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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

United States Senate

March 31, 2006

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As our nation's war on terror continues into its fourth year, I commend you for the tireless efforts you have demonstrated in ensuring that our military is up to the daunting task laid before it. Your leadership, determination, and firm management of the Department of Defense have allowed our forces to maintain the offensive around the globe and have directly resulted in many of the successes we have had in hunting down and capturing or killing foreign terrorists while advancing freedom.

I also want to commend you for your specific initiatives with respect to both intelligence and our military special operations forces. On the intelligence side, you have affected careful review of the applicable laws and policies relating to the conduct of clandestine operations abroad and approved necessary changes as to how those rules can be used to bolster our intelligence capabilities, not impede them. It's clear that for far too long the Department was operating under restrictions imposed by tradition and by stifling interpretations imposed by various former leaders and legal advisors. Under your leadership, many of the impediments to forward deploying clandestine intelligence resources have been overcome, all within the purview of the law and with the support of the Congress. Moreover, your personal willingness to authorize difficult and certainly dangerous missions by intelligence operatives into target countries helps lay the groundwork for battles which may be fought in future years, not future weeks or months.

Similarly, your support for our nation's special operations forces since coming into office belies their years of passive attention. Under your leadership, the Special Operations Command in Tampa became a supported command, not a supporting one. That decision alone will surely be a pivotal one as our nation continues to aggressively engage terrorists worldwide, often far from traditional battlefields.

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The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld

March 31, 2006

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In this latest Quadrennial Defense Review, you have laid the groundwork for the furtherance of the capacities and capabilities of our military special operations forces. I am particularly pleased to see that your focus includes not only the combat elements of special operations, but equally as important the 'softer' side represented by psychological operations and civil affairs – those units whose jobs are vital to winning the support of civilian populations in regions or countries where our forces are engaged.

Despite the immense progress which our military is benefiting from under your leadership, however, I share your off-stated conviction that the battle against terrorism is far from over. Winning will take years, cost our nation billions of dollars, and require continued sacrifices from our young military men, women, and their families. None-the-less, it is something we must do, and winning means we must maintain the offensive across all fronts.

In that regard, I believe that you will soon nominate a new Commander for the U.S. Special Operations Command in Tampa. This individual you chose to replace retiring General Doug Brown will have immense responsibilities cast upon him from the very outset. In addition to continuing the dynamic programs and policies which you have already put in place, he will certainly be your key player in providing the leadership, guidance, and direction for new initiatives which the QDR envisions. His job is not one which can be filled by someone whose qualifications are anything less than fully comprehensive. Instead, our nation deserves, indeed demands, the most qualified and capable individual available to assume that post. Because of that, I respectfully urge you to nominate an individual I already know you to hold in very high regard – Lieutenant General William G. (Jerry) Boykin, USA. This request comes not only from me and many of my colleagues here in the Senate, but also from the very community he has served in for most of his military career. I am told, and I believe it to be true, that no special operations officer currently on active duty is more highly respected or admired by his superiors, peers, or subordinates alike, than Jerry Boykin.

As you already know, General Boykin's resume reads like a "Who's Who" of military special operations. Although his resume is considered by many to be classified, the fact is that much of it is well known – a founding member of the Army's elite Delta Force; a participant on the Teheran rescue operation in 1980; a member of the Grenada invasion of 1983, where he was wounded; a leader in Somalia; later the Commander of Delta Force; the deputy director of the CIA's Special Activities Division; commanded Special Forces Command and the Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg; and most recently, your Deputy Under Secretary of Intelligence.

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld

March 31, 2006

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Against that superb backdrop, he remains modest, self-effacing, and highly effective. His interagency experience, knowledge, and personal relationships are unparalleled. Moreover, his first-hand knowledge and experience in many of the intelligence programs and policies which you have initiated highlight him as someone who can "hit the ground running."

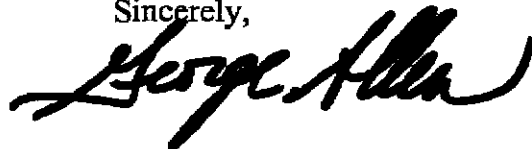
As you certainly recognize, while our own government will continue to change senior leaders as part of the normal cycle, al-Qaeda and its subsidiary elements or associates worldwide will maintain the same core of effective, experienced, and knowledgeable managers and planners. Each passing year, their expertise will increase. Short of being killed or captured, they will remain in place and plot or execute against us. We, meanwhile, will cycle deserving people through important jobs, barely being able to take full advantage of their capabilities before it is time to replace them. In the case of General Boykin, his entire career has been in preparation for a job such as Commander of U. S. Special Operations Command.

I am certainly aware that any confirmation hearings for General Boykin would afford opponents of the Administration the opportunity to ask difficult questions about policies with respect to interrogation practices and perhaps with respect to events at Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, and elsewhere. However, I am confident that any such questions can be dealt with appropriately. In addition, I well recall that Jerry was admonished in 2004 for speaking out before church groups about 'our' God and 'their' God. This too is a subject which I am confident can be dealt with. Granted, these are issues which cause discomfort. But I firmly believe the nomination of General Boykin to be important enough to take a stand.

Finally, I believe it is necessary to our nation that the policies, programs, initiatives, and intentions which you have laid out as Secretary be carried forward even after you have departed. In many respects, the foundation is still being set. In my opinion, that of many of my colleagues, and that of the vast majority of the community from which he comes, Jerry Boykin is the choice to see that through. In the years to come, history will judge all of us on how and what we did. I am absolutely convinced that Jerry Boykin serving as Commander, USSOCOM, is in the best interest of our nation, and I ask you to carefully consider nominating him to this extremely important position.

With warm regards, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George Allen

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COMMITTEES:
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United States Senate

September 12, 2006

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of Defense for
Legislative Affairs (Acting)
Attention: David Broome
1300 Defense Pentagon
Room 3D747
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Wilkie:

I am inquiring into an issue dealing with equipment for our servicemembers, specifically the outfitting of body armor. Were any troops, during combat operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, issued and forced to wear Vietnam Era Flack Jackets/Bullet Proof Vests? In addition, were any troops (Active, Reserve, National Guard) deployed into combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan with Vietnam Era Vests?

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and look forward to your prompt action. Please treat this letter in conformance with all applicable procedural rules and ethical guidelines.

With warm regards, I remain

Sincerely,

George Allen

OSD 14609-06



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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2006

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary
Department of Defense
Office of the Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

It has come to our attention that 235 Iraqi citizens, who traveled last week to Amman, Jordan from Baghdad to participate in an Operation Smile, Inc. medical mission, are endangered and require the assistance of the United States military to obtain safe passage back to Baghdad. Operation Smile has briefed General T. Michael Moseley, Air Force Chief of Staff, regarding this situation and he expressed preliminary support for military assistance in this matter.

The Iraqi individuals include children born with facial deformities to which Operation Smile provided free reconstructive surgery as part of its charitable mission to Amman. The group also includes parents of these children and medical professionals who received training alongside Operation Smile's volunteer team of physicians, nurses, and support staff. This mission was paid for, in part, by a grant from the State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

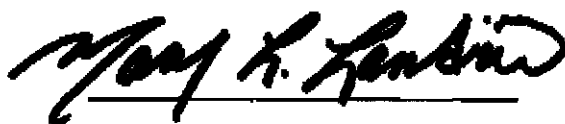
Due to known security threats posed to the Iraqi group's travel back to Baghdad on Saturday, April 29, we request that you authorize United States Air Force transport aircraft to provide safe airlift for these individuals from Amman to Baghdad to bring a safe conclusion to this humanitarian effort.

We understand that the resources this mission will demand are not to be exhausted without careful consideration. We believe that coming to the aid of these endangered Iraqis is an appropriate and noble use of the capabilities of the U.S. military, and encourage you to give the order to pursue doing so quickly.

We have informed General Moseley that we are sending this letter and he awaits your decision. Thank you for giving this matter your immediate and careful attention.

With kindest regards, we remain

Sincerely,



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John Z. Sauer

**Cc: General T. Michael Mosely, Air Force Chief of Staff
Wayne Zinn, Operation Smile Chief Operating Officer**