THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

JAN 2 8 2008

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your December 4 letter to Secretary Gates regarding the proposed arms sales to be made pursuant to the Gulf Securities Dialogue. I have enclosed a letter from Assistant Secretary Bergner that outlines the opinion of both the Departments of State and Defense. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

John J. Young, Jr.

Enclosure:
As stated

OSD 18999-07

08-F-1753

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2800

MAY 25 2007

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of May 8, 2007, to Secretary of Defense Gates and Secretary of State Rice regarding a proposal to allow a private entity to purchase U.S.-origin F-5 fighter aircraft from Norway to train foreign pilots in the United States pursuant to a Foreign Military Sales case.

The Department of State has the lead on matters involving retransfers of U.S.-origin military equipment and is providing a detailed reply, which has been closely coordinated with the Department of Defense. This letter is to reassure you that the Department of Defense, working together with the Department of State, has given careful consideration to the concerns raised in your letter. We believe that those concerns have been closely examined and addressed, and the Department of Defense is fully supportive of the State Department response.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY B. KOHLER
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, USAF
DIRECTOR

Same letter to:
Senator Lugar, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Chairman Lantos, House Foreign Affairs Committee
Representative Ros-Lehtinen, House Foreign Affairs Committee

(3)

OSD 08005-07

08-F-1753
USMC

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5730
CD&I
JUL 30 2007

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear ~~Mr. Chairman~~ Sir:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Marine Corps' accelerated acquisition process. The Secretary of Defense asked me to provide you information on how the Marine Corps is leaning forward to provide Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles and enhance our persistent surveillance capabilities in support of Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Marine Corps' responsiveness to requests from Marines in Afghanistan and Iraq for new or improved equipment to meet emerging threats continues to be a matter of utmost concern. The key is to balance the rapid fielding of new capabilities with a host of other variables – among them the maturity of the technology, the ability of the industrial base to develop the capabilities in sufficient numbers and on an accelerated schedule, and finally, the logistics system to adequately support the capability once fielded.

The Marine Corps recognizes that the current requirements and acquisition processes have not been perfect in meeting all the needs of our combat forces and we are taking steps to improve our methods. Continued involvement of senior leadership, revisions to our urgent needs review process, and increased engagement with other Service efforts and industry will allow the Marines Corps to increase the responsiveness and effectiveness of delivering critical capabilities to the warfighter. The timeliness and importance of this effort is well understood, as Marines who work rapid acquisition issues on a daily basis are themselves warfighters, many only recently returned from combat action in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Enclosed is additional information relevant to your specific concerns. A similar letter has been sent to Senator Bond. I want to personally thank you for your interest in supporting our deployed forces and for your continued support of the Marine Corps.

Sincerely,

James T. Conway
James T. Conway
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

Copy to:
The Honorable Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy

400

(28 Jun 07)

R10986-07 (1a)

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

June 24, 2008

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-0802

Dear Senator Biden:

Thank you for your letter of June 2, 2008, to the Secretary of Defense concerning the Tactical Concealed Video System (TCVS). I am responding on behalf of Secretary Gates.

The Marine Corps has responded to this urgent need with the appropriate level of emphasis, and continues to work toward improving the capability while sustaining systems delivered to Marine Corps operating forces in the field.

Fourteen TCVS units have been fielded to Multi-National Forces - West (MNF-W). MNF-W has documented a number of significant functional limitations associated with this specific system. As a result of their detailed capability analysis, MNF-W and Marine Forces Central Command have explicitly articulated their desire to discontinue use of the TCVS as currently supplied, and to examine alternate technologies. While it is correct to observe that the Marines cited a reduction in threat as part of their rationale for terminating the urgent need, their principal criteria in making this decision was substandard system performance. Among other things, the Marines noted that TCVS set up was complicated, it was too difficult to conceal, too cumbersome for a tactical environment, and its battery life was too short. Our Marines in theater welcome the opportunity to share these and other TCVS observations with you.

In an attempt to overcome capability shortfalls, Marine operating forces are partnering with their supporting establishment to identify viable technology and refine the need for a micro-terrain surveillance capability. To this end, the Marine Corps is sponsoring a TCVS demonstration, currently underway at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, 29 Palms, California. Additionally, to set conditions for subsequent success, the Marine Corps has initiated a focused market research effort by recently releasing an industry Request for Information and has received 28 responses, however, the manufacturer of the TCVS has not responded. Respondents have been invited to demonstrate their technology at Twentynine Palms during June and August 2008. These efforts are indicative of the Department's determination to meet the needs of our tactical users.

OSD 07298-08

I am aware of the many challenges inherent in developing and fielding this type of technology. Please note that our forward-deployed Marines, as well as those supporting them, continue to place tremendous value on effective, functioning Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance capabilities. In this regard, I believe we are aligned with the Combatant Commander's perspective and assure you that we will remain responsive by pursuing the best available solution for our Marines.

Thank you for your continued support of our service men and women. A similar letter has been sent to Senator Bond. As always, if I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Donald C. Winter

08-F-1753

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MAR 31 2008

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of February 19, 2008, to the Secretary of Defense regarding Brigadier General Silvanus Gilbert, United States Air Force. I have been asked to provide a response on behalf of the Secretary.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense is currently processing a nomination package for Brigadier General Gilbert. The Secretary of Defense will give very careful consideration, as he does for all military officer nomination recommendations, in deciding whether to recommend to the President that he nominate Brigadier General Gilbert for appointment to the grade of major general.

The Department has no greater obligation than to ensure that officers promoted to the general and flag officer grades possess those attributes that will be required to lead the Armed Forces in the years ahead. The record of every officer recommended for promotion to a higher general or flag officer grade is assessed in light of this obligation. Again, thank you for your letter and your continued interest in our Nation's military men and women.

Sincerely,

David S. C. Chu

David S. C. Chu

PR000637-08

OSD 02384-08 (1)