-232 U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-0600

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
November 14, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in reference to Codel Dreier (authorized by the Committee on Rules) traveling to Poland, Georgia, Lithuania, Egypt, and Ireland on official business during the approximate time period November 19-29, 2011.

The following staff member is authorized to join this Codel:

Mr. Barry Jackson, Chief of Staff to the Speaker

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 14185-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

November 22, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

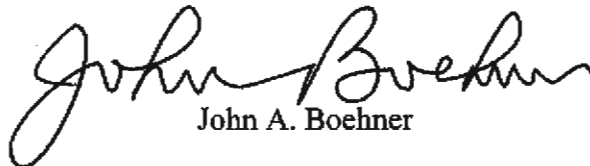
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Eric Cantor, Majority Leader, to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, and Israel during the approximate period of January 6-14, 2012. The purpose of the trip is to discuss issues of mutual concern with our foreign partners in the region.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Air Force escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 14189-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

November 28, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Ed Whitfield, to lead a delegation of Members and staff returning from Egypt to Washington, DC on November 29, 2011. This delegation will depart from Codel Dreier (authorized by the House Rules Committee). The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Ed Whitfield (R-KY) and Mrs. Connie Harriman Whitfield
The Honorable Donald Payne (D-NJ)
Mr. Brad Smith, Professional Staff, House Rules Committee

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Marine escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 14445-11





Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

November 29, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of November 4, 2011 regarding the upcoming Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) meeting led by the Honorable Cliff Stearns, Chairman. Mr. Stearns is leading a delegation of Members and staff to Jacksonville, Florida during the approximate period of Dec 2 - 4, 2011. For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government. Please note the updated list of travelers:

The Honorable Cliff Stearns (R-FL) and Mrs. Joan Stearns
The Honorable Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)
The Honorable Jim Costa (D-CA)
The Honorable Ander Crenshaw (R-FL)
The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)
The Honorable Corrine Brown (D-FL)
The Honorable Henry Johnson, Jr. (D-GA) and Mrs. Johnson
The Honorable Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX)

Ms. Sarah Blocher, PSM, HFAC
Mr. Ed Rice, PSM, HFAC
Ms. Janice Robinson, Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
Ms. Kelly Craven, Assistant Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Air Force escort. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

cc: The Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 14451-11



DAVE CAMP, MICHIGAN,
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

1102 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-3625

Washington, DC 20515-0518

<http://waysandmeans.house.gov>

WALLY HERGER, CALIFORNIA
SARA JOHNSON, TEXAS
KEVIN BRADY, TEXAS
PAUL RYAN, WISCONSIN
JEVIN MUMFES, CALIFORNIA
PATRICK J. MURPHY, OHIO
GEOFF DAVIS, KENTUCKY
DAVID G. REICHERT, WASHINGTON
CHARLES W. BOHSTANY, JR., LOUISIANA
PETER J. ROSKAM, ILLINOIS
JIM GERLACH, PENNSYLVANIA
TOM PRICE, GEORGIA
VERN BUCHANAN, FLORIDA
ADRIAN SMITH, NEBRASKA
ZARON SCROCK, ILLINOIS
VINN JENKINS, KANSAS
FRANK PAULSEN, MINNESOTA
KENNY MARCHANT, TEXAS
RICK BERG, NORTH DAKOTA
DIANE BLACK, TENNESSEE
TOM RIFE, NEW YORK

SANDER M. LEVIN, MICHIGAN, RANKING MEMBER
CHARLES E. SCHUMER, NEW YORK
FRANKLYN D. STARK, CALIFORNIA
JIM MCINTERMOTT, WASHINGTON
JOHN LEWIS, GEORGIA
RICHARD L. NEAL, MASSACHUSETTS
KAYLEIGH BLEIER, CALIFORNIA
LOYD DOGHAITE, TEXAS
MIKE THOMPSON, CALIFORNIA
JOHN B. LARSON, CONNECTICUT
SAM BILIRAKIS, CALIFORNIA
RON KIND, WISCONSIN
BILL PASCRELL, JR., NEW JERSEY
SHELLEY OLSZEK, NEVADA
JOSEPH CRTALEY, NEW YORK

JANICE MAYS
ANNUAL CHIEF COUNSEL

JON TRAUER
STAFF DIRECTOR

October 5, 2011

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

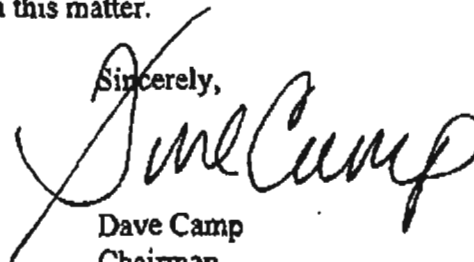
This letter is to authorize Congressman Adrian Smith (R-NE), a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means, to join a Congressional delegation being led by Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), which plans to travel on official business to Germany, Italy, Morocco, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya from October 14, 2011 to October 22, 2011.

The purpose of the trip is to review United States foreign and trade policy toward these countries and is tied directly to the Committee's role in overseeing U.S. trade policy.

It is requested that the Department of Defense furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses of such transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to Title 31, U.S.C. 1108(g).

If there are any questions, please have your staff contact Chris Stottmann at (202) 225-3625. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,



Dave Camp
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Adrian Smith

OSD 12245-11



PAUL RYAN
1ST DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
RANKING MEMBER

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4901
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4901

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TOLL FREE: 1-888-829-RYAN (7328)
INTERNET: www.house.gov/ryan

April 9, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Dr. Gates:

I was recently contacted by (b)(6) and (b)(6), USA, Ret., regarding the Mobile Medical Mission Hospital's request that the Department of Defense provide rotary aerial support of its humanitarian mission to St. Vincent and the Grenadines during the period of May 24 to 28, 2010. Additional information regarding the Mobile Medical Mission Hospital and its upcoming humanitarian mission can be found at its web site: <http://www.mobilemedicalmission.org>.

I had previously written to you on May 14, 2008, concerning a similar request from the Mobile Medical Mission Hospital for its humanitarian mission in 2008. I have enclosed a copy of former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Eric Edelman's response for your review.

In a manner consistent with all laws and regulations, I respectfully request your review and consideration of a waiver permitting military rotary aerial support of the Mobile Medical Mission Hospital's humanitarian mission.

Please address your response by mail to my Janesville office, located at 20 South Main Street, Suite 10, Janesville, Wisconsin, 53545, or by fax to (608) 752-4711. Should you have any questions about this request, my Constituent Services Representative, Chad Herbert, can be contacted at (608) 752-4050, or by e-mail at chad.herbert@mail.house.gov.

Again, thank you for your prompt consideration of the Mobile Medical Mission Hospital's request. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Paul Ryan
Member of Congress

OSD 04631-10



Enclosure

JANESVILLE
CONSTITUENT SERVICES CENTER
20 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 10
JANESVILLE, WI 53545
(608) 752-4050 • FAX (608) 752-4711

KENOSHA
CONSTITUENT SERVICES CENTER
8430 SHERIDAN ROAD, SUITE 125
KENOSHA, WI 53140
(262) 584-1801 • FAX (262) 584-2166

RACINE
CONSTITUENT SERVICES CENTER
216 6TH STREET
RACINE, WI 53403
(262) 637-0510 • FAX (262) 637-6668

MOBILE MEDICAL MISSION HOSPITAL

Sam Massey, MD, FACS

MISSION DIRECTOR

Jaime Massey, Vice President

78 Grandview Circle

Deerfield, IL 60015

PH: 708 2377

F: 608 558 8857

http://www.mmmh.org

(b)(6)

Mobile Medical Mission Hospital

3330 Russett Place

Land O'Lakes, FL 34639-7725

APR 09 2010

US Congressman Paul Ryan
20 South Main St. Suite 10
Janesville, WI 53545

Dear Congressman Ryan

This letter is Mobile Medical Mission Hospitals(MMMH) request for rotary air support to our humanitarian mission to St. Vincent and the Grenadines during the period 24 to 28 May 2010.

MMMh conducts, yearly, an Eye Care Medical Mission for the citizens of St. Vincent. In years past, we have been constrained to limit our support to the main island's major city, Kingstown, since there is very limited transportation assets available to support the medical teams providing eye care missions to remote islands and locations on the main Island of St. Vincent.

MMMh request that the US Military provide for the dates above rotary air support to transport the medical team and its limited supplies to the island around St. Vincent and to remote villages on the main island. None of the locations are greater than 50 miles from Kingstown. It is anticipated that the flight would be based at the main airport for Kingstown.

The support requested is for a maximum of 4 flights per day to the needed locations. Each flight would have no more than 3-4 personnel and approximately 300lbs of medical equipment and supplies.

MMMh is responding to the Governor of St. Vincent request that we increase our eye care support to the citizens of St. Vincent other than those that live in Kingstown and its close villages. In order for MMMh to meet this request, we need to have air support to the remote location.

We request your office to ask DOD to provide this limited support for this humanitarian mission. It would be an excellent demonstration of US Support the Caribbean Area.

I will be forwarding the names and social security numbers for the members of MMMh that would be involved in the requested flights.

(b)(6)

Mission Coordinator

(b)(6)

home

cell

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

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U.S. House of Representatives

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

February 16, 2010

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

As you heard during your February 3rd testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, there appears to be a major disconnect between the perspectives of the Department and the Committee regarding the F-35's F136 alternate, competitive fighter engine program. We maintain great respect for your judgment and the sincerity of your position, but have not been provided any analysis that supports your view. In fact, the best "business case" information the committee has received clearly supports continued development of the alternate engine. Therefore, we are concerned by your reference to a possible Presidential veto over this issue, and we are equally concerned that the Department has not provided us with the "business case" analysis you have referenced, despite our repeated requests.

Approximately seventy-five percent of the development investment has already been made in the alternate engine. From various sources, including the 2007 analysis by the Department's Cost Analysis Improvement Group, we understand that for little or no net additional cost to the taxpayer, the alternate engine competition improves the F-35 program by addressing potential aircraft weight growth. The follow-on alternate engine may meet this challenge through evolving technology. Other advantages include insurance against fleet-wide engine problems, growth paths for propulsion systems, enhanced contractor responsiveness, technological innovation, improved operational readiness and a more robust industrial base. Consequently, we were surprised by the Department's 2006 decision not to include a request for funding in the fiscal year 2007 budget for the F136, after ten years of defending it for all the reasons we have listed.

Since the Department's about face, Congress has invested an additional \$1.75 billion in the alternate engine. Most of this additional investment came after the Department's 2007 analysis concluded that the alternate engine program lifecycle cost considerations were "not compelling" because then year dollar projections showed a \$2.2 billion savings while present value dollar projections showed a \$1.2 billion dollar loss. It is very possible that our additional fiscal year 2007-2010 investments changed the cost case from "not compelling" to a "net savings," a rare win, win for defense dollar expenditures. At the very least, our recent investments in the alternate engine make breakeven more likely going forward.

We will not detail here the accumulated testing failures, required redesigns, major cost growth and repeated delays experienced thus far with the baseline engine. We simply note that, in our view, these problems bolster

OSD 01953-10



February 16, 2010

Page 2

the case for a competing alternate engine. History tells us that competition serves the taxpayer well – especially when it comes to fighter engines.

In an August 2009 speech in Fort Worth, you mentioned that the “business case” did not support the alternate engine program. The committee requested a copy of that “business case” and was told by your legislative affairs staff that there was no formal analysis, beyond the Department’s 2007 study. Yet you again referenced the “business case” during the February 3rd hearing and in your February 1st meeting with chairmen and ranking members of the congressional defense committees.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you immediately provide the Committee with the “business case” analysis you referenced in testimony that supports discontinuing the alternate engine program for the F-35.

Very truly yours,



IKE SKELTON
Chairman



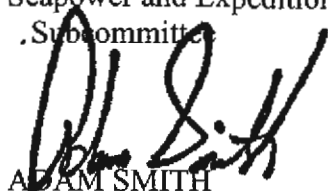
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Ranking member



GENE TAYLOR
Chairman
Seapower and Expeditionary Forces
Subcommittee



TODD AKIN
Ranking member
Seapower and Expeditionary Forces
Subcommittee



ADAM SMITH
Chairman
Air and Land Forces Subcommittee



ROSCOE BARTLETT
Ranking member
Air and Land Forces Subcommittee



JIM MARSHALL
Member of Congress

cc: Congressional Defense Committees
DEPSECDEF
USD/AT&L
CJCS
VCJCS

SECAF
SECNAV
CSAF
CNO

JM:dr

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

February 17, 2011

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write in further reference to my letter of February 10, 2011, informing you that I intend to lead a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) on official business to France and Belgium from Sunday, March 20, 2011, through Sunday, March 27, 2011. The delegation will now also travel to Egypt. Representatives Jack Kingston (R-GA), Keith Ellison (D-MN), Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Edolphus Towns (D-NY) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) will accompany the delegation. Committee staff traveling with the delegation include John Cuaderes, Deputy Staff Director, John Ohly, Professional Staff Member, and Linda Good, Chief Clerk.

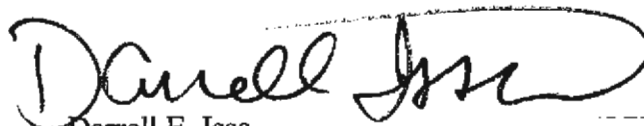
The purpose of the travel to France is to visit La Hague Nuclear Reprocessing Center and WWII battlefield memorials. In Belgium, I will lead the House delegation to the annual Brussels Forum, and we will also meet with NATO officials to discuss commitments to European security and Afghanistan. In Egypt, the delegation intends to meet with representatives of the new government, and the U.S. Ambassador.

Spouses are authorized to travel at no expense to the U.S. Government.

I request the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual expenses of such transportation as may be required is authorized by Title 31, U.S.C. 1108(g). Travel will be conducted by military and /or commercial aircraft up to business class, including foreign flag carriers when U.S. carriers are not available, and in accordance with House rules. The CODEL requests Marine liaison support for this trip.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Laura Rush, Deputy Chief Clerk, at (202) 226-4603. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell E. Issa
Chairman

OSD 02395-11



DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

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Congress of the United States

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CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA

LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

February 16, 2011

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

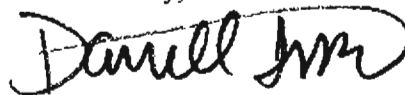
I write to authorize Representative Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), Chairman, Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations, to lead a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) on official business to Haiti and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from March 28-29, 2011. Representative John F. Tierney, Ranking Minority Member, Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations, along with other members of the Subcommittee, will accompany the delegation.

The purpose of the travel to Haiti is to assess the progress and accountability of USAID's \$3.5 billion relief and reconstruction efforts since the 2010 earthquake. The purpose of the travel to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is to tour the detention facilities and evaluate the need for them to remain open despite the President's 2009 Executive Orders mandating closure.

I request the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual expenses of such transportation as may be required is authorized by Title 31, U.S.C. 1108(g). Travel will be conducted by military and /or commercial aircraft up to business class, including foreign flag carriers when U.S. carriers are not available, and in accordance with House rules. The CODEL requests Navy liaison support for this trip.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Laura Rush, Deputy Chief Clerk, at (202) 226-4603. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell E. Issa
Chairman

OSD 02396-11



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2010

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates,

We are writing in our capacity as members of the Military Family Caucus to express our concern with the sudden suspension of the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account (MyCAA). Authorized in 2009 in the National Defense Authorization Act, this program provides critical support to military spouses allowing them to pursue portable careers in high demand, high growth occupations. We are seeking your help to better understand the basis for this "pause," how long the "pause" will be in effect, and the impact it will have on spouses.

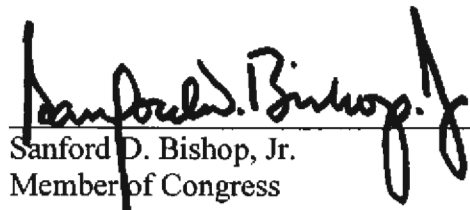
While military spouses often would like to follow a traditional education path, their lifestyles prevent them from doing so. Many access online courses as opposed to enrolling in semester long "in-person" courses to better suit their family needs. The MyCAA provides the critical support that these military spouses need to succeed in school and in their careers.

We have heard from military spouses who are directly impacted by this program termination. They explain that a disruption in funding may cause many of them to miss a final term or delay the completion of their degrees – possibly without the opportunity to finish once they are relocated. Many military spouses have planned their careers and lives around the assumption that this program would continue without interruption.

The sudden abatement of this program has significantly impacted an overwhelming number of spouses - preventing them from moving forward with their lives. To our knowledge, the Department of Defense has yet to fill this gap or provide any detailed information as to when this program will resume. With 133,000 military spouses participating in this program, we are concerned with the practical impact of this "pause".

The MyCAA program not only provides training and benefits, but gives military spouses much needed confidence that they are contributors to their families' needs. Halting this program without notice is not the way to support those who sacrifice so much to make our military what it is today. We look forward to your response and are hopeful that the program is up and running very soon.

Sincerely,


Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress


Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

John Carter
John Carter
Member of Congress

Bob Filner
Bob Filner
Member of Congress

Todd R. Platts
Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress

Brady Forbes
Brady Forbes
Member of Congress

Frank LoBiondo
Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress

Lamar Smith
Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Bill Owens
Bill Owens
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones
Walter Jones
Member of Congress

Bart Stupak
Bart Stupak
Member of Congress

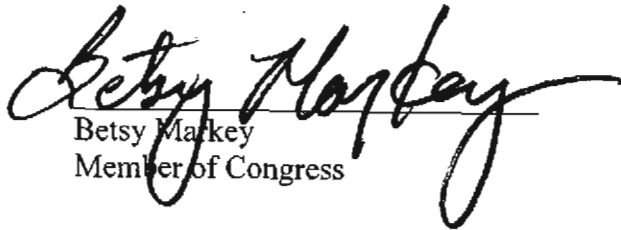
Spencer Bachus
Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress

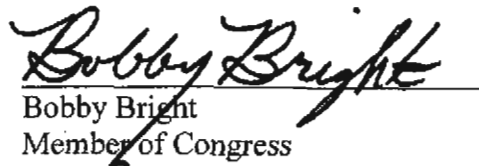
Brad Sherman
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

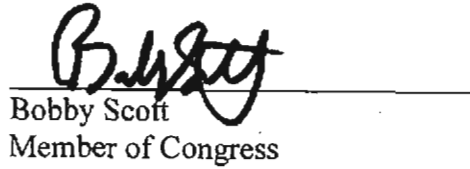
James P. Moran
James P. Moran
Member of Congress

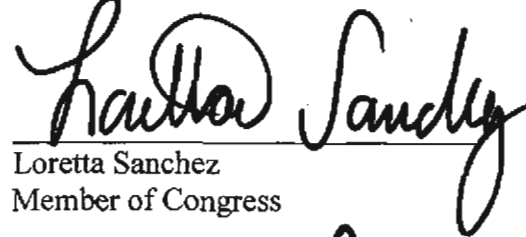
Edolphus Towns
Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

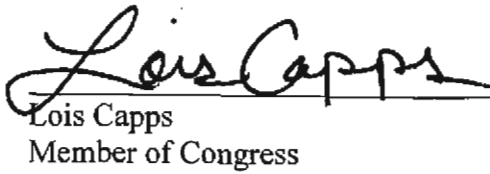
Roy Blunt
Roy Blunt
Member of Congress

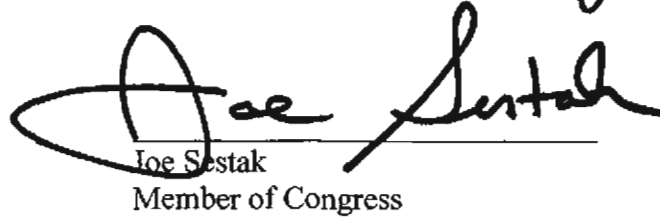

Betsy Markey
Member of Congress

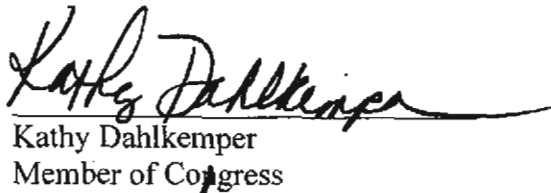

Bobby Bright
Member of Congress

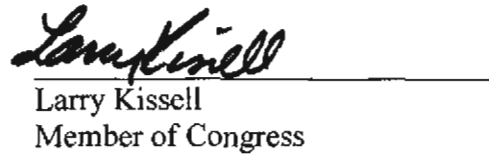

Bobby Scott
Member of Congress

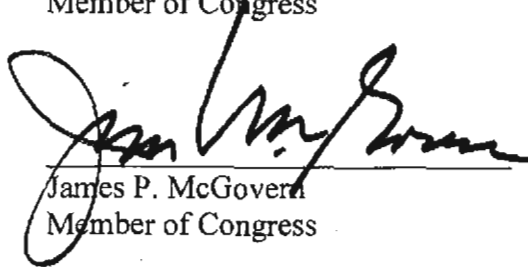

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

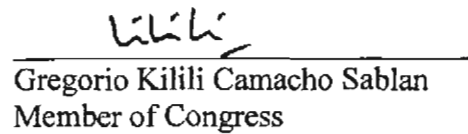

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

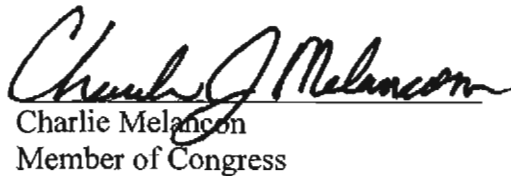

Joe Sestak
Member of Congress

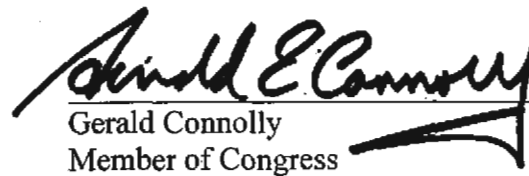

Kathy Dahlkemper
Member of Congress

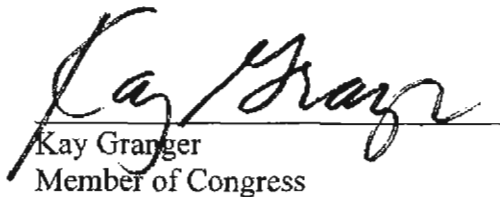

Larry Kissell
Member of Congress

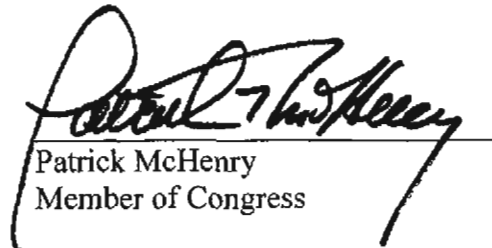

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

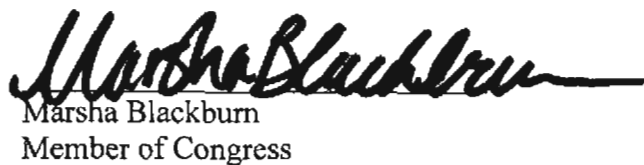

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

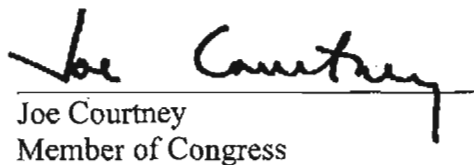

Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress

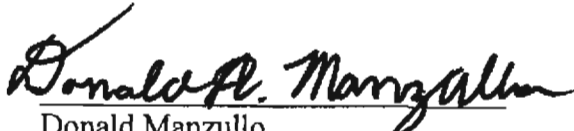

Gerald Connolly
Member of Congress

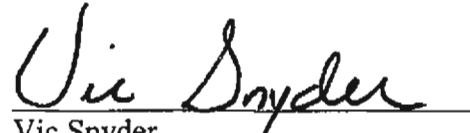

Kay Granger
Member of Congress

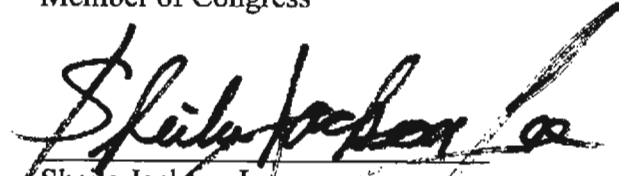

Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Donald Manzullo
Member of Congress

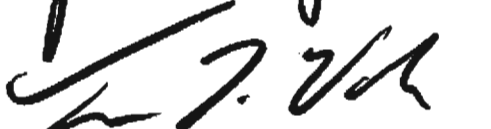

Vic Snyder
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

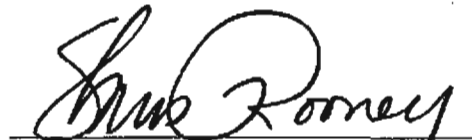

Joseph Cao
Member of Congress

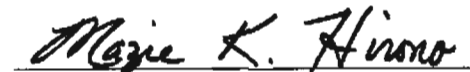

Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress


Laura Richardson
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress

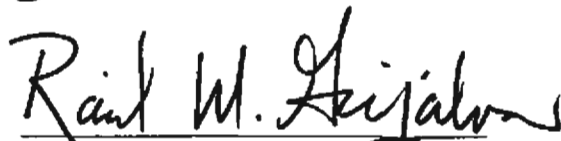

Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



Thomas Rooney
Member of Congress



Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress


John Campbell
Member of Congress



Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress


Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress

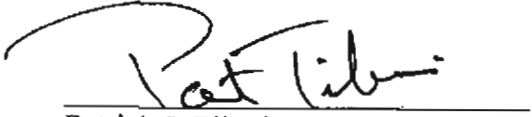

Rob Wittman
Member of Congress

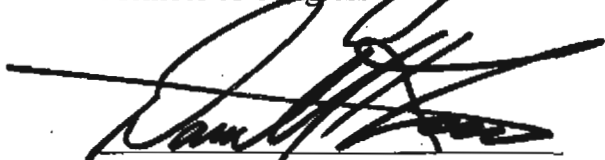

John Barrow
Member of Congress

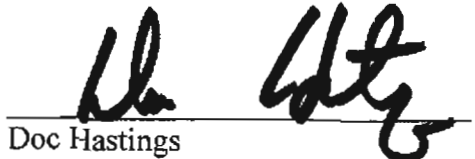

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

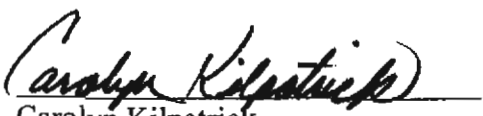

Glenn Nye
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Tiberi
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress

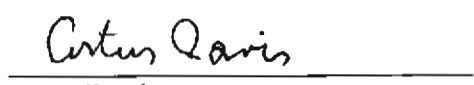

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress


Carolyn Kilpatrick
Member of Congress


Jo Bonner
Member of Congress

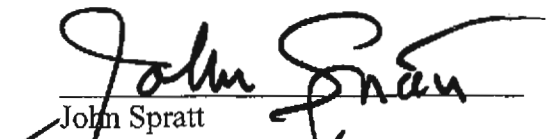

Debbie Halvorson
Member of Congress

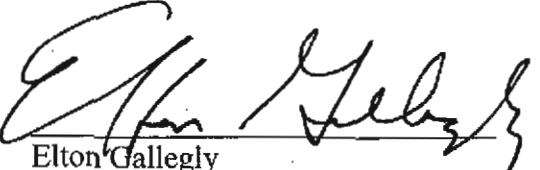

Artur Davis
Member of Congress


Nick Rahall
Member of Congress


Eric Massa
Member of Congress


Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress


John Spratt
Member of Congress


Elton Gallegly
Member of Congress

TRENT FRANKS
ARIZONA

1237 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 226-4576



JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

7121 W. BELL ROAD, SUITE 200
GLENDALE, AZ 85308
(623) 776-7911

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC

www.house.gov/franks

May 5, 2010

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates,

We write to express our great concern over the decision made by Army Secretary John McHugh and Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. to rescind an invitation to Reverend Franklin Graham to speak at the National Day of Prayer on May 6th, 2010, due to complaints raised and publicized by two special interest groups that object to his Christian beliefs and his criticisms of the Islamic faith. We find this decision misguided for several reasons.

Army spokesman Col. Tom Collins is quoted as saying that Secretary McHugh and General Casey decided "it would be inappropriate for [Reverend Graham] to participate in this inclusive event" because of Graham's comments about Islam.

From its founding, America has possessed a rich heritage of affirming religious expression in the lives of the men and women serving in the armed forces. Indeed, America's founders and a long line of national and military leaders have realized that the strength of America's military lies in the depth of its faith. Commander-in-Chief George Washington regularly issued orders for military troops to attend and participate in religious gatherings. Declaration signer John Witherspoon, a member of the Board of War that oversaw military operations throughout the Revolution, reminded soldiers: "[T]here is no soldier so undaunted as the pious man, no army so formidable as those who are superior to the fear of death."

It is thus intensely troubling that Pentagon officials have now taken it upon themselves to deign what type of Christian belief and expression is "appropriate," and then to censor a patriotic minister, whose own son is serving his fourth tour of duty in Afghanistan, simply because of the objection of an organization that has made it its mission to eradicate open expressions of religious faith from the military. It is highly ironic that it is in the name of religious freedom and "inclusiveness," peaceful religious expression is actually being stifled.

Reverend Graham is one of America's most respected religious leaders, and is beloved by millions of Americans. We understand that not everyone shares Reverend Graham's beliefs about Islam, but the essence of religious liberty is having the right to one's own religious convictions as well as the right to express them. We would like to know for the future by what standard the U.S. military is going to judge what are appropriate religious convictions? Our Founding Fathers understood that religious pluralism did not mean we didn't have disagreements about religion, but that we would disagree peaceably, something Franklin Graham has always done. But now, the U.S. military is putting itself in the position of judging what acceptable belief is. Might the Secretary explain to the Congress just how it will do this?

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We do not believe that Reverend Graham's views of Islam should exclude him from this event. If our concept of religious freedom today is based primarily on the desire to placate or avoid criticism offered by suspect organizations, then our constitutional right of freedom of religion is devoid of both meaning and principle.

We ask that you reconsider the decision to revoke Reverend Graham's invitation, and extend to him the opportunity to preach his welcome message to the men and women of our armed forces, and indeed to the Nation at the National Day of Prayer event at the Pentagon.

We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Sincerely,

cc: President Barack Obama
John M. McHugh - Secretary of the Army
Ray Mabus - Secretary of the Navy
Michael B. Donley - Secretary of the Air Force
Admiral Michael Mullen - Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
General James E. Cartwright - Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
General George W. Casey, Jr. - Chief of Staff of the United States Army
Admiral Gary Roughead - Chief of Naval Operations
General Norton A. Schwartz - Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force
General James T. Conway - Commandant of the Marine Corps

Rent Starks
Eric Schmitt

Mr. Madegz
Carl H.

Phil Sengier GA-11

John H. Hill

John Schmitt OH-2

John Kerin 2A04

R. E. Jan OH-5

Lamar Smith

Will Taylor ST-4

Richard Bachman

W. Todd Akin MO-2

J. Jordan OH-4

Doug Lamborn CO-5

Wally Fujer

Paul Gray
Ralph M. Hall

Sam Justice

Chris Smith

Jack Kingston

Ray Miller

Sam Baker

Carol Mangler

Ken Calvert

Sue M. Bilirakis

Steve King

Carly Fiorina

Mike Pence

Robert B. Aderholt

John Boozman

Lu Woy

J. M. Bennett

David P. Rose

John Olin

Sam Gold

Robert Aderholt (AL-04)
Todd Akin (MO-02)
Michele Bachmann (MN-06)
Spencer Bachus (AL-06)
Gresham Barrett (SC-03)
Gus Bilirakis (FL-09)
John Boozman (AR-03)
Michael Burgess (TX-26)
Dan Burton (IN-05)
Ken Calvert (CA-44)
John Fleming (LA-04)
Phil Gingrey (GA-11)
Louie Gohmert (TX-01)
Ralph Hall (TX-04)
Wally Herger (CA-02)
Darrell Issa (CA-49)
Jim Jordan (OH-04)
Steve King (IA-05)
John Kline (MN-02)
Doug Lamborn (CO-05)
Bob Latta (OH-05)
Jack Kingston (GA-01)
Don Manzullo (IL-16)
Gary Miller (CA-42)
Randy Neugebauer (TX-19)
Pete Olson (TX-22)
Mike Pence (IN-06)
Joe Pitts (PA-16)
Phil Roe (TN-01)
Chris Smith (NJ-04)
Lamar Smith (TX-21)
Jean Schmidt (OH-02)
Aaron Schock (IL-18)
John Shadegg (AZ-03)
Todd Tiahrt (KS-04)
and Frank Wolf (VA-10)

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 12, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to bring to your attention the plight of our Iraqi allies, those Iraqis who have worked alongside our troops and diplomats as interpreters and in other capacities since 2003, and who are now threatened for their service. We urge you to work with the Department of State and other federal agencies to develop contingency plans to protect these allies as our forces redeploy.

Since 2003, tens of thousands of Iraqis have worked, or continue to work for, the Department of Defense, the Department of State, U.S. government contractors and other U.S. government funded entities in Iraq. Al Qaeda in Iraq and other terrorist groups affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq have labeled these Iraqis traitors, collaborators and worse. Many have already paid the ultimate price for their service, and many more may be at risk after U.S. troops depart Iraq.

Resettlement to the United States could be the only safe option for thousands of our Iraqi employees. We commend the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security for expanding and accelerating the admission process for Iraqi refugees during the past three years. However, we are advised that the application process for Iraqi refugees currently takes a year or more on average, and that fewer than 5,000 of those resettled to date were employed by the United States in Iraq. This process will not work quickly enough when U.S.-affiliated Iraqis need it the most urgently.

A second path to resettlement, Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs), has also underperformed the current need. As you know, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 expanded the availability of Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) to enable U.S.-affiliated Iraqis to resettle to the United States, providing 5,000 visas per fiscal year for principal applicants with a carryover of unused availability to succeeding years. However, out of a current availability of 15,000 SIVs, only 2,145 have been issued to principal applicants to date.



Finally, we should consider an airlift, for later processing, out of Iraq for those Iraqis who worked for or on behalf of the United States, who wish to leave Iraq, and who cannot be processed before all U.S. troops depart. The British did exactly this as they departed Basra and militant thugs openly hunted Iraqis who had worked for the British, airlifting their surviving Iraqi employees directly to a Royal Air Force base in England. Each of America's principal coalition partners - Britain, Denmark, and Poland - has honored its moral obligation to endangered Iraqi employees through airlifts to military bases.

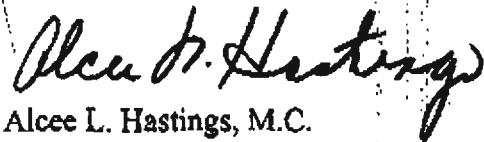
There is precedent for a similar undertaking by the United States in Iraq. In the 1996 Operation Pacific Haven, the United States airlifted more than 6,000 Iraqis to Guam in a matter of weeks, where they were safely processed for resettlement to the United States. While the circumstances are somewhat different, our country also used Guam as a processing center for tens of thousands of Vietnamese refugees in 1975.

Mr. Secretary, time is of the essence in developing a plan to address this looming crisis as the August 31, 2010 withdrawal date rapidly approaches. The United States has a moral obligation to stand by those Iraqis who have risked their lives - and the lives of their families - to stand by us in Iraq for the past seven years, and doing so is also in our strategic self-interest. Providing support for our Iraqi allies will advance U.S. national security interests around the world, particularly in Afghanistan, by sending a message that foreign nationals who support our work abroad can expect some measure of protection.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin, U.S.S.
Chairman
U.S. Helsinki Commission



Alcee L. Hastings, M.C.
Co-Chairman
U.S. Helsinki Commission



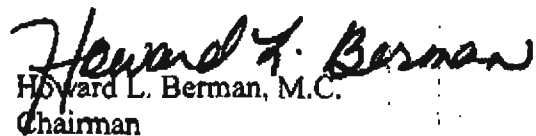
Richard J. Durbin, U.S.S.
Assistant Majority Leader
United States Senate



Ike Skelton, M.C.
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services





Richard G. Lugar, U.S.S.
Ranking Member
Committee of Foreign Relations



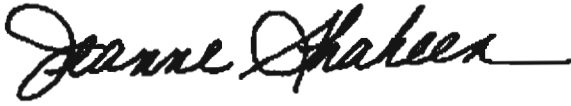
Howard L. Berman, M.C.
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs


Ron Wyden, U.S.S.


Jim McDermott, M.C.


Robert P. Casey, Jr., U.S.S.

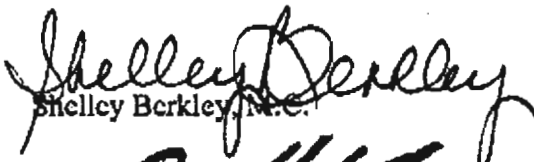

Earl Blumenauer, M.C.

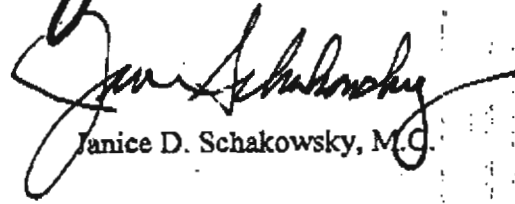

Jeanne Shaheen, U.S.S.



William D. Delahunt, M.C.


Kirsten E. Gillibrand, U.S.S.


James P. McGovern, M.C.

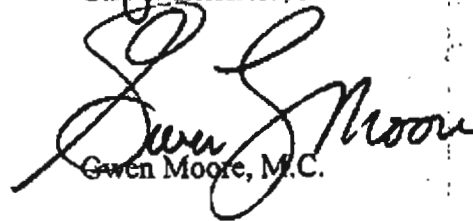

Shelley Berkley, M.C.


Janice D. Schakowsky, M.C.

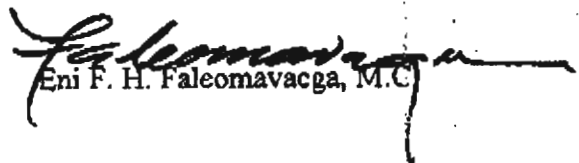

Darrell E. Issa, M.C.


G.K. Butterfield, M.C.


Russ Carnahan, M.C.


Gwen Moore, M.C.


Joe Sestak, M.C.


Eni F. H. Faleomavacga, M.C.

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 28, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary, U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon, Room 3E880
20301-1000

Dear Secretary Panetta:

We urge that you recommend to the President the promotion of Brigadier General Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager to the grade of Major General on the United States Air Force retired list.

In Section 563 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for 2005, Congress authorized the President of the United States to appoint Brigadier General Charles E. Yeager, United States Air Force (retired), to the grade of major general on the retired list of the Air Force. Despite being recommended for this promotion by the senior leadership of the United States Air Force, in July 2007 then Secretary of Defense Robert Gates declined to forward Brigadier General Yeager's recommendation for promotion to the President.

64 years after General Yeager became the first person to break the sound barrier, we believe it is time to recognize this American Hero with this promotion. We urge that you recommend to the President that Brigadier General Yeager be advanced on the retired list of the United States Air Force to the grade of major general as authorized by law.

By the end of his storied career, General Yeager had flown more than 10,000 hours in more than 330 different models of aircraft and became the youngest military pilot to be inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame in 1973. General Yeager has been decorated with the Purple Heart, Bronze Star with V device, Air Force Commendation medal, Silver Star with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with ten clusters, Presidential Medal of Freedom, and special peacetime Medal of Honor.

General Yeager is also the recipient of every major award in the field of flight, including the Collier Trophy, Harmon International Trophy, and the Federation Aeronautique International Gold Medal. Even today, General Yeager is still actively involved in flight, serving as a consultant to the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

General Yeager is an American Hero and serves as an icon and role model for our servicemen and women. He is an American legend and should be promoted to the grade of Major General on the United States Air Force retired list. We urge that you make this recommendation to President Obama.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



DUNCAN HUNTER
Member of Congress



Richard M. ...

Lois Coppa

Jane Hall

Susan Davis

Dennis Matsu

Julie ...

Sam ...

Pete ...

Joseph ...

Laura ...

Lynn C. ...

Luella ...

Joe ...

Grace F. ...

David J. ...

Al ...

Paul ...

Alvin Waters

Nancy Peloni

Buck McKelton

Jimmy McHugh

Robert Lee

~~Walter G. [unclear]~~

Bob [unclear]

James Baker

Zoe Lopez

Bill [unclear]

Frank [unclear]

Gene [unclear]

Frank [unclear]

Bob Filner

John [unclear]

Harry Wayman

Gene Miller

Judy Chu

Ken Colvert

Jimmy Lee

John Sawyer

David E. Jones

Maya Sawmuck

Dana Kohnobach

AD

John Lee

Kevin Lee

Kevin Nunn

Tom M. Clark

Wally Harger

Ed Royce

Luella Raybol-Allard

Beulah Sherrin

Page 2

Maxine Waters
Nancy Pelosi
Howard "Buck" McKeon
Jerry McNerney
Barbara Lee
Anna Eshoo
Dennis Cardoza
Laura Richardson
Zoe Lofgren

Jim Costa
Brian Bilbray
Karen Bass
Howard Berman
Bob Filner
John Campbell
Henry Waxman
George Miller
Judy Chu

Page 3

Mike Honda
Lois Capps
Janice Hahn
Susan Davis
Doris Matsui
Jackie Speier
Sam Farr
Pete Stark
John Garamendi

Xavier Becerra
Lynn Woolsey
Loretta Sanchez
David Issa
Joe Baca
Grace Napolitano
Linda Sanchez
Adam Schiff
David Drier

Page 4

Ken Calvert
Jerry Lewis
Elton Gallegly
Dan Lungren
Mary Bono-Mack
Dana Rohrabacher
Jeff Denham
Gary Miller

Kevin McCarthy
Devin Nunes
Tom McClintock
Wally Herger
Ed Royce

Page 5

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Brad Sherman

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

27 September 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Department of Defense
The Pentagon, Suite 319
Washington DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

Since you announced your decision August 9 to recommend to the President to close the U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) as part of a series of initiatives designed to gain efficiencies in the Department of Defense, we have been alarmed at your lack of analytical rigor supporting your closure recommendation and the lack of transparency in disclosing what analysis you might have with Congress and the affected Defense Community.

To be clear, we are in strong support of aggressive, collaborative action to identify any inefficiency not just within the Department of Defense, but across the entire federal government, to ensure that all tax revenue is put to the greatest use and we commend your efforts to reduce overhead and to apply savings to force structure and modernization.

However, the failure to consult more fully with Congress in a transparent way works against the Department's ultimate goal of becoming more cost-conscious and efficient in providing for our nation's defense and erodes the credibility of the Department of Defense.

We are also concerned about the impact that the closure of JFCOM will have on the military's joint training, operations, concept development, and experimentation. JFCOM's focus on warfighters' joint capabilities, a function of growing importance as our military operates with coalition forces around the world, specifically with regard to readiness and interoperability, is critical. JFCOM's leadership in joint force and coalition training over the last decade has led to key advancements in the ability of all branches of our armed forces to deploy together more effectively for joint operations.

In the nearly two months since your announcement, we have sent multiple requests for substantiating information. While we acknowledge that representatives from

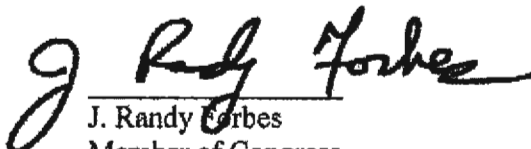



the Department of Defense were made available for a staff level brief, the information provided was of little relevance or use. There were no substantive, analytical data provided. Your continued refusal to provide any supporting information indicates that your philosophical decision was made without any analysis as would be expected of a closure of this magnitude. As a result, we have no information that allows us to quantify the possible effects of your proposal. We again request full disclosure of all pertinent documents and analysis supporting your decision to close JFCOM.

If the Department does not provide the requested information and documents prior to the scheduled hearings on this matter on 28-29 September, we will request that the Chairs of the committees of jurisdiction use every means available to compel the Department of Defense to provide the documents and information to Congress.


We appreciate your quick response and support of this request and look forward to further collaborative efforts to identify inefficiencies within the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,


J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress


Eric Cantor
Member of Congress


Frank Wolf
Member of Congress


Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress


Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to express our appreciation for the manner in which you handled the aftermath of the November 5, 2009 Fort Hood Shooting. We have reviewed the January 2010 DoD Independent Review Related to Fort Hood ("Independent Review") and your August 18th memo, *Final Recommendations of the Ft. Hood Follow-on Review* ("August Memo"), and believe that the steps outlined in the reports will help protect our men and women in uniform from another tragedy.

In particular, we strongly support the Independent Review findings, and the August Memo's recommendations that, "the Department identify and incorporate civilian law enforcement best practices, including response to the active shooter threat, into training certifications for civilian police and security guards" outlined in Section 4.3 (pages 37-38 and 15-16, respectively). We encourage you to include an official from a recognized, best practice active shooter-training program, such as the training program used by the first responders at Fort Hood and identified in the "Independent Review," (page 37, footnote 64) in the Law Enforcement Training Standards Working Group described in the August Memo. Please keep us apprised of the process you will use to appoint participants to the working group.

The inclusion of an official from a national civilian law enforcement active shooter-training program will bring extensive knowledge and experience in developing active shooter curriculum. Specifically, this official will have the background in creating and managing an active shooter program, which is currently used by civilian law enforcement agencies across the country. This will ensure the standards and training curriculum developed and adopted by the Department are consistent with the civilian law enforcement agencies outside the installations.

We are pleased that the Department is taking steps to address the lack of a policy and training for active shooter situations. We know with certainty that active shooter training has proven effective as clearly demonstrated by the responding officers in the Fort Hood incident. It is significant that the Independent Review and the August Memo state, "...during this incident the responding officers attributed their actions to this new protocol (page 37)." This training should be used throughout the military both for installation protection and strategic operations in theater.

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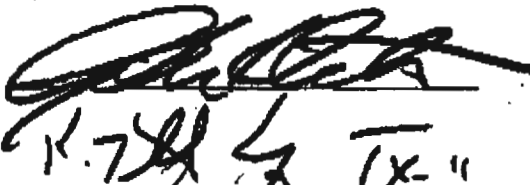
In recent years, there have been numerous active shooter situations in which an individual or a group of individuals began shooting at unarmed civilians in public places, including military installations. As you know, in addition to the tragedy at Fort Hood, there have been shootings at Fort Bragg, NC, Camp Pennsylvania, Kuwait, Camp Liberty, Iraq, Little Rock, AR, and Tuz, Iraq. In addition, civilian law enforcement officials prevented two apparent imminent active shooter attacks on military installations including the arrest of a suspect in Branchburg, NJ on January 25, 2010 who appeared to planning an attack on Fort Drum, NY. On May 7, 2007, the FBI arrested six suspects and later convicted five for terrorism after the group plotted to attack Fort Dix, NJ and "kill as many soldiers as possible."

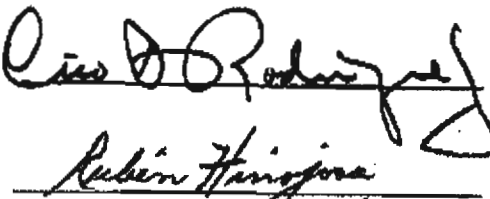
The civilian active shooter-training program has proven effective at Fort Hood and in countless other situations. We urge you to fully implement active shooter training and response protocols for military police (all branches) and DoD Civilian Police. Additionally, this training should be conducted in coordination with nearby civilian law enforcement agencies to ensure a seamless response in the event of an active shooter incident.

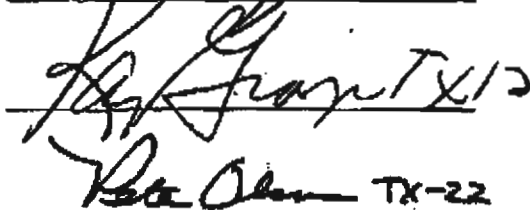
Again, thank you for your efforts to ensure that our military facilities are as safe as possible. We would appreciate an update regarding the implementation of the August Memo recommendations as soon as possible.

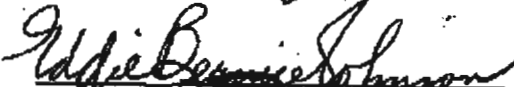
Sincerely,




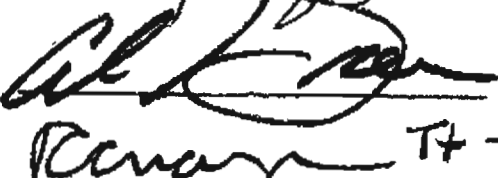

_____ TX-11


_____ Ruben Hinojosa


_____ TX-12
_____ TX-22






_____ TX-19



Frank Jackson Lee

Edwards

Hayden

Ralph M. Hall

Lamon Smith

TX-24

TX-1

TX-2

Frank Clayton

Hank Johnson

Ken Brown TX-8

John Collins TX-7

Joe Bond

John Hensley TX-5

Michael M. Wolf TX-10

Arman TX-2

John O'Leary

Charles Grogan

John Sessions

Cochran Rodger

Page 1

Lloyd Doggett (TX-25)
Gene Green (TX-29)
Ciro Rodriguez (TX-23)
Ruben Hinojosa (TX-15)
Bernice Johnson (TX-30)
Al Green (TX-9)
Randy Neugebauer (TX-19)

John Carter (TX-31)
Michael Conaway (TX-11)
Kay Granger (TX-12)
Pete Olson (TX-22)
Mac Thornberry (TX-13)
Sam Johnson (TX-3)

Page 2

Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-18)
Chet Edwards (TX-17)
Henry Cuellar (TX-28)
Ralph Hall (TX-4)
Lamar Smith (TX-21)
Kenneth Marchant (TX-24)
Louie Gohmert (TX-1)
Silvestre Reyes (TX-16)
Michael Burgess (TX-26)
Hank Johnson (GA-4)

Kevin Brady (TX-8)
John Culberson (TX-7)
Joe Barton (TX-6)
Jeb Hensarling (TX-5)
Michael McCaul (TX-10)
Ted Poe (TX-2)
Solomon Ortiz (TX-27)
Charles Gonzalez (TX-20)
Pete Sessions (TX-32)
Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-5)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 10, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

The Honorable Jack Lew
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Panetta and Director Lew:

The enactment of the Budget Control Act of 2011 codifies an agreement between the Administration and Congress as to the maximum total level of discretionary spending for the next ten years. As you know, in the first two years there is also agreement with respect to overall amounts that will be spent on the security agencies – defined in statute for the first time to include the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs, the National Nuclear Security Administration, the intelligence community management account, and the international affairs budget function (Function 150). There is, however, no agreement in the Budget Control Act as to the appropriate level of funding for any individual department or agency within that security category.

Each of you has recently commented that the Administration believes funding for the Department of Defense should be reduced by somewhere between \$330 billion and \$420 billion over the next ten years. This would be an unprecedented drawdown in defense while U.S. forces are committed to contingency operations in Afghanistan and Libya, and possibly still in Iraq. More troubling than the lack of any historical precedent, however, is that this decision to reduce defense spending – first announced by the President in April – has preceded any substantial analysis of the future roles, missions, and capabilities we want our military to perform. Although the President has directed DOD leadership to commence a “strategic review,” as General Martin Dempsey confirmed recently in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, the military has been given, “a target and we’re trying to determine what the impact would be to meet that target.” Former Secretary Gates correctly described such a budget-first approach as “math, not strategy.”

Since we have not seen the outcome of the Administration’s strategic review, it is imperative that Members of Congress, and particularly members of our committees, obtain a better understanding of the impact of these reductions on the Defense Department and its ability to meet its mission. We have three requests for additional information to help inform Congress as we finalize the fiscal year 2012 defense budget and as the Joint Select Committee begins its work.

OSD 09802-11



Honorable Panetta
Honorable Lew
August 10, 2011
Page 2

First, there are less than two months left before the beginning of fiscal year 2012. Determining final funding levels for DOD will be a high priority when Congress reconvenes in September. To assist Congress as we work to ensure that we provide all of the resources needed by our men and women in uniform, we request an update on the status of and any preliminary conclusions from the DOD comprehensive review and the budgetary consequences flowing there from.

Second, if the Joint Select Committee's legislation is not enacted or fails to achieve at least \$1.2 trillion of deficit reduction, alternative spending caps for national defense come into effect for fiscal years 2013-2021. The cap for the national defense budget function (Function 050) would be \$546 billion in fiscal year 2013, \$6 billion less than fiscal year 2011. This cap then becomes the baseline against which any future discretionary sequestrations would occur. To be clear, the revised discretionary cap levels do not represent an agreed policy between the Administration and Congress - they only go into effect in what Secretary Panetta has called the "doomsday mechanism." It is for that reason that we are troubled by reports that indicate that the fiscal year 2013 budget guidance from OMB to the Department of Defense has cited the alternative spending caps as the appropriate basis for budget preparation. We request that you provide further clarification regarding any budget guidance that has been issued for Function 050 for fiscal year 2013.

Finally, Director Lew, in your August 4th blog entry, you stated, "make no mistake: the sequester is not meant to be policy." And in your recent press conference, Secretary Panetta, you stated that the cuts contemplated by sequestration would "do real damage to our security, our troops and their families, and our military's ability to protect the nation." Therefore, we ask for further information about the national security consequences if the "doomsday mechanism" is triggered and sequestration takes place for fiscal years 2013-2021.

We appreciate your attention to this letter and your shared commitment to our nation's security. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services



Paul Ryan
Chairman, Committee on the Budget



C.W. Bill Young
Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense