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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

January 22, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Today, with our colleagues in the Senate, we are releasing the most recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) listing of the federal government's high risk areas. GAO has issued this product at the start of every new Congress since 1990. As has been the case in many past editions, the Department of Defense (DOD) is, unfortunately, well represented.

This year's report describes eight areas in DOD operations that are at high risk of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement and seven others for which DOD shares responsibility. More than half of the areas GAO has identified involve DOD. Many of these areas have been on the list for almost two decades.

With the country facing its most serious financial and economic problems in decades and fighting two wars overseas, we cannot afford for the Department to get less than the maximum value from the resources the Congress and the American taxpayer provide it. The risks DOD faces cut across most areas of its operations and include DOD's longstanding inability to deliver its major weapon system acquisitions on time and at promised costs and capabilities, modernize its business systems, protect critical technologies, and manage its contracts, its supply chain, its property and its people, among others.

The Oversight and Government Reform Committee intends to make DOD's high risk areas a significant focus of its oversight agenda. Accordingly, we request that you meet with us at your earliest possible convenience to discuss why the Department has not been able to resolve these serious and costly problems, and to discuss a concrete plan with specific time frames to implement GAO's recommendations. Waste and mismanagement in the Department reduce the

OSD 00698-09

much needed support our military needs to effectively carry out its mission. We look forward to the discussion with the spirit of cooperation that will be needed to achieve lasting improvements.

Sincerely,

Edolphus Towns
Chairman

Darrell E. Issa
Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 30, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write regarding the OMB Circular A-76 review of installation management functions under the Defense Logistics Agency Enterprise Support organization (DES). It is our understanding that the Department of Defense's Competitive Sourcing Official is disinclined to approve a request by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to undertake an internal re-engineering effort as an alternative means of ensuring workplace efficiency and cost savings.

Upon reviewing the recent concerns raised by the General Accountability Office regarding the level of savings achieved under OMB Circular A-76, and the information provided to our offices regarding DLA's alternate approach, it appears the latter offers a viable alternative that would result in savings more quickly.

Given our mutual interest in ensuring the DES mission is accomplished in an efficient and cost-effective manner, we respectfully request the Department to give all due consideration to the internal re-engineering effort developed by DLA.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

George V. Voinovich

Jim Webb

Sherrod Brown

Bob Casey, Jr.

Jon Tester

Mark R. Warner

Daniel K. Akaka

Susan M. Collins

OSD 01166-09

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
GUAM

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
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ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

February 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I write to respectfully request your assistance in supporting efforts that I am coordinating in the United States Congress to provide for greater infrastructure funding for Guam in the economic stimulus package. Funding in this legislation is important to improve critical water, wastewater, power, solid waste disposal and port infrastructure on Guam.

A September 2008 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report entitled, "*Opportunity to Improve the Timeliness of Future Overseas Planning Reports and Factors Affecting the Master Planning Effort for the Military Buildup on Guam*" outlined the need for support of civilian infrastructure projects in order to facilitate and sustain the military build-up on Guam. Moreover, officials in the Department of Defense (DoD) on multiple occasions have indicated in testimony before Congress and public reports that civilian infrastructure on Guam needs improvement and that they will pursue opportunities to assist the Government of Guam in meeting these needs. If funding is not provided in the economic stimulus package that was requested by President Obama, the timeframe for the military build-up will be compromised. The stimulus package is an opportunity to spur economic and job growth as well as ensure that the military build-up on Guam remains on schedule and is successfully executed.

Currently, the House-passed version of the stimulus bill, H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, does not contain funding that would address Guam's most critical infrastructure needs. However, the Senate substitute amendment to H.R. 1 that is being debated on the Senate floor this week proposes funding in several accounts that could address Guam's infrastructure needs. In particular, Title XII contains $5.5 billion in discretionary funding for the Secretary of Transportation to offer grants for a variety of national surface transportation system needs, including but not limited to, port improvements. It also includes a mark of $62 million as a baseline for the Office of Insular Affairs in the Department of the Interior for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) grants to the territories and report language specifically cites the needs of the Guam military build-up as a reason for these funds. Both the House and Senate bills will need

OSD 01229-09

to be reconciled in a conference committee. While $62 million is a good mark, needs on Guam require substantially more funds in order for the military build-up to progress on time. We hope that you will agree with us that these funds are important, and that you will communicate your support for increasing the appropriation to Congressional leaders.

In addition, as the DoD finalizes its plans for military construction in the President's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget, it is critical that civilian infrastructure on Guam is enhanced to facilitate the military build-up. I would request that you work closely with Senate and House leadership and conferees to impress upon them the importance of flexible funding to Guam that will support its immediate critical infrastructure needs.

At this point in the process, I am appealing to you to honor your commitments as a partner in this military build-up process for Guam. I ask you to work with us in achieving Chairman Skelton's vision that what is good for the military must be good for Guam. Towards this end, I recognize that this is a critical moment for you and other DoD leaders to communicate directly to Senate and House appropriators in writing your support for appropriating funds to meet civilian and joint infrastructure needs of Guam through H.R. 1 and the forthcoming Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations process.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please have your staff contact Matthew Herrmann, of my staff, at matthew.herrmann@mail.house.gov or at 202-225-1188.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

Enclosure: S. 336, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,
"Assistance to Territories" provision and report language

cc: The Hon. Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2009

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write to register concern about the future of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system at Fort Greely, Alaska, and to inform you of our strong support for this system.

As you know, the integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) has been in the news recently. Last week, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin expressed some concern about the BMD system, of which GMD is a key component. His comments came at the same time reports surfaced of North Korea preparing again to test its Taepodong-2 missile, which is estimated to have a range that could hit Alaska. And earlier this week, Iran successfully launched a low-orbit satellite utilizing a three-stage rocket technology, which raises great concern over that country's increased capabilities.

We were sobered by your testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee on January 27, 2009, in which you stated that: "North Korea and Iran present uniquely vexing challenges...North Korea has produced enough plutonium for several atomic bombs; Iran is developing capabilities needed to support a nuclear program...both countries have ballistic missile programs of increasing range and a record of proliferation." Your blunt assessment underscores the need for a fully functioning BMD System, in which Fort Greely plays a key role.

The federal budget includes funding to complete the fielding of all interceptors at Fort Greely to bring the system up to full capacity. Certainly a key component of this system is a more rigorous testing regimen, as stressed in the latest Director of Operational Test & Evaluation (DOT&E) annual report. Additional successful testing will continue to validate this system to the nation and the new administration. Launches for the tests currently originate from the Kodiak Launch Complex in Kodiak, Alaska, which is ideally suited for such testing and ready to execute additional tests.

At this time, we see absolutely no justification for reductions to the GMD System or slowing its implementation. To the contrary, the threats from North Korea and Iran only serve to emphasize the vital role this system should play in the defense of our nation and our state.

SECDEF	DEPSECDEF	SPLASST	EXECSEC	USDP
USDI	ESD	CCD	CBLC	FILE

LA/

OSD 01343-09

Should the Department of Defense consider any adjustments to this system, we ask that you notify us as soon as possible so that we may discuss the justification with you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Mark Begich
United States Senator

Don Young
Congressman for All Alaska

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We write in support of Dr. Solomon Passy's nomination for the position of Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). We respectfully request that the United States lend its support to Dr. Passy during the diplomatic discussions to select NATO's next Secretary General as the current term of Secretary General Japp de Hoop Scheffer expires later this year.

We are informed that Prime Minister Sergey Stanishev of Bulgaria proposed Dr. Passy as a candidate for the Secretary General position during a meeting with President Bush on June 18, 2008.

For nearly two decades, Dr. Passy has demonstrated a clear vision and solid leadership in international relations, particularly in regard to NATO. As a member of Bulgaria's parliament he authored legislation in 1990 to withdraw Bulgaria from the Warsaw Pact and to join NATO and the European Union. That year, Dr. Passy also founded the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria, an NGO in Bulgaria to strongly support NATO membership. Years later, Dr. Passy's vision was achieved when, while serving as Bulgaria's Foreign Minister, he negotiated and signed the two accession treaties that made Bulgaria a full Member of NATO in 2004 and the EU in 2005.

International circumstances present a window of opportunity for advances in both intra-European and transatlantic relations. We believe that the selection of a Secretary General from Bulgaria who is as superbly qualified as Dr. Passy, would strengthen ties between NATO and the United States as well as serve the important cause of continued European integration.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OSD 01430-09

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

February 11, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The National Security Personnel System (NSPS) of the Department of Defense (DOD) made wholesale changes to the current federal employee system, resulting in widespread distrust and discontent within the ranks of the hundreds of thousands of dedicated DOD employees, both among those who have been converted and those who have not yet been converted to NSPS.

Recent reports from both the Government Accountability Office and the Congressional Budget Office highlight concerns over the cost of NSPS versus its benefits as well as the lack of transparency in the new system and the negative impact on employees. Questions also have arisen over the last minute issuance of regulations (in the final weeks of the Bush Administration) which go beyond the intent of Congress when it enacted revisions to NSPS in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

During the campaign, President Obama indicated that he would consider either a repeal of NSPS or its complete overhaul. Because it will take some time for a review and a determination of the best course of action to occur, we urge you to immediately halt the conversion of any additional employees to NSPS at any level or any location until the Administration and Congress can properly address the future of the Department's personnel system.

We request a prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely,

IKE SKELTON
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee

SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
Chairman
Readiness Subcommittee

IS: cg

OSD 01545-09

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

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Donald C. Winter
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Winter:

We write to express our concern regarding the significant cost overruns associated with the VH-71 Presidential Helicopter Replacement Program. As you know, the Department of Defense announced that the total acquisition cost is projected to increase from $6.5 billion to $11.2 billion, raising the cost per helicopter by 50 percent above the original estimate. We respectfully request detailed information on this recent Nunn-McCurdy breach, including various options to modify or re-open the contract for bidding, as mandated in the FY2009 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 110-417).

We are very supportive of the Defense Department's initiative to ensure that programs are held accountable to their projected budgets and timelines. Secretary Gates specifically mentioned the VH-71 as a "big ticket" item experiencing contract or program performance problems. Likewise, President Obama noted that the program's cost represents, "a lot of money, even for Washington," and promised to "take a close look at it," identifying this program as emblematic "of some of the systematic problems we have in Pentagon procurement."

As you know, Lockheed Martin was awarded the contract without any experience building helicopters, winning the contract over the incumbent contractor, Sikorsky. Sikorsky has manufactured Marine One since President Eisenhower first utilized helicopters for presidential transport in the 1950s. The company fulfilled these contracts without exceeding the projected budget or failing to meet required timelines and milestones. Sikorsky is a tested and proven prime contractor for the Marine One fleet. In addition, Sikorsky maintains the most stringent security requirements for its Marine One aircraft and facilities, with minimal reliance on foreign components and designs.

We therefore respectfully request a thorough report, coupled with a briefing, on the development plans for this program, including an analysis of the potential advantages of either re-opening the contract for bidding or requiring split-production between Lockheed Martin and the incumbent contractor. We believe that such an analysis of alternatives will present a clear option for the Department of Defense to eventually develop Marine One aircraft on time and on budget.

OSD 01615-09

We thank you in advance for keeping us apprised of the Navy's decision-making process and look forward to receiving a detailed report, as well as a briefing on the matter, as soon as possible. Like you, we believe that there are few more sensitive and more important national security concerns than the safe transport of our nation's chief executive. When the President travels on this aircraft, it becomes a critical information node, with vital data coming in, and the most important decisions being meted out. We hope that you will provide us with a workable plan for delivering the highest quality aircraft with the highest security standards. Our President and our nation deserve no less.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact us or our staff: Lindsay George of Senator Dodd's office at (202) 224-1730 or Dan Zeitlin of Representative DeLauro's office at (202) 225-3661. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senator

ROSA L. DeLAURO
United States Representative

JOHN B. LARSON
United States Representative

JOE COURTNEY
United States Representative

CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Representative

JAMES A. HIMES
United States Representative

Cc: The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense

The Honorable John Young
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

Mr. Sean J. Stackley
Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development & Acquisition

LINCOLN DAVIS
4TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

SENIOR WHIP

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APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4204

February 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

First, let me congratulate you on the continuation of your service under the new administration. I believe it to be a testament to your exceptional competence, common-sense approach, and devotion to protecting and preserving the United States of America. At a time when we face a variety of foreign and domestic challenges and threats, we are fortunate to have someone of your skill at the helm of the Department of Defense.

I write today to respectfully request an update on implementation of funds already authorized under H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, which was passed in the 110th Congress. Specifically, Section 8116 appropriates funds for the use of special pay for members of the armed forces whose period of obligated service is extended, or whose eligibility for retirement is suspended, due to the President's authority to extend such service or suspend such retirement. This is commonly referred to as stop-loss authority and the increase is capped at five-hundred dollars per month. Under H.R. 2638, no funds are to be allocated until the Secretary of Defense submits a provisional plan for the distribution of such payments to the Committee on Appropriations. It has recently been called to my attention by a constituent that these funds have not yet been allocated to this group of soldiers.

As you know better than most, our soldiers and their families are making enormous sacrifices as they continue to perform admirably. The toll of service is particularly difficult on the families of those whose service is extended. I feel that the modest increase in pay for this group of dedicated service men and women is just and equitable. Fully understanding the enormity of your responsibilities, I respectfully urge your attention to this matter. Thank you for any updates you may provide and for your commitment to this great nation.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress

LD:TG

OSD 01636-09

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www.house.gov/lincolndavis

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2009

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

Dear Dr. Gates:

We are writing to express our strong support for the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program and request your consideration of a reprogramming of funds for Fiscal Year 2009. We are aware of significant undesired consequences for the E-2D program as a result of the enacted funding levels for Fiscal Year 2009, and we urge your personal attention to this issue.

As you know, the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program continues to perform satisfactorily on both cost and schedule. Since enactment of the appropriations bill, an Operational Assessment has been completed and the program remains on track to receive Milestone C approval in Spring 2009. After reviewing the final appropriated levels for this program in Fiscal Year 2009, however, we are concerned that current funding will be inadequate to sustain this program in transition from development to low rate production. We believe there are negative impacts to both the cost and delivery schedule of these aircraft.

Therefore, we request that you reprogram funds in Fiscal Year 2009 to support the procurement of the third Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) Lot I aircraft in Fiscal Year 2009, and provide advance procurement for the third Lot II aircraft in Fiscal Year 2010. Furthermore, we urge you to ensure that the Fiscal Year 2010 request includes procurement funding for all three LRIP Lot II aircraft.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to your strong support for prioritizing reprogramming of Fiscal Year 2009 funding for the E-2D program.

Sincerely,

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress

OSD 01644-09

CAROLYN McCARTHY
Member of Congress

GARY L. ACKERMAN
Member of Congress

TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
Member of Congress

MICHAEL A. ARCURI
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Donald Winter, Secretary of the Navy
ADM Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to request that you promptly and fully distribute authorized compensation to members of our Armed Forces whose service has been extended by the Department of Defense's stop loss policy.

Over the past seven years, over 160,000 military personnel have had their service-duty contracts extended due to stop loss orders. Today, there are over 12,000 soldiers in the active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard who remain on active duty beyond their scheduled separation date as a result of stop loss. This policy especially impacts the National Guard and Reservists, many of whom have already been deployed much longer than they expected. This is why we introduced legislation in the 110th Congress to provide payments to service members for each month they are extended as a result of stop loss.

On September 30, 2008, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 was signed into law (P.L. 110-329). The bill provided that all military personnel that have had their service duty contracts involuntarily extended due to stop loss orders, during Fiscal Year 2009 will receive compensation. The bill also allocated $72 million for the compensation, thus providing enough to compensate each soldier with the full $500 amount.

It has been nearly five months since the bill was signed into law and stop loss compensation payments have yet to be distributed. We urge you to work with the House and Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittees to develop a thorough and appropriate disbursement plan as quickly as possible to fulfill the Department's obligations under P.L. 110-329. Our soldiers are heroically and bravely defending our country abroad, and they are awaiting the much-deserved recognition and compensation for the unforeseen sacrifice so many have been called on to perform.

Thank you for your prompt attention and your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Betty Sutton
Betty Sutton

Frank R. Lautenberg
Frank Lautenberg

OSD 01931-09

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First District, New Hampshire

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(603) 743-4813
(603) 743-5956 (Fax)

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

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express our concern about recent reports that the Department of Defense has awarded KBR a $35.4 million contract that includes major electrical projects and request that you review the contract award and report to us explaining why the contract award was made to KBR, given its long record of deficient electrical work in Iraq.

As you are aware, KBR has held a contract for building maintenance for U.S. military facilities in Iraq since 2003. During this time, there have been numerous investigations into the dangers KBR's faulty electrical work is creating for our military personnel. The Department of Defense Inspector General is currently investigating the electrocution deaths of 18 Americans (16 soldiers and 2 contractors) in KBR-maintained facilities. KBR is under criminal investigation for the electrocution deaths of several U.S. soldiers in Iraq. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform conducted an in-depth investigation into the problem of electrocutions in U.S. facilities in Iraq and the death of Staff Sgt. Ryan Maseth, 24, a decorated Green Beret electrocuted in his shower on January 2, 2008. The Committee's investigation showed that KBR was alerted to the deficiencies in this and other cases, but failed to take corrective action. In 2008, the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) issued a "Level III Corrective Action Request" to KBR, indicating that the contractor was in "serious non-compliance." This action request, the final warning before a contract is terminated, points to KBR's continuing failure to ensure electrical safety for our troops. With this history, it is not surprising that Capt. David J. Graff, commander of the DCMA's International Division, was quoted in an Associated Press article, stating that "many within DOD have lost or are losing all remaining confidence in KBR's ability to successfully and repeatedly perform the required electrical support services mission in Iraq."

Despite these serious, ongoing concerns, the Department of Defense has awarded KBR a new contract that includes the type of work that KBR failed to perform adequately for years. Threats to the safety and lives of soldiers or others because of known hazards and negligent performance of work are not acceptable.

OSD 02173-09

We would therefore appreciate a thorough review of the recent contract award to KBR. At the very least, when our soldiers put their lives on the line for us in a war zone, we not only owe them the assurance that they will not be electrocuted in the shower on their return from a mission, but also that those who provide them with services put our soldiers' safety ahead of their profits.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jan Schakowsky

Eric Farm

Betty McCollum

Charlie Wilson

John B Larson

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 6, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates

Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates,

We write today concerning Section 256 of the FY 2009 National Defense Authorization Act (PL 110-417). As you know, this section requires the establishment of an executive agent to oversee Department of Defense (DOD) activities related to printed circuit board technologies. We would like to request that the DOD comply with the law and provide a brief at your earliest convenience on department planning and implementation of executive agent requirements.

Specifically, we are interested in learning about how the DOD plans to go through the executive agent selection process, as well as where and when its office will be established. What authorities, resources and responsibilities in addition to what the legislation prescribes will the executive agent have? How and when will the office be funded and fully operational? By statute, designation was to have occurred by Jan 12. Why was that delayed?

It is our understanding that the National Research Council's Board on Manufacturing and Engineering Design studied the issue of DOD access to legacy and future generations of printed circuit board technologies to support defense and other missions. The resulting 2005 report made a series of recommendations designed to ensure continued DOD access to printed circuit board technology and enable the development of new capabilities needed to support emerging requirements.

In March 2008, a Principal Response Team convened by the Navy and Defense Logistics Agency, and consisting of membership from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Agency, the military services, and the Departments of State and Energy, reported to Congress that 'DOD concurs with comments on all NRC recommendations,' and identified current and potential actions to address each one.

Therefore, we believe that it is critical that an executive agent be established quickly to monitor and protect issues related to the U.S. printed circuit board industry. Safeguarding the technology and manufacturing capabilities of printed circuit boards will protect our national interests today and in the future. We strongly urge you to ensure that this office

OSD 02411-09

have access to start up funding in FY09 so that it can be fully operational as soon as possible.

We also encourage you to use the expertise already in place at Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Crane Division when you designate the executive agent for printed circuit board technologies. As you know, NSWC Crane has a long history of success in the printed circuit board field. It is one of the few facilities in the country that has printed circuit board engineering and manufacturing capabilities. Crane's state-of-the-art manufacturing ability is supported by a superb technical staff that supports advanced manufacturing and emerging technology development. Crane also serves as the DOD executor to the Emerging/Critical Interconnection Technology (E/CIT) program for the advancement of printed circuit board technology and processes.

We have long supported this project and urge you to tap into this wealth of experience and knowledge as you select the executive agent and develop this office.

Please do not hesitate to contact Jon Davey of Senator Bayh's staff (202-224-8726), Joe O'Donnell of Senator Lugar's staff (202-224-0898), or Jed D'Ercole of Congressman Ellsworth's staff (202-225-4638) if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued service. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Evan Bayh
United States Senator

Richard Lugar
United States Senator

Brad Ellsworth
United States Representative

1000598

BOB FILNER
51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
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January 22, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing regarding the Iraqi plans to shut down Camp Ashraf in Iraq's Diyala Province. The closing of this camp is a blatant violation of the rights of the residents of Ashraf.

Many distinguished scholars of International Humanitarian Law, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Office of the United High Commissioner for Human Rights, International Committee of the Red Cross, Amnesty International, the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe have time and again underscored that regardless of the status of the United States forces in Iraq, the residents of Ashraf must continue to receive the protection of the US forces so long as they remain in Iraq.

I respectfully urge intervention to ensure that the Multi-National Forces and Iraq continue to protect Camp Ashraf as they have done consistent with their obligations under international law.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/sm
2503721

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are acutely aware that the US Transportation Command and the US Air Force place a very high priority on recapitalizing the fleet of KC-135 Refueling Tankers. We agree with this priority. Unfortunately, as the Government Accountability Office concluded last year, the previous source selection process for the KC-X Tanker was deeply flawed. We write to you today to highlight several key points that we believe must guide a future source selection process if it is to be successful.

First and foremost a future competitive source selection must be fair to all parties while delivering the best value solution for the warfighter at a reasonable cost for the taxpayer. In the previous source selection, the competition was not conducted fairly on several levels. The Department of Defense (DOD) must not repeat past mistakes:

- Do not allow "competition at all costs" to distort the KC-X solicitation and source selection process. In the months leading up to the release of the final Request for Proposals (RFP) for the previous KC-X solicitation, the Air Force bent to the combination of external pressure for "competition at all costs" coupled with refusal by one potential offeror to compete unless the RFP was changed to its satisfaction. This led to last minute changes in key elements of the Combined Mating and Ranging Planning System (CMARPS) evaluation tool for the sole purpose of qualifying one offeror's proposal.

- Conduct the competition on a level playing field for all parties. In the previous KC-X competition, the Northrop Grumman/EADS team benefited from unfair advantages that derive from illegal government subsidies and waivers of regulations that apply to products produced in the United States. Specifically, the United States government has a complaint pending before the World Trade Organization (WTO) stating that the A-330 aircraft produced by EADS/Airbus benefitted from $5 billion in illegal government subsidies. Note that Section 886 of the FY2009 National Defense Authorization Act requires DOD to conduct a review of the impacts of subsidies on the aerial refueling tanker competition upon completion of the proceedings of the WTO. The KC-X competition also has highlighted the unequal treatment that American producers face when competing with products from several allied nations. Our American producers must abide by many regulations (Berry Amendment, Buy America Act, International Traffic in Arms Regulations, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and cost accounting

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OSD 02999-09

standards) that add cost for domestic products but are waived for items produced in other countries.

➢ Take into account full and accurate life-cycle costs for proposals. According to Defense Acquisition University studies, Operation and Support (O&S) costs constitute approximately 72 percent of total weapon system costs. It is imperative that these costs be a significant factor in source selection decisions, and that they be estimated properly. DOD made a serious error in the previous KC-X Tanker source selection analysis when it based estimates of Most Probable Life-Cycle Cost (MPLCC) on a 25-year interval rather than the 40-year interval that was stipulated (and approved by the JROC) as the required service life of the aircraft. Furthermore, GAO recommended that a future source selection give greater attention to the impact of fuel costs in its life-cycle cost analysis. GAO concluded that "even a small increase in the amount of fuel that is burned per hour by a particular aircraft would have a dramatic impact on the overall fuel costs." Well established commercial data shows that the Airbus A-330 aircraft consumes 24% more fuel per flight hour than does a Boeing 767 aircraft. This would result in very significant differences in operating costs.

➢ Insist that proposals fully comply with all key requirements of the solicitation. In the previous KC-X Tanker source selection evaluation, GAO concluded that in two instances the Air Force disregarded the fact that the Northrop Grumman/EADS proposal failed to comply with requirements of the solicitation. Specifically, GAO found that the Air Force "improperly made award" when it "unreasonably determined that the awardee's refusal to agree to the specific solicitation requirement that it plan and support the agency to achieve organic depot-level maintenance." GAO also concluded that "the record does not demonstrate the reasonableness of the agency's determination that the awardee's proposed aerial refueling tanker could refuel all current Air Force fixed-wing tanker-compatible receiver aircraft in accordance with current Air Force procedures, as required by the solicitation."

➢ Insist that source selection evaluation be accomplished in accordance with the evaluation plan that is established for the solicitation. GAO found that the Air Force "did not assess the relative merits of the proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria identified in the solicitation, which provided for a relative order of importance for the various technical requirements, and where the agency did not take into account the fact that one of the proposals offered to satisfy more "trade space" technical requirements than the other proposal, even though the solicitation expressly requested offerors to satisfy as many of these technical requirements as possible." Furthermore, GAO concluded that the Air Force "violated the solicitation's evaluation provision that "no consideration will be provided for exceeding [key performance parameter] KPP objectives" when it recognized as a key discriminator the fact that the awardee proposed to exceed a KPP objective relating to aerial refueling to a greater degree than the protester."

➢ Carefully consider national security impacts and industrial base impacts. Given the crucial role that air refueling plays in providing global reach for our military, DOD must carefully weigh the importance of preserving domestic design knowledge and production expertise. Furthermore, industrial base impacts must be assessed given the fragile economic conditions and weak domestic employment environment. Federal code

(10 U.S.C. 2440) requires evaluation of technology and industrial base impacts in conjunction with major defense acquisitions.

We also think that it is important to the successful progress of the KC-X Tanker acquisition that DOD commence discussions with the potential offerors. Our understanding is that for the last several months DOD has resisted discussions that would help the government and industry exchange information, ideas and perspectives. If this program is to move forward and yield a positive outcome, we recommend that DOD engage with industry.

Finally, we urge you to take the necessary time to allow the new Administration team to thoroughly consider the framework for the next source selection process. As much as the Air Force needs to begin recapitalizing the KC-135 fleet, we think it is essential that the solicitation requirements and acquisition strategy have the input and support of the new DOD leadership team that will be responsible for conducting the source selection and getting the program under way.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

NORM DICKS
Member of Congress

TODD TIAHRT
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
3E880 The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

The Honorable Dennis C. Blair
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Secretary Gates and Director Blair:

We are writing to urge you to suspend implementation of the Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System (DCIPS) and include this program in the Administration's review of the National Security Personnel System (NSPS).

We have consistently expressed concerns about the implementation of pay-for-performance systems, which would impose wholesale changes to the current federal employee system. We are deeply concerned that these systems undermine collaboration, lack transparency, do not ensure fairness, and may have an adverse impact on minorities. The implementation of these systems has caused widespread distrust and anxiety across the federal government and, in particular, among Intelligence Community employees. We note with some alarm that human resources personnel and supervisors in converting units have not received adequate training for conversions planned within the next six months.

During the campaign, President Obama indicated that he would consider either a repeal or complete overhaul of pay-for-performance systems in the Department of Defense (DOD), and this week, DOD and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that it would suspend further implementation of NSPS, pending review of this system. This review may take some time, and until it is complete, the implementation of such pay-for-performance systems like DCIPS would be premature.

We hope that you would suspend implementation of DCIPS until the Administration and Congress can properly address the future of the intelligence community's personnel systems.

We request a prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely,

Silvestre Reyes
Chairman
House Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence

Ike Skelton
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee

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OSD 03118-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As you know, last year's Department of Defense Appropriations Act provided partial funding for the third DDG-1000 and directed the Navy to budget for the remaining funding requirement in FY10. Congress expects the Navy to adhere to this direction; therefore, we write to urge your support for full funding of the DDG-1000 program in the FY10 President's budget, and request that you continue a thorough and transparent review and evaluation of the Navy's proposal to truncate the DDG-1000 program and restart DDG-51 production.

We remain very concerned about the Navy's long-term shipbuilding plan. Despite several months of Congressional and Department of Defense requests for further analysis, the Navy has yet to provide sufficient justification in support of the proposal to truncate the DDG-1000 program and restart DDG-51 production. We continue to await an in-depth comparative analysis of the DDG-51 and DDG-1000. The Navy's failure to provide such a detailed cost analysis strongly implies a lack of supporting documentation of the Navy's position and undermines our confidence in the merits of the Navy's plan to truncate the DDG-1000 program. Congress must have this information before acquiescing to a change of this magnitude.

Supporting the DDG-1000 program will enable the Navy to leverage $11 billion in already invested research and development funding. The ship has been designed with significant growth margins including power, cooling, space, and weight to enable rapid enhancements to meet evolving threats in the existing hull. We believe that continued production and delivery of DDG-1000 class destroyers is essential to the long-term stability of our shipbuilding program and the timely delivery of needed capabilities to the Navy.

With respect and appreciation, and thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy

Jack Reed

John F. Kerry

Sheldon Whitehouse

OSD 03125-09

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress

James McGovern
Member of Congress

Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

Paul Hodes
Member of Congress

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

James Langevin
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We urge you to cancel the OMB Circular A-76 privatization review of public works at the United States Army Garrison, West Point.

The A-76 program was shut down by Congress in the Omnibus Appropriations Act that the president signed into law earlier this month because of longstanding concerns. Two Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports issued last year detail how poor guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) had resulted in systematically overstated savings and understated costs as well as a disproportionately adverse impact on older, female and African-American civil servants. As GAO noted, even after eight years, A-76 proponents are still unable to "reliably assess whether competitive sourcing truly provides the best deal for the taxpayer."

Moreover, the A-76 program raises concerns about compliance with the law. The Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2009 limits multifunction OMB Circular A-76 privatization reviews, like the one of public works at West Point, to no longer than 30 months. The West Point A-76 privatization review was formally announced in September 2006, 30 months ago. However, an A-76 privatization review starts not at formal announcement -- but when preliminary planning begins, when money is first spent on hiring consultants and reassigning civil servants from their usual jobs. Indeed, this preliminary planning is actually required by the OMB Circular A-76. We understand that preliminary planning for the West Point public works privatization review actually began over seven years ago in 2002 and included at least five full-time civil servants.

We are also concerned about compliance with the provision in the fiscal year 2008 Defense Authorization bill, which forbids the Department of Defense from carrying out competitive sourcing-related direction from OMB. Less than two months after enactment, West Point tried to utilize the prohibition by petitioning the Army for relief from carrying out the public works privatization review. In its March 19, 2008 letter, the installation discussed a detailed plan for internal reengineering of its public works functions that would be "less disruptive" than the A-76 privatization review, but yet "yield efficiency and real savings," and thus be "a win-win for West Point and the West Point community." Nevertheless, this petition was rejected. Even OMB during

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OSD 03251-09

the previous administration acknowledged that the A-76 process should not be considered the exclusive process for generating efficiencies when officials in July 2008 renamed competitive sourcing, calling it "commercial management," and emphasized business process reengineering instead of contracting out.

This privatization review is already well past the 30 month limitation imposed in law, which means that the actual costs likely exceed any savings. In addition, West Point is prepared to achieve a satisfactory resolution that benefits taxpayers and the West Point community. We in Congress have already recognized the failure of OMB Circular A-76 privatization reviews by eliminating them. Today, we strongly urge you to cancel the West Point public works OMB Circular A-76 privatization review.

Sincerely,

MAURICE HINCHEY
Member of Congress

JOHN HALL
Member of Congress

RON PAUL
14TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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GALVESTON, TX 77550
(409) 766-7019

JS

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

March 16, 2009

Dear Mr. President:

We have noted with some concern your announcement that an additional 17,000 US troops would be sent to Afghanistan. As the goals of our seven year military involvement remain troublingly unclear, we urge you to reconsider such a military escalation.

If the intent is to leave behind a stable Afghanistan capable of governing itself, this military escalation may well be counterproductive. A recent study by the Carnegie Endowment has concluded that "the only meaningful way to halt the insurgency's momentum is to start withdrawing troops. The presence of foreign troops is the most important element driving the resurgence of the Taliban."

The 2001 authorization to use military force in Afghanistan allowed military action "to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States." Continuing to fight a counterinsurgency war in Afghanistan does not appear to us to be in keeping with these directives and an escalation may actually harm US security.

In a tape released in 2004, Osama bin Laden stated that al Qaeda's goal was to "bleed...America to the point of bankruptcy" in Afghanistan. He continued, "All that we have to do is to send two mujahedeen to the furthest point east to raise a piece of cloth on which is written al Qaeda, in order to make generals race there to cause America to suffer human, economic and political losses without their achieving anything of note...." We would do well to pay attention to these threats and to avoid falling into any such trap through escalation of our military presence in Afghanistan.

We are also concerned that any perceived military success in Afghanistan might create pressure to increase military activity in Pakistan. This could very well lead to dangerous destabilization in the region and would increase hostility toward the United States.

Mr. President, in reviewing the past history of Afghanistan and the nations that have failed to conquer it -- Russia spent nine years in Afghanistan and lost many billions of dollars and more than 15,000 Russian soldiers-- we urge you to reconsider the decision to send an additional 17,000 troops and to resist pressure to escalate even further.

Sincerely,

Ron Paul
Rep. Ron Paul, M.D.

Walter B. Jones
Rep. Walter B. Jones

Ed Whitfield

Neil Abercrombie

Dennis J. Kucinich

Pat Tiberi

Bob Filner

Steve Kagen MD

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Howard Coble

John Conyers

Michael McNulty

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 26, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Since the Eisenhower Administration, it has been the policy of the government that it should not compete with its citizens. That policy is outlined in the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, which governs all public-private competitions to potentially outsource work to the private sector. Originally, the A-76 process was intended to be used as a tool to determine the most competitive and efficient source for performing "commercial" work – either in the public or private sector. However, it became almost a mandate in recent years for pushing more and more work into the private sector, even work that is closely associated with inherently governmental functions, in order to meet arbitrary competition goals.

The House Armed Services Committee has taken several steps to mitigate the undue burdens on the Department of Defense. In response to a congressional mandate, the Department of Defense Inspector General reviewed the military services' A-76 programs. In its interim report (April 22, 2008) the DOD Inspector General noted that:

- *The Army is undergoing many efforts that impact competitive sourcing planning, such as Base Realignment and closure, growing the Army, and the war.*
- *The Air Force feels "pressure in the budget to conduct" privatization studies.*

These findings were reaffirmed in the final report of December 15, 2008.

Furthermore, The Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes a one year government-wide moratorium (section 737) on beginning or announcing any A-76 studies.

Many of the Department's A-76 studies have dragged on far beyond the time limits authorized in the 2003 revised Circular A-76, as well as those imposed by statute. This creates an unfair strain on the federal employees whose jobs are being competed, as well as the contractors who have submitted bids for the work. In many cases, an individual service has requested a cancellation – either because the installation is seeking an alternative approach or because the original study was not appropriate – only to be denied by the Department.

OSD 03502-09

We are aware that the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Installations and Environment) in a letter to many members of Congress, reaffirmed the competitive sourcing policy that was set in place by the 2001 President's Management Agenda; this is the same official who advocated so strongly for competitive sourcing within the Department during the Bush Administration.

In light of the President's memo (dated March 4, 2009), as well as concerns raised by the military services, we urge you to immediately halt any pending A-76 studies as well as the initiation or announcement of any A-76 study, and to rescind the 2008 competitive sourcing policy memo. This will allow the Administration and Congress time to conduct a comprehensive review of the Department's A-76 program and to determine the best course for moving forward with a sound competitive sourcing policy.

We request a prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely,

IKE SKELTON
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee

SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
Chairman
Readiness Subcommittee

IS: cg

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

March 23, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are greatly concerned by reports that the Airborne Laser (ABL) program is facing severe budget cuts or even termination in the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget proposal. The ABL is America's premier directed energy effort and represents not only a tremendous potential for our nation's warfighters, but also for maintaining America's technological edge. It is critical to the future of our national security capabilities. For these reasons, we urgently request the ABL remain a robustly funded program.

According to the Missile Defense Agency, the ABL provides a unique capability *"to detect, track, target, and destroy ballistic missiles shortly after launch during the boost-phase. Its revolutionary use of directed energy makes it unique among the United States' airborne weapon systems, with a potential to attack multiple targets at the speed of light with a range of hundreds of kilometers."*

Our military warfighters agree that the ABL is essential for addressing many of the challenges facing our nation. General B.B. Bell, the former Commander of the United States Forces Korea, wrote in 2007, *"...from a warfighter's perspective, the ABL will be an important ingredient in our much needed and required layered missile defense capability for the Korean Peninsula."* This is a legitimate capability our nation needs.

As you know, the Airborne Laser began during the Clinton administration in the face of an increasing ballistic missile threat. Since that time, the proliferation of ballistic missiles has only grown. Today, outside of Russia, China and our Western allies, there are 3,000 ballistic missiles around the world. That number is continuing to grow every year. As threats proliferate around the globe, the relevance and importance of the ABL as the nation's only fully designed boost-phase missile defense system will continue to increase.

OSD 03624-09

The ABL is performing well and is scheduled to shoot down a boosting ballistic missile by the end of the year. Should the ABL be severely under-funded or canceled, the promise of speed-of-light and extreme precision in the hands of the warfighter will disappear, as will the fragile industrial base that supports it. In short, we will have wasted the resources that have been well invested since the Clinton administration.

Again, we respectfully request your support for the Airborne Laser program.

Sincerely,

Norm Dicks
Member of Congress

Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress

Todd Akin
Member of Congress

Buck McKeon
Member of Congress

Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

In deciding how to allocate the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's funding, please give consideration to the research conducted by Bell BioEnergy, Inc of Tifton, Georgia, which is studying how to use bioengineered bacteria to convert biomass to biofuels.

Bell BioEnergy is producing renewable, domestically-produced, high-quality transportation fuels. The process it has developed will enhance America's independence from foreign oil in an environmentally sound manner through the successful conversion of non-food biomass to biofuels. Such efforts will also result in the creation of a significant number of new, green jobs.

Bell BioEnergy is presently conducting research through pilot projects conducted in collaboration with the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC) at seven military installations around the nation. The projects are located at Fort Benning, Fort Stewart, Fort Bragg, Fort Lewis, Fort Drum, Fort A.P. Hill, and the DESC facility at San Pedro, California. At each site, Bell BioEnergy is working to:

1) Perfect the waste biomass to hydrocarbon fuels process;

2) Further refine the unique bacteria used in the process;

3) Produce sufficient amounts of usable hydrocarbon fuels (natural gas, gasoline, diesel and jet) for laboratory testing;

4) Test and certify the fuels generated by the process as a "drop in fuel" that is fit for its intended purpose; and

5) Gather the engineering and scientific data necessary to design full scale production facilities.

Bell BioEnergy is seeking additional funding to complete these pilot projects. The funds would be used to 1) complete construction of the seven pilot projects, 2) perform university-level research to determine the most viable bacteria for converting biomass to hydrocarbon fuels, and 3) construct the first research laboratory dedicated to the segregation and propagation of the bacteria required to convert non-food waste biomass to biofuels.

OSD 03628-09

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Re: Bell BioEnergy Funding
March 25, 2009

It is estimated that each test facility will employ five technicians. The research laboratory would employ 25 to 50 scientists and technicians, with secondary employment of up to 400 people. These efforts would support the underlying goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which is to create jobs and help transition our economy toward clean, renewable energy.

We thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Lynn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress

Jim Marshall
Member of Congress

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-10000

Admiral Michael Mullen
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
9999 Joint Staff Pentagon
Washington, DC 20318-9999

Dear Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen:

We understand that the Air Force will be deciding soon where to base the new Global Strike Command headquarters, and we know that you have been monitoring the decision process since it began last fall. As part of our effort to inform senior defense leaders, it is our pleasure to provide you with this copy of "Why Minot," a comprehensive description of how Minot, North Dakota, meets or exceeds all Air Force Global Strike Command headquarters basing criteria. We have also sent this material to Secretary Donley, General Schwartz and General Corley.

"Why Minot" showcases the full array of benefits that the base and the city have to offer. We want to stress in particular how Minot is the only location that offers the ability to bring direct oversight to every aspect of the operational nuclear mission. Minot possesses the complete range of Air Force operational nuclear expertise – a nuclear bomber wing, an ICBM wing, and a nuclear weapons storage area. A major lesson of the past two years is that the Air Force must increase command supervision at the operational level. Standing up a new major command without doing so would be a major missed opportunity.

We also want to stress the incredible support the community of Minot offers the Air Force. Strong support by the community will pay dividends for the Air Force by helping to ease issues like the environmental assessment process and base expansion. When combined with our delegation's commitment to assisting the Air Force in its mission to restore confidence in nuclear surety and regain its reputation as the world's best nuclear steward, this support is unparalleled.

After reviewing "Why Minot," we believe you too will agree that Minot is indeed the best location for Global Strike Command! Thank you as always for your service.

Sincerely,

KENT CONRAD
U.S. Senate

BYRON DORGAN
U.S. Senate

EARL POMEROY
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03681-09

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
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KENDRICK B. MEEK, FLORIDA
KATHY CASTOR, FLORIDA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

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DOUG LAMBORN, COLORADO

ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

Given the Department's experience with the initial F-15 and F-16 engine program beginning in the late 1970s, early on in the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program, beginning in 1996, Congress directed that an alternate engine be included within the JSF program.

The Department supported and budgeted for the alternate engine program within the JSF program through fiscal year 2006. Because of internal budget pressures due to cost overruns within other elements of JSF, the Department did not and has not subsequently included the alternate engine in the annual JSF budget request after fiscal year 2006.

However, in fiscal years 2007-2009, Congress added funding to continue the alternate engine. And the Department has obligated all of the alternate engine funding provided by Congress, until this year.

Given the likely future expenditure of over $100 billion in procurement and sustainment funding for JSF engines over the life of the JSF program, Congress continues to believe that competition will provide a net benefit over a single-source procurement and sustainment model. Studies done in 2007 by GAO and the Institute for Defense Analyses also support the competitive model as being a net benefit to the JSF program.

In a hearing on this issue before our Subcommittee on March 11, 2008, Undersecretary Young made the following statement concerning the execution of funds for the continued development and procurement of an alternate JSF engine: "If Congress authorizes and appropriates funds in fiscal year 2009, we will continue to execute the second source...the law requires us to obligate and expend funds, and we will certainly obey the law." Yet, the Department's Comptroller, Robert Hale, is now withholding $35 million in advance procurement funding for the alternate

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engine that needs to be released in the April-May period to avoid impacting the alternate engine schedule.

Section 213 of the fiscal year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) states that "the Secretary of Defense shall ensure the obligation and expenditure in each such fiscal year of sufficient annual amounts for the continued development and procurement of two options for the propulsion system for the Joint Strike Fighter in order to ensure the development and competitive procurement for the propulsion system for the Joint Strike Fighter." Some inside the Department have contended that funds cannot be obligated because there is no procurement for alternate engine program programmed for fiscal year 2010. Continuing to withhold funding that was authorized and appropriated for alternate engine advance procurement is unjustified. Section 213 of the fiscal year 2008 NDAA requires obligation and expenditure of alternate engine funds. And the Department's obligation of funds for F-22 advance procurement, belies any contention that obligation of funds expressly authorized by Congress is inappropriate based on what may, or may not, be in the fiscal 2010 budget request.

Commitments made to Congress by the Undersecretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics should not be allowed to be subsequently reversed by another Undersecretary. Furthermore, we request that you direct the release of the $35 million in advance procurement funding for the alternate engine.

Sincerely,

Neil Abercrombie
Chairman,
Air and Land Forces
Subcommittee

Roscoe Bartlett
Ranking Member,
Air and Land Forces
Subcommittee

E. BENJAMIN NELSON
NEBRASKA

720 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-6551
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United States Senate

April 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On April 2, 2009, the U.S. Air Force announced that it had chosen Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana as the location of the new Global Strike Command to oversee the Air Force's nuclear operations. In press reports announcing this decision, I was greatly concerned to see allegations by a member of the Nebraska Congressional delegation that military commanders have asserted that politics play a role in the decision of the location of major new commands.

Yet the *Omaha World-Herald* reported on April 3, 2009, that "Rep. Lee Terry said that while military commanders maintain publicly that politics are not involved in such decisions, they concede in private that politics do play a role. Terry said those politics occur primarily at the Senate level." This is a very serious allegation which I believe merits serious consideration and a response by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). I am greatly concerned by any accusation that DoD chose Barksdale Air Force Base as the location of the Global Strike Command based on political considerations, particularly those in the Senate, rather than an objective evaluation of the qualifications of the bases. Such allegations, if left unaddressed, seriously undermine the credibility and integrity of our armed services and the men and women who serve to keep our nation secure.

I ask you to immediately investigate and report on the allegations by Congressman Terry as reported in the *Omaha World-Herald* that military commanders are basing their decisions on politics, in part in or in whole, rather than the interests of DoD and the security of our nation.

Since Congressman Terry provided no specifics to back up his allegations, some could choose to discount them as baseless. However, since Offutt Air Force Base scored highest overall of all the bases under consideration in the criteria used, and rated the highest or tied for the highest in all six individual subcategories, it is difficult to explain why Offutt was not selected and to argue that politics was not the basis for this decision.

The longer such an allegation goes unaddressed, the greater the appearance of plausibility becomes. Therefore, I am requesting an immediate and thorough investigation of this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

EBN:ceg

cc: The Honorable Barack Obama

OSD 03788-09

440 NORTH 8TH STREET
SUITE 120
LINCOLN, NE 68508
(402) 441-4600
FAX: (402) 476-8753

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
POST OFFICE BOX 2105
KEARNEY, NE 68848
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FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
POST OFFICE BOX 1472
SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69363
(308) 631-7614

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
POST OFFICE BOX 791
SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE 68776
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7602 PACIFIC STREET
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OMAHA, NE 68114
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FAX: (402) 391-4725

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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

March 30, 2009

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are concerned that veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan may be ill, and some may have actually died, as a result of exposure to dangerous toxins produced by burn pits used to destroy waste. The *Military Times* reports that scores of returning veterans who were exposed to burn pits display similar symptoms: chronic bronchitis, asthma, sleep apnea, chronic coughs, and allergy-like symptoms. Several also have cited heart problems, lymphoma, and leukemia. We write to request that you direct relevant DoD personnel to fully comply with the VA's requests for information needed to study the impact of these potential environmental exposures.

Our experience with treating illnesses caused by Agent Orange and Gulf War Illness taught us that we must be vigilant in monitoring and treating our veterans long after they have returned from the battlefield. Although the Department of Defense currently maintains that there are no health dangers to troops from exposure to burn pits, we believe it is premature to dismiss concerns raised about burn pits after only a few years.

As you know, a joint study of the burn pit at Balad Air Base found that toxins were present, including carcinogens such as dioxin, but that they did not exceed military exposure guidelines for those exposed to the fumes for one year. The Defense Health Board reviewed the study last year. While the Board found that the study was generally adequate, it identified several weaknesses in the study, including the lack of a comprehensive analysis of the interaction of various toxins and the failure to conduct a valid study of relevant health records. It identified several ways in which the Army could improve its examination of dioxin serum sampling and analysis of respiratory illnesses.

Independent scientists who have reviewed the joint study of the Balad Air Base have informed us that there is a significant danger that veterans may become ill as a result of exposure to fumes emanating from such burn pits. They also noted that the underlying data supporting the study was not included and that it will be difficult to ascertain the potential health care implications of exposure to the fumes without this data.

For this reason, we request that you make this underlying data available to our staff and to the Government Accountability Office for its review, in a classified setting if required.

Meanwhile, the real indicators of the dangers to veterans are the long-term health measures of those exposed rather than less reliable environmental reports. Therefore, the study of those known to be exposed by burn pits should be the primary focus.

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Responding to a recent Congressional request along these lines, Veterans Affairs Secretary Shinseki gave assurance that he is taking seriously our concerns about the dangers of burn pits. In the enclosed message, Secretary Shinseki committed to take the following actions which relate to the Department of Defense:

1. VA scientists have begun health studies on veterans of the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, including requesting assistance from the Department of Defense (DoD) for troop exposure and location data.
2. VA is working with DoD to obtain all relevant exposure data with the goal of establishing potential correlations with health problems among affected veterans. To this end, VA has established a data sharing agreement with DoD that grants access to this data for separated veterans. VA scientists will also review data gathered from DoD's Post Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA) surveys, which ask about exposures to smoke from burn pits, subsequent symptoms, and a variety of other health related questions.

Since time is of the essence and the lives of our troops and veterans are at stake, we are requesting your expressed commitment that the Pentagon will fully cooperate with the VA in this matter so that these analyses can be completed as quickly and accurately as possible. We also request that you direct the relevant Department of Defense offices to fully cooperate with the VA's studies.

Thank you for your attention and assistance in this matter.

Senator Russ Feingold

Senator Evan Bayh

Senator Ron Wyden

Representative Tim Bishop

Representative Steve Cohen

Representative John Hall

Representative Maurice Hinchey

Representative Carol Shea-Porter

100351

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

In two weeks the United States will mark the sixth anniversary of the launch of the preemptive war and occupation of Iraq. Like you, we, the undersigned Members of Congress, opposed the war and occupation from the start and have spent the last several years working to extricate the United States from this quagmire. We believe that ending the war and occupation in Iraq means redeploying all troops and all military contractors out of Iraq. It also means leaving behind no permanent bases and renouncing any claims upon Iraqi oil.

The policy you announced last week in your speech at Camp Lejeune regarding the redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq is a hopeful sign that the end of the war and occupation in Iraq is in sight. We believe, however, that even more can and should be done to hasten the day when all U.S. troops and military contractors are redeployed out of Iraq and reunited with their families and loved ones.

Specifically, while we welcome your embrace of a withdrawal timeline and your commitment to the American people that all combat troops will be withdrawn from Iraq by August 31, 2010, we are concerned that the plan you announced contemplates leaving up to 50,000 U.S. troops in Iraq- nearly as large as the force deployed in South Korea during the height of the cold war.

Accordingly, it would be extremely helpful to us, other members of Congress, and the public if you would address the following questions:

1. What factors will be used to determine the size of the reserve force to be left in Iraq?
2. What role do you envision for the United States after combat forces are redeployed that requires nearly 50,000 U.S. troops to implement?
3. What actions have the Administration taken, or contemplates taking, to comply with the congressional prohibition against the establishment or maintenance of permanent bases in Iraq?
4. Will the role of the "transition force" be changed if violence flares back up in Iraq?
5. How does the plan address the estimated 190,000 American contractors currently stationed in Iraq?

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We believe that our nation's interests in Iraq and the region will be best advanced by reducing the size of the military footprint and making greater use of our other assets of national power, including diplomacy, reconciliation, commerce, development assistance, and humanitarian aid. We are heartened that you consider the deployment of these national assets central to a viable Iraq strategy.

We look forward to continuing our dialogue and strengthening our partnership in the pursuit of our mutual goal: ending the war and occupation and redeploying all American troops and military contractors out of Iraq and reuniting them with their families and loved ones.

Sincerely,

BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress

MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress

1003376

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

We are writing to express our strong support for resuming Operation Jump Start.

As you know, this effort deployed National Guard troops to meet our Southwest border security needs. Operation Jump Start was a tremendous success. Guardsmen built 37 miles of fence, repaired 700 miles of roadway, assisted in confiscating over 298,000 pounds of drugs, offered support in over 166,000 arrests and helped in 100 rescues. They were vital in securing the border, enhancing border infrastructure, and improving border security and agent safety.

The main reason why the National Guard was deployed under Operation Jump Start was that there were not enough resources on the border for effective security – both in the number of "eyes and ears" on the ground as well as infrastructure being built. The mission ended in July 2008.

As you know, the Mexican military's crackdown on drug cartels and corruption has increased violence and decreased stability in the region. Last year, more than 6,000 people and this year more than 1,000 have died as a result. On February 20, the State Department issued a travel alert as drug cartels are engaged in an increasingly violent conflict among themselves and the Mexican government for control of trafficking routes along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Due to the current situation in Mexico, we believe that more resources are needed to ensure additional border security. There are still significant security and infrastructure needs on the border and the National Guard should be used as an asset in this regard.

At a time when drug violence from Mexico threatens to spill over the border and expose our communities and families to the consequences, we strongly encourage you to resume Operation Jump Start. We look forward to working with you to ensure the security of our borders.

Sincerely,

Ed Royce

Brian P. Bilbray

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Sam Johnson

Howard Coble

Todd Tiahrt

Trent Franks

Gary G. Miller

Dana Rohrabacher

Bill Posey

Ken Marchant

Rodney Alexander

Sue Myrick

Cc: DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano

Signed by Representatives:

Ed Royce
Brian Bilbray
Howard Coble
Sam Johnson
Gary Miller
Trent Franks
Todd Tiahrt
Kenny Marchant
Sue Myrick
Rodney Alexander
Bill Posey
Dana Rohrabacher

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write regarding the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report addressing the listing and oversight of Superfund sites at DOD facilities, Superfund: Greater EPA Enforcement and Reporting are Needed to Enhance Cleanup at DOD Sites (GAO-09-278), urging you to rapidly take all steps necessary to remediate contaminated DOD sites.

The GAO report reached several disturbing conclusions:

- While the number of DOD sites considered for placement into the Superfund program has declined over the past decade, DOD sites still account for 9 percent of all Superfund sites.
- Despite years of negotiations, DOD and EPA have not finalized Interagency Agreements setting out the terms for clean-up of 11 of the 140 DOD Superfund sites, despite the statutory requirement to do so, reportedly because DOD disagreed with the terms contained in the Agreement documents and simply refused to sign the documents. These sites include (1) Air Force Plant 44 (Tucson, AZ) (2) Andrews Air Force Base (MD) (3) Brandywine Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (MD) (4) Fort Meade (MD) (5) Hanscom Field (Bedford, MA) (6) Langley Air Force Base (VA) (7) McGuire Air Force Base (Trenton, NJ) (8) Naval Air Station Whiting Field (Milton, FL) (9) Naval Computer Telecommunication Area Administrative Master Station (Wahiawa, HI) (10) Redstone Arsenal (Huntsville, AL) and (11) Tyndall Air Force Base (Panama City, FL).
- Despite the requirement for Interagency Agreements to be signed at all federal Superfund sites, the Superfund statute (Section 120 of CERCLA) contains no enforcement mechanism that could be used if a federal agency refuses to do so. Although EPA may initiate administrative enforcement actions under other laws (such as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act) to compel DOD to clean up contaminated sites, EPA chose not to pursue enforcement actions until 2007, more than 10 years after these sites were first placed into the Superfund Program. Currently, there are EPA Administrative orders in place at 4 sites: Fort Meade (MD), McGuire Air Force Base (Trenton, NJ), Tyndall Air Force Base (Panama City, FL), and Air Force Plant 44 (Tucson, AZ).

We believe that the Department should immediately enter into the appropriate Interagency Agreements and expedite the cleanup of these sites. We request that you provide us with a detailed description of your plans to do so, including:

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- Specific timeframes for when Interagency Agreements will be signed at each of the DOD Superfund sites currently lacking them, and the status of any negotiations regarding their text, including who is participating in these negotiations.
- Milestones agreed to by EPA and DOD that are expected for inclusion in Site Management Plans for the cleanup of each of these sites;
- Any outstanding issues that may impact these schedules and milestones.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter. Please provide your response no later than close of business on Friday May 1, 2009. If you have any questions or concerns, please have your staff contact Michal Freedhoff (Rep. Markey, 52836), or Derrick Ramos (Rep. Green, 51688).

Sincerely,

Rep. Edward J. Markey

Rep. Gene Green

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As you know, the United States is currently facing a number of daunting national security challenges. With our ongoing involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as our efforts to combat terrorism, the need to recruit and retain qualified men and women for military service is greater than ever. We are writing to request that the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) be restored as a meaningful advisory body with authority to independently advise the Secretary of Defense on issues concerning military women. Doing so would be a highly effective way to quickly identify and address the obstacles to women choosing long-term careers in the armed forces, and would ensure that the U.S. military is well prepared for today's wartime realities.

DACOWITS was established in 1951 as a civilian board of individuals appointed by the Secretary of Defense for the purpose of providing advice and recommendations on matters affecting women in the armed services. For half a century, the Committee served as a vital link between the Department of Defense and the civilian community and gained a reputation for conducting valuable and highly respected analysis on integrating women into the military, making the armed services more effective overall.

Many in the security community were surprised and dismayed when the Bush administration failed to renew the Committee's charter shortly after taking office. In its place, then Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld introduced a new mandate for DACOWITS which cut members, staff, and funding, revoked the Committee's autonomy, and diluted attention to women's issues. In addition, former Secretary Rumsfeld imposed restrictions which made the Committee's military installation visits less frequent and less effective, and reduced its diversity and transparency in terms of membership selection and policies. The broader effect of these actions has been to sideline serious study of women in the military, and depriving our armed forces of an untold number of skilled and capable leaders.

Former Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Dr. David Chu publicly stated his belief that DACOWITS' work to increase the proportion of women in the

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military had "probably reached its natural limits."[1] This statement does not mesh with the abundance of studies and reports indicating that many women in the armed forces feel they are coming up against a "brass ceiling" as they struggle to rise through the ranks and demonstrate their leadership. Under its original charter, DACOWITS worked to address women's specific needs as they entered the armed forces in increasing numbers. Some of the progressive changes made as a result of DACOWITS' work include coed bootcamps, the gender "norming" of fitness standards, programs to address sexual harassment, and family friendly work policies. These institutional changes benefit both men and women, and help the U.S. military maintain its reputation as the best in the world. Whoever is appointed as the next Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness should have an in depth understanding of the need to consider the differing needs of servicemen and women, and should appreciate the demonstrated benefits of reducing gender based discrimination in the armed forces.

We believe that DACOWITS must be re-established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act with the mission to advise the Secretary of Defense on a broad range of matters relating to women in the military. Additionally, it must be restored to its former status through an increase in its membership to at least 25, to be chosen from diverse backgrounds, and this Committee should be supported with an adequate budget to carry out the analysis and data collection which has proven so valuable in the past. We are confident in your dedication to creating an enabling and supportive environment, so that our servicemen and women can reach their full potential and contribute the best of their skills and abilities to the protection of our country. The revitalization of DACOWITS would greatly facilitate this goal. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

ERIC MASSA
Member of Congress

[1] Stone, Andrea. "Women Warriors Play an Essential Role in Military." *USA TODAY*. 11 January 2002. http://www.usatoday.com/news/sep11/2002/01/10/warriors.htm. (Accessed 31 March 2009).

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to respectfully request your assistance in reinstating the National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force's *Port and Highway Interdiction* mission. This tasking was terminated nearly 8 years ago and removed from the responsibilities of the National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. We are confident this mission set is both immensely important to the national security of our country and provides outstanding training for our soldiers and airmen.

As you know, the Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO) along the US-Mexico border have become an increased threat to our country. These criminal and terrorist organizations control the avenues of approach to the U.S. and utilize these avenues to smuggle humans and illegal narcotics. These same organizations then use the lack of oversight on southbound cargo to transport money and weapons to the cartels- thus fueling the violence and destruction.

During the period of National Guard support to *Port and Highway Interdiction*, Texas guardsmen were credited with well over $1 billion dollars in drug seizures per year. Texas also laid claim to well over $27 million in cash seizures in one year alone. These statistics prove the viability and importance of having Guard men and women working the secondary search areas along the border- freeing uniformed officers to be out in front of the public.

The threat to Texas and the United States by drug trafficking organizations is clear. A holistic approach must be taken to quell the violence, death and destruction caused by these narco-terrorist organizations. Port and Highway interdiction is a critical aspect of this approach and must be reinstated immediately.

Sincerely,

Rep. John Carter (TX-31)

Rep. Sam Johnson (TX-03)

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Rep. Ralph Hall (TX-04)

Rep. Joe Barton (TX-06)

Rep. Kay Granger (TX-12)

Rep. Lamar Smith (TX-21)

Rep. John Culberson (TX-07)

Rep. Kevin Brady (TX-08)

Rep. Kenny Marchant (TX-24)

Rep. Michael McCaul (TX-10)

Rep. Michael Conaway (TX-11)

Rep. Ted Poe (TX-02)

Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX-01)

Rep. Pete Olson (TX-22)

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Funding for the Purchase of F-22s in the FY2010 Department of Defense Budget

Dear President Obama:

We are gravely concerned regarding recently announced plans to cap production of the F-22A Raptor at 187 aircraft. Simply put, this number is insufficient to meet potential threats to America and to guarantee our nation's air superiority decades into the future. Over 30 air campaign studies completed over the last 15 years have validated a requirement for far more than 187 F-22 Raptors to replace the original force of 800 F-15 A-D Eagles. The decision announced by Secretary Gates not only ignores these facts, but also the validated requirement of our very own Air Force.

Secretary Gates indicated his commitment to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter as America's 5th generation fighter jet. While the JSF is a very capable platform, it is designed for multi-role strike missions and not optimized for the air dominance missions of the F-22. Moreover, it is several years away from full scale production.

As discussed in the January 21 letter to you signed by 194 House Members, the F-22 program annually provides over $12 billion of economic activity to the national economy. As we face one of the most trying economic times in recent history it is imperative to preserve existing high paying, specialized jobs that are critical to our nation's defense. Over 25,000 Americans work for the 1,000+ suppliers in 44 states that manufacture this aircraft. Moreover, it is estimated that another 70,000 additional Americans indirectly owe their jobs to this program.

Mr. President, in light of these concerns and in consideration of the importance of the F-22 program to both American national and economic security, we strongly urge you to reconsider this decision and to certify that continued production of this vital asset is indeed in the national interest of the United States.

Sincerely,

David Scott
Member of Congress

Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress

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Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

Jim Marshall
Member of Congress

Tom Price
Member of Congress

Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Dan Boren
Member of Congress

Allen Boyd
Member of Congress

Michael Burgess
Member of Congress

John Carter
Member of Congress

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress

Dean Heller
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

Re: Funding for the Purchase of F-22s in the FY2010 Department of Defense Budget

Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress

Kendrick Meek
Member of Congress

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

Paul Broun
Member of Congress

Howard "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress

Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
JOHN SPRATT, SOUTH CAROLINA
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U.S. House of Representatives

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 29, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We wish to make you aware of an intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) program in which over $250 million has been invested, and was called an "unprecedented capability," only last October in a letter to our Chairman, by the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, but yet appears to have been orphaned by the Department of Defense.

The Air Force developed and the Marine Corps employed a turbo-prop based wide area, day-only, electro-optical surveillance system called "Angel Fire" in Iraq from September 2007 until March 2009. Four King Air 90 aircraft were used in Anbar Province. Five additional aircraft ("spiral two"), with infra-red night capability, have been funded and are planned to be delivered from July through November of this year.

Responses to inquiries from mid -- March through yesterday to the Commander, Central Command; Commander, Multi-National Forces- Iraq; Commander, International Security Assistance Force; Central Command staff; the Joint Staff; the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence; the ISR Task Force; the Air Force; the Army; the Marines and your office indicate a lack of awareness of the capability of the system; its status; and/or who has the responsibility to ultimately determine the disposition or use of the assets.

As an example, General Petraeus, signed a letter dated 17 April 2009, in response to inquiry from another Member of Congress, which indicated: "The Angel Fire system you mentioned, which was used by the Marines in Anbar Province in Iraq, was redeployed back to the States and is currently being reviewed for possible deployment to Afghanistan." In reality, well prior to 17 April, the contractor had been directed to dismantle the podded-capability on the "Angel Fire" system contract aircraft, which was "used by the Marines in Anbar Province." The first aircraft had its sensors removed last week; the second aircraft is scheduled for this week; with the remaining two aircraft to follow in the subsequent two weeks. Further, the Air Force indicated earlier this week that there is no funding or plan to use the spiral one or two "Angel Fire" assets in overseas contingency operations.

OSD 04863-09

Given your priority on making ISR available to support our troops in overseas contingency operations, the "unprecedented capability" provided by "Angel Fire" and "Angel Fire's" capability and earlier availability compared to similar systems like "Constant Hawk," which are being fully supported by the Department, the continued dismantlement of the spiral one capability and no plan for use of the spiral two capability is inexplicable.

While "Angel Fire" has operational limitations for some areas of Afghanistan, over sixty percent of recent IED activity has taken place in southern Afghanistan, where terrain elevations allow "Angel Fire" operations, as well as in most areas in Iraq.

We recommend that your Programs, Analysis, and Evaluation office examine the "Angel Fire" and "Constant Hawk" programs and provide you with a briefing, at your earliest convenience. We would appreciate your views on "Angel Fire" and the planned use and disposition of the assets of the program.

Sincerely,

Neil Abercrombie
Chairman,
Air and Land Forces
Subcommittee

Roscoe Bartlett
Ranking Member,
Air and Land Forces
Subcommittee

NA/RB: bg

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We commend you for prioritizing the development and purchase of new airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) assets and light attack aircraft. We agree with you that our warfighters in Afghanistan and Iraq require a robust mix of manned and unmanned platforms to accomplish their counterinsurgency and counterterrorism missions. Given the relevance these capabilities have across the services – as well as the continued development of your Project Liberty initiative – we hope you will organize and resource additional airborne ISR and light attack aircraft programs on a joint basis.

The urgent need to provide these capabilities to our warfighters has spawned a number of separate development efforts inside the Department of Defense. For example, for more than a year, the Navy has been assessing the capabilities of small light attack aircraft with significant ISR capabilities. The Air Force recently studied the need for a similar capability. Based on input from our commanders in the field, that study may grow into stated requirements for new assets.

Moreover, the Air National Guard (ANG) is preparing to demonstrate the capabilities of the AT-6B later this year. We have strongly supported the AT-6B research and development effort inside the ANG for the past few years, and we hope that the Navy and Air Force will reap some of the benefits of a project that appears to be maturing just at the moment such capabilities are most needed.

Based on conversations with the Navy, Air Force and Air National Guard, however, we remain concerned that efforts to develop a light attack and ISR platform remain uncoordinated. We believe DoD should develop light attack aircraft capabilities on a joint basis. Only when the services are working in a coordinated fashion can we expect to get this important capability to our warfighters efficiently and expeditiously.

We hope you agree with our recommendation, and we stand ready to work with you to fund a joint light attack aircraft program that draws together DoD's multiple and ongoing programs.

Sincerely,

Sam Brownback

Todd Tiahrt

OSD 04870-09

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
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U.S. House of Representatives

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 28, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing you today to express my concern with the cost growth and schedule delays of the Navy Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALs) program. The EMALs system is designed to replace the aircraft launching steam catapults in USS Ford class aircraft carriers with the advantages of increased catapult capacity and lower overall maintenance life cycle costs.

It is apparent that the Navy did not aggressively manage this program over the last few years. It was not until recently when the senior Navy acquisition official directed a complete program review that the full scope of the cost increases and schedule delays became known. I understand this program review evaluated alternatives, including cancelling EMALs and reverting to steam catapults for USS Ford. Such change would require a significant redesign effort for areas of the ship already designed and would delay delivery of the carrier for a least a year and perhaps as long as a year and a half. Conversely, the decision to stay with the EMALs system also contains significant technical risk and has the potential to delay carrier delivery. Testing of the fully integrated EMALs system will not begin until early this summer, yet production of the operational system must begin immediately to meet construction schedules. Any significant issues discovered during test will of necessity delay the construction of the carrier and undoubtedly cause significant cost growth.

Because the implications of the failure of this system to deliver on time are so great, and the associated cost impact to the CVN-78 contract could range in the billions of dollars, I believe this program needs additional and targeted oversight on an hour-by-hour and day-by-day basis. I also believe this additional oversight will be required for a significant period of time, perhaps as long as five years, while this system is tested, produced, delivered to the construction yard, installed, and verified.

In addition, I encourage the Navy to maintain transparent reporting to Congress on the status of EMALs. For example, although EMALs does not meet the requirements for designation

OSD 04913-09

as a major subprogram of the CVN-78 program, the Navy should consider reporting separately on EMALs in selected acquisition reports, unit cost reports, and program baselines.

It is my intention to hold an oversight hearing on this program in July. I intend to call Navy acquisition officials for this hearing but extend to you the invitation to provide a senior official from your staff to discuss risk management as this program moves forward. The focus of the hearing will be to understand what process is in place to maximize the chances of success and to alert, at the earliest time possible, the risk of failure.

Thank you for your continued service to the country.

Sincerely,

Gene Taylor

GENE TAYLOR
Chairman,
Subcommittee on Seapower
and Expeditionary Forces

cc: Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Admiral Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations
Honorable Sean Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Research Development and Acquisition

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

We write to express our deep concern about recent media reports on the Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) program. An article in The Hill, published on April 21, 2009, indicated that the JCA program will be cut in half and the remaining planes allocated to the United States Air Force in the Department of Defense's proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget. We believe that, if implemented, such cuts would be impede the ability of the United States Army, specifically the Army National Guard, to meet intra-theater lift requirements for the "last tactical mile" as well as severely constrain the Army and Air National Guard's ability to respond to a domestic disaster.

The current intra-theatre airlift capability in the U.S. Army is insufficient to meet the demands of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Army has relied on the C-23 Sherpa, an un-pressurized aircraft that cannot perform medical evacuation missions nor transport modern cargo pallets. The lack of robust airlift over the "last tactical mile" has also forced the Army to press its Chinook helicopters, themselves aging and in need of replacement, into missions the helicopter was never designed for. The 2009 Quadrennial Roles and Missions Review Report (QRM) assessed these concerns and concluded that "the option that provided the most value to the joint force was to assign the C-27J to both the Air Force and Army." The Pentagon's proposed cuts and program changes are in direct contradiction to the findings from this congressionally authorized report. The JCA will allow for more rapid delivery of larger cargo loads to shorter and more remote airstrips and help fill the logistical needs of the war fighter on the modern battlefield.

The Air National Guard also has an urgent need for the JCA to fulfill homeland security missions. The termination of the National Guard's portion of the JCA program will eliminate a critical capability in many Air National Guard units across the country that lost their flying missions during BRAC 2005. Without an adequate replacement aircraft, the Air National Guard in several states will be unable to retain personnel and skills that have taken years to cultivate. The National Guard Bureau has a promised beddown plan for the JCA in states affected by BRAC and the elimination of the program casts doubt about the future of these units. This would harm the Air National Guard's ability to respond to a domestic crisis. Whether the disaster is a hurricane or large scale terrorist attack, the JCA would allow the Air National Guard to deliver supplies to areas that would otherwise be inaccessible to fixed-wing aircraft. The National Guard has been asked to play a larger role in homeland defense and disaster recovery in recent years and the JCA will be a critical tool for the Guard in fulfilling these missions. The JCA is designed for the needs of the servicemen and women fighting on asymmetric

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battlefields and is one of the few DoD programs that is running on budget and on time. Any changes to the JCA program will risk the readiness of our Army, Air Force and National Guard to respond to the full spectrum of threats and requirements. We strongly urge you to continue with the program of record for the Joint Cargo Aircraft Program.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Cliff Stearns
United States Representative

Madeleine Bordallo
United States Representative

Ander Crenshaw
United States Representative

Ralph Hall
United States Representative

Corrine Brown
United States Representative

Ginny Brown-Waite
United States Representative

Chet Edwards
United States Representative

Dan Burton
United States Representative

Rosoce Bartlett
United States Representative

Jim Jordan
United States Representative

Jeff Miller
United States Representative

John Mica
United States Representative

Gene Taylor

Gene Taylor
United States Representative

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MIKE COFFMAN
5TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0605

April 15, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

President Obama,

As you are well aware, piracy has become a serious threat to both American and international shipping. The majority of these pirate attacks have taken place along the coastline of Somalia – a coastline the same length as the United States eastern seaboard – and in the Gulf of Aden north of Somalia.

The recent kidnapping of Captain Richard Phillips following a raid on his commercial ship, the Maersk Alabama, by Somali pirates proves more aggressive action is needed to combat piracy. The incident involving the Maersk Alabama was a spectacular show of courage, good luck, the extraordinary military skill of U.S. Special Forces and the smart decision-making by the Captain of the USS Bainbridge, Commander Frank Castellano. Unfortunately, in the future, the pirates may be unwilling to take a ship's Captain hostage to protect the safety of the crew or the crew of a merchant vessel may be unable to fight back. They were very lucky that the U.S. Navy arrived before the pirates were able to make it back to land which would have made it extremely difficult to track them down.

The piracy problem is not a law enforcement challenge because the pirates have unrestricted access to Somali port facilities and land bases that are sanctioned by the governing institutions of Somalia irrespective of how dysfunctional they are. This is a military problem and these attacks on U.S. merchant ships constitute an act of war on the United States.

A new course of action should be reviewed. Sending U.S. Warships to patrol these waters isn't enough to protect U.S. flagged merchant ships. This is an area that is 1.1 million square miles and the U.S. Navy, or any navy, has their hands full trying to protect this vital shipping lane. The placement of small detachments of U.S. Marines or sailors aboard U.S. flagged merchant ships would help bring an end to the piracy problem off of the coast of Somalia for U.S. commercial shipping. This would be a much more cost effective way of ending any advantage that the pirates have. New rules of engagement should give U.S. military personnel, assigned to U.S. merchant ships, the authority to engage any small boat if it demonstrates hostile intent when approaching a U.S. merchant ship.

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There is a precedent for using U.S. military personnel on U.S. flagged merchant vessels. During WWII, U.S. military personnel were deployed on U.S. flagged ships to provide protection. These detachments were called "The Naval Armed Guard," and were established after the 1941 repeal of the "Neutrality Act of 1936," which had outlawed the arming o U.S. merchant vessels.

It isn't necessary to talk about military operations against the pirates along the Somali coastline when we have the option to put small military detachments on board U.S. commercial ships. These raids would not only put members of our military unnecessarily at risk but there would always be the potential for collateral damage causing harm to the innocent hostages and civilians in the target areas.

Mr. President, how many sailors and Marines are available for such actions and are you willing to temporarily station military detachment on U.S. flagged merchant ships?

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Mike Coffman, M.C.

CC: The Honorable Robert Gates

100378

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As co-chairs of the 52-member bipartisan U.S.-China Working Group, we are writing in regard to recent developments within the bilateral U.S.-China relationship.

Last week, the Working Group hosted Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense David Sedney for an update on U.S.-China military-to-military relations. We are supportive of your efforts to protect U.S. Navy reconnaissance vessels and your decision to send a destroyer escort to the South China Sea. The harassment of U.S. interests by Chinese ships is a violation of international law and we applaud your decisive response.

Additionally, we urge your continued support of increased U.S. - China military-military relations. In our view, the U.S.-China diplomatic relationship will be the most important of the 21st century. Strong military-to-military connections remain instrumental in expanding and improving that relationship.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with your Administration to advance U.S.-China relations.

Sincerely,

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Mark Kirk
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Your internal budget process consists of serious deliberation on threat analysis, risk assessment and cost benefit tradeoffs in regard to budgetary decisions. This information is critical for Members of Congress and the public to know, and for this reason I am concerned about a disturbing trend of restricting budget and inspection information within the Department of Defense.

I understand that you recently asked senior officials in the Department to sign a Non-disclosure Agreement as it relates to the President's FY10 Budget proposal. While I fully understand that some of these discussions must be kept confidential, I am concerned that 1) this agreement is not strictly limited to predecisional discussions, and 2) that Congress may be excluded from oversight and engagement due to the restrictions put in place by this agreement.

Specifically, the Agreement states that, budget-related information restricted includes "[information,] **predecisional or otherwise,** concerning the Administration's deliberation of the nature and amounts of the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2010, and any supplemental budget request submitted during the current fiscal year." Can I expect a candid answer from a senior military official when I ask them about the process used to establish priorities, either now, or after the President's detailed Budget is released to the public? Members of Congress deserve candid answers from senior military officers that are not suppressed or censored--either directly, or implicitly via a culture of regulations that muzzles their independent professional judgment.

We are well aware that only the President and his staff see the full revenues and resource requirements of the United States Government, and members of his Administration are expected to implement his guidance. However, the Constitution charges Congress, not the Executive, with the mandate to raise and support armies and navies, and it grants authority to Congress to fund the budget for our defense and the other constitutional responsibilities. I am concerned that these restrictions on the deliberation of these tradeoffs are reflected in the President's Budget this year and future years severely and unnecessarily limits the Congress in these constitutional duties.

The Congress, and the Nation as a whole, can ill-afford our Nation's senior military leadership to be forced to equivocate or be pedantic in so far as their professional opinion is concerned, particularly as it relates to risk calculation and threat analysis associated with the priorities of the Department of Defense and the allocation of taxpayer dollars.

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Furthermore, I am concerned to learn that previously unclassified INSURV inspections will now be classified. It is sometimes only through the media and public awareness, as was this case with the inspections of the *USS Stout* and *USS Chosin*, that we learn of the urgent need to address some of the shortfalls the military has, including the $417 million shortfall in ship depot maintenance for this year alone. If these reports are classified, we are unable to communicate these needs to the public.

Lastly, senior Army officials abruptly withdrew from a recent hearing before the House Armed Services Air and Land Forces Subcommittee on Future Combat System. This hearing was to focus on the status of the FCS program in light of a recent GAO report that made recommendations on this system. These actions continue to contribute to the perception that the Department in not interested in engaging with Congress to determine the best possible solution. The classification of inspections and excluding Congress from budgetary discussion serve as an impediment for Congress to fulfill its constitutional responsibility to provide the necessary resources to support our national security strategy and the rest of the federal government.

More than ever, our budget needs a close look. In fact, President Obama indicated in one of his first Executive Orders concerning the Freedom of Information Act, that "A democracy requires accountability, and accountability requires transparency. As Justice Louis Brandeis wrote, 'sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants.'" We understand that most budget documents are not subject to FOIA under 5 USC 552(b)(5), and it may be timely to reconsider this exemption.

There is no more serious responsibility that President Obama, you, or we have than to ensure the security of this great Nation. We remain strong supporters of your efforts and of the candor with which you have testified before Congress. We look forward to working with you to ensure our Nation has the defense it needs. Thanks you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Howard P. Buck McKeon

Joe Wilson

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 6, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As Congress awaits the submission of the President's Fiscal Year 2010 budget request for the Department of Defense, we write to share our strong and unwavering support for the Air National Guard (ANG) units in our states that lost their flying missions through BRAC 2005.

As you know, the last BRAC round made significant changes to the lay down of aircraft within the ANG. In our six states, many units lost their flying missions – ranging from A-10s, C-130Js, and F-16s – with some losing the only flying mission stationed permanently in their state. The loss of a flying mission is a direct threat to the manpower, readiness and relevance of our ANG units and their continued ability to meet their state and federal duties.

The ANG not only serves our nation as we ask them to support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and around the world, but they also serve the local state missions. Without a permanent flying mission within the state, the ANG may lose the valuable expertise and experience our airmen provide. With the immense capability the ANG provides to our nation, we must not jeopardize the investment we've made in the ANG personnel forces.

According to the 2008 Air Force Weapon Systems Roadmap, as well as subsequent planning by the Air Force and National Guard Bureau, our six states are each expected to receive the C-27J Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA). While we welcome the assignment of a permanent flying mission to our states, we are concerned that continued debate about the organization and control of the JCA program could place the future of our ANG units at risk. We believe it is important to firmly resolve the "roles and missions" debate with regards to intra-theater lift, and move forward with a program that meets the needs of ANG states impacted in BRAC while also addressing the capability gap faced by our warfighters.

This is a pivotal year for our Air National Guard. **To this end, we look forward to the Department's strong support for the allocation of permanent flying missions to our states as part of the upcoming submission of the 2010 defense budget.**

As always, we thank you for your service to our nation and look forward to continuing to work with you to support our men and women in uniform.

OSD 05298-09

Sincerely,

Christopher Dodd
United States Senator

Joseph Lieberman
United States Senator

John Larson
United States Representative

Joseph Courtney
United States Representative

Barbara Mikulski
United States Senator

Benjamin Cardin
United States Senator

Steny Hoyer
United States Representative

Roscoe Bartlett
United States Representative

Elijah Cummings
United States Representative

Dutch Ruppersberger
United States Representative

Donna Edwards
United States Representative

Frank Kratovil
United States Representative

Carl Levin
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Mark Schauer
United States Representative

Roger Wicker
United States Senator

Gregg Harper
United States Representative

Kent Conrad
United States Senator

Byron Dorgan
United States Senator

Earl Pomeroy
United States Representative

George Voinovich
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Marcy Kaptur
United States Representative

Tim Ryan
United States Representative

Jim Jordan
United States Representative

DUNCAN HUNTER
52D DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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1002592

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

January 29, 2009

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my grave concern regarding the Medal of Honor review process and the apparent lack of living award recipients. Since you, as President of the United States, are responsible for presenting the Medal of Honor on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I respectfully request that your Administration conduct a review of this matter.

Since World War I, there have been 3,462 Medal of Honors awarded to our soldiers and sailors for distinguishing themselves "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." In World War I, 27% of Medal of Honors were awarded posthumously, in World War II, 57% and in Vietnam, 38% were posthumous awards. In Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF), 100% of all Medal of Honor awards have been posthumous. I am concerned that either knowingly or inadvertently, the Medal of Honor awards process is becoming biased to only acts of valor that result in the death of the service member.

Mr. President, only 99 Medal of Honor winners are living: 25 from World War II, 14 from Korea, and 60 from Vietnam. The last Medal of Honor awarded to a living recipient was to Michael E. Thornton for his heroic actions in Vietnam on October 31, 1972. Their stories inspire our country and provide the military services with their heritage and traditions. Having Audie Murphy, Pappy Boyington and San Diego's own John Finn living amongst us has motivated generations to greater achievements. While the integrity of the award must be preserved, the Department of Defense should also not be applying a different standard to OIF/OEF that essentially precludes the award of the Medal of Honor to living recipients.

In addition, the recent downgrading of the Medal of Honor for Marine Sgt. Rafael Peralta to the Navy Cross raises similar concerns. Despite the fact that Sgt. Peralta was nominated for the Medal of Honor by Marine Corps leadership, the award was downgraded by a panel comprised primarily of civilians that included a neurosurgeon and two pathologists. I am very

concerned that the criteria for awarding the Medal of Honor, which has been historically awarded based on eyewitness accounts, has now been replaced by modern forensic science. I firmly believe that the eyewitness accounts of the event should take precedent through the entire chain of command review process because heroic actions in combat cannot always be explained by science alone.

Again, I hope your Administration will do a thorough examination of the issues surrounding the process for awarding the Medal of Honor. The selflessness and combat heroism that is represented by the Medal of Honor must be preserved for future generations.

Sincerely,

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress

DH/vm

1004865

TOM HARKIN
IOWA

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SMALL BUSINESS

February 5, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama;

One of the great many reasons we are so thankful that you have now been sworn into office is our shared commitment to suicide prevention for veterans and those still serving in our nation's armed services. You were a true leader on the Armed Forces Suicide Prevention Act, and your leadership and help from your staff was invaluable in gaining co-sponsorship and advancing the issue in the 110th Congress.

It was truly disappointing that the Harkin/Obama amendment, based on the Armed Forces Suicide Prevention Act which we respectively authored in the Senate and House, was not included in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2009. As you may remember, one of the major obstacles to its inclusion was the formal comment we received from the Department of Defense opposing the legislation "because it would establish a legislative mandate for programs already ongoing or within the Secretary's authority to establish." The comment letter went on to say "However, the administration supports the goals of the legislation and we look forward to working with Congress to address these concerns."

We were deeply disturbed last week to receive the attached letter from the Department of Defense stating that there were 128 suicides among active duty Army soldiers in 2008, with another 15 cases pending investigation, while the total for 2007 was 115. This is the fourth year in a row that has seen a similarly dramatic increase. Clearly, the Department of Defense should have done a better job to protect the health and lives of the brave men and women who serve in our military.

We know you share our concern about our military's commitment to its personnel, and would find these needless deaths to be a senseless tragedy that could have been prevented. In order for

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1606 BRADY STREET
SUITE 323
DAVENPORT, IA 52803
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DUBUQUE, IA 52001
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320 6TH STREET
110 FEDERAL BUILDING
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101
(712) 252-1550

us to be able to continue to work together to improve mental health screenings and treatment, and to reduce the stigma of accessing such treatment, it would be helpful for you to initiate an assessment of the programs currently in place in each branch of the armed forces. It would be helpful to know more about what services are currently available, are being accessed, and what resources and structural improvements are needed to reduce the toll of suicide on active duty service members. It would be especially helpful to examine all of the reasons, both structural and situational. that the suicide rate in the Army is so much higher than that in the other branches.

As sponsors of the Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act. which was signed into law on November 5, 2007. we are pleased with recent reports from the Department of Veterans Affairs that the Omvig legislation is being fully implemented and to date the Suicide Hotline has received over 101.00 calls and has been credited with over 2.600 rescues. It is now time to ensure that our service members of the Armed Forces have similar protections.

Thank you for your partnership on this critically important issue. We look forward to working with you on this in the future, and hope that we can improve on the dismal record of the past administration in this regard.

Sincerely,

Tom Harkin
United States Senator

Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress

1004899

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We request that you include funding for the Joint Strike Fighter alternate engine in your budget for fiscal year 2010. Competition within any market is understood to yield products of a higher quality at a lower price. With the continued development of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) as our nation's sole air superiority aircraft, it is essential that the components used within the platform are highly reliable. It is with the spirit of competition that we request full funding for the research, development, testing, evaluation and procurement of an alternate engine that may be interchanged with the currently contracted propulsion system.

Strong bipartisan support within Congress has invested approximately $2.5 billion since fiscal year 1995 into an alternate engine for the JSF. Since 2006, the Department of Defense (DOD) has repeatedly attempted to cancel funding for the JSF alternate engine program, contrary to both congressional intent and enacted legislation. The shortsightedness of the budgetary requests by the DOD, fail to recognize the long-term benefits and cost savings that are widely projected with the development of a competitive propulsion system. Following the "Great Engine War," the United States Air Force continues to use engines for the F-16 Falcon that have been built and perfected through direct competition by both Pratt and Whitney and General Electric.

It would be prudent for the DOD to revisit the current contract for the JSF propulsion system to address questions of operational risk, cost savings, responsible government action, and relations with key allies. This is especially true now that General Electric and Rolls-Royce have offered to negotiate the remaining development and future production of the alternate engine on fixed price terms.

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Unlike other recent attempts to renegotiate defense contracts, it is proposed that a new agreement be settled to develop and then fund engines for the JSF by both Pratt and Whitney and the General Electric/Rolls-Royce team. As the DOD continues to perfect its acquisition and contracting procedures, we strongly urge that you include funding for the JSF alternate propulsion system within the Presidential Budget request to the Congress.

Sincerely,

Representative Steve Driehaus, (OH-01)

Representative John Boehner, (OH-08)

Representative Jean Schmidt, (OH-02)

Representative Steven LaTourette, (OH-14)

Representative Geoff Davis, (KY-04)

Representative Robert Latta, (OH-05)

Representative Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11)

Representative Steve Austria, (OH-07)

Representative Tim Ryan (OH-17)

Representative Charles Wilson (OH-06)

Representative Marcy Kaptur, (OH-09)

Representative Michael Turner, (OH-03)

Representative Mary Jo Kilroy, (OH-15)

Representative Betty Sutton, (OH-13)

Representative Brad Ellsworth, (IN-08)

Representative Zachary Space, (OH-08)

Representative Mary Fallin, (OK-05)

Representative Bobby Scott, (VA-03)

Representative Joe Wilson, (SC-02)

Representative Jim Jordan, (OH-04)

Representative André Carson, (IN-07)

Representative Steven Rothman, (NJ-09)

Representative John Boccieri, (OH-16)

Representative Steve Buyer, (IN-04)

1004362

BILL SHUSTER
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3809

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COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

RURAL HEALTH CARE COALITION

CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

April 7, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Obama,

Following the testimony of General Duncan J. McNabb, USAF, Commander of the United States Transportation Command before the Senate Armed Services Committee on March 17, 2009, I urge you to carefully consider the strategic use of Azerbaijan, and specifically the airfield at Baku, as a staging point for United States distribution, cargo handling, and refueling services.

As the Co-Chairman of the Azerbaijan Caucus, my colleagues and I have spent a great deal of time building ties with Azerbaijan, and I believe Azerbaijan offers a safe, secure and strategically valuable alternative to support our movements into Afghanistan. Azerbaijan has been a coalition partner in our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, has supported our requests for assistance, and has been a strong partner in the war on terrorism.

From an ease of operations standpoint, Azerbaijan offers a large state-of-the-art handling facility in Baku with significant available capacity and an air route across the Caspian Sea and Turkmenistan's airspace directly into Afghanistan. Utilizing this corridor avoids Iranian airspace all together and offers a very short flight time into Afghanistan.

Currently, I understand problems have emerged shipping cargo through Dubai and throughout other hubs in the region. With an influx of cargo and personnel needed to support efforts in Afghanistan, I also understand that Azerbaijan may offer better flight times, the Baku airfield may offer greater command and control, is less congested allowing cargo to get into Theatre more quickly, offers competitive pricing, and has a domestic commercial fleet of aircraft to supplement our efforts.

I urge you to work with the Department of Defense and the State Department to fully examine the benefits operations in Azerbaijan would have as we increase our focus on Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

Bill Shuster

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
Secretary of Defense Robert Gates
General Duncan McNabb, USAF, United States Transportation Command

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FAX: (717) 264–0269

1003646

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Urge Expeditious Replacement of Aged Aerial Refueling Tanker Fleet

Dear President Obama:

We write to urge that there be no further delays in moving forward with a new fleet of aerial refueling tankers. The KC-135 aircraft fleet, which performs the critical air refueling mission around the world, has been in service since the late 1950s. The old, outdated KC-135 fleet costs taxpayers an enormous amount in ongoing maintenance costs. Such older aircraft, with the attendant safety and efficiency issues, complicate the mission of the brave men and women devoted to air refueling.

MacDill Air Force Base is a mainstay of both our congressional districts. It is home to the 6th Air Mobility Wing (AMW) and a tanker fleet that provides refueling power around the world for our military. However, the men and women making this task look easy are doing so with these KC-135 aircraft which range in age from the late 1950s to the mid 1960s. While the 6th Maintenance Group is doing great work keeping 50- year-old tankers in the air, we are concerned that the age of the tankers adversely impacts the nation's security interests, is a growing safety concern for service members on refueling missions, and is costing taxpayers money due to continued and extensive maintenance.

We understand that the Department of Defense is currently weighing the options for budget offsets as it crafts the 2010 Defense budget request. However, we respectfully urge that you not delay replacement of the tanker fleet. It already has been delayed long enough. The men and women who fly these aircraft, their families and those who rely upon the refueling mission support depend upon our leadership in providing safe and modern equipment.

We look forward to working with you on this issue, and are confident that you and your staff will work to identify a workable solution for tanker procurement.

Sincerely,

C.W. Bill Young
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

cc: Col. Lawrence Martin, Commander, 6th AMW
Gen. Arthur Lichte, Commander, Air Mobility Command

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

It has recently come to our attention that service members returning from deployment have indicated they were allocated only two liters of bottled drinking water per day, and were forced to find additional water for themselves. It is our understanding that this was not an isolated event and service members stationed across Iraq during various phases of the war have reported the problems.

The Army minimum to avoid dehydration can reach as high as 15 liters per day to prevent heat casualties in desert climates. As a result of the bottled water drinking shortages, these same service members indicate at other times they were forced to "improvise" to avoid dehydration by drinking potable and nonpotable bulk water. As you know, questions on the quality of bulk water still remain, and it is not authorized for drinking in Iraq. However, the soldiers indicate consumption of this water was necessary to avoid dehydration and are now experiencing short term and long term health effects of illnesses associated with drinking unclean water.

Many of us have visited Iraq and we are all well aware of the extreme conditions our troops stationed there face. We are dismayed to hear these accounts and believe the health and safety of our service members must be a priority and taken seriously. Therefore, we respectfully request that you investigate these water shortage claims immediately and provide the finding to our staff for review.

Sincerely,

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Solomon Ortiz
Member of Congress

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Ron Paul
Member of Congress

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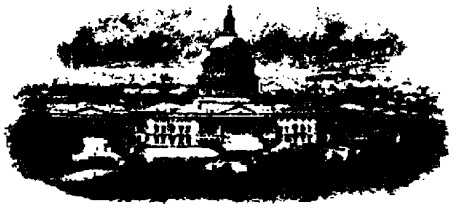
OSD 05657-09

DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA
WASHINGTON OFFICE
2111 RAYBURN BUILDING
TELEPHONE 202-225-5765



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

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

May 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

A recent Federal Circuit Court decision in Rothe Development Corp. v. U.S. Department of Justice held that 10 U.S.C. 2323 is unconstitutional on its face, resulting in a complete injunction of that statute, which provides certain Department of Defense contracting preferences for small disadvantaged businesses. This judicial action is clearly limited to 10 U.S.C. 2323, but some agencies appear to believe that the Rothe case may affect small business programs and activities under other Federal statutes like the Small Business Act.

Thus we are writing to urge that the Department of Defense issue immediate clarifying guidance to all of its agencies involved in contracting with the private sector. While the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense issued an interim guidance memorandum on March 10, 2009 concerning the application of the Rothe case, the memorandum failed to explicitly address the applicability to small business programs and activities that are carried out under Federal statutes other than 10 U.S.C. 2323.

In our view, the guidance should be explicit with respect to these other programs and activities. This approach was taken by the Army Corps of Engineers in a March 9, 2009 communication to contracting personnel, stating that its Rothe guidance to cease contract activities that rely exclusively on the authority of 10 U.S.C. 2323 "DOES NOT apply to small business set-asides, HUBZone small business set-asides, 8a set-asides, service disabled veteran owned small business set-asides or Alaska Native Corporations (ANC) as these categories are governed by separate statutes that were not impacted by the [Rothe] ruling." This is precisely the kind of guidance that should be sent out deparment-wide as soon as possible.

Please let us know as soon as possible if and when the Department of Defense plans on issuing clarifying guidance that expressly addresses the small business programs and activities that are not affected by the ruling. Thank you.

OSD 05662-09

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
HTTP://DONYOUNG.HOUSE.GOV

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907-271-5978

101 12TH AVENUE
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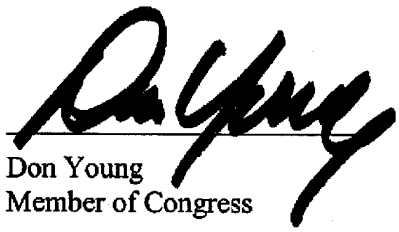
612 W. WILLOUGHBY AVENUE, SUITE B
P.O. BOX 21247
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802
907-586-7400

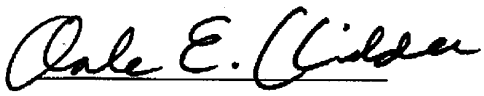
CALL TOLL-FREE
1-866-990-5979

Sincerely,

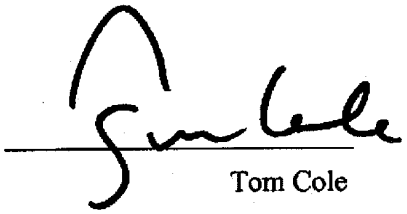


Don Young
Member of Congress

Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress

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Parker Griffith, M.D.
Congress of the United States
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Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674
256-381-3450

http://griffith.house.gov

May 15, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We have serious objections to the stop work order issued May 11, 2009 for the Kinetic Energy Interceptors (KEI) program. This decision is without justification.

Overall, we are concerned with the handling of the May 7, 2009 Kinetic Energy Interceptor termination announcement. KEI was noticeably absent in an April press conference that outlined Department of Defense program cancellations and restructures. However, it was rolled out as a cancellation during the May 7, 2009 FY10 President's Budget briefing and quickly followed by a Missile Defense Agency stop work on May 11, 2009, with the goal of de-staffing the program by the end of June. This surprise announcement and immediate stop work notice has precluded any meaningful discussion between the Congress and the Department on the merits of the cancellation and the resulting impacts to the nation.

In partnership with the Department of Defense, Congress has supported the requested budgets for the KEI program. In past years, Congress went beyond what was requested, and provided the Department with additional dollars to accelerate this critical boost phase capability. In total, the Department has expended more than one billion dollars toward this effort to date, in providing the nation with a technically viable solution for boost and ascent engagement of a ballistic missile targeting our nation, deployed forces, and allies. Six years of development and testing, with most of the more than one billion of funding spent to date, was to culminate in the first booster flight in the fall of 2009 – less than five months from now. With the issuance of the stop work, the Department is walking away from this investment without the benefit of knowing what this technology has to offer.

The FY09 appropriated budget and accompanying language for the KEI program not only fully supported the requests but went further to encourage the Department to accelerate the development of this capability for the war fighter. The FY09 appropriations specifically funded continued KEI development, static tests, and the first booster flight in 2009.

OSD 05670-09

We strongly urge you to rescind the KEI stop work order and to continue toward culmination of the 2009 booster flight. We look forward to working with the Department in the FY10 budget cycle to best determine the way ahead for this vital boost and early engagement capability resident in the KEI program.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and we look forward to your prompt response and a positive resolution.

Sincerely,

Congressman Parker Griffith

Congressman Rob Bishop

Congressman Ed Pastor

Congressman Lincoln Davis

Congressman Trent Franks

Congressman Jerry Lewis

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

JUN 22 2009

The Honorable John P. Murtha
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of May 20, 2009, regarding cancellation of the Presidential Helicopter Replacement Program (VH-71). We appreciate your concerns regarding the decision to cancel the VH-71 program. On January 28, 2009, the Secretary of the Navy notified Congress that the cost growth in the VH-71 Presidential Helicopter program had breached the critical Nunn-McCurdy threshold. As a result of this, as well as the subsequent review of the program in building the President's FY 2010 budget submission, the decision was made to cancel the VH-71 program.

The VH-71 Increment 1 aircraft lacks the inherent capability necessary to meet the full operational requirements of Presidential Helicopter Replacement Program, and does not offer a cost effective long-term solution to meet the requirements of the Presidential helicopter mission.

The President's FY 2010 Budget requests funding to extend the service lives of the VH-3D and VH-60N. In total, the service life extension is currently estimated to cost about $500M over the life of the program. The cost of terminating the VH-71 prime contract is being developed by the VH-71 prime contractor and will be negotiated with the contracting officer over the coming year. This total is significantly less than the amount that would have been needed to complete development of Increment 1, procure additional Increment 1 aircraft and logistics support, and develop configuration improvements required for long term operation. Accordingly, the contracting officer has prudently implemented the cancellation decision by issuing a notice of termination.

Because there remains the need to replace the current fleet of Presidential helicopters, the Navy is preparing a plan to develop options for a Presidential helicopter replacement program. Part of that plan will include evaluation of technologies developed under the VH-71 program to identify potential benefit to other programs. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

cc:
The Honorable C. W. Bill Young
Ranking Member

OSD 05679-09

to begin in fiscal year 2011 will only disguise the immediate need, and significantly delay development. The options for potential competitors will remain much the same in 2011.

Additionally, the Administration, in its fiscal year 2010 budget request only asked for $85 million in program termination costs. The Navy, by its own admission has stated that it expects cancellation costs to approach $555 million, and would require an additional $4.4 billion to extend the life of the current aging fleet. Given these estimates, it would appear that poor business decisions are being made regarding this replacement program and that determinations are being made based on public perception.

In light of these concerns, we urge you to reconsider your decision, and commit to a Presidential helicopter fleet consisting of the currently developed Increment I aircraft.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your continued dedicated work for our nation's defense.

Sincerely,

John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

1005743

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. President:

As your Administration considers its detailed Fiscal Year 2010 budget priorities, we write to express our strong support for fully funding the Delaware River Mainstem Channel Deepening Project in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' budget.

Authorized by Congress in 1992, this project will deepen the Delaware River's main shipping channel from 40 feet to 45 feet. Deepening the main channel will make transportation more efficient and reduce costs, thus creating additional business opportunities and growing employment at the port communities along the Delaware River.

This project is both economically justified and environmentally sound. Following recommendations made by the U.S. Government Accountability Office in 2002, the Army Corps conducted a comprehensive economic reanalysis of the project which indicated that it would yield a net benefit of $1.15 for every dollar spent. An economic update in 2008 indicated a net benefit of $1.25 for every dollar spent.

Following execution of a Project Partnership Agreement in June 2008, the Army Corps performed an additional environmental assessment of existing and new information generated since the project's 1997 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. This environmental assessment, published in April 2009, concluded that changes to the project or project conditions since the 1997 SEIS will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

Accordingly, we strongly support this project and respectfully request that you prioritize it in the Fiscal Year 2010 budget for the Army Corps of Engineers. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Arlen Specter

Robert P. Casey, Jr.

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Robert A. Brady

Chaka Fattah

Allyson Y. Schwartz

Patrick J. Murphy

Joe Sestak

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
The Office of Secretary of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon Way
Room 3D921
Washington, DC 20301

We are writing to convey our support for the Army plan to assign an additional Brigade Combat Team (BCT) to the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field, Georgia. We share your expressed concern for the great hardship endured by the soldiers and their families and agree with your guiding principle to prevent the under-manning of units for combat while changing the policy on stop-loss. We believe the plan to bring the 5th BCT to Fort Stewart is in concert with the guiding principle of your statement on April 6th and will continue the progress made in revitalizing our armed forces.

Unquestionably, Fort Stewart is, for numerous strategic reasons, an ideal location for the Army to grow. But just as important it is imperative that the Army and the Department of Defense not lose sight of the issue of reliance—that state and local governments and the civic and business leaders relied on the request of the Army and the Department to be ready to accommodate these soldiers and their families. Accordingly, they have already invested about $450 million dollars in anticipation of the arrival of the BCT.

While we recognize the extensive military analysis and fiscal constraints required in determining the location of a BCT, we firmly believe that it is in the best interest of the Department of Defense to take into full account the investment at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field made by local communities long ago. The communities made these decisions by taking to heart the clear assurance from Department leaders that the BCT was coming. They responded to the Department's requests to provide the essential private sector support in advance of the arrival of the Brigade. In deciding this issue, we believe the Army and the Department must consider the extensive, good faith reliance of its partner community. The Department must live up to its commitments. It must not break its word.

The City of Hinesville, the surrounding communities, and the State of Georgia have demonstrated unwavering support for soldiers and families over many years. The area now is clearly recognized as one of the most Army-friendly installation in the U.S. Community

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OSD 06021-09

leaders have faithfully and diligently worked with the Department and the private sector to ensure that the facilities and infrastructure is ready to receive the additional brigade. To date the community's investment of about $450 million in preparation for the expected growth to include $72 million in public school projects and other public sector infrastructure investment. The State of Georgia has again expanded its acclaimed HOPE Scholarship program to further extend the access to military families for full tuition, room and board to any Georgia public college or university for students who graduate from high school with a B average.

We believe adding the 46th BCT in the Army to Fort Stewart would enhance the immediate operational effectiveness of the 3rd Infantry Division at the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field. When taking into consideration the emerging Center of Maneuver Excellence at Fort Benning and the growing presence of the BCTs at Fort Stewart, the Army has an exceptional home base in the state of Georgia to meet all mission challenges for our nation's defense. Resources are already either in place or pending final construction to swiftly accommodate the arrival of the new Brigade and their families. No other U.S installation can so effectively and quickly meet these needs. Commanders would have an Army unit with maximum adaptability and capability to meet combat requirements. Soldiers would be able to focus on their training, knowing that their families are settling into an installation and community that continues to welcome and accommodate them.

Fort Stewart's strategic location in southeast Georgia makes it easily accessible by road, rail and sea. Hunter Army Air Field provides a strategic Airborne Point of Entry for unit deployment. Movement to ports takes place in hours vice days and weeks. At 280,000 acres, Fort Stewart is the largest military installation east of the Mississippi River. The Army has invested some $670 million at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field in the past three years making it one of the most modern and efficient installations in the nation with additional construction pending for increased capacity. Training is efficient and cost effective due to the installation's digital multipurpose range training complex and other facilities located within minutes of the cantonment areas. Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field also has no significant environmental impact or encroachment issues. Just this month Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field won its fourth Army Community of Excellence installation award.

Accordingly, it is our request that the Department continue as originally planned to expand growth at Fort Stewart through the assignment of the additional BCT without adversely affecting the alignment of the current forces stationed at Fort Stewart and Fort Benning. We urge you to meet with Fort Stewart community leaders in the near future and permit them the opportunity to directly share their views and additional information on this issue.

Thank you for your distinguished service to our nation and thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

John Barrow

Jack Kingston

Sanford Bishop

Paul Broun

Hank Johnson

Nathan Deal

John Lewis

Phil Gingrey

Jim Marshall

John Linder

David Scott

Tom Price

Lynn Westmoreland

CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

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JAMES E. CAPEL
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I commend your decision to investigate the recent fatal shooting of five service members at Camp Liberty in Iraq in order to identify shortcomings in mental health care for troops deployed in war zones.

This incident highlights not only the inherent danger to our deployed troops, even on their own bases, but the potential psychological consequences of combat stress and repeated deployments. The incident at Camp Liberty, as well as the growing incidences of suicide in the ranks, make it clear that more must be done to address the mental and psychological well-being of our men and women in uniform. The number of cases of suicide in the military has increased dramatically since the Vietnam War, reaching an all-time high of 128 cases in 2008.

I am horrified at the thought that the terrible slaughter in Iraq could easily have occurred in hometown, U.S.A. I agree with the calls for expansion of psychological testing during deployments in war zones. But I believe it is equally important to provide for intensive mandatory psychological evaluations of members of the armed forces immediately prior to separation as a precautionary step in the transition to civilian life.

As a veteran of the Korean War, I have experienced the difficulty of transitioning to the real world after a stint in combat. The situation is worse today. That is why I have introduced legislation (H.R. 1963) which would require all those separating from active duty to receive counseling in how to repackage their military skills, where and how to find employment, along with physical and psychological testing. The growing incidences of post-separation domestic violence, PTSD and suicide, demands that we do more for those who have contributed so much to our country.

I strongly urge you to expand your Camp Liberty investigation in order to determine the need for this universal mandatory approach. It seems clear to me that dealing with the difficulties of earning a living in a shrinking economy is increasingly fraught with uncertainty and stress, such as we've never seen before.

OSD 06095-09

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Mr. Secretary, with full appreciation for your commitment to the welfare of our troops, I am prepared to work with you, Chairman Ike Skelton, and Chairman John Murtha to find ways to address these issues.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means

CBR/krj
Enclosure:
cc: Hon. Ike Skelton, Chairman, Armed Service Committee
Hon. John Murtha, Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense

Great dinner meeting. Call me if I can be of help

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U.S. House of Representatives

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

May 21, 2009

Hon. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express our concern about the Department of Defense Health Information Technology (Health IT) systems. The committee has long expressed concern about how the department has managed its Health IT systems, and recent events have only deepened those fears.

A joint hearing on the Department of Defense Health IT systems was held on March 24, 2009, by the subcommittee on Military Personnel, with oversight responsibility for the Military Health System, and the subcommittee on Terrorism and Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, with oversight responsibility for Department of Defense Information Technology programs. At that hearing, we heard from the military services about the difficulties they have encountered with Health IT systems, specifically problems with the system known as AHLTA. We were encouraged that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and his staff agreed that there are serious problems with the Health IT systems. We were further encouraged when they presented what appeared to be an ambitious and comprehensive plan to overhaul the system that would address all of the issues raised by the services and would provide the best Health IT system possible for the department's beneficiaries.

At that hearing, we were assured that the Department was committed to moving forward with their proposed solution, but that cost details could not be discussed because both the Fiscal Year 2009 supplemental request and the Fiscal Year 2010 budget request were still in preparation.

During our review of the Fiscal Year 2010 budget justification materials, we were surprised to find no mention of the plan referenced by Health Affairs during the March hearing. Further, a review of the Fiscal Year 2009 supplemental request did not turn up any mention of the proposed solution. Most recently, in testimony during the May 15, 2009, hearing on the

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Defense Health Program budget, the Acting Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the Chief Information Officer failed to provide any additional insight into the cost of the proposed solution.

We find this troubling. It calls into question the ability of the department to deliver on the commitments made by Health Affairs during the March hearing, as well as the promise of a Joint Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record recently announced by you and Secretary Shinseki, at least for health information. We therefore respectfully request that you look into the situation and report back to the committee with the actual status and content of any plan or strategy to improve the Department of Defense Health IT systems, as well as projected costs and a budget submission schedule. We look forward to discussing your findings.

Very truly yours,

Susan Davis
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Military Personnel

Joe Wilson
Ranking Member

Adam Smith
Chairman
Subcommittee on Terrorism
Unconventional Threats and Capabilities

Jeff Miller
Ranking Member

SD/AS/JW/JM:dk

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

June 9, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On March 23rd, I wrote to you asking you to review your Department's policy on outsourcing and suggesting that you halt A-76 studies pending the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) review of the A-76 program pending the Office of Management and Budget's review of the A-76 program. I requested a prompt reply.

I was disappointed with the response that I received on April 28th, from your former Undersecretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics which largely restated the facts contained in my letter to you. The response also stated that the "Department is reviewing the current (A-76) program". This response appears to misstate what is indeed occurring within the Defense Department and does not address my concerns.

Originally, the OMB Circular A-76 process was to be used as a tool to determine the most efficient source for performing "commercial" work – either in the public or private sector. The use of the OMB Circular A-76 process was extensively criticized by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in two 2008 reports. According to GAO, the OMB guidance for the A-76 process was flawed. As a result, there may have been inadequate tracking of costs and savings but moreover, there are serious concerns that agencies, particularly DoD, had started privatization studies in response to arbitrary targets. Moreover, the DoD Inspector General has found that an OMB error in the A-76 calculation of

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"overhead" could wrongly and unfairly result in the outsourcing of workload. However, DoD has recently used OMB A-76 to push more and more work into the private sector. Indeed, in fiscal year 2008, DoD more than doubled spending for contractor provided services compared to the amount it spent a decade ago but your Department has been unable to answer basic questions such as how many contractors and subcontractors there are and their average salaries.

To halt the continued conversion of functions to contractor performance until the Administration could conduct a thorough review of its a-76 policy, the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes a government-wide moratorium on beginning or announcing any A-76 studies. In addition, the President has announced a broader review of "...when governmental outsourcing for services is and is not appropriate..." Yet, the Defense Department is continuing to move forward with numerous public-private competition studies that were in progress before the moratorium took effect, and without further validation of estimated savings, to include converting government functions to contractors.

Therefore I once again, strongly this time, recommend that you immediately suspend all ongoing activities related to OMB Circular A-76 studies, including the conversion of functions performed by federal employees to contractor performance and I recommend that you do so for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2009.

I once again request a prompt response from you to this letter.

Respectfully,

John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

Unlike some of my Republican colleagues, I have the utmost confidence in the men and women of our armed forces to securely detain these prisoners anywhere in the nation. But I am sure you agree that Level II or Level III facilities such as Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, WPNSTA, Charleston, SC, or Fort Knox, KY are better equipped to house these prisoners. Ideally, the Guantanamo detainees will be held in appropriate locations overseas. But if that is not possible, they should be held in Level II or Level III secure facilities with excess capacity and a history of performing this kind of mission. MCB Quantico does not fit those criteria.

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia

GC/HA
cc: Secretary Robert Gates
Attorney General Eric Holder, Jr.

1006533

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May 11, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to ask that you consider immediately issuing an Executive Order barring investigations under Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) given the growing support in Congress for an outright repeal of this prejudicial law.

As you know, since DADT was implemented in 1994 more than 12,500 men and women have been discharged from military service. According to 2005 information from the Government Accountability Office, roughly 800 of those discharged were 'mission-critical' specialists, which would include intelligence analysts and linguists. Just last week, U.S. Army Lt. Dan Choi, a West Point graduate who served in the New York National Guard and is fluent in Arabic, was dismissed under DADT.

DADT is a discriminatory policy that has deprived our military of badly needed skills, talent, and experience. While our overextended military bravely fights battles on numerous fronts, we cannot afford to endure a prejudicial law that results in the dismissal of some of our best and brightest and leaves certain units shorthanded. We are critically short personnel in some of these areas.

It's also worth noting that DADT is fiscally irresponsible -- a Blue Ribbon Commission Report noted that the cost to replace and train those service members discharged between 1994 through 2003 was nearly $363 million. Twenty-six other countries, including Great Britain and Israel, have lifted their bans. It's time for the United States to do the same.

A bill to overturn DADT has been introduced in congress, and currently has 140 bipartisan cosponsors. It would replace Don't Ask Don't Tell with a policy of nondiscrimination. Because this is a sign that Congress will eventually act to overturn DADT, and because of our critical and immediate military needs, this issue should not

need to wait for an Act of Congress. Please consider issuing an Executive Order for the sake of our nation, for our military, and for those that seek to fight for our country.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel

Steve Israel

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

We write to respectfully request your attention to and engagement on a long-standing issue that relates to the unequal treatment of the U.S. territories due to a regulatory exclusion of Invitational Travel Orders (ITOs) to the territories by the services. The source of this discriminatory policy is Department of Defense Directive number 4515.12 section 5.2.3 which stipulates that "The Secretaries of the Military Departments are delegated the authority unilaterally to extend invitations for sponsored non-reimbursable non-multi-departmental travel within the 50 United States to members (other than newly elected) and employees of the Congress...". Despite the strategic importance and contribution to National Security and a significant military presence in the U.S. territories, the aforementioned directive excludes ITOs to the territories.

In the past, the Office of the Secretary of Defense has favorably resolved restrictions on non-committee Congressional staff traveling to the territories by issuing special exemptions that allowed for ITOs to the territories. The following Congressional Staff Delegations occurred as a result of this type of special exemption: U.S. Marine Corps House Liaison-organized STAFFDEL to Guam, Saipan, and Tinian in February 2002, Navy OLA-organized STAFFDEL to Guam and Hawaii in April 2003, U.S. Pacific Command-organized STAFFDEL to Guam and Hawaii in August 2006, and most recently a Navy OLA-organized STAFFDEL to Guam in April 2007.

These staff delegations provided a venue for non-committee Congressional staff to learn about our nation's military operations in the territories in a comprehensive and astute manner that would be impossible to replicate from a distance. However, several services have since requested STAFFDELs to the territories and were subsequently denied. We are concerned that current regulations are impeding the Services ability to execute and complete their missions in the territories by hindering their ability to fully inform non-committee Congressional staff.

We have attempted to work to resolve this issue with your predecessor; however, we were unable to get any traction and the discriminatory regulation remains. We hope that with your engagement and assistance, the regulatory exclusion of non-committee staff ITOs to the territories will be permanently lifted. Such a resolution would be non-discriminatory and would contribute to the Services ability to complete their missions in the territories.

We look forward to working with you and appreciate your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
Member of Congress

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Member of Congress

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OSD 07065-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Our ground forces in Iraq and Afghanistan have benefited from the development and fielding of flame resistant combat uniforms that are made of durable material that breathes well yet protects their skin from fire. In 2007, after a full competition, the Army's PEO-Soldier and USMC's PM-CIE chose a material named "Defender M" for the new uniforms. We applaud the military's efforts to challenge the US textile industry to upgrade the burn protection for soldiers to meet the threat of today's risks and environmental burdens in theater.

All of the manufacturing for the yarns, fabrics, and uniforms is done in the U.S. with over 10,000 jobs associated with making these valuable uniforms. This is a thriving U.S. manufacturing capability because of the ability to import the basic fibers not found or made here. The material's flame resistant and breathable properties offer superior protection and comfort, and they derive from imported flame resistant rayon (FR Rayon) fibers made in the EU with raw materials not found in the United States. Also, domestic rayon manufacturing is defunct, in part due to EPA regulations. Our troops, then, are benefiting from fibers that are, by necessity, imported.

Our ground forces have access to their protective uniform because of a Berry Amendment waiver allowing importation of these fibers for manufacturing into yarn, fabric and uniforms. The current five-year waiver was negotiated between the Congress and the last Administration and was included in the FY08 National Defense Authorization Act. We believe that this should be a permanent waiver, as a beneficial and life-saving material manufactured by a U.S. ally should be exempt from restrictions.

If in the future, a domestic substitute fiber that meets requirements is found, obtains permits for manufacturing, achieves sufficient capitalization for production, and is manufactured here, the companies making the material and the uniforms will quickly be able to migrate to the new fiber. Such a possibility is not foreseen in the reasonable future.

We seek your comments on the uniforms and their utility and on the merits of the waiver as we begin to deliberate a more enduring solution.

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Sincerely,

nn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress

Jo Bonner
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

Paul Broun
Member of Congress

Nathan Deal
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are requesting a briefing on the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the KC-X acquisition, prior to its release to industry.

As members of the United States House of Representatives, we are most interested in understanding the intended evaluation and criteria from the previous source selection and the rationale for those changes. In addition, we want to understand the steps the Department has taken to address the areas of concern indentified by the June 18, 2008, General Accountability Office KC-X ruling.

As you may recall, during your testimony before the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense on June 8, 2009, you stated that you would "share the draft RFP here in Congress as being a transparent process."

Mr. Secretary, we appreciate your stated commitment to move forward quickly in an open and transparent manner with this acquisition effort and look forward to your response to this request. To schedule this briefing, please contact Jon Hand with Congressman Jo Bonner at (202) 225-4931.

Sincerely,

Jo Bonner
United States Representative
First District – Alabama

Bobby Bright
United States Representative
Second District - Alabama

OSD 07706-09

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United States Representative
Third District – Alabama

Robert Aderholt
United States Representative
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Change Course, Confront Crises, Continue the Legacy

June 29, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As members of Congress, we are writing to express our concerns over the delay of the mandated Military Leadership Diversity Commission as well as the larger issue of diversity in the armed services' upper leadership.

This Commission is the fruit of numerous meetings between senior members of the armed services, the Pentagon and the Congressional Black Caucus dating back to 2007 and it remains a priority. And as you know, the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act created the Commission with the intent of having it begin its work no later than 120 days from the bill's passage. Understandably, with the change in Administration there has been some delay and only recently have certain appointments been made; however the comprehensive evaluation and assessment of the promotion, recruitment and retention policies that the Commission will undertake are of the utmost importance. As members of Congress we remain very interested in this Commission's work we ask to be kept abreast of the Commission's status as well as its findings.

In many ways the strength of our nation is in its diversity, and similarly we view diversity as an issue of national security. Diversity of experience, talents, backgrounds and capabilities provides our nation and our armed services with the widened aperture we need to deal with the many problems facing us in the future, and the Commission's work will give Congress a better idea of how to address the continuing issues hampering our senior military service members.

OSD 07739-09

We do not need to tell you of the acute underrepresentation of minority officers at the General and Flag level and given that it takes more than 25 years to grow a General or Flag Officer, change will be a slow process. We remain very interested to hear what the Office of the Secretary of Defense is doing with regards to the recruitment and the retention of minority officers as our armed services of the future should look more like the America it represents among all of its ranks.

The U.S. military has long been at the forefront of maximizing diversity in our nation, but we must continue to build on past successes. We know that the effort to build upon that diversity is a goal that we share, and we look forward to continued partnership on these issues.

Sincerely,

Hon. Kendrick B. Meek
Member of Congress

Hon. Barbara Lee
Chairwoman
Congressional Black Caucus

Hon. James E. Clyburn
House Majority Whip

Hon. Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED TENTH 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

November 19, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write to express concern about current implementation plans for the Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System (DIMHRS). We are very concerned this program has not taken into consideration all of the Army's requirements and specifically, the unique needs of the men and women of the National Guard.

Over the last few years, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has investigated and uncovered long standing problems resulting from numerous military service unique personnel and pay systems, including accurately paying military personnel on time and monitoring and tracking them to, from, and within their duty stations. In 2004, we held hearings focusing on Army Reserve and National Guard troops receiving inaccurate pay due to a lack of integration in Army personnel and pay systems, and exacerbated by the thousands of reservists deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2005 and 2006, the Committee held hearings on the financial hardships created for injured Army National Guard and Reserve soldiers due to disjointed pay and personnel offices. More recently, during our 2007-2008 hearings on issues facing wounded soldiers, Defense Department officials testified that some of the administration challenges facing wounded soldiers would be addressed under DIMHRS. During all of these hearings, we were promised that most of the administrative problems would be solved when DIMHRS was adopted.

As you know, our wait for solutions promised with the deployment of DIMHRS continues. DOD has planned five DIMHRS deployment dates for the Army alone; from the first in April 2006, to the most recent in March 2009. In 2005, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported to our Committee that DOD was not managing the DIMHRS program effectively, including defining requirements needed by each military service.

OSD 14909-08

This month, GAO reported that requirements difficulties remain, particularly with the communications between DOD and the Army. A September 12, 2008 memo from the Department of the Army, Enterprise Information Systems Program Executive Officer to Major General Darryl Scott at the Department of Defense Business Transformation Agency (BTA) lists "critical mission show stoppers" for the Army's deployment of DIMHRS and expresses concern about what will be done by BTA to "ensure a fully mission capable DIMHRS product."

On October 3, 2008, Lieutenant General Clyde A. Vaughn, Director of the Army National Guard issued a memo stating that the current development of DIMHRS "does not meet the Army National Guard's critical needs," and disappointment at a "significant lack of proven functionality to pay and account for soldiers."

Furthermore, the Adjutants General of the United States have also expressed serious concerns about major deficiencies that remain between the Army requirements and those requirements of the Army National Guard.

Unlike active duty personnel, a National Guard member can be carried in several pay categories with varying entitlements during one pay period. There also appears to be a lack of positive funds control inside and outside of the current DIMHRS configuration to account for these pay and allowances. The State Adjutants General also are worried about the transition of legacy system data into the new system that if not corrected before implementation in March 2009, would produce disastrous payment errors. The State Adjutants General also cite lack of accessibility, security, and training and support, as major issues that might prevent Army Guard soldiers from getting paid timely and accurately.

As our Committee hearings since 2003 have focused on the many problems that arise with paying Army Guard and Reserve soldiers under the old stove-piped, disjointed and paper intensive system, we are incredulous that DIMHRS does not address or solve these issues for the men and women of the National Guard.

We ask that you look into these unaddressed requirements immediately and look forward to working with you to see that these issues are addressed. The Government Accountability Office tells us that DOD estimates the cost of DIMHRS from FY98 through fiscal year FY 2009 to be approximately one billion dollars. It is imperative we get a system that addresses the needs of all our military members; not just a few.

Sincerely,

Rep. Tom Davis

Rep. Dennis Kucinich

Rep. Christopher Shays

Rep. Darrell Issa

Rep. Todd Platts

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 30, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write regarding the OMB Circular A-76 review of installation management functions under the Defense Logistics Agency Enterprise Support organization (DES). It is our understanding that the Department of Defense's Competitive Sourcing Official is disinclined to approve a request by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to undertake an internal re-engineering effort as an alternative means of ensuring workplace efficiency and cost savings.

Upon reviewing the recent concerns raised by the General Accountability Office regarding the level of savings achieved under OMB Circular A-76, and the information provided to our offices regarding DLA's alternate approach, it appears the latter offers a viable alternative that would result in savings more quickly.

Given our mutual interest in ensuring the DES mission is accomplished in an efficient and cost-effective manner, we respectfully request the Department to give all due consideration to the internal re-engineering effort developed by DLA.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

George V. Voinovich
Jim Webb
Sherrod Brown
Bob Casey, Jr.
Jon Tester
Mark R. Warner
Daniel K. Akaka
Susan M. Collins

OSD 01166-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 2, 2009

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

Admiral Mike Mullen
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
9999 The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20318-9999

Dear Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen:

We appreciate the directed focus you have brought to the National Guard and Reserves through recent directives, personnel decisions, and other actions. In our September 26, 2008 letter, we asked you to look at the issue of transparency and accountability in the purchase and distribution of equipment for the National Guard and Reserves. We would appreciate an update on the Department's efforts to resolve these challenges, which have prevented equipment slated for the reserve components from actually entering Guard and Reserves inventories.

We have received a number of interim responses, including letters that referred our inquiry to the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and, later, to the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. We look forward to a more detailed response on how the Department actually plans to account for the appropriated dollars provided for National Guard and Reserve equipment.

Given its constitutional authority and paramount responsibility to the American people, Congress has a deep interest in full financial transparency. Establishing a budget and execution plan that provides transparency and accountability of Guard and Reserve equipment funding is also a key recommendation of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves. We understand that that the Department of Defense acknowledges the need for corrective action.

We would appreciate an update on the Department's plans to ensure greater accountability for National Guard and Reserve equipment. In particular, please advise on the status of evaluating the viability of such proposals as delineating Guard and Reserve funding requests within the Services' annual procurement requests or Congress creating a separate appropriation for National Guard and Reserve equipment requirements.

Thank you again for recognizing the importance of this issue and working with the Congress toward a sensible resolution.

Sincerely,

Patrick Leahy

PATRICK LEAHY
Co-Chair
U.S. Senate National Guard Caucus

Kit Bond

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND
Co-Chair
U.S. Senate National Guard Caucus

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DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA
SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE
RICHARD D. DEBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 2, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your letter of January 27, regarding the Department's use of retired military officers as "surrogates" to make the former Administration's case in the media. As you indicate in your letter, the Inspector General found no improper or illegal activities on the part of the Department's Public Affairs personnel and concluded that information briefings provided to retired military officers did not violate legal prohibitions against the use of appropriated funds for publicity or propaganda purposes.

However, the Inspector General also found that the Department excluded a retired General from further participation in the program because of his comments critical of the conduct of the Iraq war. The report also confirms that a senior DOD Public Affairs official sent an e-mail urging the Department to cultivate a core group of "reliably friendly" retired military analysts "that we can count on to carry our water." I do not think it should be acceptable for DOD officials to cut off outside commentators who express critical opinions, or to use access to information to reward political allies in the press. If this conduct is not illegal or improper under existing law or regulations, I believe that those laws and regulations need to be changed. I would appreciate if you would review the applicable laws and regulations and get back to me with your views.

Also, while the report finds insufficient evidence to determine that any contractor received a competitive advantage as a result of its ties to retired military analysts, the report fails to assess whether the retired military analysts themselves obtained financial benefits from contractors as a result of their favorable access to DOD information and officials. The report also concludes that it was appropriate for the Department to employ a contractor to ensure that the commentary of retired

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military analysts "reflected accurate information." However, the purpose of the contract, as detailed in the report, was not to determine whether the commentary was "accurate", but rather whether it was favorable – i.e., to determine "how coverage reflects or fails to reflect DoD stated policies or views (as expressed by its spokespeople and other representatives)." The report fails to assess whether it was appropriate to hire an outside contractor to determine which analysts were most supportive of Administration views.

I would appreciate if you would task the Inspector General to conduct an additional review and analysis to address these issues.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary
The Department of Defense
1100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1100

by whom?

Dear Deputy Secretary Lynn:

Recently, we were informed that the Department of Defense is considering postponing again the acquisition of a new Air Force aerial refueling tanker. As the co-Chairmen of the Senate Tanker Caucus, we believe that any additional postponement of the tanker re-capitalization program will have a serious and unnecessary adverse effect on our service members' ability to carry out the National Military Strategy. Accordingly, we recommend that the Department recommence the aerial refueling tanker competition on an expedited basis.

As you know, the Senate Tanker Caucus is a bipartisan organization whose purpose is to assist the Department in efficiently procuring whichever aircraft best meets the requirements of our National Military Strategy and provides the best value to the taxpayer. The Caucus has not, and will not, take a position supporting any particular bidder in the competition for procurement of a replacement tanker. However, the failure of recent efforts to procure a new tanker has been disconcerting to members of the Caucus.

The ability of our nation to continue to project aerial power worldwide depends on our tanker fleet. The backbone of this fleet is the KC-135, which is rapidly approaching its 50th year in service. As I am sure you agree, continuing to rely upon these aircraft for decades to come poses an unacceptable risk not only to our nation's unique global reach capability, but to our most valuable asset, our men and women in uniform.

Therefore, we respectfully recommend that the Department resume the competition to select a new aerial refueling tanker as soon as possible. We also request that our respective staffs be briefed, in a timely manner, on the Department's plans.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kent Conrad
United States Senator

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

OSD 02620-09

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 12, 2009

Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A critical element of our strategy for success in Afghanistan must be enabling Afghan forces to take responsibility for the security of their own country. We applaud the decision to increase the size of the Afghan National Army (ANA) to 134,000 soldiers, though the force level may well require additional growth in order to meet Afghanistan's security needs over the long term.

The United States and its allies need to do all we can to accelerate as quickly as possible the training and equipping of the ANA and the Afghan National Police (ANP). General David McKiernan, Commander, NATO International Security Assistance Force, has said he needs more embedded trainers and funding to speed up building the capacity of the Afghan security forces.

We have also heard recently that the "long pole in the tent" for growing the ANA rapidly is getting these units the basic equipment they need – machine guns, radios, and vehicles – when they need it. At a hearing on February 26th, General David Barno, former Commander, Combined Forces Command Afghanistan, testified that the main problem is "a constipated, peace-time system" for equipping these forces which is not well suited to the demands of an ongoing conflict. As you recall, similar problems were encountered in delivering badly needed military equipment to Iraqi forces. In this regard, we hope the lessons learned in Iraq will be applied to our efforts in Afghanistan.

We request that you closely examine what is needed to expedite the training and equipping of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police and report to us on what more is needed, in terms of resources, personnel, or legislative relief.

OSD 02750-09

To:9703571895 P.2/3

We look forward to your prompt response and working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

John McCain
Ranking Member

Carl Levin
Chairman

DAVID VITTER
LOUISIANA

DEPUTY WHIP

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Environment and Public Works

Foreign Relations

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Special Committee on Aging

United States Senate

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Website with E-Mail Access:
vitter.senate.gov

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Senate Appropriations Committee, Chairman
S-128, the Capitol
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Mr. President and Chairman Inouye:

I am writing to express the need for increased funding of several critical Corps of Engineers infrastructure projects in the state of Louisiana under the Economic Stimulus Plan. As you know, Corps funding has always been one of my top priorities and I believe we now have a full and unique opportunity. Not only will this funding help protect Louisiana's coastline and citizens, but it will also stimulate the economy as we currently have $6.2 billion in "shovel ready" projects.

With $6.2 billion in shovel-ready projects in Louisiana alone, I believe the current House stimulus funding for the Corps is woefully short, and I request increased funding for the Corps in the Senate version of the stimulus bill.

Hurricane protection systems continue to be particularly critical in our state, and I remain concerned about the slow pace of progress. Millions of citizens remain at risk from inadequate systems as we approach the fifth hurricane season since Katrina and Rita and less than a year since Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Authorized levels of protection are needed in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. Assistance to parishes around New Orleans is needed to storm-proof pump stations. Assistance is also needed by levee districts for levee certification to obtain flood insurance, and continue economic development.

Coastal Restoration in Louisiana continues to be urgently needed for both revitalization of natural wetlands and protection of inland communities from storm surge. I believe that use of dredged material, mostly from navigation projects, to regenerate barrier islands and wetland habitats is a critical building block for better hurricane protection. Additional funds should also be used to complete distribution pipelines, enabling the immediate application of such material with new and ongoing projects. Assistance is also sorely needed by several parishes for repair of environmental infrastructure and flood control projects.

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LAFAYETTE, LA 70501
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FAX: (337) 262-6373

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FAX: (318) 325-9165

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SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA
2800 VETERANS BOULEVARD
SUITE 201
METAIRIE, LA 70002
(504) 589-2753
FAX: (504) 589-2607

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA
3221 RYAN STREET
SUITE E
LAKE CHARLES, LA 70601
(337) 436-0453
FAX: (337) 436-3163

These projects clearly align with the intent of the Stimulus Plan to revitalize critical infrastructure, provide economic benefit with new jobs and enable economic development in Louisiana. I am willing to help in any way possible and I appreciate your continued support and prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

David Vitter

David Vitter
United States Senator

Cc: General Robert Van Antwerp, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

100060E

December 15, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
President-elect
Presidential Transition Team
451 6th St., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. President-elect:

We write to ask for your support of a robust shipbuilding budget and policies to support our Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard and to enable commercial ship construction in the United States. Such policies and funding would create and sustain highly skilled jobs, strengthen our national and homeland security, and modernize and expand our domestic marine transportation highway.

The shipbuilding industry of the United States employs more than 400,000 people in 47 states. The industry consists of six major shipbuilding yards, several smaller ship construction and repair yards, and more than 4,000 major manufacturers of ship components and systems. Thousands of jobs would be created in the United States with a renewed commitment to shipbuilding that has been lacking in the past decade.

Military leaders have documented for several years a minimum national requirement for 313 ships to support our Navy and Marine Corps. The Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Gary Roughead testified last year at the Navy FY09 budget hearing that "[t]he rate at which we are growing our fleet will challenge our ability to fulfill the core capabilities of the maritime strategy." He is, "committed to taking the steps necessary to build the future fleet and re-establish the vital trust needed among the Department, Congress, and industry to get our Navy above a 313-ship floor." At the House Armed Services Committee hearing on March 6, 2008, Admiral Roughead said, "[t]hree hundred thirteen ships represent the minimum force necessary to provide the global reach, persistent presence, and strategic, operational, and tactical effects." He concluded by saying, "I support a stable shipbuilding plan that provides an affordable, balanced force and preserves our nation's industrial base. I intend to develop further our Navy's relationship with industry to reinforce our commitment to a stable shipbuilding plan."

Unfortunately, however, the Navy's fleet has declined to 284 ships. To attain the 313-ship Navy outlined by the CNO, 12 ships need to be budgeted annually.

While America's naval fleet is in decline, the Navies of potential adversaries are on the rise. Russia has made rebuilding its naval power a priority, and the Navy of China is expanding rapidly. By 2015 the Chinese Navy is projected to be larger than ours, and Russia has stated its intention to have the second largest Navy in the world by 2022. These countries may be building their naval forces to deny America access to critical regions and to limit America's influence around the world. Because more than 90 percent of global commerce is transported by sea, naval power is the key to accessing critical raw materials, to securing sea lanes of commerce for trade and energy, and to projecting power quickly when needed. Other nations are also placing a

premium on naval forces, and the instances of piracy on the world's oceans are increasing at an alarming rate. Terrorist attack from sea remains a high security threat.

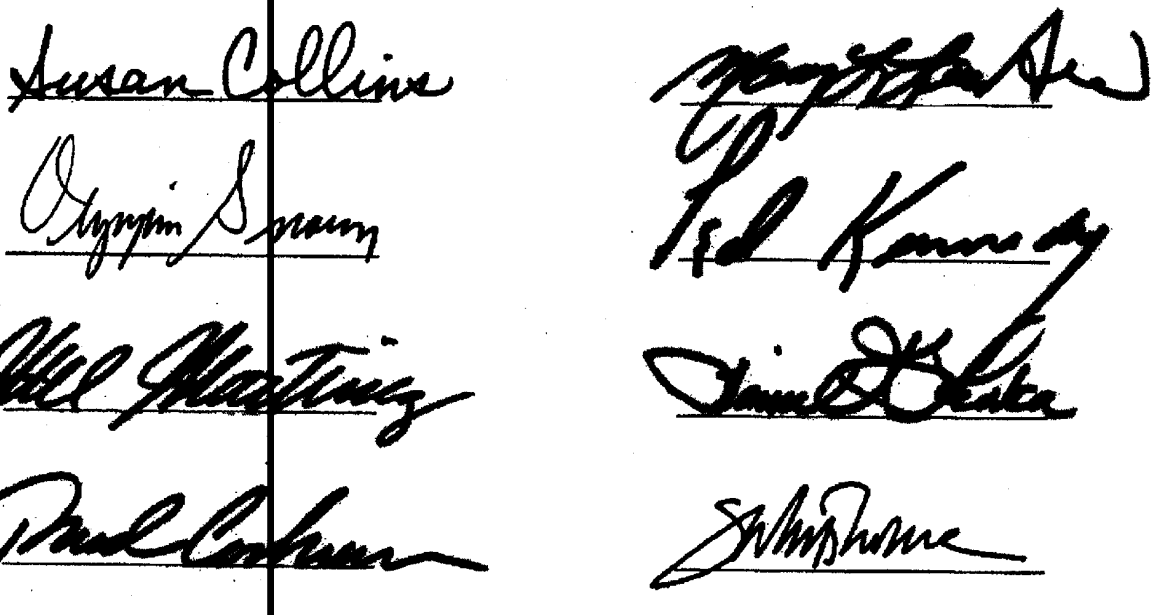
In addition to the Navy's priorities, the U.S. Coast Guard warrants your attention. The U.S. Coast Guard fleet is one of the oldest in the world. Your commitment to modernize the Coast Guard fleet with new improved cutters will be essential in defending our borders, improving search and rescue, stopping illegal trafficking, and giving the Coast Guard the tools it needs to perform its homeland security missions.

The crisis in financial markets makes it more vital than ever to budget $60 million annually for the Title XI Ship Loan Guarantee Program administered by the Maritime Administration. This program provides a government guarantee of 87.5 percent of a commercial bank loan over 25 years to ship owners for ship construction in the United States. Vessels financed by Title XI would enhance our domestic energy development and transportation capability for all forms of energy. The dry cargo ships currently serving American ports average more than their 20-year intended service lives.

More ships need to be built to meet our security, energy, and transportation needs. Building more ships would also build our economy and create and preserve thousands of engineering and production jobs in the United States. Your efforts to reverse years of inadequate funding for the Navy, Coast Guard, and commercial shipbuilding will provide many positive returns on a much needed investment.

Thank you for your consideration of this important national economic and security matter.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski

Daniel Vitter

Ben Cardin

Jack Reed

Jon Tinker

Bill Nelson

John F. Kerry

Roger Wicker

Chris Dodd

CC: Mr. Peter Orszag
Director-Designate
Office of Management and Budget
451 6th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20270

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As you know, last year's Department of Defense Appropriations Act provided partial funding for the third DDG-1000 and directed the Navy to budget for the remaining funding requirement in FY10. Congress expects the Navy to adhere to this direction; therefore, we write to urge your support for full funding of the DDG-1000 program in the FY10 President's budget, and request that you continue a thorough and transparent review and evaluation of the Navy's proposal to truncate the DDG-1000 program and restart DDG-51 production.

We remain very concerned about the Navy's long-term shipbuilding plan. Despite several months of Congressional and Department of Defense requests for further analysis, the Navy has yet to provide sufficient justification in support of the proposal to truncate the DDG-1000 program and restart DDG-51 production. We continue to await an in-depth comparative analysis of the DDG-51 and DDG-1000. The Navy's failure to provide such a detailed cost analysis strongly implies a lack of supporting documentation of the Navy's position and undermines our confidence in the merits of the Navy's plan to truncate the DDG-1000 program. Congress must have this information before acquiescing to a change of this magnitude.

Supporting the DDG-1000 program will enable the Navy to leverage $11 billion in already invested research and development funding. The ship has been designed with significant growth margins including power, cooling, space, and weight to enable rapid enhancements to meet evolving threats in the existing hull. We believe that continued production and delivery of DDG-1000 class destroyers is essential to the long-term stability of our shipbuilding program and the timely delivery of needed capabilities to the Navy.

With respect and appreciation, and thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy

Jack Reed

John F. Kerry

Sheldon Whitehouse

OSD 03125-09

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress

James McGovern
Member of Congress

Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

Paul Hodes
Member of Congress

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

James Langevin
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write today to express serious concern about the administration's planned national defense spending in Fiscal Year 2010 and beyond, which appears to be insufficient to guarantee U.S. national security in the coming years. Based on the administration's budget documents submitted thus far, it appears that a marked decrease in overall defense spending is in store for our country. If recent press accounts are accurate, this will be accomplished by canceling or postponing the acquisition of numerous major weapon systems critical to our Armed Forces and necessary to ensure their future ability to defend our country.

As Congress begins the Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) budget process, it is our view that we have too little information on hand, based solely on the President's incomplete budget submission, to thoroughly and responsibly make decisions about top-line figures for the country's core defense program. For example, it is widely reported that the administration intends to shift funding that is currently part of the supplemental budget process into the normal DoD appropriations request. But, to date, Congress has not been told exactly what amount will be transferred, nor has it been informed about which particular programs will be affected. This lack of information raises a number of important questions, with potentially troubling answers.

The President's plan to substantially increase U.S. military force levels in Afghanistan, while simultaneously withdrawing all U.S. combat forces from Iraq by August 2010, will require substantial funding. However, it is our understanding that the administration will be requesting far less this year and next in supplemental funding, which is cause for great concern. It is unclear how the administration, if it intends to cut supplemental funding, expects to maintain our military forces in the field and enable them to conduct their missions safely and effectively. We would appreciate an explanation on this issue.

To be clear, we fully support efforts to maximize transparency in the budget process by including all foreseeable DoD requirements in the normal DoD budget request; however, by shifting major expenses from the supplemental requests to the base budget, while simultaneously slashing the supplemental request, the net effect would be a decrease in overall spending on our national defense. Our concern is that, under the guise of an "honest budgeting" approach to national security spending, we would be locking in an overall cut in military spending that either puts our troops in jeopardy today or our

OSD 03274-09

national security in jeopardy tomorrow as we restrict urgently needed capital investments in equipment such as planes, ships, and land vehicles.

As such, we request that your department provide us as soon as possible with more detailed information on what expenditures, and at what levels, you anticipate moving from the supplemental budget to the base defense budget for FY10 and what defense programs you anticipate eliminating or substantially reducing, in relation to the most recent Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). In addition, it is essential that we hear from our uniformed combatant commanders and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the potential problems they will face in carrying out their responsibilities under the administration's proposed defense spending blueprints. Accordingly, we request that you provide us, as soon as possible, risk assessments by each combatant commander, evaluating to what extent the President's proposed defense spending levels will limit their ability to meet ongoing requirements over the lifetime of the FYDP. Finally, we request that the Chairman's risk assessment, which is statutorily required and is long overdue, be provided within 30 calendar days.

During the early part of this decade, it became clear that defense spending decisions made during the 1990s and the resulting military "procurement holiday" that our government had taken left our Armed Forces without the needed advanced equipment and superior capabilities to defend our nation. Today, in the middle of a global war on terror, we must not allow that to happen again. Now is not the time to attempt to cash in a "peace dividend," while thousands of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are serving in harm's way, engaged in military operations in two major theaters of conflict overseas, with other very real threats on the horizon.

We urge you to examine these issues carefully as the administration completes work on its FY10 DoD budget request. Thank you for your service to our nation and your tireless dedication to its Armed Forces.

Sincerely,

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

JON KYL
United States Senator

LISA MURKOWSKI
United States Senator

JAMES M. INHOFE
United States Senator

JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

JOHNNY ISAKSON
United States Senator

JIM DEMINT
United States Senator

SAXBY CHAMBLISS
United States Senator

ROGER F. WICKER
United States Senator

DAVID VITTER
United States Senator

ROBERT F. BENNETT
United States Senator

RICHARD BURR
United States Senator

JEFF SESSIONS
United States Senator

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
United States Senator

E. BENJAMIN NELSON
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United States Senate

April 16, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500-0005

Dear Mr. President:

As your Administration prepares the details of your Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) defense budget, I am writing to request inclusion of a military construction project in my home state of Nebraska. The Army National Guard and Air National Guard have begun preparatory construction work on a Joint Force Headquarters, which I recommend be included in this defense budget to ensure timely and scheduled completion of the project.

The Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and Nebraska state government counterparts will be housed and will operate jointly in Lincoln, Nebraska, at this Joint Headquarters. The development and construction of this emergency operations center will facilitate a rapid, coordinated response to major emergency events; and therefore, I support the Army National Guard's request of $23.9 million and the Air National Guard's request of $3 million so that building construction for the headquarters can begin as planned in FY10.

Mr. President, I am requesting that this mission-critical headquarters be included in your FY10 defense budget. Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you or your staff needs additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or have your staff contact Ann Premer of my staff at 202-224-6551.

Sincerely,

E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

EBN:ajp

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KEARNEY, NE 68848
(308) 293-5818

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
POST OFFICE BOX 1472
SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69363
(308) 631-7614

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
POST OFFICE BOX 791
SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE 68776
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OMAHA, NE 68114
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FAX: (402) 391-4725

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 6, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write to urge you not to allow deep cuts in U.S. missile defense programs that are critically important to protecting our homeland and our allies against the growing threat of ballistic missiles.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates today announced plans to cancel or reduce such major programs as the Airborne Laser, Multiple Kill Vehicle, and the installation of additional Ground-Based Interceptor missiles in Alaska, and to cut the MDA's budget for Fiscal Year 2010 by $1.4 billion. Although we applaud Secretary Gates' commitment to such capabilities as THAAD and SM-3, these proposals would amount to almost a fifteen percent cut in the MDA budget and a major reduction in our missile defense portfolio—actions that we fear could undermine our emerging missile defense capabilities to protect the United States against a growing threat.

As you know, the threat from ballistic missiles is significant and on the rise. Lieutenant General Daniel Maples, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, recently testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee that "the threat posed by ballistic missile delivery systems is likely to increase while growing more complex over the next decade." General Maples further warned that "adversary nations are increasingly adopting technical and operational countermeasures to defeat missile defenses." Ballistic missile technology has already proliferated worldwide and is a direct threat to both our allies and our homeland.

The threat posed by rogue states with ballistic missiles has been underscored by Iran and North Korea's recent missile tests. In early February, Iran launched a satellite atop a rocket that could be used as an intercontinental ballistic missile. Last weekend, North Korea tested the Taepo Dong-2, a long range missile that if successful, could have the range to strike Hawaii, Alaska, and possibly the West Coast of the United States.

Although these developments highlight the danger we face, they have also revealed the progress our national missile defense system has made. When recently asked before the Senate Armed Services Committee whether the United States could intercept a Taepo Dong-2 missile that targeted the American homeland, Admiral Timothy Keating, Commander of U.S. Pacific Command, and General Patrick Chilton, Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, assured that we can do so with high probability. This would not have been the case just a few years ago, and is only the case today because we have invested in a diverse set of missile defense capabilities.

OSD 04622-09

Cooperation on ballistic missile defense is also essential to our most important alliances. In the Asia-Pacific region, Japan became the first among our allies to successfully intercept a ballistic missile with the Aegis defense system. In response to North Korea's growing arsenal of missiles, the Government of Japan decided six years ago to deploy a joint Aegis and Patriot PAC-3 missile defense and has already invested $7.9 billion of its own funds to build a new pillar of our alliance. India has likewise expressed strong interest in closer cooperation on missile defense systems, which promises to become an area of cooperation in our growing strategic partnership.

In the Middle East, we continue to develop missile defense technology in close partnership with Israel. As you know, the State of Israel faces a uniquely pressing threat due to Iran's ballistic missile program and pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. In response, we have long cooperated with Israel to develop the Arrow family of missile interceptors and are now working together on the David's Sling missile defense system to defeat medium range rockets. These are critical programs that should not be abandoned.

In Europe, NATO has also endorsed the importance of missile defense as a collaborative venture among its member states. At the Bucharest summit in April 2008, NATO formally declared that "ballistic missile proliferation poses an increasing threat to Allies' forces, territory, and populations. Missile defense forms part of a broader response to counter this threat." NATO further expressed "deep concern" over the proliferation activities of both Iran and North Korea, and urged the examination of a "comprehensive missile defense architecture to extend coverage to all Allied territory and populations."

In sum, cooperation on missile defense is now a critical component of many of our closest security partnerships around the world. We fear that cuts to the budget for missile defense could inadvertently undermine these relationships and foster the impression that the United States is an unreliable ally. Moreover, sharp cuts would leave us and our friends around the world less capable of responding to the growing ballistic missile threat.

The fact remains that our adversaries continue to invest large sums in the development of these weapons. The question is whether we respond by developing appropriate defenses against them. We therefore urge you to sustain the ability of the Missile Defense Agency and the military services to develop an integrated, layered defense against the threat of ballistic missiles to the United States, our deployed forces, and our allies.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

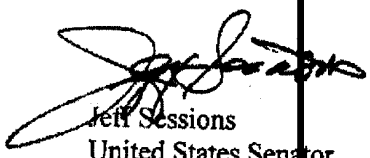
Sincerely,

Jon Kyl
United States Senator

Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Mark Begich
United States Senator



Jeff Sessions
United States Senator

James Inhofe
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 19, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to request that you establish a clear policy through which the Department of Defense (DOD) will encourage renewable energy development while maintaining necessary protections for military airspace.

As you know, DOD has an important voice in wind turbine siting decisions because wind turbines can impact DOD radar and airspace requirements. Unfortunately, to date the interaction between wind developers and the DOD has lacked consistency. For instance, in 2007 Travis Air Force Base objected to the 80 MW Montezuma Wind Energy Center very late in the permitting process. The proposed wind farm is surrounded by other wind farms, some of which were built after 2007, in Solano County California's Wind Resource Area, more than ten miles from the base. That project, and others nearby, remain in limbo today due to DOD concerns that are likely surmountable.

To facilitate the development of renewable energy projects consistent with national security needs, we encourage you to take the following steps that could improve the prospects for wind development in the United States.

- **Consolidate Decision Making:** Formally consolidate decision making regarding wind development in a single office, preferably within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. A single decision-maker, who operates under clear timelines and procedures by which he communicates DOD concerns regarding wind projects, would limit unnecessary conflict between DOD and renewable energy development.

- **Participate in FAA Review:** DOD should identify proposed wind farm impacts on airborne operations during the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) existing, formal wind farm screening and approval process, as well as provide initial feedback during any FAA early feasibility review. If DOD

OSD 06069-09

objections are stated in as transparent a manner as national security concerns permit through the FAA process, renewable energy developers will not be surprised by DOD concerns expressed late in the permitting process.

- **Site Specific Evaluations:** The military has produced extremely useful maps of California, Arizona and Nevada that designate areas in which the military effectively opposes wind energy development (red), areas where the DOD might have some concerns (yellow), and areas where DOD has no military concerns (green). DOD's maps were assembled using data and assumptions that allow them to guide development, but they are not detailed enough to be the final decision making tool. I request that you clarify that DOD staff should evaluate site-specific technical analysis before opposing any wind proposal.

- **Airspace Height Restrictions:** Airspace height restrictions vary considerably across the West and limit wind energy development. If DOD evaluated whether it is reasonable and consistent with safety and national security needs to raise 200, 300 and 400 feet restrictions to 500 feet at sites where wind farms are proposed, DOD may be able to open a considerable amount of currently restricted land to wind energy development.

- **Mitigation Research and Development:** Technical mitigation measures may be able to reduce the impacts of wind turbines on radar. In September 2008, representatives from the DOD, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the wind industry agreed to develop a research and development roadmap, mirroring a similar effort between the British military and the British Wind Energy Association. DOD participation in this effort is important, and I encourage you to ensure that it continues.

- **Radar Upgrades:** DOD is in the process of replacing older analog radar systems with state-of-the-art radar through the National Airspace Modernization Program. I encourage you to request that DOD consider the wind energy potential of an area when prioritizing radar replacements. A report by the defense advisory firm JASON recently concluded, "Radars which don't have the capabilities to mitigate wind farm interference could simply be replaced...The new radar would incorporate multidimensional detection, with greatly enhanced processing, with pulse shapes designed to optimally distinguish between aircraft and wind farms."[1]

[1] *Wind Farms and Radar (JSR-08-125).* JASON. The MITRE Corporation. January 2008.

As you know, both global warming and our reliance on foreign sources of energy present economic and national security challenges to our country. Your Department rightfully focuses on its primary mission of protecting our national security, but we believe DOD could also play a more productive role. We very much look forward to working with you to ensure that renewable energy development proceeds where it is compatible with the military's mission.

We look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Charles Grassley
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Tom Harkin
United States Senator

Max Baucus
United States Senator

Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

ORRIN G. HATCH
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CHIEF OF STAFF

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4402

June 8, 2009

COMMITTEES:

FINANCE

JUDICIARY

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

INTELLIGENCE

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

The Honorable William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary
The Department of Defense
1100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1100

Dear Secretary Lynn:

Thank you for your May 28th letter. I appreciate learning the Department of Defense's ("Department") views on the subjects covered in the letter. In addition, I look forward to continuing to work with you on enhancing our nation's security.

I was delighted to learn of the Department's commitment to our depot maintenance system by "compl[ying] with the 50/50 and Core laws as currently written and interpreted." As you know, the Congress, on a bipartisan basis, has worked with the Department over the past several years to recapitalize our depot maintenance system. The warfighter has greatly benefited from this renewed investment through sustained on-time delivery rates of vital equipment.

Regarding the land-based solid rocket motor intercontinental ballistic missile industrial base, I deeply appreciate the Department and the Air Force's recognition of the merits of sustaining this vital national infrastructure. The Air Force's Fiscal Year 2010 budget request of $43 million is an important first step. However, your letter does not address if the Department will accede to the Secretary of the Air Force's request to reprogram sufficient Fiscal Year 2009 funds to maintain solid rocket production this fiscal year. Only a prompt transfer of these funds will prevent further interruptions in production, resulting in millions of dollars in unnecessary costs, and the stabilization of employment for the highly sought after engineers and technicians that manufacture solid rocket motors.

Therefore, I respectfully request the Department agree to Secretary Donley's request and reprogram, on an expedited basis, Fiscal Year 2009 funds to maintain our nation's land-based solid rocket motor intercontinental ballistic missile industrial base.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

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OSD 06447-09

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
CONNECTICUT

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS

United States Senate

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June 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I read with great interest your speech to the Association of American Universities on April 14, 2008. On that occasion you noted the potential of the records of Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist regime, captured by American forces in 2003, to provide us "unprecedented insights" into the workings of dictatorial third-world regimes. You rightly compared this collection of materials to the Smolensk archives, upon which scholars of the Soviet Union like Merle Fainsod based much of their research. You also announced that the Defense Department was funding an effort to open a Conflict Records Research Center at the National Defense University.

I strongly support your goal of making the records of Saddam Hussein's regime available to the broad scholarly community for research and study. However, I am concerned by the apparent slow pace of this valuable project. I note that the Defense Department has yet to establish a Conflict Records Research Center in the 15 months that have passed since your announcement, nor does the opening of such a center appear to be on the horizon.

I would therefore be grateful for a progress report on your efforts to establish a Conflict Records Research Center at the National Defense University, a timeline for its creation, as well as an estimate of the resources that the Defense Department will devote to the center over the long term.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to this worthy and important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Lieberman
UNITED STATES SENATOR

OSD 06538-09

~~SECDEF~~	~~DEPSECDEF~~	~~EXECSEC~~	~~USDP~~	
~~USDI~~	~~ESD~~	~~CBLCH~~	FILE	

1 A /

JIM WEBB
VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4605

June 10, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The independent, bipartisan Commission on Wartime Contracting was created last year to evaluate and report on U.S. wartime contracting for logistics, reconstruction, and security. As original co-sponsors of the legislation leading to the establishment of this Commission, we are pleased to enclose a copy of its interim report. We believe that the Commission is making noteworthy contributions in documenting the extensive problems that continue to exist in wartime support contracting and what must be done to fix them.

The Commission's interim report identifies major areas of emphasis offering the greatest promise for significant reform. Moreover, the commissioners have identified a number of critical issues of more immediate concern that require prompt action by the Department of Defense to avoid undermining U.S. objectives in Iraq and Afghanistan and to prevent wasting more U.S. tax dollars. Of note, they report, in part:

- The drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq risks incurring enormous waste, which could range from completion of work that may not need to be done, to poorly controlled handling and disposition of U.S. government property;
- There is a need for greater accountability in the use of foreign subcontractors who may not be accountable to U.S. governmental authority;
- The effectiveness of contractor support of expanded U.S. operations in Afghanistan is compromised by the failure to extract and apply lessons learned from Iraq, particularly those relating to poor interagency coordination;
- The Department of Defense should accelerate its plans to establish a contracting command in Afghanistan; and
- The Department of Defense should take immediate steps to ensure that contractors providing security for U.S. operating bases are well trained and equipped to provide strong force protection to our military.

OSD 06655-09

During our interactions over the past year, you have responded very constructively when we have brought concerns to your attention. While some of the time-sensitive issues raised in the Commission's report are not new, it is telling that they continue to arise. We encourage you, or members of your staff, to meet with the Commission to obtain greater insights into these concerns and possible corrective actions. Additionally, we would appreciate receiving from you a description of what the Department is doing or plans to do to address them.

With this important interim report completed, we expect the Commission to enhance its body of work by assessing root causes and potential solutions to the systemic contracting problems in Iraq and Afghanistan through further original investigation and analysis. We appreciate your continued support of this endeavor and the attention you have brought to improve wartime contracting policies and practices.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Jim Webb
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD
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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4904

May 15, 2009

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to request that your administration, in close consultation with Congress, clarify and strengthen chief of mission authority. As you know, this authority is essential to ensure that our agencies and personnel overseas fully coordinate their operations, and that all elements of the United States government are working toward the same strategic objectives. It is particularly important that our military coordinates with civilian leadership, particularly the chiefs of mission who are your representatives overseas. A lack of such coordination and oversight can result in disjointed activities that undermine our ability to achieve our national security goals.

I am concerned that in the aftermath of 9/11, we have seen an erosion of chief of mission authority, in part because of the extended reach of the Department of Defense and its regional commands. I am troubled by reports that in some cases, chiefs of mission have not been consulted about or made even aware of U.S. military activities in their country. I have heard such accounts in my own travels overseas, and would be happy to discuss specific examples with your administration in a classified setting. In order to ensure our top diplomats can fully undertake their mission, greater clarity is needed with respect to a number of key issues relating to this authority.

For example, the previous administration claimed that chiefs of mission were always consulted prior to the issuance of an order to use military force, but it is unclear whether all ambassadors were kept fully informed of such activities, as required by law. This ambiguity is particularly troubling with regard to countries outside of Iraq and Afghanistan, which are official war zones. In light of this uncertainty, I sought information in 2008 related to press allegations that the Department of Defense, under President Bush, had authority to carry out operations in numerous countries around the world. To the extent that such orders exist, I ask that you fully inform Congress so that, among other things, any implications for chief of mission authority can be considered and addressed.

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As you know, previous administrations and Congresses have sought to clarify chief of mission authority. President Truman clarified the functions of the chief of mission in Executive Order 10338 in 1952. In 1955, President Eisenhower issued Executive Order 10608, which applied to the specific authority and functions of the chief of mission in Germany. Later, section 207 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 enshrined the authority globally.

Your administration now has the opportunity to clarify current ambiguities about the authority of chiefs of mission over U.S. government personnel. With ongoing military operations in two official war zones - Iraq and Afghanistan – this clarification should include an overarching framework to guide the relationship between chiefs of mission and the U.S. military in official war zones. It is also important to clarify the authority of the chief of mission in other circumstances, including countries in which declared U.S. military operations are occurring but there is no host government, countries with which we have no diplomatic relationship or countries with which we have diplomatic ties but no on-the-ground diplomatic presence.

Given the ambiguities that have emerged in this area and their implications to our national security, I urge you to consider, in consultation with Secretary of State Clinton and others in your administration, a new executive order that would reaffirm chief of mission authority in relation to all military activities. I urge you to do so in close consultation with Congress, including the Foreign Relations, Armed Services, Intelligence and Judiciary Committees, and to inform Congress of any need for further legislative action that you may identify. Finally, I request that you undertake this effort as soon as possible. A strong signal that you stand behind the authorities of your ambassadors will not only make them more effective, but will allow them, in the context of their confirmations, to provide assurances that your policies will be implemented by all elements of the United States government.

I appreciate your consideration of my suggestions and welcome the opportunity to discuss these and related issues with representatives of your administration. I recognize that there are many urgent national security challenges that you must consider, but providing renewed guidance on chief of mission authority would greatly improve our capacity to effectively confront such challenges.

Sincerely,

Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator

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

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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

January 22, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Today, with our colleagues in the Senate, we are releasing the most recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) listing of the federal government's high risk areas. GAO has issued this product at the start of every new Congress since 1990. As has been the case in many past editions, the Department of Defense (DOD) is, unfortunately, well represented.

This year's report describes eight areas in DOD operations that are at high risk of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement and seven others for which DOD shares responsibility. More than half of the areas GAO has identified involve DOD. Many of these areas have been on the list for almost two decades.

With the country facing its most serious financial and economic problems in decades and fighting two wars overseas, we cannot afford for the Department to get less than the maximum value from the resources the Congress and the American taxpayer provide it. The risks DOD faces cut across most areas of its operations and include DOD's longstanding inability to deliver its major weapon system acquisitions on time and at promised costs and capabilities, modernize its business systems, protect critical technologies, and manage its contracts, its supply chain, its property and its people, among others.

The Oversight and Government Reform Committee intends to make DOD's high risk areas a significant focus of its oversight agenda. Accordingly, we request that you meet with us at your earliest possible convenience to discuss why the Department has not been able to resolve these serious and costly problems, and to discuss a concrete plan with specific time frames to implement GAO's recommendations. Waste and mismanagement in the Department reduce the

OSD 00698-09

much needed support our military needs to effectively carry out its mission. We look forward to the discussion with the spirit of cooperation that will be needed to achieve lasting improvements.

Sincerely,

Edolphus Towns
Chairman

Darrell E. Issa
Ranking Member

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 30, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write regarding the OMB Circular A-76 review of installation management functions under the Defense Logistics Agency Enterprise Support organization (DES). It is our understanding that the Department of Defense's Competitive Sourcing Official is disinclined to approve a request by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to undertake an internal re-engineering effort as an alternative means of ensuring workplace efficiency and cost savings.

Upon reviewing the recent concerns raised by the General Accountability Office regarding the level of savings achieved under OMB Circular A-76, and the information provided to our offices regarding DLA's alternate approach, it appears the latter offers a viable alternative that would result in savings more quickly.

Given our mutual interest in ensuring the DES mission is accomplished in an efficient and cost-effective manner, we respectfully request the Department to give all due consideration to the internal re-engineering effort developed by DLA.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

George V. Voinovich

Jim Webb

Sherrod Brown

Bob Casey, Jr.

Jon Tester

Mark R. Warner

Daniel K. Akaka

Susan M. Collins

OSD 01166-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE AND OCEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

February 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I write to respectfully request your assistance in supporting efforts that I am coordinating in the United States Congress to provide for greater infrastructure funding for Guam in the economic stimulus package. Funding in this legislation is important to improve critical water, wastewater, power, solid waste disposal and port infrastructure on Guam.

A September 2008 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report entitled, "*Opportunity to Improve the Timeliness of Future Overseas Planning Reports and Factors Affecting the Master Planning Effort for the Military Buildup on Guam*" outlined the need for support of civilian infrastructure projects in order to facilitate and sustain the military build-up on Guam. Moreover, officials in the Department of Defense (DoD) on multiple occasions have indicated in testimony before Congress and public reports that civilian infrastructure on Guam needs improvement and that they will pursue opportunities to assist the Government of Guam in meeting these needs. If funding is not provided in the economic stimulus package that was requested by President Obama, the timeframe for the military build-up will be compromised. The stimulus package is an opportunity to spur economic and job growth as well as ensure that the military build-up on Guam remains on schedule and is successfully executed.

Currently, the House-passed version of the stimulus bill, H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, does not contain funding that would address Guam's most critical infrastructure needs. However, the Senate substitute amendment to H.R. 1 that is being debated on the Senate floor this week proposes funding in several accounts that could address Guam's infrastructure needs. In particular, Title XII contains $5.5 billion in discretionary funding for the Secretary of Transportation to offer grants for a variety of national surface transportation system needs, including but not limited to, port improvements. It also includes a mark of $62 million as a baseline for the Office of Insular Affairs in the Department of the Interior for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) grants to the territories and report language specifically cites the needs of the Guam military build-up as a reason for these funds. Both the House and Senate bills will need

OSD 01229-09

to be reconciled in a conference committee. While $62 million is a good mark, needs on Guam require substantially more funds in order for the military build-up to progress on time. We hope that you will agree with us that these funds are important, and that you will communicate your support for increasing the appropriation to Congressional leaders.

In addition, as the DoD finalizes its plans for military construction in the President's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget, it is critical that civilian infrastructure on Guam is enhanced to facilitate the military build-up. I would request that you work closely with Senate and House leadership and conferees to impress upon them the importance of flexible funding to Guam that will support its immediate critical infrastructure needs.

At this point in the process, I am appealing to you to honor your commitments as a partner in this military build-up process for Guam. I ask you to work with us in achieving Chairman Skelton's vision that what is good for the military must be good for Guam. Towards this end, I recognize that this is a critical moment for you and other DoD leaders to communicate directly to Senate and House appropriators in writing your support for appropriating funds to meet civilian and joint infrastructure needs of Guam through H.R. 1 and the forthcoming Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations process.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please have your staff contact Matthew Herrmann, of my staff, at matthew.herrmann@mail.house.gov or at 202-225-1188.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

Enclosure: S. 336, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,
"Assistance to Territories" provision and report language

cc: The Hon. Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2009

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write to register concern about the future of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system at Fort Greely, Alaska, and to inform you of our strong support for this system.

As you know, the integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) has been in the news recently. Last week, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin expressed some concern about the BMD system, of which GMD is a key component. His comments came at the same time reports surfaced of North Korea preparing again to test its Taepodong-2 missile, which is estimated to have a range that could hit Alaska. And earlier this week, Iran successfully launched a low-orbit satellite utilizing a three-stage rocket technology, which raises great concern over that country's increased capabilities.

We were sobered by your testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee on January 27, 2009, in which you stated that: "North Korea and Iran present uniquely vexing challenges...North Korea has produced enough plutonium for several atomic bombs; Iran is developing capabilities needed to support a nuclear program...both countries have ballistic missile programs of increasing range and a record of proliferation." Your blunt assessment underscores the need for a fully functioning BMD System, in which Fort Greely plays a key role.

The federal budget includes funding to complete the fielding of all interceptors at Fort Greely to bring the system up to full capacity. Certainly a key component of this system is a more rigorous testing regimen, as stressed in the latest Director of Operational Test & Evaluation (DOT&E) annual report. Additional successful testing will continue to validate this system to the nation and the new administration. Launches for the tests currently originate from the Kodiak Launch Complex in Kodiak, Alaska, which is ideally suited for such testing and ready to execute additional tests.

At this time, we see absolutely no justification for reductions to the GMD System or slowing its implementation. To the contrary, the threats from North Korea and Iran only serve to emphasize the vital role this system should play in the defense of our nation and our state.

SECDEF	DEPSECDEF	SPLASST	EXECSEC	USDP
USDI	ESD	CCD	CBLC	FILE

LA/

OSD 01343-09

Should the Department of Defense consider any adjustments to this system, we ask that you notify us as soon as possible so that we may discuss the justification with you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Mark Begich
United States Senator

Don Young
Congressman for All Alaska

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We write in support of Dr. Solomon Passy's nomination for the position of Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). We respectfully request that the United States lend its support to Dr. Passy during the diplomatic discussions to select NATO's next Secretary General as the current term of Secretary General Japp de Hoop Scheffer expires later this year.

We are informed that Prime Minister Sergey Stanishev of Bulgaria proposed Dr. Passy as a candidate for the Secretary General position during a meeting with President Bush on June 18, 2008.

For nearly two decades, Dr. Passy has demonstrated a clear vision and solid leadership in international relations, particularly in regard to NATO. As a member of Bulgaria's parliament he authored legislation in 1990 to withdraw Bulgaria from the Warsaw Pact and to join NATO and the European Union. That year, Dr. Passy also founded the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria, an NGO in Bulgaria to strongly support NATO membership. Years later, Dr. Passy's vision was achieved when, while serving as Bulgaria's Foreign Minister, he negotiated and signed the two accession treaties that made Bulgaria a full Member of NATO in 2004 and the EU in 2005.

International circumstances present a window of opportunity for advances in both intra-European and transatlantic relations. We believe that the selection of a Secretary General from Bulgaria who is as superbly qualified as Dr. Passy, would strengthen ties between NATO and the United States as well as serve the important cause of continued European integration.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

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OSD 01430-09

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

February 11, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The National Security Personnel System (NSPS) of the Department of Defense (DOD) made wholesale changes to the current federal employee system, resulting in widespread distrust and discontent within the ranks of the hundreds of thousands of dedicated DOD employees, both among those who have been converted and those who have not yet been converted to NSPS.

Recent reports from both the Government Accountability Office and the Congressional Budget Office highlight concerns over the cost of NSPS versus its benefits as well as the lack of transparency in the new system and the negative impact on employees. Questions also have arisen over the last minute issuance of regulations (in the final weeks of the Bush Administration) which go beyond the intent of Congress when it enacted revisions to NSPS in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

During the campaign, President Obama indicated that he would consider either a repeal of NSPS or its complete overhaul. Because it will take some time for a review and a determination of the best course of action to occur, we urge you to immediately halt the conversion of any additional employees to NSPS at any level or any location until the Administration and Congress can properly address the future of the Department's personnel system.

We request a prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely,

IKE SKELTON
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee

SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
Chairman
Readiness Subcommittee

IS: cg

OSD 01545-09

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

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Donald C. Winter
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Winter:

We write to express our concern regarding the significant cost overruns associated with the VH-71 Presidential Helicopter Replacement Program. As you know, the Department of Defense announced that the total acquisition cost is projected to increase from $6.5 billion to $11.2 billion, raising the cost per helicopter by 50 percent above the original estimate. We respectfully request detailed information on this recent Nunn-McCurdy breach, including various options to modify or re-open the contract for bidding, as mandated in the FY2009 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 110-417).

We are very supportive of the Defense Department's initiative to ensure that programs are held accountable to their projected budgets and timelines. Secretary Gates specifically mentioned the VH-71 as a "big ticket" item experiencing contract or program performance problems. Likewise, President Obama noted that the program's cost represents, "a lot of money, even for Washington," and promised to "take a close look at it," identifying this program as emblematic "of some of the systematic problems we have in Pentagon procurement."

As you know, Lockheed Martin was awarded the contract without any experience building helicopters, winning the contract over the incumbent contractor, Sikorsky. Sikorsky has manufactured Marine One since President Eisenhower first utilized helicopters for presidential transport in the 1950s. The company fulfilled these contracts without exceeding the projected budget or failing to meet required timelines and milestones. Sikorsky is a tested and proven prime contractor for the Marine One fleet. In addition, Sikorsky maintains the most stringent security requirements for its Marine One aircraft and facilities, with minimal reliance on foreign components and designs.

We therefore respectfully request a thorough report, coupled with a briefing, on the development plans for this program, including an analysis of the potential advantages of either re-opening the contract for bidding or requiring split-production between Lockheed Martin and the incumbent contractor. We believe that such an analysis of alternatives will present a clear option for the Department of Defense to eventually develop Marine One aircraft on time and on budget.

OSD 01615-09

We thank you in advance for keeping us apprised of the Navy's decision-making process and look forward to receiving a detailed report, as well as a briefing on the matter, as soon as possible. Like you, we believe that there are few more sensitive and more important national security concerns than the safe transport of our nation's chief executive. When the President travels on this aircraft, it becomes a critical information node, with vital data coming in, and the most important decisions being meted out. We hope that you will provide us with a workable plan for delivering the highest quality aircraft with the highest security standards. Our President and our nation deserve no less.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact us or our staff: Lindsay George of Senator Dodd's office at (202) 224-1730 or Dan Zeitlin of Representative DeLauro's office at (202) 225-3661. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senator

ROSA L. DeLAURO
United States Representative

JOHN B. LARSON
United States Representative

JOE COURTNEY
United States Representative

CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Representative

JAMES A. HIMES
United States Representative

Cc: The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense

The Honorable John Young
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

Mr. Sean J. Stackley
Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development & Acquisition

LINCOLN DAVIS
4TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

SENIOR WHIP

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4204

February 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

First, let me congratulate you on the continuation of your service under the new administration. I believe it to be a testament to your exceptional competence, common-sense approach, and devotion to protecting and preserving the United States of America. At a time when we face a variety of foreign and domestic challenges and threats, we are fortunate to have someone of your skill at the helm of the Department of Defense.

I write today to respectfully request an update on implementation of funds already authorized under H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, which was passed in the 110th Congress. Specifically, Section 8116 appropriates funds for the use of special pay for members of the armed forces whose period of obligated service is extended, or whose eligibility for retirement is suspended, due to the President's authority to extend such service or suspend such retirement. This is commonly referred to as stop-loss authority and the increase is capped at five-hundred dollars per month. Under H.R. 2638, no funds are to be allocated until the Secretary of Defense submits a provisional plan for the distribution of such payments to the Committee on Appropriations. It has recently been called to my attention by a constituent that these funds have not yet been allocated to this group of soldiers.

As you know better than most, our soldiers and their families are making enormous sacrifices as they continue to perform admirably. The toll of service is particularly difficult on the families of those whose service is extended. I feel that the modest increase in pay for this group of dedicated service men and women is just and equitable. Fully understanding the enormity of your responsibilities, I respectfully urge your attention to this matter. Thank you for any updates you may provide and for your commitment to this great nation.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress

LD:TG

OSD 01636-09

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www.house.gov/lincolndavis

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2009

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

Dear Dr. Gates:

We are writing to express our strong support for the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program and request your consideration of a reprogramming of funds for Fiscal Year 2009. We are aware of significant undesired consequences for the E-2D program as a result of the enacted funding levels for Fiscal Year 2009, and we urge your personal attention to this issue.

As you know, the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program continues to perform satisfactorily on both cost and schedule. Since enactment of the appropriations bill, an Operational Assessment has been completed and the program remains on track to receive Milestone C approval in Spring 2009. After reviewing the final appropriated levels for this program in Fiscal Year 2009, however, we are concerned that current funding will be inadequate to sustain this program in transition from development to low rate production. We believe there are negative impacts to both the cost and delivery schedule of these aircraft.

Therefore, we request that you reprogram funds in Fiscal Year 2009 to support the procurement of the third Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) Lot I aircraft in Fiscal Year 2009, and provide advance procurement for the third Lot II aircraft in Fiscal Year 2010. Furthermore, we urge you to ensure that the Fiscal Year 2010 request includes procurement funding for all three LRIP Lot II aircraft.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to your strong support for prioritizing reprogramming of Fiscal Year 2009 funding for the E-2D program.

Sincerely,

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress

OSD 01644-09

CAROLYN McCARTHY
Member of Congress

GARY L. ACKERMAN
Member of Congress

TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
Member of Congress

MICHAEL A. ARCURI
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Donald Winter, Secretary of the Navy
ADM Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to request that you promptly and fully distribute authorized compensation to members of our Armed Forces whose service has been extended by the Department of Defense's stop loss policy.

Over the past seven years, over 160,000 military personnel have had their service-duty contracts extended due to stop loss orders. Today, there are over 12,000 soldiers in the active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard who remain on active duty beyond their scheduled separation date as a result of stop loss. This policy especially impacts the National Guard and Reservists, many of whom have already been deployed much longer than they expected. This is why we introduced legislation in the 110th Congress to provide payments to service members for each month they are extended as a result of stop loss.

On September 30, 2008, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 was signed into law (P.L. 110-329). The bill provided that all military personnel that have had their service duty contracts involuntarily extended due to stop loss orders, during Fiscal Year 2009 will receive compensation. The bill also allocated $72 million for the compensation, thus providing enough to compensate each soldier with the full $500 amount.

It has been nearly five months since the bill was signed into law and stop loss compensation payments have yet to be distributed. We urge you to work with the House and Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittees to develop a thorough and appropriate disbursement plan as quickly as possible to fulfill the Department's obligations under P.L. 110-329. Our soldiers are heroically and bravely defending our country abroad, and they are awaiting the much-deserved recognition and compensation for the unforeseen sacrifice so many have been called on to perform.

Thank you for your prompt attention and your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Betty Sutton
Betty Sutton

Frank R. Lautenberg
Frank Lautenberg

OSD 01931-09

CAROL SHEA-PORTER
First District, New Hampshire

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

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express our concern about recent reports that the Department of Defense has awarded KBR a $35.4 million contract that includes major electrical projects and request that you review the contract award and report to us explaining why the contract award was made to KBR, given its long record of deficient electrical work in Iraq.

As you are aware, KBR has held a contract for building maintenance for U.S. military facilities in Iraq since 2003. During this time, there have been numerous investigations into the dangers KBR's faulty electrical work is creating for our military personnel. The Department of Defense Inspector General is currently investigating the electrocution deaths of 18 Americans (16 soldiers and 2 contractors) in KBR-maintained facilities. KBR is under criminal investigation for the electrocution deaths of several U.S. soldiers in Iraq. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform conducted an in-depth investigation into the problem of electrocutions in U.S. facilities in Iraq and the death of Staff Sgt. Ryan Maseth, 24, a decorated Green Beret electrocuted in his shower on January 2, 2008. The Committee's investigation showed that KBR was alerted to the deficiencies in this and other cases, but failed to take corrective action. In 2008, the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) issued a "Level III Corrective Action Request" to KBR, indicating that the contractor was in "serious non-compliance." This action request, the final warning before a contract is terminated, points to KBR's continuing failure to ensure electrical safety for our troops. With this history, it is not surprising that Capt. David J. Graff, commander of the DCMA's International Division, was quoted in an Associated Press article, stating that "many within DOD have lost or are losing all remaining confidence in KBR's ability to successfully and repeatedly perform the required electrical support services mission in Iraq."

Despite these serious, ongoing concerns, the Department of Defense has awarded KBR a new contract that includes the type of work that KBR failed to perform adequately for years. Threats to the safety and lives of soldiers or others because of known hazards and negligent performance of work are not acceptable.

OSD 02173-09

We would therefore appreciate a thorough review of the recent contract award to KBR. At the very least, when our soldiers put their lives on the line for us in a war zone, we not only owe them the assurance that they will not be electrocuted in the shower on their return from a mission, but also that those who provide them with services put our soldiers' safety ahead of their profits.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jan Schakowsky

Eric Farm

Betty McCollum

Charlie Wilson

John B Larson

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 6, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates

Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates,

We write today concerning Section 256 of the FY 2009 National Defense Authorization Act (PL 110-417). As you know, this section requires the establishment of an executive agent to oversee Department of Defense (DOD) activities related to printed circuit board technologies. We would like to request that the DOD comply with the law and provide a brief at your earliest convenience on department planning and implementation of executive agent requirements.

Specifically, we are interested in learning about how the DOD plans to go through the executive agent selection process, as well as where and when its office will be established. What authorities, resources and responsibilities in addition to what the legislation prescribes will the executive agent have? How and when will the office be funded and fully operational? By statute, designation was to have occurred by Jan 12. Why was that delayed?

It is our understanding that the National Research Council's Board on Manufacturing and Engineering Design studied the issue of DOD access to legacy and future generations of printed circuit board technologies to support defense and other missions. The resulting 2005 report made a series of recommendations designed to ensure continued DOD access to printed circuit board technology and enable the development of new capabilities needed to support emerging requirements.

In March 2008, a Principal Response Team convened by the Navy and Defense Logistics Agency, and consisting of membership from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Agency, the military services, and the Departments of State and Energy, reported to Congress that 'DOD concurs with comments on all NRC recommendations,' and identified current and potential actions to address each one.

Therefore, we believe that it is critical that an executive agent be established quickly to monitor and protect issues related to the U.S. printed circuit board industry. Safeguarding the technology and manufacturing capabilities of printed circuit boards will protect our national interests today and in the future. We strongly urge you to ensure that this office

OSD 02411-09

have access to start up funding in FY09 so that it can be fully operational as soon as possible.

We also encourage you to use the expertise already in place at Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Crane Division when you designate the executive agent for printed circuit board technologies. As you know, NSWC Crane has a long history of success in the printed circuit board field. It is one of the few facilities in the country that has printed circuit board engineering and manufacturing capabilities. Crane's state-of-the-art manufacturing ability is supported by a superb technical staff that supports advanced manufacturing and emerging technology development. Crane also serves as the DOD executor to the Emerging/Critical Interconnection Technology (E/CIT) program for the advancement of printed circuit board technology and processes.

We have long supported this project and urge you to tap into this wealth of experience and knowledge as you select the executive agent and develop this office.

Please do not hesitate to contact Jon Davey of Senator Bayh's staff (202-224-8726), Joe O'Donnell of Senator Lugar's staff (202-224-0898), or Jed D'Ercole of Congressman Ellsworth's staff (202-225-4638) if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued service. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Evan Bayh
United States Senator

Richard Lugar
United States Senator

Brad Ellsworth
United States Representative

1000598

BOB FILNER
51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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CHAIRMAN

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January 22, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing regarding the Iraqi plans to shut down Camp Ashraf in Iraq's Diyala Province. The closing of this camp is a blatant violation of the rights of the residents of Ashraf.

Many distinguished scholars of International Humanitarian Law, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Office of the United High Commissioner for Human Rights, International Committee of the Red Cross, Amnesty International, the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe have time and again underscored that regardless of the status of the United States forces in Iraq, the residents of Ashraf must continue to receive the protection of the US forces so long as they remain in Iraq.

I respectfully urge intervention to ensure that the Multi-National Forces and Iraq continue to protect Camp Ashraf as they have done consistent with their obligations under international law.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/sm
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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are acutely aware that the US Transportation Command and the US Air Force place a very high priority on recapitalizing the fleet of KC-135 Refueling Tankers. We agree with this priority. Unfortunately, as the Government Accountability Office concluded last year, the previous source selection process for the KC-X Tanker was deeply flawed. We write to you today to highlight several key points that we believe must guide a future source selection process if it is to be successful.

First and foremost a future competitive source selection must be fair to all parties while delivering the best value solution for the warfighter at a reasonable cost for the taxpayer. In the previous source selection, the competition was not conducted fairly on several levels. The Department of Defense (DOD) must not repeat past mistakes:

- Do not allow "competition at all costs" to distort the KC-X solicitation and source selection process. In the months leading up to the release of the final Request for Proposals (RFP) for the previous KC-X solicitation, the Air Force bent to the combination of external pressure for "competition at all costs" coupled with refusal by one potential offeror to compete unless the RFP was changed to its satisfaction. This led to last minute changes in key elements of the Combined Mating and Ranging Planning System (CMARPS) evaluation tool for the sole purpose of qualifying one offeror's proposal.

- Conduct the competition on a level playing field for all parties. In the previous KC-X competition, the Northrop Grumman/EADS team benefited from unfair advantages that derive from illegal government subsidies and waivers of regulations that apply to products produced in the United States. Specifically, the United States government has a complaint pending before the World Trade Organization (WTO) stating that the A-330 aircraft produced by EADS/Airbus benefitted from $5 billion in illegal government subsidies. Note that Section 886 of the FY2009 National Defense Authorization Act requires DOD to conduct a review of the impacts of subsidies on the aerial refueling tanker competition upon completion of the proceedings of the WTO. The KC-X competition also has highlighted the unequal treatment that American producers face when competing with products from several allied nations. Our American producers must abide by many regulations (Berry Amendment, Buy America Act, International Traffic in Arms Regulations, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and cost accounting

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OSD 02999-09

standards) that add cost for domestic products but are waived for items produced in other countries.

➢ Take into account full and accurate life-cycle costs for proposals. According to Defense Acquisition University studies, Operation and Support (O&S) costs constitute approximately 72 percent of total weapon system costs. It is imperative that these costs be a significant factor in source selection decisions, and that they be estimated properly. DOD made a serious error in the previous KC-X Tanker source selection analysis when it based estimates of Most Probable Life-Cycle Cost (MPLCC) on a 25-year interval rather than the 40-year interval that was stipulated (and approved by the JROC) as the required service life of the aircraft. Furthermore, GAO recommended that a future source selection give greater attention to the impact of fuel costs in its life-cycle cost analysis. GAO concluded that "even a small increase in the amount of fuel that is burned per hour by a particular aircraft would have a dramatic impact on the overall fuel costs." Well established commercial data shows that the Airbus A-330 aircraft consumes 24% more fuel per flight hour than does a Boeing 767 aircraft. This would result in very significant differences in operating costs.

➢ Insist that proposals fully comply with all key requirements of the solicitation. In the previous KC-X Tanker source selection evaluation, GAO concluded that in two instances the Air Force disregarded the fact that the Northrop Grumman/EADS proposal failed to comply with requirements of the solicitation. Specifically, GAO found that the Air Force "improperly made award" when it "unreasonably determined that the awardee's refusal to agree to the specific solicitation requirement that it plan and support the agency to achieve organic depot-level maintenance." GAO also concluded that "the record does not demonstrate the reasonableness of the agency's determination that the awardee's proposed aerial refueling tanker could refuel all current Air Force fixed-wing tanker-compatible receiver aircraft in accordance with current Air Force procedures, as required by the solicitation."

➢ Insist that source selection evaluation be accomplished in accordance with the evaluation plan that is established for the solicitation. GAO found that the Air Force "did not assess the relative merits of the proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria identified in the solicitation, which provided for a relative order of importance for the various technical requirements, and where the agency did not take into account the fact that one of the proposals offered to satisfy more "trade space" technical requirements than the other proposal, even though the solicitation expressly requested offerors to satisfy as many of these technical requirements as possible." Furthermore, GAO concluded that the Air Force "violated the solicitation's evaluation provision that "no consideration will be provided for exceeding [key performance parameter] KPP objectives" when it recognized as a key discriminator the fact that the awardee proposed to exceed a KPP objective relating to aerial refueling to a greater degree than the protester."

➢ Carefully consider national security impacts and industrial base impacts. Given the crucial role that air refueling plays in providing global reach for our military, DOD must carefully weigh the importance of preserving domestic design knowledge and production expertise. Furthermore, industrial base impacts must be assessed given the fragile economic conditions and weak domestic employment environment. Federal code

(10 U.S.C. 2440) requires evaluation of technology and industrial base impacts in conjunction with major defense acquisitions.

We also think that it is important to the successful progress of the KC-X Tanker acquisition that DOD commence discussions with the potential offerors. Our understanding is that for the last several months DOD has resisted discussions that would help the government and industry exchange information, ideas and perspectives. If this program is to move forward and yield a positive outcome, we recommend that DOD engage with industry.

Finally, we urge you to take the necessary time to allow the new Administration team to thoroughly consider the framework for the next source selection process. As much as the Air Force needs to begin recapitalizing the KC-135 fleet, we think it is essential that the solicitation requirements and acquisition strategy have the input and support of the new DOD leadership team that will be responsible for conducting the source selection and getting the program under way.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

NORM DICKS
Member of Congress

TODD TIAHRT
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
3E880 The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

The Honorable Dennis C. Blair
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Secretary Gates and Director Blair:

We are writing to urge you to suspend implementation of the Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System (DCIPS) and include this program in the Administration's review of the National Security Personnel System (NSPS).

We have consistently expressed concerns about the implementation of pay-for-performance systems, which would impose wholesale changes to the current federal employee system. We are deeply concerned that these systems undermine collaboration, lack transparency, do not ensure fairness, and may have an adverse impact on minorities. The implementation of these systems has caused widespread distrust and anxiety across the federal government and, in particular, among Intelligence Community employees. We note with some alarm that human resources personnel and supervisors in converting units have not received adequate training for conversions planned within the next six months.

During the campaign, President Obama indicated that he would consider either a repeal or complete overhaul of pay-for-performance systems in the Department of Defense (DOD), and this week, DOD and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that it would suspend further implementation of NSPS, pending review of this system. This review may take some time, and until it is complete, the implementation of such pay-for-performance systems like DCIPS would be premature.

We hope that you would suspend implementation of DCIPS until the Administration and Congress can properly address the future of the intelligence community's personnel systems.

We request a prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely,

Silvestre Reyes
Chairman
House Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence

Ike Skelton
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee

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OSD 03118-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As you know, last year's Department of Defense Appropriations Act provided partial funding for the third DDG-1000 and directed the Navy to budget for the remaining funding requirement in FY10. Congress expects the Navy to adhere to this direction; therefore, we write to urge your support for full funding of the DDG-1000 program in the FY10 President's budget, and request that you continue a thorough and transparent review and evaluation of the Navy's proposal to truncate the DDG-1000 program and restart DDG-51 production.

We remain very concerned about the Navy's long-term shipbuilding plan. Despite several months of Congressional and Department of Defense requests for further analysis, the Navy has yet to provide sufficient justification in support of the proposal to truncate the DDG-1000 program and restart DDG-51 production. We continue to await an in-depth comparative analysis of the DDG-51 and DDG-1000. The Navy's failure to provide such a detailed cost analysis strongly implies a lack of supporting documentation of the Navy's position and undermines our confidence in the merits of the Navy's plan to truncate the DDG-1000 program. Congress must have this information before acquiescing to a change of this magnitude.

Supporting the DDG-1000 program will enable the Navy to leverage $11 billion in already invested research and development funding. The ship has been designed with significant growth margins including power, cooling, space, and weight to enable rapid enhancements to meet evolving threats in the existing hull. We believe that continued production and delivery of DDG-1000 class destroyers is essential to the long-term stability of our shipbuilding program and the timely delivery of needed capabilities to the Navy.

With respect and appreciation, and thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy

Jack Reed

John F. Kerry

Sheldon Whitehouse

OSD 03125-09

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress

James McGovern
Member of Congress

Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

Paul Hodes
Member of Congress

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

James Langevin
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We urge you to cancel the OMB Circular A-76 privatization review of public works at the United States Army Garrison, West Point.

The A-76 program was shut down by Congress in the Omnibus Appropriations Act that the president signed into law earlier this month because of longstanding concerns. Two Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports issued last year detail how poor guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) had resulted in systematically overstated savings and understated costs as well as a disproportionately adverse impact on older, female and African-American civil servants. As GAO noted, even after eight years, A-76 proponents are still unable to "reliably assess whether competitive sourcing truly provides the best deal for the taxpayer."

Moreover, the A-76 program raises concerns about compliance with the law. The Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2009 limits multifunction OMB Circular A-76 privatization reviews, like the one of public works at West Point, to no longer than 30 months. The West Point A-76 privatization review was formally announced in September 2006, 30 months ago. However, an A-76 privatization review starts not at formal announcement -- but when preliminary planning begins, when money is first spent on hiring consultants and reassigning civil servants from their usual jobs. Indeed, this preliminary planning is actually required by the OMB Circular A-76. We understand that preliminary planning for the West Point public works privatization review actually began over seven years ago in 2002 and included at least five full-time civil servants.

We are also concerned about compliance with the provision in the fiscal year 2008 Defense Authorization bill, which forbids the Department of Defense from carrying out competitive sourcing-related direction from OMB. Less than two months after enactment, West Point tried to utilize the prohibition by petitioning the Army for relief from carrying out the public works privatization review. In its March 19, 2008 letter, the installation discussed a detailed plan for internal reengineering of its public works functions that would be "less disruptive" than the A-76 privatization review, but yet "yield efficiency and real savings," and thus be "a win-win for West Point and the West Point community." Nevertheless, this petition was rejected. Even OMB during

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OSD 03251-09

the previous administration acknowledged that the A-76 process should not be considered the exclusive process for generating efficiencies when officials in July 2008 renamed competitive sourcing, calling it "commercial management," and emphasized business process reengineering instead of contracting out.

This privatization review is already well past the 30 month limitation imposed in law, which means that the actual costs likely exceed any savings. In addition, West Point is prepared to achieve a satisfactory resolution that benefits taxpayers and the West Point community. We in Congress have already recognized the failure of OMB Circular A-76 privatization reviews by eliminating them. Today, we strongly urge you to cancel the West Point public works OMB Circular A-76 privatization review.

Sincerely,

MAURICE HINCHEY
Member of Congress

JOHN HALL
Member of Congress

RON PAUL
14TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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SUITE 216
GALVESTON, TX 77550
(409) 766-7019

JS

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

March 16, 2009

Dear Mr. President:

We have noted with some concern your announcement that an additional 17,000 US troops would be sent to Afghanistan. As the goals of our seven year military involvement remain troublingly unclear, we urge you to reconsider such a military escalation.

If the intent is to leave behind a stable Afghanistan capable of governing itself, this military escalation may well be counterproductive. A recent study by the Carnegie Endowment has concluded that "the only meaningful way to halt the insurgency's momentum is to start withdrawing troops. The presence of foreign troops is the most important element driving the resurgence of the Taliban."

The 2001 authorization to use military force in Afghanistan allowed military action "to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States." Continuing to fight a counterinsurgency war in Afghanistan does not appear to us to be in keeping with these directives and an escalation may actually harm US security.

In a tape released in 2004, Osama bin Laden stated that al Qaeda's goal was to "bleed...America to the point of bankruptcy" in Afghanistan. He continued, "All that we have to do is to send two mujahedeen to the furthest point east to raise a piece of cloth on which is written al Qaeda, in order to make generals race there to cause America to suffer human, economic and political losses without their achieving anything of note...." We would do well to pay attention to these threats and to avoid falling into any such trap through escalation of our military presence in Afghanistan.

We are also concerned that any perceived military success in Afghanistan might create pressure to increase military activity in Pakistan. This could very well lead to dangerous destabilization in the region and would increase hostility toward the United States.

Mr. President, in reviewing the past history of Afghanistan and the nations that have failed to conquer it -- Russia spent nine years in Afghanistan and lost many billions of dollars and more than 15,000 Russian soldiers-- we urge you to reconsider the decision to send an additional 17,000 troops and to resist pressure to escalate even further.

Sincerely,

Ron Paul
Rep. Ron Paul, M.D.

Walter B. Jones
Rep. Walter B. Jones

Ed Whitfield

Neil Abercrombie

Dennis J. Kucinich

Pat Tiberi

Bob Filner

Steve Kagen MD

John Duncan Jr.

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Jim McDermott

Howard Coble

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Michael McNulty

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ERIC J.J. MASSA, NEW YORK
BOBBY BRIGHT, ALABAMA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 26, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Since the Eisenhower Administration, it has been the policy of the government that it should not compete with its citizens. That policy is outlined in the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, which governs all public-private competitions to potentially outsource work to the private sector. Originally, the A-76 process was intended to be used as a tool to determine the most competitive and efficient source for performing "commercial" work – either in the public or private sector. However, it became almost a mandate in recent years for pushing more and more work into the private sector, even work that is closely associated with inherently governmental functions, in order to meet arbitrary competition goals.

The House Armed Services Committee has taken several steps to mitigate the undue burdens on the Department of Defense. In response to a congressional mandate, the Department of Defense Inspector General reviewed the military services' A-76 programs. In its interim report (April 22, 2008) the DOD Inspector General noted that:

- *The Army is undergoing many efforts that impact competitive sourcing planning, such as Base Realignment and closure, growing the Army, and the war.*
- *The Air Force feels "pressure in the budget to conduct" privatization studies.*

These findings were reaffirmed in the final report of December 15, 2008.

Furthermore, The Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes a one year government-wide moratorium (section 737) on beginning or announcing any A-76 studies.

Many of the Department's A-76 studies have dragged on far beyond the time limits authorized in the 2003 revised Circular A-76, as well as those imposed by statute. This creates an unfair strain on the federal employees whose jobs are being competed, as well as the contractors who have submitted bids for the work. In many cases, an individual service has requested a cancellation – either because the installation is seeking an alternative approach or because the original study was not appropriate – only to be denied by the Department.

OSD 03502-09

We are aware that the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Installations and Environment) in a letter to many members of Congress, reaffirmed the competitive sourcing policy that was set in place by the 2001 President's Management Agenda; this is the same official who advocated so strongly for competitive sourcing within the Department during the Bush Administration.

In light of the President's memo (dated March 4, 2009), as well as concerns raised by the military services, we urge you to immediately halt any pending A-76 studies as well as the initiation or announcement of any A-76 study, and to rescind the 2008 competitive sourcing policy memo. This will allow the Administration and Congress time to conduct a comprehensive review of the Department's A-76 program and to determine the best course for moving forward with a sound competitive sourcing policy.

We request a prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely,

IKE SKELTON
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee

SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
Chairman
Readiness Subcommittee

IS: cg

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

March 23, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are greatly concerned by reports that the Airborne Laser (ABL) program is facing severe budget cuts or even termination in the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget proposal. The ABL is America's premier directed energy effort and represents not only a tremendous potential for our nation's warfighters, but also for maintaining America's technological edge. It is critical to the future of our national security capabilities. For these reasons, we urgently request the ABL remain a robustly funded program.

According to the Missile Defense Agency, the ABL provides a unique capability *"to detect, track, target, and destroy ballistic missiles shortly after launch during the boost-phase. Its revolutionary use of directed energy makes it unique among the United States' airborne weapon systems, with a potential to attack multiple targets at the speed of light with a range of hundreds of kilometers."*

Our military warfighters agree that the ABL is essential for addressing many of the challenges facing our nation. General B.B. Bell, the former Commander of the United States Forces Korea, wrote in 2007, *"...from a warfighter's perspective, the ABL will be an important ingredient in our much needed and required layered missile defense capability for the Korean Peninsula."* This is a legitimate capability our nation needs.

As you know, the Airborne Laser began during the Clinton administration in the face of an increasing ballistic missile threat. Since that time, the proliferation of ballistic missiles has only grown. Today, outside of Russia, China and our Western allies, there are 3,000 ballistic missiles around the world. That number is continuing to grow every year. As threats proliferate around the globe, the relevance and importance of the ABL as the nation's only fully designed boost-phase missile defense system will continue to increase.

OSD 03624-09

The ABL is performing well and is scheduled to shoot down a boosting ballistic missile by the end of the year. Should the ABL be severely under-funded or canceled, the promise of speed-of-light and extreme precision in the hands of the warfighter will disappear, as will the fragile industrial base that supports it. In short, we will have wasted the resources that have been well invested since the Clinton administration.

Again, we respectfully request your support for the Airborne Laser program.

Sincerely,

Norm Dicks
Member of Congress

Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress

Todd Akin
Member of Congress

Buck McKeon
Member of Congress

Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

In deciding how to allocate the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's funding, please give consideration to the research conducted by Bell BioEnergy, Inc of Tifton, Georgia, which is studying how to use bioengineered bacteria to convert biomass to biofuels.

Bell BioEnergy is producing renewable, domestically-produced, high-quality transportation fuels. The process it has developed will enhance America's independence from foreign oil in an environmentally sound manner through the successful conversion of non-food biomass to biofuels. Such efforts will also result in the creation of a significant number of new, green jobs.

Bell BioEnergy is presently conducting research through pilot projects conducted in collaboration with the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC) at seven military installations around the nation. The projects are located at Fort Benning, Fort Stewart, Fort Bragg, Fort Lewis, Fort Drum, Fort A.P. Hill, and the DESC facility at San Pedro, California. At each site, Bell BioEnergy is working to:

1) Perfect the waste biomass to hydrocarbon fuels process;

2) Further refine the unique bacteria used in the process;

3) Produce sufficient amounts of usable hydrocarbon fuels (natural gas, gasoline, diesel and jet) for laboratory testing;

4) Test and certify the fuels generated by the process as a "drop in fuel" that is fit for its intended purpose; and

5) Gather the engineering and scientific data necessary to design full scale production facilities.

Bell BioEnergy is seeking additional funding to complete these pilot projects. The funds would be used to 1) complete construction of the seven pilot projects, 2) perform university-level research to determine the most viable bacteria for converting biomass to hydrocarbon fuels, and 3) construct the first research laboratory dedicated to the segregation and propagation of the bacteria required to convert non-food waste biomass to biofuels.

OSD 03628-09

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Re: Bell BioEnergy Funding
March 25, 2009

It is estimated that each test facility will employ five technicians. The research laboratory would employ 25 to 50 scientists and technicians, with secondary employment of up to 400 people. These efforts would support the underlying goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which is to create jobs and help transition our economy toward clean, renewable energy.

We thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Lynn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress

Jim Marshall
Member of Congress

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-10000

Admiral Michael Mullen
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
9999 Joint Staff Pentagon
Washington, DC 20318-9999

Dear Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen:

We understand that the Air Force will be deciding soon where to base the new Global Strike Command headquarters, and we know that you have been monitoring the decision process since it began last fall. As part of our effort to inform senior defense leaders, it is our pleasure to provide you with this copy of "Why Minot," a comprehensive description of how Minot, North Dakota, meets or exceeds all Air Force Global Strike Command headquarters basing criteria. We have also sent this material to Secretary Donley, General Schwartz and General Corley.

"Why Minot" showcases the full array of benefits that the base and the city have to offer. We want to stress in particular how Minot is the only location that offers the ability to bring direct oversight to every aspect of the operational nuclear mission. Minot possesses the complete range of Air Force operational nuclear expertise – a nuclear bomber wing, an ICBM wing, and a nuclear weapons storage area. A major lesson of the past two years is that the Air Force must increase command supervision at the operational level. Standing up a new major command without doing so would be a major missed opportunity.

We also want to stress the incredible support the community of Minot offers the Air Force. Strong support by the community will pay dividends for the Air Force by helping to ease issues like the environmental assessment process and base expansion. When combined with our delegation's commitment to assisting the Air Force in its mission to restore confidence in nuclear surety and regain its reputation as the world's best nuclear steward, this support is unparalleled.

After reviewing "Why Minot," we believe you too will agree that Minot is indeed the best location for Global Strike Command! Thank you as always for your service.

Sincerely,

KENT CONRAD
U.S. Senate

BYRON DORGAN
U.S. Senate

EARL POMEROY
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03681-09

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
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KATHY CASTOR, FLORIDA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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DOUG LAMBORN, COLORADO

ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

Given the Department's experience with the initial F-15 and F-16 engine program beginning in the late 1970s, early on in the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program, beginning in 1996, Congress directed that an alternate engine be included within the JSF program.

The Department supported and budgeted for the alternate engine program within the JSF program through fiscal year 2006. Because of internal budget pressures due to cost overruns within other elements of JSF, the Department did not and has not subsequently included the alternate engine in the annual JSF budget request after fiscal year 2006.

However, in fiscal years 2007-2009, Congress added funding to continue the alternate engine. And the Department has obligated all of the alternate engine funding provided by Congress, until this year.

Given the likely future expenditure of over $100 billion in procurement and sustainment funding for JSF engines over the life of the JSF program, Congress continues to believe that competition will provide a net benefit over a single-source procurement and sustainment model. Studies done in 2007 by GAO and the Institute for Defense Analyses also support the competitive model as being a net benefit to the JSF program.

In a hearing on this issue before our Subcommittee on March 11, 2008, Undersecretary Young made the following statement concerning the execution of funds for the continued development and procurement of an alternate JSF engine: "If Congress authorizes and appropriates funds in fiscal year 2009, we will continue to execute the second source...the law requires us to obligate and expend funds, and we will certainly obey the law." Yet, the Department's Comptroller, Robert Hale, is now withholding $35 million in advance procurement funding for the alternate

OSD 03784-09

engine that needs to be released in the April-May period to avoid impacting the alternate engine schedule.

Section 213 of the fiscal year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) states that "the Secretary of Defense shall ensure the obligation and expenditure in each such fiscal year of sufficient annual amounts for the continued development and procurement of two options for the propulsion system for the Joint Strike Fighter in order to ensure the development and competitive procurement for the propulsion system for the Joint Strike Fighter." Some inside the Department have contended that funds cannot be obligated because there is no procurement for alternate engine program programmed for fiscal year 2010. Continuing to withhold funding that was authorized and appropriated for alternate engine advance procurement is unjustified. Section 213 of the fiscal year 2008 NDAA requires obligation and expenditure of alternate engine funds. And the Department's obligation of funds for F-22 advance procurement, belies any contention that obligation of funds expressly authorized by Congress is inappropriate based on what may, or may not, be in the fiscal 2010 budget request.

Commitments made to Congress by the Undersecretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics should not be allowed to be subsequently reversed by another Undersecretary. Furthermore, we request that you direct the release of the $35 million in advance procurement funding for the alternate engine.

Sincerely,

Neil Abercrombie
Chairman,
Air and Land Forces
Subcommittee

Roscoe Bartlett
Ranking Member,
Air and Land Forces
Subcommittee

E. BENJAMIN NELSON
NEBRASKA

720 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
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United States Senate

April 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On April 2, 2009, the U.S. Air Force announced that it had chosen Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana as the location of the new Global Strike Command to oversee the Air Force's nuclear operations. In press reports announcing this decision, I was greatly concerned to see allegations by a member of the Nebraska Congressional delegation that military commanders have asserted that politics play a role in the decision of the location of major new commands.

Yet the *Omaha World-Herald* reported on April 3, 2009, that "Rep. Lee Terry said that while military commanders maintain publicly that politics are not involved in such decisions, they concede in private that politics do play a role. Terry said those politics occur primarily at the Senate level." This is a very serious allegation which I believe merits serious consideration and a response by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). I am greatly concerned by any accusation that DoD chose Barksdale Air Force Base as the location of the Global Strike Command based on political considerations, particularly those in the Senate, rather than an objective evaluation of the qualifications of the bases. Such allegations, if left unaddressed, seriously undermine the credibility and integrity of our armed services and the men and women who serve to keep our nation secure.

I ask you to immediately investigate and report on the allegations by Congressman Terry as reported in the *Omaha World-Herald* that military commanders are basing their decisions on politics, in part in or in whole, rather than the interests of DoD and the security of our nation.

Since Congressman Terry provided no specifics to back up his allegations, some could choose to discount them as baseless. However, since Offutt Air Force Base scored highest overall of all the bases under consideration in the criteria used, and rated the highest or tied for the highest in all six individual subcategories, it is difficult to explain why Offutt was not selected and to argue that politics was not the basis for this decision.

The longer such an allegation goes unaddressed, the greater the appearance of plausibility becomes. Therefore, I am requesting an immediate and thorough investigation of this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

EBN:ceg

cc: The Honorable Barack Obama

OSD 03788-09

440 NORTH 8TH STREET
SUITE 120
LINCOLN, NE 68508
(402) 441-4600
FAX: (402) 476-8753

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
POST OFFICE BOX 2105
KEARNEY, NE 68848
(308) 293-5818

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
POST OFFICE BOX 1472
SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69363
(308) 631-7614

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
POST OFFICE BOX 791
SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE 68776
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7602 PACIFIC STREET
SUITE 205
OMAHA, NE 68114
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FAX: (402) 391-4725

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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

March 30, 2009

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are concerned that veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan may be ill, and some may have actually died, as a result of exposure to dangerous toxins produced by burn pits used to destroy waste. The *Military Times* reports that scores of returning veterans who were exposed to burn pits display similar symptoms: chronic bronchitis, asthma, sleep apnea, chronic coughs, and allergy-like symptoms. Several also have cited heart problems, lymphoma, and leukemia. We write to request that you direct relevant DoD personnel to fully comply with the VA's requests for information needed to study the impact of these potential environmental exposures.

Our experience with treating illnesses caused by Agent Orange and Gulf War Illness taught us that we must be vigilant in monitoring and treating our veterans long after they have returned from the battlefield. Although the Department of Defense currently maintains that there are no health dangers to troops from exposure to burn pits, we believe it is premature to dismiss concerns raised about burn pits after only a few years.

As you know, a joint study of the burn pit at Balad Air Base found that toxins were present, including carcinogens such as dioxin, but that they did not exceed military exposure guidelines for those exposed to the fumes for one year. The Defense Health Board reviewed the study last year. While the Board found that the study was generally adequate, it identified several weaknesses in the study, including the lack of a comprehensive analysis of the interaction of various toxins and the failure to conduct a valid study of relevant health records. It identified several ways in which the Army could improve its examination of dioxin serum sampling and analysis of respiratory illnesses.

Independent scientists who have reviewed the joint study of the Balad Air Base have informed us that there is a significant danger that veterans may become ill as a result of exposure to fumes emanating from such burn pits. They also noted that the underlying data supporting the study was not included and that it will be difficult to ascertain the potential health care implications of exposure to the fumes without this data.

For this reason, we request that you make this underlying data available to our staff and to the Government Accountability Office for its review, in a classified setting if required.

Meanwhile, the real indicators of the dangers to veterans are the long-term health measures of those exposed rather than less reliable environmental reports. Therefore, the study of those known to be exposed by burn pits should be the primary focus.

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Responding to a recent Congressional request along these lines, Veterans Affairs Secretary Shinseki gave assurance that he is taking seriously our concerns about the dangers of burn pits. In the enclosed message, Secretary Shinseki committed to take the following actions which relate to the Department of Defense:

1. VA scientists have begun health studies on veterans of the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, including requesting assistance from the Department of Defense (DoD) for troop exposure and location data.
2. VA is working with DoD to obtain all relevant exposure data with the goal of establishing potential correlations with health problems among affected veterans. To this end, VA has established a data sharing agreement with DoD that grants access to this data for separated veterans. VA scientists will also review data gathered from DoD's Post Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA) surveys, which ask about exposures to smoke from burn pits, subsequent symptoms, and a variety of other health related questions.

Since time is of the essence and the lives of our troops and veterans are at stake, we are requesting your expressed commitment that the Pentagon will fully cooperate with the VA in this matter so that these analyses can be completed as quickly and accurately as possible. We also request that you direct the relevant Department of Defense offices to fully cooperate with the VA's studies.

Thank you for your attention and assistance in this matter.

Senator Russ Feingold

Senator Evan Bayh

Senator Ron Wyden

Representative Tim Bishop

Representative Steve Cohen

Representative John Hall

Representative Maurice Hinchey

Representative Carol Shea-Porter

100351

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

In two weeks the United States will mark the sixth anniversary of the launch of the preemptive war and occupation of Iraq. Like you, we, the undersigned Members of Congress, opposed the war and occupation from the start and have spent the last several years working to extricate the United States from this quagmire. We believe that ending the war and occupation in Iraq means redeploying all troops and all military contractors out of Iraq. It also means leaving behind no permanent bases and renouncing any claims upon Iraqi oil.

The policy you announced last week in your speech at Camp Lejeune regarding the redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq is a hopeful sign that the end of the war and occupation in Iraq is in sight. We believe, however, that even more can and should be done to hasten the day when all U.S. troops and military contractors are redeployed out of Iraq and reunited with their families and loved ones.

Specifically, while we welcome your embrace of a withdrawal timeline and your commitment to the American people that all combat troops will be withdrawn from Iraq by August 31, 2010, we are concerned that the plan you announced contemplates leaving up to 50,000 U.S. troops in Iraq- nearly as large as the force deployed in South Korea during the height of the cold war.

Accordingly, it would be extremely helpful to us, other members of Congress, and the public if you would address the following questions:

1. What factors will be used to determine the size of the reserve force to be left in Iraq?
2. What role do you envision for the United States after combat forces are redeployed that requires nearly 50,000 U.S. troops to implement?
3. What actions have the Administration taken, or contemplates taking, to comply with the congressional prohibition against the establishment or maintenance of permanent bases in Iraq?
4. Will the role of the "transition force" be changed if violence flares back up in Iraq?
5. How does the plan address the estimated 190,000 American contractors currently stationed in Iraq?

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We believe that our nation's interests in Iraq and the region will be best advanced by reducing the size of the military footprint and making greater use of our other assets of national power, including diplomacy, reconciliation, commerce, development assistance, and humanitarian aid. We are heartened that you consider the deployment of these national assets central to a viable Iraq strategy.

We look forward to continuing our dialogue and strengthening our partnership in the pursuit of our mutual goal: ending the war and occupation and redeploying all American troops and military contractors out of Iraq and reuniting them with their families and loved ones.

Sincerely,

BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress

MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress

1003376

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

We are writing to express our strong support for resuming Operation Jump Start.

As you know, this effort deployed National Guard troops to meet our Southwest border security needs. Operation Jump Start was a tremendous success. Guardsmen built 37 miles of fence, repaired 700 miles of roadway, assisted in confiscating over 298,000 pounds of drugs, offered support in over 166,000 arrests and helped in 100 rescues. They were vital in securing the border, enhancing border infrastructure, and improving border security and agent safety.

The main reason why the National Guard was deployed under Operation Jump Start was that there were not enough resources on the border for effective security – both in the number of "eyes and ears" on the ground as well as infrastructure being built. The mission ended in July 2008.

As you know, the Mexican military's crackdown on drug cartels and corruption has increased violence and decreased stability in the region. Last year, more than 6,000 people and this year more than 1,000 have died as a result. On February 20, the State Department issued a travel alert as drug cartels are engaged in an increasingly violent conflict among themselves and the Mexican government for control of trafficking routes along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Due to the current situation in Mexico, we believe that more resources are needed to ensure additional border security. There are still significant security and infrastructure needs on the border and the National Guard should be used as an asset in this regard.

At a time when drug violence from Mexico threatens to spill over the border and expose our communities and families to the consequences, we strongly encourage you to resume Operation Jump Start. We look forward to working with you to ensure the security of our borders.

Sincerely,

Ed Royce

Brian P. Bilbray

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Sam Johnson

Howard Coble

Todd Tiahrt

Trent Franks

Gary G. Miller

Dana Rohrabacher

Bill Posey

Ken Marchant

Rodney Alexander

Sue Myrick

Cc: DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano

Signed by Representatives:

Ed Royce
Brian Bilbray
Howard Coble
Sam Johnson
Gary Miller
Trent Franks
Todd Tiahrt
Kenny Marchant
Sue Myrick
Rodney Alexander
Bill Posey
Dana Rohrabacher

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write regarding the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report addressing the listing and oversight of Superfund sites at DOD facilities, Superfund: Greater EPA Enforcement and Reporting are Needed to Enhance Cleanup at DOD Sites (GAO-09-278), urging you to rapidly take all steps necessary to remediate contaminated DOD sites.

The GAO report reached several disturbing conclusions:

- While the number of DOD sites considered for placement into the Superfund program has declined over the past decade, DOD sites still account for 9 percent of all Superfund sites.
- Despite years of negotiations, DOD and EPA have not finalized Interagency Agreements setting out the terms for clean-up of 11 of the 140 DOD Superfund sites, despite the statutory requirement to do so, reportedly because DOD disagreed with the terms contained in the Agreement documents and simply refused to sign the documents. These sites include (1) Air Force Plant 44 (Tucson, AZ) (2) Andrews Air Force Base (MD) (3) Brandywine Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (MD) (4) Fort Meade (MD) (5) Hanscom Field (Bedford, MA) (6) Langley Air Force Base (VA) (7) McGuire Air Force Base (Trenton, NJ) (8) Naval Air Station Whiting Field (Milton, FL) (9) Naval Computer Telecommunication Area Administrative Master Station (Wahiawa, HI) (10) Redstone Arsenal (Huntsville, AL) and (11) Tyndall Air Force Base (Panama City, FL).
- Despite the requirement for Interagency Agreements to be signed at all federal Superfund sites, the Superfund statute (Section 120 of CERCLA) contains no enforcement mechanism that could be used if a federal agency refuses to do so. Although EPA may initiate administrative enforcement actions under other laws (such as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act) to compel DOD to clean up contaminated sites, EPA chose not to pursue enforcement actions until 2007, more than 10 years after these sites were first placed into the Superfund Program. Currently, there are EPA Administrative orders in place at 4 sites: Fort Meade (MD), McGuire Air Force Base (Trenton, NJ), Tyndall Air Force Base (Panama City, FL), and Air Force Plant 44 (Tucson, AZ).

We believe that the Department should immediately enter into the appropriate Interagency Agreements and expedite the cleanup of these sites. We request that you provide us with a detailed description of your plans to do so, including:

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- Specific timeframes for when Interagency Agreements will be signed at each of the DOD Superfund sites currently lacking them, and the status of any negotiations regarding their text, including who is participating in these negotiations.
- Milestones agreed to by EPA and DOD that are expected for inclusion in Site Management Plans for the cleanup of each of these sites;
- Any outstanding issues that may impact these schedules and milestones.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter. Please provide your response no later than close of business on Friday May 1, 2009. If you have any questions or concerns, please have your staff contact Michal Freedhoff (Rep. Markey, 52836), or Derrick Ramos (Rep. Green, 51688).

Sincerely,

Rep. Edward J. Markey

Rep. Gene Green

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As you know, the United States is currently facing a number of daunting national security challenges. With our ongoing involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as our efforts to combat terrorism, the need to recruit and retain qualified men and women for military service is greater than ever. We are writing to request that the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) be restored as a meaningful advisory body with authority to independently advise the Secretary of Defense on issues concerning military women. Doing so would be a highly effective way to quickly identify and address the obstacles to women choosing long-term careers in the armed forces, and would ensure that the U.S. military is well prepared for today's wartime realities.

DACOWITS was established in 1951 as a civilian board of individuals appointed by the Secretary of Defense for the purpose of providing advice and recommendations on matters affecting women in the armed services. For half a century, the Committee served as a vital link between the Department of Defense and the civilian community and gained a reputation for conducting valuable and highly respected analysis on integrating women into the military, making the armed services more effective overall.

Many in the security community were surprised and dismayed when the Bush administration failed to renew the Committee's charter shortly after taking office. In its place, then Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld introduced a new mandate for DACOWITS which cut members, staff, and funding, revoked the Committee's autonomy, and diluted attention to women's issues. In addition, former Secretary Rumsfeld imposed restrictions which made the Committee's military installation visits less frequent and less effective, and reduced its diversity and transparency in terms of membership selection and policies. The broader effect of these actions has been to sideline serious study of women in the military, and depriving our armed forces of an untold number of skilled and capable leaders.

Former Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Dr. David Chu publicly stated his belief that DACOWITS' work to increase the proportion of women in the

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military had "probably reached its natural limits."[1] This statement does not mesh with the abundance of studies and reports indicating that many women in the armed forces feel they are coming up against a "brass ceiling" as they struggle to rise through the ranks and demonstrate their leadership. Under its original charter, DACOWITS worked to address women's specific needs as they entered the armed forces in increasing numbers. Some of the progressive changes made as a result of DACOWITS' work include coed bootcamps, the gender "norming" of fitness standards, programs to address sexual harassment, and family friendly work policies. These institutional changes benefit both men and women, and help the U.S. military maintain its reputation as the best in the world. Whoever is appointed as the next Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness should have an in depth understanding of the need to consider the differing needs of servicemen and women, and should appreciate the demonstrated benefits of reducing gender based discrimination in the armed forces.

We believe that DACOWITS must be re-established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act with the mission to advise the Secretary of Defense on a broad range of matters relating to women in the military. Additionally, it must be restored to its former status through an increase in its membership to at least 25, to be chosen from diverse backgrounds, and this Committee should be supported with an adequate budget to carry out the analysis and data collection which has proven so valuable in the past. We are confident in your dedication to creating an enabling and supportive environment, so that our servicemen and women can reach their full potential and contribute the best of their skills and abilities to the protection of our country. The revitalization of DACOWITS would greatly facilitate this goal. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

ERIC MASSA
Member of Congress

[1] Stone, Andrea. "Women Warriors Play an Essential Role in Military." *USA TODAY*. 11 January 2002. http://www.usatoday.com/news/sep11/2002/01/10/warriors.htm. (Accessed 31 March 2009).

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to respectfully request your assistance in reinstating the National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force's *Port and Highway Interdiction* mission. This tasking was terminated nearly 8 years ago and removed from the responsibilities of the National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. We are confident this mission set is both immensely important to the national security of our country and provides outstanding training for our soldiers and airmen.

As you know, the Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO) along the US-Mexico border have become an increased threat to our country. These criminal and terrorist organizations control the avenues of approach to the U.S. and utilize these avenues to smuggle humans and illegal narcotics. These same organizations then use the lack of oversight on southbound cargo to transport money and weapons to the cartels- thus fueling the violence and destruction.

During the period of National Guard support to *Port and Highway Interdiction*, Texas guardsmen were credited with well over $1 billion dollars in drug seizures per year. Texas also laid claim to well over $27 million in cash seizures in one year alone. These statistics prove the viability and importance of having Guard men and women working the secondary search areas along the border- freeing uniformed officers to be out in front of the public.

The threat to Texas and the United States by drug trafficking organizations is clear. A holistic approach must be taken to quell the violence, death and destruction caused by these narco-terrorist organizations. Port and Highway interdiction is a critical aspect of this approach and must be reinstated immediately.

Sincerely,

Rep. John Carter (TX-31)

Rep. Sam Johnson (TX-03)

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Rep. Ralph Hall (TX-04)

Rep. Joe Barton (TX-06)

Rep. Kay Granger (TX-12)

Rep. Lamar Smith (TX-21)

Rep. John Culberson (TX-07)

Rep. Kevin Brady (TX-08)

Rep. Kenny Marchant (TX-24)

Rep. Michael McCaul (TX-10)

Rep. Michael Conaway (TX-11)

Rep. Ted Poe (TX-02)

Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX-01)

Rep. Pete Olson (TX-22)

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Funding for the Purchase of F-22s in the FY2010 Department of Defense Budget

Dear President Obama:

We are gravely concerned regarding recently announced plans to cap production of the F-22A Raptor at 187 aircraft. Simply put, this number is insufficient to meet potential threats to America and to guarantee our nation's air superiority decades into the future. Over 30 air campaign studies completed over the last 15 years have validated a requirement for far more than 187 F-22 Raptors to replace the original force of 800 F-15 A-D Eagles. The decision announced by Secretary Gates not only ignores these facts, but also the validated requirement of our very own Air Force.

Secretary Gates indicated his commitment to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter as America's 5th generation fighter jet. While the JSF is a very capable platform, it is designed for multi-role strike missions and not optimized for the air dominance missions of the F-22. Moreover, it is several years away from full scale production.

As discussed in the January 21 letter to you signed by 194 House Members, the F-22 program annually provides over $12 billion of economic activity to the national economy. As we face one of the most trying economic times in recent history it is imperative to preserve existing high paying, specialized jobs that are critical to our nation's defense. Over 25,000 Americans work for the 1,000+ suppliers in 44 states that manufacture this aircraft. Moreover, it is estimated that another 70,000 additional Americans indirectly owe their jobs to this program.

Mr. President, in light of these concerns and in consideration of the importance of the F-22 program to both American national and economic security, we strongly urge you to reconsider this decision and to certify that continued production of this vital asset is indeed in the national interest of the United States.

Sincerely,

David Scott
Member of Congress

Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress

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Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

Jim Marshall
Member of Congress

Tom Price
Member of Congress

Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Dan Boren
Member of Congress

Allen Boyd
Member of Congress

Michael Burgess
Member of Congress

John Carter
Member of Congress

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress

Dean Heller
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

Re: Funding for the Purchase of F-22s in the FY2010 Department of Defense Budget

Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress

Kendrick Meek
Member of Congress

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

Paul Broun
Member of Congress

Howard "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress

Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
JOHN SPRATT, SOUTH CAROLINA
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NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HAWAII
SILVESTRE REYES, TEXAS
VIC SNYDER, ARKANSAS
ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON
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MIKE McINTYRE, NORTH CAROLINA
ELLEN O. TAUSCHER, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
SUSAN A. DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
JAMES R. LANGEVIN, RHODE ISLAND
RICK LARSEN, WASHINGTON
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
JIM MARSHALL, GEORGIA
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GUAM
BRAD ELLSWORTH, INDIANA
PATRICK J. MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA
HANK JOHNSON, GEORGIA
CAROL SHEA-PORTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
DAVID LOEBSACK, IOWA
JOE SESTAK, PENNSYLVANIA
GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA
NIKI TSONGAS, MASSACHUSETTS
GLENN NYE, VIRGINIA
CHELLIE PINGREE, MAINE
LARRY KISSELL, NORTH CAROLINA
MARTIN HEINRICH, NEW MEXICO
FRANK M. KRATOVIL, JR., MARYLAND
ERIC J.J. MASSA, NEW YORK
BOBBY BRIGHT, ALABAMA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, CALIFORNIA
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
ROB BISHOP, UTAH
MICHAEL TURNER, OHIO
JOHN KLINE, MINNESOTA
MIKE ROGERS, ALABAMA
TRENT FRANKS, ARIZONA
BILL SHUSTER, PENNSYLVANIA
CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, WASHINGTON
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS
DOUG LAMBORN, COLORADO
ROB WITTMAN, VIRGINIA
MARY FALLIN, OKLAHOMA
DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
JOHN C. FLEMING, LOUISIANA
MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO
THOMAS J. ROONEY, FLORIDA

ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 29, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We wish to make you aware of an intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) program in which over $250 million has been invested, and was called an "unprecedented capability," only last October in a letter to our Chairman, by the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, but yet appears to have been orphaned by the Department of Defense.

The Air Force developed and the Marine Corps employed a turbo-prop based wide area, day-only, electro-optical surveillance system called "Angel Fire" in Iraq from September 2007 until March 2009. Four King Air 90 aircraft were used in Anbar Province. Five additional aircraft ("spiral two"), with infra-red night capability, have been funded and are planned to be delivered from July through November of this year.

Responses to inquiries from mid -- March through yesterday to the Commander, Central Command; Commander, Multi-National Forces- Iraq; Commander, International Security Assistance Force; Central Command staff; the Joint Staff; the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence; the ISR Task Force; the Air Force; the Army; the Marines and your office indicate a lack of awareness of the capability of the system; its status; and/or who has the responsibility to ultimately determine the disposition or use of the assets.

As an example, General Petraeus, signed a letter dated 17 April 2009, in response to inquiry from another Member of Congress, which indicated: "The Angel Fire system you mentioned, which was used by the Marines in Anbar Province in Iraq, was redeployed back to the States and is currently being reviewed for possible deployment to Afghanistan." In reality, well prior to 17 April, the contractor had been directed to dismantle the podded-capability on the "Angel Fire" system contract aircraft, which was "used by the Marines in Anbar Province." The first aircraft had its sensors removed last week; the second aircraft is scheduled for this week; with the remaining two aircraft to follow in the subsequent two weeks. Further, the Air Force indicated earlier this week that there is no funding or plan to use the spiral one or two "Angel Fire" assets in overseas contingency operations.

OSD 04863-09

Given your priority on making ISR available to support our troops in overseas contingency operations, the "unprecedented capability" provided by "Angel Fire" and "Angel Fire's" capability and earlier availability compared to similar systems like "Constant Hawk," which are being fully supported by the Department, the continued dismantlement of the spiral one capability and no plan for use of the spiral two capability is inexplicable.

While "Angel Fire" has operational limitations for some areas of Afghanistan, over sixty percent of recent IED activity has taken place in southern Afghanistan, where terrain elevations allow "Angel Fire" operations, as well as in most areas in Iraq.

We recommend that your Programs, Analysis, and Evaluation office examine the "Angel Fire" and "Constant Hawk" programs and provide you with a briefing, at your earliest convenience. We would appreciate your views on "Angel Fire" and the planned use and disposition of the assets of the program.

Sincerely,

Neil Abercrombie
Chairman,
Air and Land Forces
Subcommittee

Roscoe Bartlett
Ranking Member,
Air and Land Forces
Subcommittee

NA/RB: bg

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We commend you for prioritizing the development and purchase of new airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) assets and light attack aircraft. We agree with you that our warfighters in Afghanistan and Iraq require a robust mix of manned and unmanned platforms to accomplish their counterinsurgency and counterterrorism missions. Given the relevance these capabilities have across the services – as well as the continued development of your Project Liberty initiative – we hope you will organize and resource additional airborne ISR and light attack aircraft programs on a joint basis.

The urgent need to provide these capabilities to our warfighters has spawned a number of separate development efforts inside the Department of Defense. For example, for more than a year, the Navy has been assessing the capabilities of small light attack aircraft with significant ISR capabilities. The Air Force recently studied the need for a similar capability. Based on input from our commanders in the field, that study may grow into stated requirements for new assets.

Moreover, the Air National Guard (ANG) is preparing to demonstrate the capabilities of the AT-6B later this year. We have strongly supported the AT-6B research and development effort inside the ANG for the past few years, and we hope that the Navy and Air Force will reap some of the benefits of a project that appears to be maturing just at the moment such capabilities are most needed.

Based on conversations with the Navy, Air Force and Air National Guard, however, we remain concerned that efforts to develop a light attack and ISR platform remain uncoordinated. We believe DoD should develop light attack aircraft capabilities on a joint basis. Only when the services are working in a coordinated fashion can we expect to get this important capability to our warfighters efficiently and expeditiously.

We hope you agree with our recommendation, and we stand ready to work with you to fund a joint light attack aircraft program that draws together DoD's multiple and ongoing programs.

Sincerely,

Sam Brownback

Todd Tiahrt

OSD 04870-09

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 28, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing you today to express my concern with the cost growth and schedule delays of the Navy Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALs) program. The EMALs system is designed to replace the aircraft launching steam catapults in USS Ford class aircraft carriers with the advantages of increased catapult capacity and lower overall maintenance life cycle costs.

It is apparent that the Navy did not aggressively manage this program over the last few years. It was not until recently when the senior Navy acquisition official directed a complete program review that the full scope of the cost increases and schedule delays became known. I understand this program review evaluated alternatives, including cancelling EMALs and reverting to steam catapults for USS Ford. Such change would require a significant redesign effort for areas of the ship already designed and would delay delivery of the carrier for a least a year and perhaps as long as a year and a half. Conversely, the decision to stay with the EMALs system also contains significant technical risk and has the potential to delay carrier delivery. Testing of the fully integrated EMALs system will not begin until early this summer, yet production of the operational system must begin immediately to meet construction schedules. Any significant issues discovered during test will of necessity delay the construction of the carrier and undoubtedly cause significant cost growth.

Because the implications of the failure of this system to deliver on time are so great, and the associated cost impact to the CVN-78 contract could range in the billions of dollars, I believe this program needs additional and targeted oversight on an hour-by-hour and day-by-day basis. I also believe this additional oversight will be required for a significant period of time, perhaps as long as five years, while this system is tested, produced, delivered to the construction yard, installed, and verified.

In addition, I encourage the Navy to maintain transparent reporting to Congress on the status of EMALs. For example, although EMALs does not meet the requirements for designation

OSD 04913-09

as a major subprogram of the CVN-78 program, the Navy should consider reporting separately on EMALs in selected acquisition reports, unit cost reports, and program baselines.

It is my intention to hold an oversight hearing on this program in July. I intend to call Navy acquisition officials for this hearing but extend to you the invitation to provide a senior official from your staff to discuss risk management as this program moves forward. The focus of the hearing will be to understand what process is in place to maximize the chances of success and to alert, at the earliest time possible, the risk of failure.

Thank you for your continued service to the country.

Sincerely,

Gene Taylor

GENE TAYLOR
Chairman,
Subcommittee on Seapower
and Expeditionary Forces

cc: Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Admiral Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations
Honorable Sean Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Research Development and Acquisition

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

We write to express our deep concern about recent media reports on the Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) program. An article in The Hill, published on April 21, 2009, indicated that the JCA program will be cut in half and the remaining planes allocated to the United States Air Force in the Department of Defense's proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget. We believe that, if implemented, such cuts would be impede the ability of the United States Army, specifically the Army National Guard, to meet intra-theater lift requirements for the "last tactical mile" as well as severely constrain the Army and Air National Guard's ability to respond to a domestic disaster.

The current intra-theatre airlift capability in the U.S. Army is insufficient to meet the demands of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Army has relied on the C-23 Sherpa, an un-pressurized aircraft that cannot perform medical evacuation missions nor transport modern cargo pallets. The lack of robust airlift over the "last tactical mile" has also forced the Army to press its Chinook helicopters, themselves aging and in need of replacement, into missions the helicopter was never designed for. The 2009 Quadrennial Roles and Missions Review Report (QRM) assessed these concerns and concluded that "the option that provided the most value to the joint force was to assign the C-27J to both the Air Force and Army." The Pentagon's proposed cuts and program changes are in direct contradiction to the findings from this congressionally authorized report. The JCA will allow for more rapid delivery of larger cargo loads to shorter and more remote airstrips and help fill the logistical needs of the war fighter on the modern battlefield.

The Air National Guard also has an urgent need for the JCA to fulfill homeland security missions. The termination of the National Guard's portion of the JCA program will eliminate a critical capability in many Air National Guard units across the country that lost their flying missions during BRAC 2005. Without an adequate replacement aircraft, the Air National Guard in several states will be unable to retain personnel and skills that have taken years to cultivate. The National Guard Bureau has a promised beddown plan for the JCA in states affected by BRAC and the elimination of the program casts doubt about the future of these units. This would harm the Air National Guard's ability to respond to a domestic crisis. Whether the disaster is a hurricane or large scale terrorist attack, the JCA would allow the Air National Guard to deliver supplies to areas that would otherwise be inaccessible to fixed-wing aircraft. The National Guard has been asked to play a larger role in homeland defense and disaster recovery in recent years and the JCA will be a critical tool for the Guard in fulfilling these missions. The JCA is designed for the needs of the servicemen and women fighting on asymmetric

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battlefields and is one of the few DoD programs that is running on budget and on time. Any changes to the JCA program will risk the readiness of our Army, Air Force and National Guard to respond to the full spectrum of threats and requirements. We strongly urge you to continue with the program of record for the Joint Cargo Aircraft Program.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Cliff Stearns
United States Representative

Madeleine Bordallo
United States Representative

Ander Crenshaw
United States Representative

Ralph Hall
United States Representative

Corrine Brown
United States Representative

Ginny Brown-Waite
United States Representative

Chet Edwards
United States Representative

Dan Burton
United States Representative

Rosoce Bartlett
United States Representative

Jim Jordan
United States Representative

Jeff Miller
United States Representative

John Mica
United States Representative

Gene Taylor

Gene Taylor
United States Representative

1004159

APR-15-2009 09:52 REP MIKE COFFMAN 202 226 4623 P.01

MIKE COFFMAN
5TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0605

April 15, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

President Obama,

As you are well aware, piracy has become a serious threat to both American and international shipping. The majority of these pirate attacks have taken place along the coastline of Somalia – a coastline the same length as the United States eastern seaboard – and in the Gulf of Aden north of Somalia.

The recent kidnapping of Captain Richard Phillips following a raid on his commercial ship, the Maersk Alabama, by Somali pirates proves more aggressive action is needed to combat piracy. The incident involving the Maersk Alabama was a spectacular show of courage, good luck, the extraordinary military skill of U.S. Special Forces and the smart decision-making by the Captain of the USS Bainbridge, Commander Frank Castellano. Unfortunately, in the future, the pirates may be unwilling to take a ship's Captain hostage to protect the safety of the crew or the crew of a merchant vessel may be unable to fight back. They were very lucky that the U.S. Navy arrived before the pirates were able to make it back to land which would have made it extremely difficult to track them down.

The piracy problem is not a law enforcement challenge because the pirates have unrestricted access to Somali port facilities and land bases that are sanctioned by the governing institutions of Somalia irrespective of how dysfunctional they are. This is a military problem and these attacks on U.S. merchant ships constitute an act of war on the United States.

A new course of action should be reviewed. Sending U.S. Warships to patrol these waters isn't enough to protect U.S. flagged merchant ships. This is an area that is 1.1 million square miles and the U.S. Navy, or any navy, has their hands full trying to protect this vital shipping lane. The placement of small detachments of U.S. Marines or sailors aboard U.S. flagged merchant ships would help bring an end to the piracy problem off of the coast of Somalia for U.S. commercial shipping. This would be a much more cost effective way of ending any advantage that the pirates have. New rules of engagement should give U.S. military personnel, assigned to U.S. merchant ships, the authority to engage any small boat if it demonstrates hostile intent when approaching a U.S. merchant ship.

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There is a precedent for using U.S. military personnel on U.S. flagged merchant vessels. During WWII, U.S. military personnel were deployed on U.S. flagged ships to provide protection. These detachments were called "The Naval Armed Guard," and were established after the 1941 repeal of the "Neutrality Act of 1936," which had outlawed the arming o U.S. merchant vessels.

It isn't necessary to talk about military operations against the pirates along the Somali coastline when we have the option to put small military detachments on board U.S. commercial ships. These raids would not only put members of our military unnecessarily at risk but there would always be the potential for collateral damage causing harm to the innocent hostages and civilians in the target areas.

Mr. President, how many sailors and Marines are available for such actions and are you willing to temporarily station military detachment on U.S. flagged merchant ships?

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Mike Coffman, M.C.

CC: The Honorable Robert Gates

100378

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As co-chairs of the 52-member bipartisan U.S.-China Working Group, we are writing in regard to recent developments within the bilateral U.S.-China relationship.

Last week, the Working Group hosted Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense David Sedney for an update on U.S.-China military-to-military relations. We are supportive of your efforts to protect U.S. Navy reconnaissance vessels and your decision to send a destroyer escort to the South China Sea. The harassment of U.S. interests by Chinese ships is a violation of international law and we applaud your decisive response.

Additionally, we urge your continued support of increased U.S. - China military-military relations. In our view, the U.S.-China diplomatic relationship will be the most important of the 21st century. Strong military-to-military connections remain instrumental in expanding and improving that relationship.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with your Administration to advance U.S.-China relations.

Sincerely,

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Mark Kirk
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Your internal budget process consists of serious deliberation on threat analysis, risk assessment and cost benefit tradeoffs in regard to budgetary decisions. This information is critical for Members of Congress and the public to know, and for this reason I am concerned about a disturbing trend of restricting budget and inspection information within the Department of Defense.

I understand that you recently asked senior officials in the Department to sign a Non-disclosure Agreement as it relates to the President's FY10 Budget proposal. While I fully understand that some of these discussions must be kept confidential, I am concerned that 1) this agreement is not strictly limited to predecisional discussions, and 2) that Congress may be excluded from oversight and engagement due to the restrictions put in place by this agreement.

Specifically, the Agreement states that, budget-related information restricted includes "[information,] **predecisional or otherwise,** concerning the Administration's deliberation of the nature and amounts of the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2010, and any supplemental budget request submitted during the current fiscal year." Can I expect a candid answer from a senior military official when I ask them about the process used to establish priorities, either now, or after the President's detailed Budget is released to the public? Members of Congress deserve candid answers from senior military officers that are not suppressed or censored--either directly, or implicitly via a culture of regulations that muzzles their independent professional judgment.

We are well aware that only the President and his staff see the full revenues and resource requirements of the United States Government, and members of his Administration are expected to implement his guidance. However, the Constitution charges Congress, not the Executive, with the mandate to raise and support armies and navies, and it grants authority to Congress to fund the budget for our defense and the other constitutional responsibilities. I am concerned that these restrictions on the deliberation of these tradeoffs are reflected in the President's Budget this year and future years severely and unnecessarily limits the Congress in these constitutional duties.

The Congress, and the Nation as a whole, can ill-afford our Nation's senior military leadership to be forced to equivocate or be pedantic in so far as their professional opinion is concerned, particularly as it relates to risk calculation and threat analysis associated with the priorities of the Department of Defense and the allocation of taxpayer dollars.

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Furthermore, I am concerned to learn that previously unclassified INSURV inspections will now be classified. It is sometimes only through the media and public awareness, as was this case with the inspections of the *USS Stout* and *USS Chosin*, that we learn of the urgent need to address some of the shortfalls the military has, including the $417 million shortfall in ship depot maintenance for this year alone. If these reports are classified, we are unable to communicate these needs to the public.

Lastly, senior Army officials abruptly withdrew from a recent hearing before the House Armed Services Air and Land Forces Subcommittee on Future Combat System. This hearing was to focus on the status of the FCS program in light of a recent GAO report that made recommendations on this system. These actions continue to contribute to the perception that the Department in not interested in engaging with Congress to determine the best possible solution. The classification of inspections and excluding Congress from budgetary discussion serve as an impediment for Congress to fulfill its constitutional responsibility to provide the necessary resources to support our national security strategy and the rest of the federal government.

More than ever, our budget needs a close look. In fact, President Obama indicated in one of his first Executive Orders concerning the Freedom of Information Act, that "A democracy requires accountability, and accountability requires transparency. As Justice Louis Brandeis wrote, 'sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants.'" We understand that most budget documents are not subject to FOIA under 5 USC 552(b)(5), and it may be timely to reconsider this exemption.

There is no more serious responsibility that President Obama, you, or we have than to ensure the security of this great Nation. We remain strong supporters of your efforts and of the candor with which you have testified before Congress. We look forward to working with you to ensure our Nation has the defense it needs. Thanks you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Howard P. Buck

Joe Wilson

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 6, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As Congress awaits the submission of the President's Fiscal Year 2010 budget request for the Department of Defense, we write to share our strong and unwavering support for the Air National Guard (ANG) units in our states that lost their flying missions through BRAC 2005.

As you know, the last BRAC round made significant changes to the lay down of aircraft within the ANG. In our six states, many units lost their flying missions – ranging from A-10s, C-130Js, and F-16s – with some losing the only flying mission stationed permanently in their state. The loss of a flying mission is a direct threat to the manpower, readiness and relevance of our ANG units and their continued ability to meet their state and federal duties.

The ANG not only serves our nation as we ask them to support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and around the world, but they also serve the local state missions. Without a permanent flying mission within the state, the ANG may lose the valuable expertise and experience our airmen provide. With the immense capability the ANG provides to our nation, we must not jeopardize the investment we've made in the ANG personnel forces.

According to the 2008 Air Force Weapon Systems Roadmap, as well as subsequent planning by the Air Force and National Guard Bureau, our six states are each expected to receive the C-27J Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA). While we welcome the assignment of a permanent flying mission to our states, we are concerned that continued debate about the organization and control of the JCA program could place the future of our ANG units at risk. We believe it is important to firmly resolve the "roles and missions" debate with regards to intra-theater lift, and move forward with a program that meets the needs of ANG states impacted in BRAC while also addressing the capability gap faced by our warfighters.

This is a pivotal year for our Air National Guard. **To this end, we look forward to the Department's strong support for the allocation of permanent flying missions to our states as part of the upcoming submission of the 2010 defense budget.**

As always, we thank you for your service to our nation and look forward to continuing to work with you to support our men and women in uniform.

OSD 05298-09

Sincerely,

Christopher Dodd
United States Senator

Joseph Lieberman
United States Senator

John Larson
United States Representative

Joseph Courtney
United States Representative

Barbara Mikulski
United States Senator

Benjamin Cardin
United States Senator

Steny Hoyer
United States Representative

Roscoe Bartlett
United States Representative

Elijah Cummings
United States Representative

Dutch Ruppersberger
United States Representative

Donna Edwards
United States Representative

Frank Kratovil
United States Representative

Carl Levin
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Mark Schauer
United States Representative

Roger Wicker
United States Senator

Gregg Harper
United States Representative

Kent Conrad
United States Senator

Byron Dorgan
United States Senator

Earl Pomeroy
United States Representative

George Voinovich
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Marcy Kaptur
United States Representative

Tim Ryan
United States Representative

Jim Jordan
United States Representative

DUNCAN HUNTER
52D DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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COMMITTEE ON
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1002592

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

January 29, 2009

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my grave concern regarding the Medal of Honor review process and the apparent lack of living award recipients. Since you, as President of the United States, are responsible for presenting the Medal of Honor on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I respectfully request that your Administration conduct a review of this matter.

Since World War I, there have been 3,462 Medal of Honors awarded to our soldiers and sailors for distinguishing themselves "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." In World War I, 27% of Medal of Honors were awarded posthumously, in World War II, 57% and in Vietnam, 38% were posthumous awards. In Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF), 100% of all Medal of Honor awards have been posthumous. I am concerned that either knowingly or inadvertently, the Medal of Honor awards process is becoming biased to only acts of valor that result in the death of the service member.

Mr. President, only 99 Medal of Honor winners are living: 25 from World War II, 14 from Korea, and 60 from Vietnam. The last Medal of Honor awarded to a living recipient was to Michael E. Thornton for his heroic actions in Vietnam on October 31, 1972. Their stories inspire our country and provide the military services with their heritage and traditions. Having Audie Murphy, Pappy Boyington and San Diego's own John Finn living amongst us has motivated generations to greater achievements. While the integrity of the award must be preserved, the Department of Defense should also not be applying a different standard to OIF/OEF that essentially precludes the award of the Medal of Honor to living recipients.

In addition, the recent downgrading of the Medal of Honor for Marine Sgt. Rafael Peralta to the Navy Cross raises similar concerns. Despite the fact that Sgt. Peralta was nominated for the Medal of Honor by Marine Corps leadership, the award was downgraded by a panel comprised primarily of civilians that included a neurosurgeon and two pathologists. I am very

concerned that the criteria for awarding the Medal of Honor, which has been historically awarded based on eyewitness accounts, has now been replaced by modern forensic science. I firmly believe that the eyewitness accounts of the event should take precedent through the entire chain of command review process because heroic actions in combat cannot always be explained by science alone.

Again, I hope your Administration will do a thorough examination of the issues surrounding the process for awarding the Medal of Honor. The selflessness and combat heroism that is represented by the Medal of Honor must be preserved for future generations.

Sincerely,

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress

DH/vm

1004865

TOM HARKIN
IOWA

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http://harkin.senate.gov

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SMALL BUSINESS

February 5, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama;

One of the great many reasons we are so thankful that you have now been sworn into office is our shared commitment to suicide prevention for veterans and those still serving in our nation's armed services. You were a true leader on the Armed Forces Suicide Prevention Act, and your leadership and help from your staff was invaluable in gaining co-sponsorship and advancing the issue in the 110th Congress.

It was truly disappointing that the Harkin/Obama amendment, based on the Armed Forces Suicide Prevention Act which we respectively authored in the Senate and House, was not included in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2009. As you may remember, one of the major obstacles to its inclusion was the formal comment we received from the Department of Defense opposing the legislation "because it would establish a legislative mandate for programs already ongoing or within the Secretary's authority to establish." The comment letter went on to say "However, the administration supports the goals of the legislation and we look forward to working with Congress to address these concerns."

We were deeply disturbed last week to receive the attached letter from the Department of Defense stating that there were 128 suicides among active duty Army soldiers in 2008, with another 15 cases pending investigation, while the total for 2007 was 115. This is the fourth year in a row that has seen a similarly dramatic increase. Clearly, the Department of Defense should have done a better job to protect the health and lives of the brave men and women who serve in our military.

We know you share our concern about our military's commitment to its personnel, and would find these needless deaths to be a senseless tragedy that could have been prevented. In order for

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1606 BRADY STREET
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315 FEDERAL BUILDING
DUBUQUE, IA 52001
(563) 582-2130

320 6TH STREET
110 FEDERAL BUILDING
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101
(712) 252-1550

us to be able to continue to work together to improve mental health screenings and treatment, and to reduce the stigma of accessing such treatment, it would be helpful for you to initiate an assessment of the programs currently in place in each branch of the armed forces. It would be helpful to know more about what services are currently available, are being accessed, and what resources and structural improvements are needed to reduce the toll of suicide on active duty service members. It would be especially helpful to examine all of the reasons, both structural and situational. that the suicide rate in the Army is so much higher than that in the other branches.

As sponsors of the Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act. which was signed into law on November 5, 2007. we are pleased with recent reports from the Department of Veterans Affairs that the Omvig legislation is being fully implemented and to date the Suicide Hotline has received over 101.00 calls and has been credited with over 2.600 rescues. It is now time to ensure that our service members of the Armed Forces have similar protections.

Thank you for your partnership on this critically important issue. We look forward to working with you on this in the future, and hope that we can improve on the dismal record of the past administration in this regard.

Sincerely,

Tom Harkin
United States Senator

Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress

1004899

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We request that you include funding for the Joint Strike Fighter alternate engine in your budget for fiscal year 2010. Competition within any market is understood to yield products of a higher quality at a lower price. With the continued development of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) as our nation's sole air superiority aircraft, it is essential that the components used within the platform are highly reliable. It is with the spirit of competition that we request full funding for the research, development, testing, evaluation and procurement of an alternate engine that may be interchanged with the currently contracted propulsion system.

Strong bipartisan support within Congress has invested approximately $2.5 billion since fiscal year 1995 into an alternate engine for the JSF. Since 2006, the Department of Defense (DOD) has repeatedly attempted to cancel funding for the JSF alternate engine program, contrary to both congressional intent and enacted legislation. The shortsightedness of the budgetary requests by the DOD, fail to recognize the long-term benefits and cost savings that are widely projected with the development of a competitive propulsion system. Following the "Great Engine War," the United States Air Force continues to use engines for the F-16 Falcon that have been built and perfected through direct competition by both Pratt and Whitney and General Electric.

It would be prudent for the DOD to revisit the current contract for the JSF propulsion system to address questions of operational risk, cost savings, responsible government action, and relations with key allies. This is especially true now that General Electric and Rolls-Royce have offered to negotiate the remaining development and future production of the alternate engine on fixed price terms.

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Unlike other recent attempts to renegotiate defense contracts, it is proposed that a new agreement be settled to develop and then fund engines for the JSF by both Pratt and Whitney and the General Electric/Rolls-Royce team. As the DOD continues to perfect its acquisition and contracting procedures, we strongly urge that you include funding for the JSF alternate propulsion system within the Presidential Budget request to the Congress.

Sincerely,

Representative Steve Driehaus, (OH-01)

Representative John Boehner, (OH-08)

Representative Jean Schmidt, (OH-02)

Representative Steven LaTourette, (OH-14)

Representative Geoff Davis, (KY-04)

Representative Robert Latta, (OH-05)

Representative Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11)

Representative Steve Austria, (OH-07)

Representative Tim Ryan (OH-17)

Representative Charles Wilson (OH-06)

Representative Marcy Kaptur, (OH-09)

Representative Michael Turner, (OH-03)

Representative Mary Jo Kilroy, (OH-15)

Representative Betty Sutton, (OH-13)

Representative Brad Ellsworth, (IN-08)

Representative Zachary Space, (OH-08)

Representative Mary Fallin, (OK-05)

Representative Bobby Scott, (VA-03)

Representative Joe Wilson, (SC-02)

Representative Jim Jordan, (OH-04)

Representative André Carson, (IN-07)

Representative Steven Rothman, (NJ-09)

Representative John Boccieri, (OH-16)

Representative Steve Buyer, (IN-04)

1004362

BILL SHUSTER
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
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RANKING MEMBER
RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIAL
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3809

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SUBCOMMITTEES:
SEAPOWER AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
TERRORISM AND UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE:
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

RURAL HEALTH CARE COALITION

CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

April 7, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Obama,

Following the testimony of General Duncan J. McNabb, USAF, Commander of the United States Transportation Command before the Senate Armed Services Committee on March 17, 2009, I urge you to carefully consider the strategic use of Azerbaijan, and specifically the airfield at Baku, as a staging point for United States distribution, cargo handling, and refueling services.

As the Co-Chairman of the Azerbaijan Caucus, my colleagues and I have spent a great deal of time building ties with Azerbaijan, and I believe Azerbaijan offers a safe, secure and strategically valuable alternative to support our movements into Afghanistan. Azerbaijan has been a coalition partner in our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, has supported our requests for assistance, and has been a strong partner in the war on terrorism.

From an ease of operations standpoint, Azerbaijan offers a large state-of-the-art handling facility in Baku with significant available capacity and an air route across the Caspian Sea and Turkmenistan's airspace directly into Afghanistan. Utilizing this corridor avoids Iranian airspace all together and offers a very short flight time into Afghanistan.

Currently, I understand problems have emerged shipping cargo through Dubai and throughout other hubs in the region. With an influx of cargo and personnel needed to support efforts in Afghanistan, I also understand that Azerbaijan may offer better flight times, the Baku airfield may offer greater command and control, is less congested allowing cargo to get into Theatre more quickly, offers competitive pricing, and has a domestic commercial fleet of aircraft to supplement our efforts.

I urge you to work with the Department of Defense and the State Department to fully examine the benefits operations in Azerbaijan would have as we increase our focus on Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

Bill Shuster

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
Secretary of Defense Robert Gates
General Duncan McNabb, USAF, United States Transportation Command

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FAX: (717) 264–0269

1003646

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Urge Expeditious Replacement of Aged Aerial Refueling Tanker Fleet

Dear President Obama:

We write to urge that there be no further delays in moving forward with a new fleet of aerial refueling tankers. The KC-135 aircraft fleet, which performs the critical air refueling mission around the world, has been in service since the late 1950s. The old, outdated KC-135 fleet costs taxpayers an enormous amount in ongoing maintenance costs. Such older aircraft, with the attendant safety and efficiency issues, complicate the mission of the brave men and women devoted to air refueling.

MacDill Air Force Base is a mainstay of both our congressional districts. It is home to the 6th Air Mobility Wing (AMW) and a tanker fleet that provides refueling power around the world for our military. However, the men and women making this task look easy are doing so with these KC-135 aircraft which range in age from the late 1950s to the mid 1960s. While the 6th Maintenance Group is doing great work keeping 50- year-old tankers in the air, we are concerned that the age of the tankers adversely impacts the nation's security interests, is a growing safety concern for service members on refueling missions, and is costing taxpayers money due to continued and extensive maintenance.

We understand that the Department of Defense is currently weighing the options for budget offsets as it crafts the 2010 Defense budget request. However, we respectfully urge that you not delay replacement of the tanker fleet. It already has been delayed long enough. The men and women who fly these aircraft, their families and those who rely upon the refueling mission support depend upon our leadership in providing safe and modern equipment.

We look forward to working with you on this issue, and are confident that you and your staff will work to identify a workable solution for tanker procurement.

Sincerely,

C.W. Bill Young
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

cc: Col. Lawrence Martin, Commander, 6th AMW
Gen. Arthur Lichte, Commander, Air Mobility Command

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

It has recently come to our attention that service members returning from deployment have indicated they were allocated only two liters of bottled drinking water per day, and were forced to find additional water for themselves. It is our understanding that this was not an isolated event and service members stationed across Iraq during various phases of the war have reported the problems.

The Army minimum to avoid dehydration can reach as high as 15 liters per day to prevent heat casualties in desert climates. As a result of the bottled water drinking shortages, these same service members indicate at other times they were forced to "improvise" to avoid dehydration by drinking potable and nonpotable bulk water. As you know, questions on the quality of bulk water still remain, and it is not authorized for drinking in Iraq. However, the soldiers indicate consumption of this water was necessary to avoid dehydration and are now experiencing short term and long term health effects of illnesses associated with drinking unclean water.

Many of us have visited Iraq and we are all well aware of the extreme conditions our troops stationed there face. We are dismayed to hear these accounts and believe the health and safety of our service members must be a priority and taken seriously. Therefore, we respectfully request that you investigate these water shortage claims immediately and provide the finding to our staff for review.

Sincerely,

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Solomon Ortiz
Member of Congress

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Ron Paul
Member of Congress

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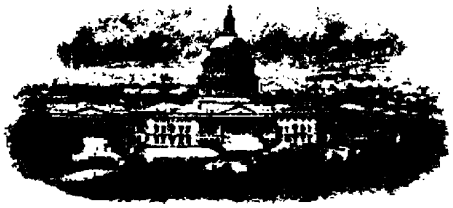
OSD 05657-09

DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA
WASHINGTON OFFICE
2111 RAYBURN BUILDING
TELEPHONE 202-225-5765



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

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

May 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

A recent Federal Circuit Court decision in Rothe Development Corp. v. U.S. Department of Justice held that 10 U.S.C. 2323 is unconstitutional on its face, resulting in a complete injunction of that statute, which provides certain Department of Defense contracting preferences for small disadvantaged businesses. This judicial action is clearly limited to 10 U.S.C. 2323, but some agencies appear to believe that the Rothe case may affect small business programs and activities under other Federal statutes like the Small Business Act.

Thus we are writing to urge that the Department of Defense issue immediate clarifying guidance to all of its agencies involved in contracting with the private sector. While the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense issued an interim guidance memorandum on March 10, 2009 concerning the application of the Rothe case, the memorandum failed to explicitly address the applicability to small business programs and activities that are carried out under Federal statutes other than 10 U.S.C. 2323.

In our view, the guidance should be explicit with respect to these other programs and activities. This approach was taken by the Army Corps of Engineers in a March 9, 2009 communication to contracting personnel, stating that its Rothe guidance to cease contract activities that rely exclusively on the authority of 10 U.S.C. 2323 "DOES NOT apply to small business set-asides, HUBZone small business set-asides, 8a set-asides, service disabled veteran owned small business set-asides or Alaska Native Corporations (ANC) as these categories are governed by separate statutes that were not impacted by the [Rothe] ruling." This is precisely the kind of guidance that should be sent out deparment-wide as soon as possible.

Please let us know as soon as possible if and when the Department of Defense plans on issuing clarifying guidance that expressly addresses the small business programs and activities that are not affected by the ruling. Thank you.

OSD 05662-09

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HTTP://DONYOUNG.HOUSE.GOV

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907-271-5978

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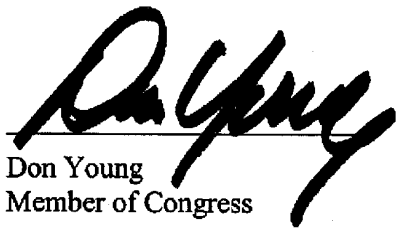
907-456-0210

612 W. WILLOUGHBY AVENUE, SUITE B
P.O. BOX 21247
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802
907-586-7400

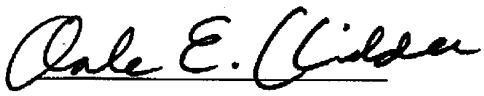
CALL TOLL-FREE
1-866-990-5979

Sincerely,

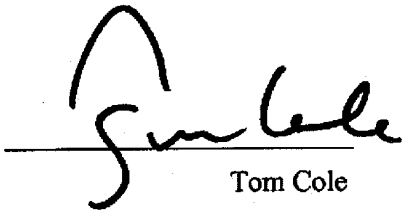


Don Young
Member of Congress

Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress

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Parker Griffith, M.D.
Congress of the United States
Fifth District, Alabama

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Decatur, Alabama 35602
256-355-9400

The Bevill Center
1011 George Wallace Boulevard
Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674
256-381-3450

http://griffith.house.gov

May 15, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We have serious objections to the stop work order issued May 11, 2009 for the Kinetic Energy Interceptors (KEI) program. This decision is without justification.

Overall, we are concerned with the handling of the May 7, 2009 Kinetic Energy Interceptor termination announcement. KEI was noticeably absent in an April press conference that outlined Department of Defense program cancellations and restructures. However, it was rolled out as a cancellation during the May 7, 2009 FY10 President's Budget briefing and quickly followed by a Missile Defense Agency stop work on May 11, 2009, with the goal of de-staffing the program by the end of June. This surprise announcement and immediate stop work notice has precluded any meaningful discussion between the Congress and the Department on the merits of the cancellation and the resulting impacts to the nation.

In partnership with the Department of Defense, Congress has supported the requested budgets for the KEI program. In past years, Congress went beyond what was requested, and provided the Department with additional dollars to accelerate this critical boost phase capability. In total, the Department has expended more than one billion dollars toward this effort to date, in providing the nation with a technically viable solution for boost and ascent engagement of a ballistic missile targeting our nation, deployed forces, and allies. Six years of development and testing, with most of the more than one billion of funding spent to date, was to culminate in the first booster flight in the fall of 2009 – less than five months from now. With the issuance of the stop work, the Department is walking away from this investment without the benefit of knowing what this technology has to offer.

The FY09 appropriated budget and accompanying language for the KEI program not only fully supported the requests but went further to encourage the Department to accelerate the development of this capability for the war fighter. The FY09 appropriations specifically funded continued KEI development, static tests, and the first booster flight in 2009.

OSD 05670-09

We strongly urge you to rescind the KEI stop work order and to continue toward culmination of the 2009 booster flight. We look forward to working with the Department in the FY10 budget cycle to best determine the way ahead for this vital boost and early engagement capability resident in the KEI program.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and we look forward to your prompt response and a positive resolution.

Sincerely,

Congressman Parker Griffith

Congressman Rob Bishop

Congressman Ed Pastor

Congressman Lincoln Davis

Congressman Trent Franks

Congressman Jerry Lewis

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

JUN 22 2009

The Honorable John P. Murtha
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of May 20, 2009, regarding cancellation of the Presidential Helicopter Replacement Program (VH-71). We appreciate your concerns regarding the decision to cancel the VH-71 program. On January 28, 2009, the Secretary of the Navy notified Congress that the cost growth in the VH-71 Presidential Helicopter program had breached the critical Nunn-McCurdy threshold. As a result of this, as well as the subsequent review of the program in building the President's FY 2010 budget submission, the decision was made to cancel the VH-71 program.

The VH-71 Increment 1 aircraft lacks the inherent capability necessary to meet the full operational requirements of Presidential Helicopter Replacement Program, and does not offer a cost effective long-term solution to meet the requirements of the Presidential helicopter mission.

The President's FY 2010 Budget requests funding to extend the service lives of the VH-3D and VH-60N. In total, the service life extension is currently estimated to cost about $500M over the life of the program. The cost of terminating the VH-71 prime contract is being developed by the VH-71 prime contractor and will be negotiated with the contracting officer over the coming year. This total is significantly less than the amount that would have been needed to complete development of Increment 1, procure additional Increment 1 aircraft and logistics support, and develop configuration improvements required for long term operation. Accordingly, the contracting officer has prudently implemented the cancellation decision by issuing a notice of termination.

Because there remains the need to replace the current fleet of Presidential helicopters, the Navy is preparing a plan to develop options for a Presidential helicopter replacement program. Part of that plan will include evaluation of technologies developed under the VH-71 program to identify potential benefit to other programs. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

cc:
The Honorable C. W. Bill Young
Ranking Member

OSD 05679-09

to begin in fiscal year 2011 will only disguise the immediate need, and significantly delay development. The options for potential competitors will remain much the same in 2011.

Additionally, the Administration, in its fiscal year 2010 budget request only asked for $85 million in program termination costs. The Navy, by its own admission has stated that it expects cancellation costs to approach $555 million, and would require an additional $4.4 billion to extend the life of the current aging fleet. Given these estimates, it would appear that poor business decisions are being made regarding this replacement program and that determinations are being made based on public perception.

In light of these concerns, we urge you to reconsider your decision, and commit to a Presidential helicopter fleet consisting of the currently developed Increment I aircraft.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your continued dedicated work for our nation's defense.

Sincerely,

John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

1005743

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. President:

As your Administration considers its detailed Fiscal Year 2010 budget priorities, we write to express our strong support for fully funding the Delaware River Mainstem Channel Deepening Project in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' budget.

Authorized by Congress in 1992, this project will deepen the Delaware River's main shipping channel from 40 feet to 45 feet. Deepening the main channel will make transportation more efficient and reduce costs, thus creating additional business opportunities and growing employment at the port communities along the Delaware River.

This project is both economically justified and environmentally sound. Following recommendations made by the U.S. Government Accountability Office in 2002, the Army Corps conducted a comprehensive economic reanalysis of the project which indicated that it would yield a net benefit of $1.15 for every dollar spent. An economic update in 2008 indicated a net benefit of $1.25 for every dollar spent.

Following execution of a Project Partnership Agreement in June 2008, the Army Corps performed an additional environmental assessment of existing and new information generated since the project's 1997 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. This environmental assessment, published in April 2009, concluded that changes to the project or project conditions since the 1997 SEIS will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

Accordingly, we strongly support this project and respectfully request that you prioritize it in the Fiscal Year 2010 budget for the Army Corps of Engineers. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Arlen Specter

Robert P. Casey, Jr.

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Robert A. Brady

Chaka Fattah

Allyson Y. Schwartz

Patrick J. Murphy

Joe Sestak

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
The Office of Secretary of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon Way
Room 3D921
Washington, DC 20301

We are writing to convey our support for the Army plan to assign an additional Brigade Combat Team (BCT) to the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field, Georgia. We share your expressed concern for the great hardship endured by the soldiers and their families and agree with your guiding principle to prevent the under-manning of units for combat while changing the policy on stop-loss. We believe the plan to bring the 5th BCT to Fort Stewart is in concert with the guiding principle of your statement on April 6th and will continue the progress made in revitalizing our armed forces.

Unquestionably, Fort Stewart is, for numerous strategic reasons, an ideal location for the Army to grow. But just as important it is imperative that the Army and the Department of Defense not lose sight of the issue of reliance—that state and local governments and the civic and business leaders relied on the request of the Army and the Department to be ready to accommodate these soldiers and their families. Accordingly, they have already invested about $450 million dollars in anticipation of the arrival of the BCT.

While we recognize the extensive military analysis and fiscal constraints required in determining the location of a BCT, we firmly believe that it is in the best interest of the Department of Defense to take into full account the investment at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field made by local communities long ago. The communities made these decisions by taking to heart the clear assurance from Department leaders that the BCT was coming. They responded to the Department's requests to provide the essential private sector support in advance of the arrival of the Brigade. In deciding this issue, we believe the Army and the Department must consider the extensive, good faith reliance of its partner community. The Department must live up to its commitments. It must not break its word.

The City of Hinesville, the surrounding communities, and the State of Georgia have demonstrated unwavering support for soldiers and families over many years. The area now is clearly recognized as one of the most Army-friendly installation in the U.S. Community

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OSD 06021-09

leaders have faithfully and diligently worked with the Department and the private sector to ensure that the facilities and infrastructure is ready to receive the additional brigade. To date the community's investment of about $450 million in preparation for the expected growth to include $72 million in public school projects and other public sector infrastructure investment. The State of Georgia has again expanded its acclaimed HOPE Scholarship program to further extend the access to military families for full tuition, room and board to any Georgia public college or university for students who graduate from high school with a B average.

We believe adding the 46th BCT in the Army to Fort Stewart would enhance the immediate operational effectiveness of the 3rd Infantry Division at the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field. When taking into consideration the emerging Center of Maneuver Excellence at Fort Benning and the growing presence of the BCTs at Fort Stewart, the Army has an exceptional home base in the state of Georgia to meet all mission challenges for our nation's defense. Resources are already either in place or pending final construction to swiftly accommodate the arrival of the new Brigade and their families. No other U.S installation can so effectively and quickly meet these needs. Commanders would have an Army unit with maximum adaptability and capability to meet combat requirements. Soldiers would be able to focus on their training, knowing that their families are settling into an installation and community that continues to welcome and accommodate them.

Fort Stewart's strategic location in southeast Georgia makes it easily accessible by road, rail and sea. Hunter Army Air Field provides a strategic Airborne Point of Entry for unit deployment. Movement to ports takes place in hours vice days and weeks. At 280,000 acres, Fort Stewart is the largest military installation east of the Mississippi River. The Army has invested some $670 million at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field in the past three years making it one of the most modern and efficient installations in the nation with additional construction pending for increased capacity. Training is efficient and cost effective due to the installation's digital multipurpose range training complex and other facilities located within minutes of the cantonment areas. Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field also has no significant environmental impact or encroachment issues. Just this month Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field won its fourth Army Community of Excellence installation award.

Accordingly, it is our request that the Department continue as originally planned to expand growth at Fort Stewart through the assignment of the additional BCT without adversely affecting the alignment of the current forces stationed at Fort Stewart and Fort Benning. We urge you to meet with Fort Stewart community leaders in the near future and permit them the opportunity to directly share their views and additional information on this issue.

Thank you for your distinguished service to our nation and thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

John Barrow

Jack Kingston

Sanford Bishop

Paul Broun

Hank Johnson

Nathan Deal

John Lewis

Phil Gingrey

Jim Marshall

John Linder

David Scott

Tom Price

Lynn Westmoreland

CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS
JOINT COMMITTEE
ON TAXATION
CHAIRMAN

GEORGE A. DALLEY
CHIEF OF STAFF

JAMES E. CAPEL
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I commend your decision to investigate the recent fatal shooting of five service members at Camp Liberty in Iraq in order to identify shortcomings in mental health care for troops deployed in war zones.

This incident highlights not only the inherent danger to our deployed troops, even on their own bases, but the potential psychological consequences of combat stress and repeated deployments. The incident at Camp Liberty, as well as the growing incidences of suicide in the ranks, make it clear that more must be done to address the mental and psychological well-being of our men and women in uniform. The number of cases of suicide in the military has increased dramatically since the Vietnam War, reaching an all-time high of 128 cases in 2008.

I am horrified at the thought that the terrible slaughter in Iraq could easily have occurred in hometown, U.S.A. I agree with the calls for expansion of psychological testing during deployments in war zones. But I believe it is equally important to provide for intensive mandatory psychological evaluations of members of the armed forces immediately prior to separation as a precautionary step in the transition to civilian life.

As a veteran of the Korean War, I have experienced the difficulty of transitioning to the real world after a stint in combat. The situation is worse today. That is why I have introduced legislation (H.R. 1963) which would require all those separating from active duty to receive counseling in how to repackage their military skills, where and how to find employment, along with physical and psychological testing. The growing incidences of post-separation domestic violence, PTSD and suicide, demands that we do more for those who have contributed so much to our country.

I strongly urge you to expand your Camp Liberty investigation in order to determine the need for this universal mandatory approach. It seems clear to me that dealing with the difficulties of earning a living in a shrinking economy is increasingly fraught with uncertainty and stress, such as we've never seen before.

OSD 06095-09

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FAX: (202) 225-0816

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☐ DISTRICT OFFICE
163 WEST 125TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10027
TELEPHONE: (212) 663-3900
FAX: (212) 663-4277

Mr. Secretary, with full appreciation for your commitment to the welfare of our troops, I am prepared to work with you, Chairman Ike Skelton, and Chairman John Murtha to find ways to address these issues.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means

CBR/krj
Enclosure:
cc: Hon. Ike Skelton, Chairman, Armed Service Committee
Hon. John Murtha, Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense

Great dinner meeting. Call me if I can be of help

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
JOHN SPRATT, SOUTH CAROLINA
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NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HAWAII
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

May 21, 2009

Hon. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express our concern about the Department of Defense Health Information Technology (Health IT) systems. The committee has long expressed concern about how the department has managed its Health IT systems, and recent events have only deepened those fears.

A joint hearing on the Department of Defense Health IT systems was held on March 24, 2009, by the subcommittee on Military Personnel, with oversight responsibility for the Military Health System, and the subcommittee on Terrorism and Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, with oversight responsibility for Department of Defense Information Technology programs. At that hearing, we heard from the military services about the difficulties they have encountered with Health IT systems, specifically problems with the system known as AHLTA. We were encouraged that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and his staff agreed that there are serious problems with the Health IT systems. We were further encouraged when they presented what appeared to be an ambitious and comprehensive plan to overhaul the system that would address all of the issues raised by the services and would provide the best Health IT system possible for the department's beneficiaries.

At that hearing, we were assured that the Department was committed to moving forward with their proposed solution, but that cost details could not be discussed because both the Fiscal Year 2009 supplemental request and the Fiscal Year 2010 budget request were still in preparation.

During our review of the Fiscal Year 2010 budget justification materials, we were surprised to find no mention of the plan referenced by Health Affairs during the March hearing. Further, a review of the Fiscal Year 2009 supplemental request did not turn up any mention of the proposed solution. Most recently, in testimony during the May 15, 2009, hearing on the

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Defense Health Program budget, the Acting Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the Chief Information Officer failed to provide any additional insight into the cost of the proposed solution.

We find this troubling. It calls into question the ability of the department to deliver on the commitments made by Health Affairs during the March hearing, as well as the promise of a Joint Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record recently announced by you and Secretary Shinseki, at least for health information. We therefore respectfully request that you look into the situation and report back to the committee with the actual status and content of any plan or strategy to improve the Department of Defense Health IT systems, as well as projected costs and a budget submission schedule. We look forward to discussing your findings.

Very truly yours,

Susan Davis
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Military Personnel

Joe Wilson
Ranking Member

Adam Smith
Chairman
Subcommittee on Terrorism
Unconventional Threats and Capabilities

Jeff Miller
Ranking Member

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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

June 9, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On March 23rd, I wrote to you asking you to review your Department's policy on outsourcing and suggesting that you halt A-76 studies pending the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) review of the A-76 program pending the Office of Management and Budget's review of the A-76 program. I requested a prompt reply.

I was disappointed with the response that I received on April 28th, from your former Undersecretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics which largely restated the facts contained in my letter to you. The response also stated that the "Department is reviewing the current (A-76) program". This response appears to misstate what is indeed occurring within the Defense Department and does not address my concerns.

Originally, the OMB Circular A-76 process was to be used as a tool to determine the most efficient source for performing "commercial" work – either in the public or private sector. The use of the OMB Circular A-76 process was extensively criticized by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in two 2008 reports. According to GAO, the OMB guidance for the A-76 process was flawed. As a result, there may have been inadequate tracking of costs and savings but moreover, there are serious concerns that agencies, particularly DoD, had started privatization studies in response to arbitrary targets. Moreover, the DoD Inspector General has found that an OMB error in the A-76 calculation of

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"overhead" could wrongly and unfairly result in the outsourcing of workload. However, DoD has recently used OMB A-76 to push more and more work into the private sector. Indeed, in fiscal year 2008, DoD more than doubled spending for contractor provided services compared to the amount it spent a decade ago but your Department has been unable to answer basic questions such as how many contractors and subcontractors there are and their average salaries.

To halt the continued conversion of functions to contractor performance until the Administration could conduct a thorough review of its a-76 policy, the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes a government-wide moratorium on beginning or announcing any A-76 studies. In addition, the President has announced a broader review of "...when governmental outsourcing for services is and is not appropriate..." Yet, the Defense Department is continuing to move forward with numerous public-private competition studies that were in progress before the moratorium took effect, and without further validation of estimated savings, to include converting government functions to contractors.

Therefore I once again, strongly this time, recommend that you immediately suspend all ongoing activities related to OMB Circular A-76 studies, including the conversion of functions performed by federal employees to contractor performance and I recommend that you do so for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2009.

I once again request a prompt response from you to this letter.

Respectfully,

John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

Unlike some of my Republican colleagues, I have the utmost confidence in the men and women of our armed forces to securely detain these prisoners anywhere in the nation. But I am sure you agree that Level II or Level III facilities such as Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, WPNSTA, Charleston, SC, or Fort Knox, KY are better equipped to house these prisoners. Ideally, the Guantanamo detainees will be held in appropriate locations overseas. But if that is not possible, they should be held in Level II or Level III secure facilities with excess capacity and a history of performing this kind of mission. MCB Quantico does not fit those criteria.

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia

GC/HA
cc: Secretary Robert Gates
Attorney General Eric Holder, Jr.

1006533

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House of Representatives

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May 11, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to ask that you consider immediately issuing an Executive Order barring investigations under Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) given the growing support in Congress for an outright repeal of this prejudicial law.

As you know, since DADT was implemented in 1994 more than 12,500 men and women have been discharged from military service. According to 2005 information from the Government Accountability Office, roughly 800 of those discharged were 'mission-critical' specialists, which would include intelligence analysts and linguists. Just last week, U.S. Army Lt. Dan Choi, a West Point graduate who served in the New York National Guard and is fluent in Arabic, was dismissed under DADT.

DADT is a discriminatory policy that has deprived our military of badly needed skills, talent, and experience. While our overextended military bravely fights battles on numerous fronts, we cannot afford to endure a prejudicial law that results in the dismissal of some of our best and brightest and leaves certain units shorthanded. We are critically short personnel in some of these areas.

It's also worth noting that DADT is fiscally irresponsible -- a Blue Ribbon Commission Report noted that the cost to replace and train those service members discharged between 1994 through 2003 was nearly $363 million. Twenty-six other countries, including Great Britain and Israel, have lifted their bans. It's time for the United States to do the same.

A bill to overturn DADT has been introduced in congress, and currently has 140 bipartisan cosponsors. It would replace Don't Ask Don't Tell with a policy of nondiscrimination. Because this is a sign that Congress will eventually act to overturn DADT, and because of our critical and immediate military needs, this issue should not

need to wait for an Act of Congress. Please consider issuing an Executive Order for the sake of our nation, for our military, and for those that seek to fight for our country.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel

Steve Israel

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

We write to respectfully request your attention to and engagement on a long-standing issue that relates to the unequal treatment of the U.S. territories due to a regulatory exclusion of Invitational Travel Orders (ITOs) to the territories by the services. The source of this discriminatory policy is Department of Defense Directive number 4515.12 section 5.2.3 which stipulates that "The Secretaries of the Military Departments are delegated the authority unilaterally to extend invitations for sponsored non-reimbursable non-multi-departmental travel within the 50 United States to members (other than newly elected) and employees of the Congress...". Despite the strategic importance and contribution to National Security and a significant military presence in the U.S. territories, the aforementioned directive excludes ITOs to the territories.

In the past, the Office of the Secretary of Defense has favorably resolved restrictions on non-committee Congressional staff traveling to the territories by issuing special exemptions that allowed for ITOs to the territories. The following Congressional Staff Delegations occurred as a result of this type of special exemption: U.S. Marine Corps House Liaison-organized STAFFDEL to Guam, Saipan, and Tinian in February 2002, Navy OLA-organized STAFFDEL to Guam and Hawaii in April 2003, U.S. Pacific Command-organized STAFFDEL to Guam and Hawaii in August 2006, and most recently a Navy OLA-organized STAFFDEL to Guam in April 2007.

These staff delegations provided a venue for non-committee Congressional staff to learn about our nation's military operations in the territories in a comprehensive and astute manner that would be impossible to replicate from a distance. However, several services have since requested STAFFDELs to the territories and were subsequently denied. We are concerned that current regulations are impeding the Services ability to execute and complete their missions in the territories by hindering their ability to fully inform non-committee Congressional staff.

We have attempted to work to resolve this issue with your predecessor; however, we were unable to get any traction and the discriminatory regulation remains. We hope that with your engagement and assistance, the regulatory exclusion of non-committee staff ITOs to the territories will be permanently lifted. Such a resolution would be non-discriminatory and would contribute to the Services ability to complete their missions in the territories.

We look forward to working with you and appreciate your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
Member of Congress

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Member of Congress

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OSD 07065-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Our ground forces in Iraq and Afghanistan have benefited from the development and fielding of flame resistant combat uniforms that are made of durable material that breathes well yet protects their skin from fire. In 2007, after a full competition, the Army's PEO-Soldier and USMC's PM-CIE chose a material named "Defender M" for the new uniforms. We applaud the military's efforts to challenge the US textile industry to upgrade the burn protection for soldiers to meet the threat of today's risks and environmental burdens in theater.

All of the manufacturing for the yarns, fabrics, and uniforms is done in the U.S. with over 10,000 jobs associated with making these valuable uniforms. This is a thriving U.S. manufacturing capability because of the ability to import the basic fibers not found or made here. The material's flame resistant and breathable properties offer superior protection and comfort, and they derive from imported flame resistant rayon (FR Rayon) fibers made in the EU with raw materials not found in the United States. Also, domestic rayon manufacturing is defunct, in part due to EPA regulations. Our troops, then, are benefiting from fibers that are, by necessity, imported.

Our ground forces have access to their protective uniform because of a Berry Amendment waiver allowing importation of these fibers for manufacturing into yarn, fabric and uniforms. The current five-year waiver was negotiated between the Congress and the last Administration and was included in the FY08 National Defense Authorization Act. We believe that this should be a permanent waiver, as a beneficial and life-saving material manufactured by a U.S. ally should be exempt from restrictions.

If in the future, a domestic substitute fiber that meets requirements is found, obtains permits for manufacturing, achieves sufficient capitalization for production, and is manufactured here, the companies making the material and the uniforms will quickly be able to migrate to the new fiber. Such a possibility is not foreseen in the reasonable future.

We seek your comments on the uniforms and their utility and on the merits of the waiver as we begin to deliberate a more enduring solution.

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OSD 07183-09

Sincerely,

nn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress

Jo Bonner
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

Paul Broun
Member of Congress

Nathan Deal
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are requesting a briefing on the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the KC-X acquisition, prior to its release to industry.

As members of the United States House of Representatives, we are most interested in understanding the intended evaluation and criteria from the previous source selection and the rationale for those changes. In addition, we want to understand the steps the Department has taken to address the areas of concern indentified by the June 18, 2008, General Accountability Office KC-X ruling.

As you may recall, during your testimony before the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense on June 8, 2009, you stated that you would "share the draft RFP here in Congress as being a transparent process."

Mr. Secretary, we appreciate your stated commitment to move forward quickly in an open and transparent manner with this acquisition effort and look forward to your response to this request. To schedule this briefing, please contact Jon Hand with Congressman Jo Bonner at (202) 225-4931.

Sincerely,

Jo Bonner
United States Representative
First District – Alabama

Bobby Bright
United States Representative
Second District - Alabama

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Mike Rogers
United States Representative
Third District – Alabama

Robert Aderholt
United States Representative
Fourth District – Alabama

Parker Griffith
United States Representative
Fifth District – Alabama

Spencer Bachus
United States Representative
Sixth District - Alabama

Artur Davis
United States Representative
Seventh District – Alabama

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United States Representative
First District - Florida

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Change Course, Confront Crises, Continue the Legacy

June 29, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As members of Congress, we are writing to express our concerns over the delay of the mandated Military Leadership Diversity Commission as well as the larger issue of diversity in the armed services' upper leadership.

This Commission is the fruit of numerous meetings between senior members of the armed services, the Pentagon and the Congressional Black Caucus dating back to 2007 and it remains a priority. And as you know, the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act created the Commission with the intent of having it begin its work no later than 120 days from the bill's passage. Understandably, with the change in Administration there has been some delay and only recently have certain appointments been made; however the comprehensive evaluation and assessment of the promotion, recruitment and retention policies that the Commission will undertake are of the utmost importance. As members of Congress we remain very interested in this Commission's work we ask to be kept abreast of the Commission's status as well as its findings.

In many ways the strength of our nation is in its diversity, and similarly we view diversity as an issue of national security. Diversity of experience, talents, backgrounds and capabilities provides our nation and our armed services with the widened aperture we need to deal with the many problems facing us in the future, and the Commission's work will give Congress a better idea of how to address the continuing issues hampering our senior military service members.

OSD 07739-09

We do not need to tell you of the acute underrepresentation of minority officers at the General and Flag level and given that it takes more than 25 years to grow a General or Flag Officer, change will be a slow process. We remain very interested to hear what the Office of the Secretary of Defense is doing with regards to the recruitment and the retention of minority officers as our armed services of the future should look more like the America it represents among all of its ranks.

The U.S. military has long been at the forefront of maximizing diversity in our nation, but we must continue to build on past successes. We know that the effort to build upon that diversity is a goal that we share, and we look forward to continued partnership on these issues.

Sincerely,

Hon. Kendrick B. Meek
Member of Congress

Hon. Barbara Lee
Chairwoman
Congressional Black Caucus

Hon. James E. Clyburn
House Majority Whip

Hon. Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security

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RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED TENTH 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

November 19, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write to express concern about current implementation plans for the Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System (DIMHRS). We are very concerned this program has not taken into consideration all of the Army's requirements and specifically, the unique needs of the men and women of the National Guard.

Over the last few years, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has investigated and uncovered long standing problems resulting from numerous military service unique personnel and pay systems, including accurately paying military personnel on time and monitoring and tracking them to, from, and within their duty stations. In 2004, we held hearings focusing on Army Reserve and National Guard troops receiving inaccurate pay due to a lack of integration in Army personnel and pay systems, and exacerbated by the thousands of reservists deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2005 and 2006, the Committee held hearings on the financial hardships created for injured Army National Guard and Reserve soldiers due to disjointed pay and personnel offices. More recently, during our 2007-2008 hearings on issues facing wounded soldiers, Defense Department officials testified that some of the administration challenges facing wounded soldiers would be addressed under DIMHRS. During all of these hearings, we were promised that most of the administrative problems would be solved when DIMHRS was adopted.

As you know, our wait for solutions promised with the deployment of DIMHRS continues. DOD has planned five DIMHRS deployment dates for the Army alone; from the first in April 2006, to the most recent in March 2009. In 2005, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported to our Committee that DOD was not managing the DIMHRS program effectively, including defining requirements needed by each military service.

OSD 14909-08

This month, GAO reported that requirements difficulties remain, particularly with the communications between DOD and the Army. A September 12, 2008 memo from the Department of the Army, Enterprise Information Systems Program Executive Officer to Major General Darryl Scott at the Department of Defense Business Transformation Agency (BTA) lists "critical mission show stoppers" for the Army's deployment of DIMHRS and expresses concern about what will be done by BTA to "ensure a fully mission capable DIMHRS product."

On October 3, 2008, Lieutenant General Clyde A. Vaughn, Director of the Army National Guard issued a memo stating that the current development of DIMHRS "does not meet the Army National Guard's critical needs," and disappointment at a "significant lack of proven functionality to pay and account for soldiers."

Furthermore, the Adjutants General of the United States have also expressed serious concerns about major deficiencies that remain between the Army requirements and those requirements of the Army National Guard.

Unlike active duty personnel, a National Guard member can be carried in several pay categories with varying entitlements during one pay period. There also appears to be a lack of positive funds control inside and outside of the current DIMHRS configuration to account for these pay and allowances. The State Adjutants General also are worried about the transition of legacy system data into the new system that if not corrected before implementation in March 2009, would produce disastrous payment errors. The State Adjutants General also cite lack of accessibility, security, and training and support, as major issues that might prevent Army Guard soldiers from getting paid timely and accurately.

As our Committee hearings since 2003 have focused on the many problems that arise with paying Army Guard and Reserve soldiers under the old stove-piped, disjointed and paper intensive system, we are incredulous that DIMHRS does not address or solve these issues for the men and women of the National Guard.

We ask that you look into these unaddressed requirements immediately and look forward to working with you to see that these issues are addressed. The Government Accountability Office tells us that DOD estimates the cost of DIMHRS from FY98 through fiscal year FY 2009 to be approximately one billion dollars. It is imperative we get a system that addresses the needs of all our military members; not just a few.

Sincerely,

Rep. Tom Davis

Rep. Dennis Kucinich

Rep. Christopher Shays

Rep. Darrell Issa

Rep. Todd Platts

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 30, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write regarding the OMB Circular A-76 review of installation management functions under the Defense Logistics Agency Enterprise Support organization (DES). It is our understanding that the Department of Defense's Competitive Sourcing Official is disinclined to approve a request by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to undertake an internal re-engineering effort as an alternative means of ensuring workplace efficiency and cost savings.

Upon reviewing the recent concerns raised by the General Accountability Office regarding the level of savings achieved under OMB Circular A-76, and the information provided to our offices regarding DLA's alternate approach, it appears the latter offers a viable alternative that would result in savings more quickly.

Given our mutual interest in ensuring the DES mission is accomplished in an efficient and cost-effective manner, we respectfully request the Department to give all due consideration to the internal re-engineering effort developed by DLA.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

George V. Voinovich
Jim Webb
Sherrod Brown
Bob Casey, Jr.
Jon Tester
Mark R. Warner
Daniel K. Akaka
Susan M. Collins

OSD 01166-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 2, 2009

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

Admiral Mike Mullen
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
9999 The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20318-9999

Dear Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen:

We appreciate the directed focus you have brought to the National Guard and Reserves through recent directives, personnel decisions, and other actions. In our September 26, 2008 letter, we asked you to look at the issue of transparency and accountability in the purchase and distribution of equipment for the National Guard and Reserves. We would appreciate an update on the Department's efforts to resolve these challenges, which have prevented equipment slated for the reserve components from actually entering Guard and Reserves inventories.

We have received a number of interim responses, including letters that referred our inquiry to the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and, later, to the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. We look forward to a more detailed response on how the Department actually plans to account for the appropriated dollars provided for National Guard and Reserve equipment.

Given its constitutional authority and paramount responsibility to the American people, Congress has a deep interest in full financial transparency. Establishing a budget and execution plan that provides transparency and accountability of Guard and Reserve equipment funding is also a key recommendation of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves. We understand that that the Department of Defense acknowledges the need for corrective action.

We would appreciate an update on the Department's plans to ensure greater accountability for National Guard and Reserve equipment. In particular, please advise on the status of evaluating the viability of such proposals as delineating Guard and Reserve funding requests within the Services' annual procurement requests or Congress creating a separate appropriation for National Guard and Reserve equipment requirements.

Thank you again for recognizing the importance of this issue and working with the Congress toward a sensible resolution.

Sincerely,

Patrick Leahy

PATRICK LEAHY
Co-Chair
U.S. Senate National Guard Caucus

Kit Bond

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND
Co-Chair
U.S. Senate National Guard Caucus

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JAMES M. INHOFE, OKLAHOMA
JEFF SESSIONS, ALABAMA
SAXBY CHAMBLISS, GEORGIA
LINDSEY GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN THUNE, SOUTH DAKOTA
MEL MARTINEZ, FLORIDA
ROGER F. WICKER, MISSISSIPPI
RICHARD BURR, NORTH CAROLINA
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA
SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE
RICHARD D. DEBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 2, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your letter of January 27, regarding the Department's use of retired military officers as "surrogates" to make the former Administration's case in the media. As you indicate in your letter, the Inspector General found no improper or illegal activities on the part of the Department's Public Affairs personnel and concluded that information briefings provided to retired military officers did not violate legal prohibitions against the use of appropriated funds for publicity or propaganda purposes.

However, the Inspector General also found that the Department excluded a retired General from further participation in the program because of his comments critical of the conduct of the Iraq war. The report also confirms that a senior DOD Public Affairs official sent an e-mail urging the Department to cultivate a core group of "reliably friendly" retired military analysts "that we can count on to carry our water." I do not think it should be acceptable for DOD officials to cut off outside commentators who express critical opinions, or to use access to information to reward political allies in the press. If this conduct is not illegal or improper under existing law or regulations, I believe that those laws and regulations need to be changed. I would appreciate if you would review the applicable laws and regulations and get back to me with your views.

Also, while the report finds insufficient evidence to determine that any contractor received a competitive advantage as a result of its ties to retired military analysts, the report fails to assess whether the retired military analysts themselves obtained financial benefits from contractors as a result of their favorable access to DOD information and officials. The report also concludes that it was appropriate for the Department to employ a contractor to ensure that the commentary of retired

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military analysts "reflected accurate information." However, the purpose of the contract, as detailed in the report, was not to determine whether the commentary was "accurate", but rather whether it was favorable – i.e., to determine "how coverage reflects or fails to reflect DoD stated policies or views (as expressed by its spokespeople and other representatives)." The report fails to assess whether it was appropriate to hire an outside contractor to determine which analysts were most supportive of Administration views.

I would appreciate if you would task the Inspector General to conduct an additional review and analysis to address these issues.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary
The Department of Defense
1100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1100

by whom?

Dear Deputy Secretary Lynn:

Recently, we were informed that the Department of Defense is considering postponing again the acquisition of a new Air Force aerial refueling tanker. As the co-Chairmen of the Senate Tanker Caucus, we believe that any additional postponement of the tanker re-capitalization program will have a serious and unnecessary adverse effect on our service members' ability to carry out the National Military Strategy. Accordingly, we recommend that the Department recommence the aerial refueling tanker competition on an expedited basis.

As you know, the Senate Tanker Caucus is a bipartisan organization whose purpose is to assist the Department in efficiently procuring whichever aircraft best meets the requirements of our National Military Strategy and provides the best value to the taxpayer. The Caucus has not, and will not, take a position supporting any particular bidder in the competition for procurement of a replacement tanker. However, the failure of recent efforts to procure a new tanker has been disconcerting to members of the Caucus.

The ability of our nation to continue to project aerial power worldwide depends on our tanker fleet. The backbone of this fleet is the KC-135, which is rapidly approaching its 50th year in service. As I am sure you agree, continuing to rely upon these aircraft for decades to come poses an unacceptable risk not only to our nation's unique global reach capability, but to our most valuable asset, our men and women in uniform.

Therefore, we respectfully recommend that the Department resume the competition to select a new aerial refueling tanker as soon as possible. We also request that our respective staffs be briefed, in a timely manner, on the Department's plans.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kent Conrad
United States Senator

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

OSD 02620-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE

RICHARD D. DeROSES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 12, 2009

Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A critical element of our strategy for success in Afghanistan must be enabling Afghan forces to take responsibility for the security of their own country. We applaud the decision to increase the size of the Afghan National Army (ANA) to 134,000 soldiers, though the force level may well require additional growth in order to meet Afghanistan's security needs over the long term.

The United States and its allies need to do all we can to accelerate as quickly as possible the training and equipping of the ANA and the Afghan National Police (ANP). General David McKiernan, Commander, NATO International Security Assistance Force, has said he needs more embedded trainers and funding to speed up building the capacity of the Afghan security forces.

We have also heard recently that the "long pole in the tent" for growing the ANA rapidly is getting these units the basic equipment they need – machine guns, radios, and vehicles – when they need it. At a hearing on February 26th, General David Barno, former Commander, Combined Forces Command Afghanistan, testified that the main problem is "a constipated, peace-time system" for equipping these forces which is not well suited to the demands of an ongoing conflict. As you recall, similar problems were encountered in delivering badly needed military equipment to Iraqi forces. In this regard, we hope the lessons learned in Iraq will be applied to our efforts in Afghanistan.

We request that you closely examine what is needed to expedite the training and equipping of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police and report to us on what more is needed, in terms of resources, personnel, or legislative relief.

OSD 02750-09

To:9703571895 P.2/3

We look forward to your prompt response and working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

John McCain
Ranking Member

Carl Levin
Chairman

DAVID VITTER
LOUISIANA

DEPUTY WHIP

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Environment and Public Works

Foreign Relations

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Special Committee on Aging

United States Senate

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vitter.senate.gov

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Senate Appropriations Committee, Chairman
S-128, the Capitol
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Mr. President and Chairman Inouye:

I am writing to express the need for increased funding of several critical Corps of Engineers infrastructure projects in the state of Louisiana under the Economic Stimulus Plan. As you know, Corps funding has always been one of my top priorities and I believe we now have a full and unique opportunity. Not only will this funding help protect Louisiana's coastline and citizens, but it will also stimulate the economy as we currently have $6.2 billion in "shovel ready" projects.

With $6.2 billion in shovel-ready projects in Louisiana alone, I believe the current House stimulus funding for the Corps is woefully short, and I request increased funding for the Corps in the Senate version of the stimulus bill.

Hurricane protection systems continue to be particularly critical in our state, and I remain concerned about the slow pace of progress. Millions of citizens remain at risk from inadequate systems as we approach the fifth hurricane season since Katrina and Rita and less than a year since Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Authorized levels of protection are needed in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. Assistance to parishes around New Orleans is needed to storm-proof pump stations. Assistance is also needed by levee districts for levee certification to obtain flood insurance, and continue economic development.

Coastal Restoration in Louisiana continues to be urgently needed for both revitalization of natural wetlands and protection of inland communities from storm surge. I believe that use of dredged material, mostly from navigation projects, to regenerate barrier islands and wetland habitats is a critical building block for better hurricane protection. Additional funds should also be used to complete distribution pipelines, enabling the immediate application of such material with new and ongoing projects. Assistance is also sorely needed by several parishes for repair of environmental infrastructure and flood control projects.

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FAX: (337) 262-6373

CENTRAL LOUISIANA
2230 SOUTH MACARTHUR DRIVE
SUITE 4
ALEXANDRIA, LA 71301
(318) 448-0168
FAX: (318) 448-0189

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA
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MONROE, LA 71201
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FAX: (318) 325-9165

NORTHWEST LOUISIANA
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SHREVEPORT, LA 71106
(318) 861-0437
FAX: (318) 861-4865

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA
2800 VETERANS BOULEVARD
SUITE 201
METAIRIE, LA 70002
(504) 589-2753
FAX: (504) 589-2607

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA
3221 RYAN STREET
SUITE E
LAKE CHARLES, LA 70601
(337) 436-0453
FAX: (337) 436-3163

These projects clearly align with the intent of the Stimulus Plan to revitalize critical infrastructure, provide economic benefit with new jobs and enable economic development in Louisiana. I am willing to help in any way possible and I appreciate your continued support and prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

David Vitter

David Vitter
United States Senator

Cc: General Robert Van Antwerp, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

100060E

December 15, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
President-elect
Presidential Transition Team
451 6th St., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. President-elect:

We write to ask for your support of a robust shipbuilding budget and policies to support our Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard and to enable commercial ship construction in the United States. Such policies and funding would create and sustain highly skilled jobs, strengthen our national and homeland security, and modernize and expand our domestic marine transportation highway.

The shipbuilding industry of the United States employs more than 400,000 people in 47 states. The industry consists of six major shipbuilding yards, several smaller ship construction and repair yards, and more than 4,000 major manufacturers of ship components and systems. Thousands of jobs would be created in the United States with a renewed commitment to shipbuilding that has been lacking in the past decade.

Military leaders have documented for several years a minimum national requirement for 313 ships to support our Navy and Marine Corps. The Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Gary Roughead testified last year at the Navy FY09 budget hearing that "[t]he rate at which we are growing our fleet will challenge our ability to fulfill the core capabilities of the maritime strategy." He is, "committed to taking the steps necessary to build the future fleet and re-establish the vital trust needed among the Department, Congress, and industry to get our Navy above a 313-ship floor." At the House Armed Services Committee hearing on March 6, 2008, Admiral Roughead said, "[t]hree hundred thirteen ships represent the minimum force necessary to provide the global reach, persistent presence, and strategic, operational, and tactical effects." He concluded by saying, "I support a stable shipbuilding plan that provides an affordable, balanced force and preserves our nation's industrial base. I intend to develop further our Navy's relationship with industry to reinforce our commitment to a stable shipbuilding plan."

Unfortunately, however, the Navy's fleet has declined to 284 ships. To attain the 313-ship Navy outlined by the CNO, 12 ships need to be budgeted annually.

While America's naval fleet is in decline, the Navies of potential adversaries are on the rise. Russia has made rebuilding its naval power a priority, and the Navy of China is expanding rapidly. By 2015 the Chinese Navy is projected to be larger than ours, and Russia has stated its intention to have the second largest Navy in the world by 2022. These countries may be building their naval forces to deny America access to critical regions and to limit America's influence around the world. Because more than 90 percent of global commerce is transported by sea, naval power is the key to accessing critical raw materials, to securing sea lanes of commerce for trade and energy, and to projecting power quickly when needed. Other nations are also placing a

premium on naval forces, and the instances of piracy on the world's oceans are increasing at an alarming rate. Terrorist attack from sea remains a high security threat.

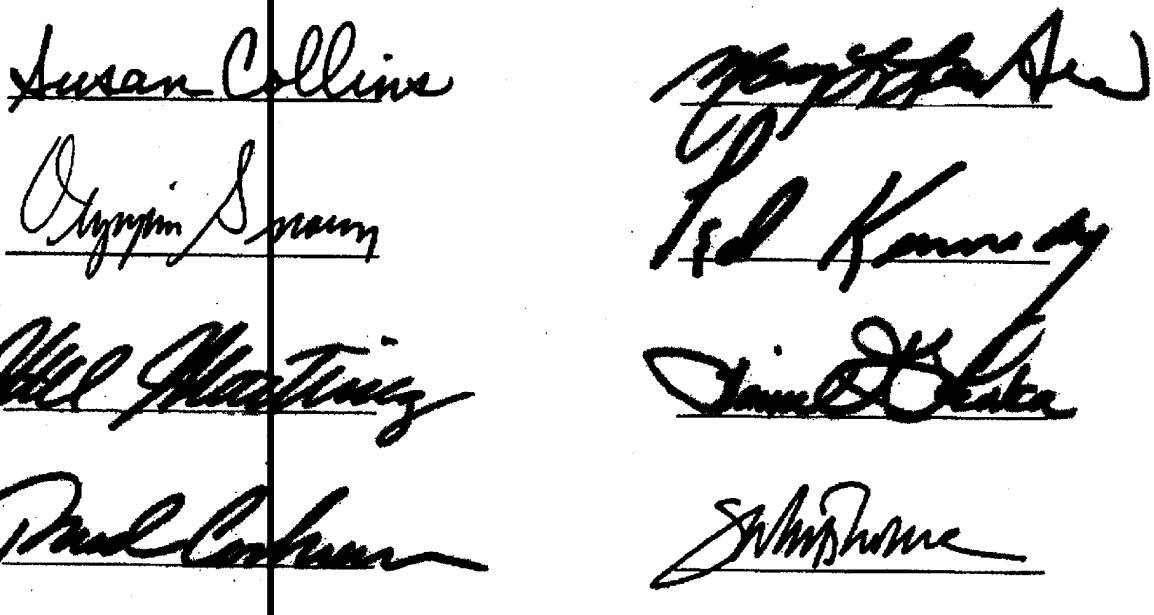
In addition to the Navy's priorities, the U.S. Coast Guard warrants your attention. The U.S. Coast Guard fleet is one of the oldest in the world. Your commitment to modernize the Coast Guard fleet with new improved cutters will be essential in defending our borders, improving search and rescue, stopping illegal trafficking, and giving the Coast Guard the tools it needs to perform its homeland security missions.

The crisis in financial markets makes it more vital than ever to budget $60 million annually for the Title XI Ship Loan Guarantee Program administered by the Maritime Administration. This program provides a government guarantee of 87.5 percent of a commercial bank loan over 25 years to ship owners for ship construction in the United States. Vessels financed by Title XI would enhance our domestic energy development and transportation capability for all forms of energy. The dry cargo ships currently serving American ports average more than their 20-year intended service lives.

More ships need to be built to meet our security, energy, and transportation needs. Building more ships would also build our economy and create and preserve thousands of engineering and production jobs in the United States. Your efforts to reverse years of inadequate funding for the Navy, Coast Guard, and commercial shipbuilding will provide many positive returns on a much needed investment.

Thank you for your consideration of this important national economic and security matter.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski

Daniel Vitter

Ben Cardin

Jack Reed

Jon Tinker

Bill Nelson

John F. Kerry

Roger Wicker

Chris Dodd

CC: Mr. Peter Orszag
Director-Designate
Office of Management and Budget
451 6th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20270

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As you know, last year's Department of Defense Appropriations Act provided partial funding for the third DDG-1000 and directed the Navy to budget for the remaining funding requirement in FY10. Congress expects the Navy to adhere to this direction; therefore, we write to urge your support for full funding of the DDG-1000 program in the FY10 President's budget, and request that you continue a thorough and transparent review and evaluation of the Navy's proposal to truncate the DDG-1000 program and restart DDG-51 production.

We remain very concerned about the Navy's long-term shipbuilding plan. Despite several months of Congressional and Department of Defense requests for further analysis, the Navy has yet to provide sufficient justification in support of the proposal to truncate the DDG-1000 program and restart DDG-51 production. We continue to await an in-depth comparative analysis of the DDG-51 and DDG-1000. The Navy's failure to provide such a detailed cost analysis strongly implies a lack of supporting documentation of the Navy's position and undermines our confidence in the merits of the Navy's plan to truncate the DDG-1000 program. Congress must have this information before acquiescing to a change of this magnitude.

Supporting the DDG-1000 program will enable the Navy to leverage $11 billion in already invested research and development funding. The ship has been designed with significant growth margins including power, cooling, space, and weight to enable rapid enhancements to meet evolving threats in the existing hull. We believe that continued production and delivery of DDG-1000 class destroyers is essential to the long-term stability of our shipbuilding program and the timely delivery of needed capabilities to the Navy.

With respect and appreciation, and thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy

Jack Reed

John F. Kerry

Sheldon Whitehouse

OSD 03125-09

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress

James McGovern
Member of Congress

Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

Paul Hodes
Member of Congress

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

James Langevin
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write today to express serious concern about the administration's planned national defense spending in Fiscal Year 2010 and beyond, which appears to be insufficient to guarantee U.S. national security in the coming years. Based on the administration's budget documents submitted thus far, it appears that a marked decrease in overall defense spending is in store for our country. If recent press accounts are accurate, this will be accomplished by canceling or postponing the acquisition of numerous major weapon systems critical to our Armed Forces and necessary to ensure their future ability to defend our country.

As Congress begins the Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) budget process, it is our view that we have too little information on hand, based solely on the President's incomplete budget submission, to thoroughly and responsibly make decisions about top-line figures for the country's core defense program. For example, it is widely reported that the administration intends to shift funding that is currently part of the supplemental budget process into the normal DoD appropriations request. But, to date, Congress has not been told exactly what amount will be transferred, nor has it been informed about which particular programs will be affected. This lack of information raises a number of important questions, with potentially troubling answers.

The President's plan to substantially increase U.S. military force levels in Afghanistan, while simultaneously withdrawing all U.S. combat forces from Iraq by August 2010, will require substantial funding. However, it is our understanding that the administration will be requesting far less this year and next in supplemental funding, which is cause for great concern. It is unclear how the administration, if it intends to cut supplemental funding, expects to maintain our military forces in the field and enable them to conduct their missions safely and effectively. We would appreciate an explanation on this issue.

To be clear, we fully support efforts to maximize transparency in the budget process by including all foreseeable DoD requirements in the normal DoD budget request; however, by shifting major expenses from the supplemental requests to the base budget, while simultaneously slashing the supplemental request, the net effect would be a decrease in overall spending on our national defense. Our concern is that, under the guise of an "honest budgeting" approach to national security spending, we would be locking in an overall cut in military spending that either puts our troops in jeopardy today or our

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national security in jeopardy tomorrow as we restrict urgently needed capital investments in equipment such as planes, ships, and land vehicles.

As such, we request that your department provide us as soon as possible with more detailed information on what expenditures, and at what levels, you anticipate moving from the supplemental budget to the base defense budget for FY10 and what defense programs you anticipate eliminating or substantially reducing, in relation to the most recent Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). In addition, it is essential that we hear from our uniformed combatant commanders and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the potential problems they will face in carrying out their responsibilities under the administration's proposed defense spending blueprints. Accordingly, we request that you provide us, as soon as possible, risk assessments by each combatant commander, evaluating to what extent the President's proposed defense spending levels will limit their ability to meet ongoing requirements over the lifetime of the FYDP. Finally, we request that the Chairman's risk assessment, which is statutorily required and is long overdue, be provided within 30 calendar days.

During the early part of this decade, it became clear that defense spending decisions made during the 1990s and the resulting military "procurement holiday" that our government had taken left our Armed Forces without the needed advanced equipment and superior capabilities to defend our nation. Today, in the middle of a global war on terror, we must not allow that to happen again. Now is not the time to attempt to cash in a "peace dividend," while thousands of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are serving in harm's way, engaged in military operations in two major theaters of conflict overseas, with other very real threats on the horizon.

We urge you to examine these issues carefully as the administration completes work on its FY10 DoD budget request. Thank you for your service to our nation and your tireless dedication to its Armed Forces.

Sincerely,

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

JON KYL
United States Senator

LISA MURKOWSKI
United States Senator

JAMES M. INHOFE
United States Senator

JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

JOHNNY ISAKSON
United States Senator

JIM DEMINT
United States Senator

SAXBY CHAMBLISS
United States Senator

ROGER F. WICKER
United States Senator

DAVID VITTER
United States Senator

ROBERT F. BENNETT
United States Senator

RICHARD BURR
United States Senator

JEFF SESSIONS
United States Senator

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
United States Senator

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United States Senate

April 16, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500-0005

Dear Mr. President:

As your Administration prepares the details of your Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) defense budget, I am writing to request inclusion of a military construction project in my home state of Nebraska. The Army National Guard and Air National Guard have begun preparatory construction work on a Joint Force Headquarters, which I recommend be included in this defense budget to ensure timely and scheduled completion of the project.

The Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and Nebraska state government counterparts will be housed and will operate jointly in Lincoln, Nebraska, at this Joint Headquarters. The development and construction of this emergency operations center will facilitate a rapid, coordinated response to major emergency events; and therefore, I support the Army National Guard's request of $23.9 million and the Air National Guard's request of $3 million so that building construction for the headquarters can begin as planned in FY10.

Mr. President, I am requesting that this mission-critical headquarters be included in your FY10 defense budget. Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you or your staff needs additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or have your staff contact Ann Premer of my staff at 202-224-6551.

Sincerely,

E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

EBN:ajp

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SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69363
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 6, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write to urge you not to allow deep cuts in U.S. missile defense programs that are critically important to protecting our homeland and our allies against the growing threat of ballistic missiles.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates today announced plans to cancel or reduce such major programs as the Airborne Laser, Multiple Kill Vehicle, and the installation of additional Ground-Based Interceptor missiles in Alaska, and to cut the MDA's budget for Fiscal Year 2010 by $1.4 billion. Although we applaud Secretary Gates' commitment to such capabilities as THAAD and SM-3, these proposals would amount to almost a fifteen percent cut in the MDA budget and a major reduction in our missile defense portfolio—actions that we fear could undermine our emerging missile defense capabilities to protect the United States against a growing threat.

As you know, the threat from ballistic missiles is significant and on the rise. Lieutenant General Daniel Maples, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, recently testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee that "the threat posed by ballistic missile delivery systems is likely to increase while growing more complex over the next decade." General Maples further warned that "adversary nations are increasingly adopting technical and operational countermeasures to defeat missile defenses." Ballistic missile technology has already proliferated worldwide and is a direct threat to both our allies and our homeland.

The threat posed by rogue states with ballistic missiles has been underscored by Iran and North Korea's recent missile tests. In early February, Iran launched a satellite atop a rocket that could be used as an intercontinental ballistic missile. Last weekend, North Korea tested the Taepo Dong-2, a long range missile that if successful, could have the range to strike Hawaii, Alaska, and possibly the West Coast of the United States.

Although these developments highlight the danger we face, they have also revealed the progress our national missile defense system has made. When recently asked before the Senate Armed Services Committee whether the United States could intercept a Taepo Dong-2 missile that targeted the American homeland, Admiral Timothy Keating, Commander of U.S. Pacific Command, and General Patrick Chilton, Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, assured that we can do so with high probability. This would not have been the case just a few years ago, and is only the case today because we have invested in a diverse set of missile defense capabilities.

OSD 04622-09

Cooperation on ballistic missile defense is also essential to our most important alliances. In the Asia-Pacific region, Japan became the first among our allies to successfully intercept a ballistic missile with the Aegis defense system. In response to North Korea's growing arsenal of missiles, the Government of Japan decided six years ago to deploy a joint Aegis and Patriot PAC-3 missile defense and has already invested $7.9 billion of its own funds to build a new pillar of our alliance. India has likewise expressed strong interest in closer cooperation on missile defense systems, which promises to become an area of cooperation in our growing strategic partnership.

In the Middle East, we continue to develop missile defense technology in close partnership with Israel. As you know, the State of Israel faces a uniquely pressing threat due to Iran's ballistic missile program and pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. In response, we have long cooperated with Israel to develop the Arrow family of missile interceptors and are now working together on the David's Sling missile defense system to defeat medium range rockets. These are critical programs that should not be abandoned.

In Europe, NATO has also endorsed the importance of missile defense as a collaborative venture among its member states. At the Bucharest summit in April 2008, NATO formally declared that "ballistic missile proliferation poses an increasing threat to Allies' forces, territory, and populations. Missile defense forms part of a broader response to counter this threat." NATO further expressed "deep concern" over the proliferation activities of both Iran and North Korea, and urged the examination of a "comprehensive missile defense architecture to extend coverage to all Allied territory and populations."

In sum, cooperation on missile defense is now a critical component of many of our closest security partnerships around the world. We fear that cuts to the budget for missile defense could inadvertently undermine these relationships and foster the impression that the United States is an unreliable ally. Moreover, sharp cuts would leave us and our friends around the world less capable of responding to the growing ballistic missile threat.

The fact remains that our adversaries continue to invest large sums in the development of these weapons. The question is whether we respond by developing appropriate defenses against them. We therefore urge you to sustain the ability of the Missile Defense Agency and the military services to develop an integrated, layered defense against the threat of ballistic missiles to the United States, our deployed forces, and our allies.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

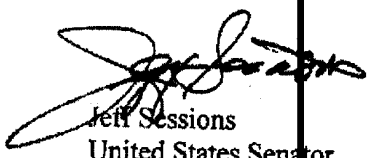
Sincerely,

Jon Kyl
United States Senator

Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Mark Begich
United States Senator



Jeff Sessions
United States Senator

James Inhofe
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 19, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to request that you establish a clear policy through which the Department of Defense (DOD) will encourage renewable energy development while maintaining necessary protections for military airspace.

As you know, DOD has an important voice in wind turbine siting decisions because wind turbines can impact DOD radar and airspace requirements. Unfortunately, to date the interaction between wind developers and the DOD has lacked consistency. For instance, in 2007 Travis Air Force Base objected to the 80 MW Montezuma Wind Energy Center very late in the permitting process. The proposed wind farm is surrounded by other wind farms, some of which were built after 2007, in Solano County California's Wind Resource Area, more than ten miles from the base. That project, and others nearby, remain in limbo today due to DOD concerns that are likely surmountable.

To facilitate the development of renewable energy projects consistent with national security needs, we encourage you to take the following steps that could improve the prospects for wind development in the United States.

- **Consolidate Decision Making:** Formally consolidate decision making regarding wind development in a single office, preferably within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. A single decision-maker, who operates under clear timelines and procedures by which he communicates DOD concerns regarding wind projects, would limit unnecessary conflict between DOD and renewable energy development.

- **Participate in FAA Review:** DOD should identify proposed wind farm impacts on airborne operations during the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) existing, formal wind farm screening and approval process, as well as provide initial feedback during any FAA early feasibility review. If DOD

OSD 06069-09

objections are stated in as transparent a manner as national security concerns permit through the FAA process, renewable energy developers will not be surprised by DOD concerns expressed late in the permitting process.

- **Site Specific Evaluations:** The military has produced extremely useful maps of California, Arizona and Nevada that designate areas in which the military effectively opposes wind energy development (red), areas where the DOD might have some concerns (yellow), and areas where DOD has no military concerns (green). DOD's maps were assembled using data and assumptions that allow them to guide development, but they are not detailed enough to be the final decision making tool. I request that you clarify that DOD staff should evaluate site-specific technical analysis before opposing any wind proposal.

- **Airspace Height Restrictions:** Airspace height restrictions vary considerably across the West and limit wind energy development. If DOD evaluated whether it is reasonable and consistent with safety and national security needs to raise 200, 300 and 400 feet restrictions to 500 feet at sites where wind farms are proposed, DOD may be able to open a considerable amount of currently restricted land to wind energy development.

- **Mitigation Research and Development:** Technical mitigation measures may be able to reduce the impacts of wind turbines on radar. In September 2008, representatives from the DOD, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the wind industry agreed to develop a research and development roadmap, mirroring a similar effort between the British military and the British Wind Energy Association. DOD participation in this effort is important, and I encourage you to ensure that it continues.

- **Radar Upgrades:** DOD is in the process of replacing older analog radar systems with state-of-the-art radar through the National Airspace Modernization Program. I encourage you to request that DOD consider the wind energy potential of an area when prioritizing radar replacements. A report by the defense advisory firm JASON recently concluded, "Radars which don't have the capabilities to mitigate wind farm interference could simply be replaced...The new radar would incorporate multidimensional detection, with greatly enhanced processing, with pulse shapes designed to optimally distinguish between aircraft and wind farms."[1]

[1] *Wind Farms and Radar (JSR-08-125).* JASON. The MITRE Corporation. January 2008.

As you know, both global warming and our reliance on foreign sources of energy present economic and national security challenges to our country. Your Department rightfully focuses on its primary mission of protecting our national security, but we believe DOD could also play a more productive role. We very much look forward to working with you to ensure that renewable energy development proceeds where it is compatible with the military's mission.

We look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Charles Grassley
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Tom Harkin
United States Senator

Max Baucus
United States Senator

Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

ORRIN G. HATCH
UTAH

JACE JOHNSON
CHIEF OF STAFF

104 Hart Senate Office Building

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4402

June 8, 2009

COMMITTEES:

FINANCE

JUDICIARY

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

INTELLIGENCE

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

The Honorable William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary
The Department of Defense
1100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1100

Dear Secretary Lynn:

Thank you for your May 28th letter. I appreciate learning the Department of Defense's ("Department") views on the subjects covered in the letter. In addition, I look forward to continuing to work with you on enhancing our nation's security.

I was delighted to learn of the Department's commitment to our depot maintenance system by "compl[ying] with the 50/50 and Core laws as currently written and interpreted." As you know, the Congress, on a bipartisan basis, has worked with the Department over the past several years to recapitalize our depot maintenance system. The warfighter has greatly benefited from this renewed investment through sustained on-time delivery rates of vital equipment.

Regarding the land-based solid rocket motor intercontinental ballistic missile industrial base, I deeply appreciate the Department and the Air Force's recognition of the merits of sustaining this vital national infrastructure. The Air Force's Fiscal Year 2010 budget request of $43 million is an important first step. However, your letter does not address if the Department will accede to the Secretary of the Air Force's request to reprogram sufficient Fiscal Year 2009 funds to maintain solid rocket production this fiscal year. Only a prompt transfer of these funds will prevent further interruptions in production, resulting in millions of dollars in unnecessary costs, and the stabilization of employment for the highly sought after engineers and technicians that manufacture solid rocket motors.

Therefore, I respectfully request the Department agree to Secretary Donley's request and reprogram, on an expedited basis, Fiscal Year 2009 funds to maintain our nation's land-based solid rocket motor intercontinental ballistic missile industrial base.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

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OSD 06447-09

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
CONNECTICUT

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS

United States Senate

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http://lieberman.senate.gov

June 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I read with great interest your speech to the Association of American Universities on April 14, 2008. On that occasion you noted the potential of the records of Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist regime, captured by American forces in 2003, to provide us "unprecedented insights" into the workings of dictatorial third-world regimes. You rightly compared this collection of materials to the Smolensk archives, upon which scholars of the Soviet Union like Merle Fainsod based much of their research. You also announced that the Defense Department was funding an effort to open a Conflict Records Research Center at the National Defense University.

I strongly support your goal of making the records of Saddam Hussein's regime available to the broad scholarly community for research and study. However, I am concerned by the apparent slow pace of this valuable project. I note that the Defense Department has yet to establish a Conflict Records Research Center in the 15 months that have passed since your announcement, nor does the opening of such a center appear to be on the horizon.

I would therefore be grateful for a progress report on your efforts to establish a Conflict Records Research Center at the National Defense University, a timeline for its creation, as well as an estimate of the resources that the Defense Department will devote to the center over the long term.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to this worthy and important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Lieberman
UNITED STATES SENATOR

OSD 06538-09

~~SECDEF~~	~~DEPSECDEF~~	~~EXECSEC~~	~~USDP~~	
~~USDI~~	~~ESD~~	~~CBLCH~~	FILE	

1 A /

JIM WEBB
VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4024

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4605

June 10, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The independent, bipartisan Commission on Wartime Contracting was created last year to evaluate and report on U.S. wartime contracting for logistics, reconstruction, and security. As original co-sponsors of the legislation leading to the establishment of this Commission, we are pleased to enclose a copy of its interim report. We believe that the Commission is making noteworthy contributions in documenting the extensive problems that continue to exist in wartime support contracting and what must be done to fix them.

The Commission's interim report identifies major areas of emphasis offering the greatest promise for significant reform. Moreover, the commissioners have identified a number of critical issues of more immediate concern that require prompt action by the Department of Defense to avoid undermining U.S. objectives in Iraq and Afghanistan and to prevent wasting more U.S. tax dollars. Of note, they report, in part:

- The drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq risks incurring enormous waste, which could range from completion of work that may not need to be done, to poorly controlled handling and disposition of U.S. government property;
- There is a need for greater accountability in the use of foreign subcontractors who may not be accountable to U.S. governmental authority;
- The effectiveness of contractor support of expanded U.S. operations in Afghanistan is compromised by the failure to extract and apply lessons learned from Iraq, particularly those relating to poor interagency coordination;
- The Department of Defense should accelerate its plans to establish a contracting command in Afghanistan; and
- The Department of Defense should take immediate steps to ensure that contractors providing security for U.S. operating bases are well trained and equipped to provide strong force protection to our military.

OSD 06655-09

During our interactions over the past year, you have responded very constructively when we have brought concerns to your attention. While some of the time-sensitive issues raised in the Commission's report are not new, it is telling that they continue to arise. We encourage you, or members of your staff, to meet with the Commission to obtain greater insights into these concerns and possible corrective actions. Additionally, we would appreciate receiving from you a description of what the Department is doing or plans to do to address them.

With this important interim report completed, we expect the Commission to enhance its body of work by assessing root causes and potential solutions to the systemic contracting problems in Iraq and Afghanistan through further original investigation and analysis. We appreciate your continued support of this endeavor and the attention you have brought to improve wartime contracting policies and practices.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Jim Webb
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4904

May 15, 2009

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to request that your administration, in close consultation with Congress, clarify and strengthen chief of mission authority. As you know, this authority is essential to ensure that our agencies and personnel overseas fully coordinate their operations, and that all elements of the United States government are working toward the same strategic objectives. It is particularly important that our military coordinates with civilian leadership, particularly the chiefs of mission who are your representatives overseas. A lack of such coordination and oversight can result in disjointed activities that undermine our ability to achieve our national security goals.

I am concerned that in the aftermath of 9/11, we have seen an erosion of chief of mission authority, in part because of the extended reach of the Department of Defense and its regional commands. I am troubled by reports that in some cases, chiefs of mission have not been consulted about or made even aware of U.S. military activities in their country. I have heard such accounts in my own travels overseas, and would be happy to discuss specific examples with your administration in a classified setting. In order to ensure our top diplomats can fully undertake their mission, greater clarity is needed with respect to a number of key issues relating to this authority.

For example, the previous administration claimed that chiefs of mission were always consulted prior to the issuance of an order to use military force, but it is unclear whether all ambassadors were kept fully informed of such activities, as required by law. This ambiguity is particularly troubling with regard to countries outside of Iraq and Afghanistan, which are official war zones. In light of this uncertainty, I sought information in 2008 related to press allegations that the Department of Defense, under President Bush, had authority to carry out operations in numerous countries around the world. To the extent that such orders exist, I ask that you fully inform Congress so that, among other things, any implications for chief of mission authority can be considered and addressed.

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1640 MAIN STREET
GREEN BAY, WI 54302
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As you know, previous administrations and Congresses have sought to clarify chief of mission authority. President Truman clarified the functions of the chief of mission in Executive Order 10338 in 1952. In 1955, President Eisenhower issued Executive Order 10608, which applied to the specific authority and functions of the chief of mission in Germany. Later, section 207 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 enshrined the authority globally.

Your administration now has the opportunity to clarify current ambiguities about the authority of chiefs of mission over U.S. government personnel. With ongoing military operations in two official war zones - Iraq and Afghanistan – this clarification should include an overarching framework to guide the relationship between chiefs of mission and the U.S. military in official war zones. It is also important to clarify the authority of the chief of mission in other circumstances, including countries in which declared U.S. military operations are occurring but there is no host government, countries with which we have no diplomatic relationship or countries with which we have diplomatic ties but no on-the-ground diplomatic presence.

Given the ambiguities that have emerged in this area and their implications to our national security, I urge you to consider, in consultation with Secretary of State Clinton and others in your administration, a new executive order that would reaffirm chief of mission authority in relation to all military activities. I urge you to do so in close consultation with Congress, including the Foreign Relations, Armed Services, Intelligence and Judiciary Committees, and to inform Congress of any need for further legislative action that you may identify. Finally, I request that you undertake this effort as soon as possible. A strong signal that you stand behind the authorities of your ambassadors will not only make them more effective, but will allow them, in the context of their confirmations, to provide assurances that your policies will be implemented by all elements of the United States government.

I appreciate your consideration of my suggestions and welcome the opportunity to discuss these and related issues with representatives of your administration. I recognize that there are many urgent national security challenges that you must consider, but providing renewed guidance on chief of mission authority would greatly improve our capacity to effectively confront such challenges.

Sincerely,

Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 3, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to authorize Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) to lead the Congressional fact-finding CODEL to India during the time period of Friday, February 13 through Sunday, February 22. The House is not scheduled to be in the session at this time.

The purpose of this fact-finding trip is to join the U.S. Embassy and a variety of Indian officials in commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Corretta Scott King's visit to study the roots of non-violent philosophy and 20th Century freedom movements.

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

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 01251-09

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 3, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to authorize Congressmen Pete Stark (D-CA) and Jim McDermott to participate in the Congressional fact-finding CODEL to India during the time period of Friday, February 13 through Sunday, February 22. The House is not scheduled to be in the session at this time.

The purpose of this fact-finding trip is to join the U.S. Embassy and a variety of Indian officials in commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Corretta Scott King's visit to study the roots of non-violent philosophy and 20th Century freedom movements.

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

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 01252-09

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
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CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES
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TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
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RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

ASSISTANT WHIP

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

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February 10, 2009

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates
Department of Defense
The Pentagon

Dear Secretary Gates,

Please review the attached letter dated February 5, 2009 from Panmedix, a business in my district.

Panmedix specializes in telemedicine screening applications for disorders of the central nervous system, an important medical capability for our modern military. As you can see, their letter details a list of questions they have regarding their work with the Department of Defense dating back to 2001.

The letter raises concerns regarding the work of the Department and its dealings with Panmedix. Please review their letter and provide a response. I would appreciate answers to their questions in the attached letter to the greatest extent possible. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

OSD 01402-09

HARRY TEAGUE
2D DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

1007 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-2365

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3102

February 9, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I would like to call to your direct attention that William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas recently announced that Army personnel had used an improper procedure to administer insulin shots from August 2007 to January of this year. This has resulted in over 2,000 persons potentially exposed to blood-borne disease, such as Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B and HIV. As the Congressman from Southern New Mexico, many of whose veterans and military personnel are served by William Beaumont, and as a Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I was very concerned about this incident. According to the hospital, 31 percent of those exposed were veterans who received the shots on an inpatient basis. The Veterans' Clinic in El Paso routinely works with William Beaumont to help treat veterans.

Last week I sent the enclosed letter to William Beaumont Commander Colonel James Baunchalk regarding this incident and requested a response by this Friday, February 13. Commander Baunchalk did quickly acknowledge receipt of my inquiry and I await his response. The purpose of my inquiry is to get to the root of what went wrong at William Beaumont so that we can take appropriate steps to prevent this from ever happening again.

As we learn more about what exactly transpired at the hospital, I look forward to working with you to ensure accountability for the errors made at William Beaumont and to ensure high levels of medical care for our veterans and military personnel.

Additionally, I know you are aware that my district includes several military facilities, including White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, that are of the utmost importance to both our national defense and Southern New Mexico communities. I would very much like to have you visit us in Southern New Mexico to see these installations and the great work in which our service members are engaged.

Sincerely,

Harry Teague
Member of Congress

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OSD 01403-09

7. Can you positively identify all patients who may have received insulin shots through the incorrect procedure?

8. It is my understanding that this incorrect procedure began in August of 2007. What happens in the event that you do not have up-to-date contact information for patients who may be at risk?

9. If an individual believes he or she may be at risk due to an insulin shot he or she received at WBAMC, what steps should an individual take to determine whether or not they may need medical testing or treatment?

10. I have been informed that roughly 9% of those affected are residents of New Mexico and may live a great distance from WBAMC. What steps are you taking to facilitate testing and further treatment for patients who live far away from WBAMC?

11. What specific step s is WBAMC taking to ensure that this does not happen again?

I would also like to thank you in advance for your responses to my questions. I look forward to working with you to ensure our veterans receive only the highest level of medical care.

Sincerely,

Harry Teague

Harry Teague
Member of Congress

GARY G. MILLER
42ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

ASSISTANT WHIP AT LARGE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA CAUCUS, CHAIRMAN

UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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February 5, 2009

Congressional Liaison
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

RE: Coastal Defense Products, Inc.
TIN:

Dear Congressional Liaison:

This letter is on behalf of my constituent, Donald Clark, concerning his business, Coastal Defense Products, Inc, which has a government contract with the United States Air Force. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have not received their progress payments and are therefore unable to make payroll. Mr. Clark also noted that the DCAA has not released the audit to the DCMA to be able to make the payment and they are very concerned about this. What is the status of this situation? Any information or assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

I would be appreciative if you or a member of your staff would review the enclosed documents pertaining to my constituent's case and provide assistance in resolving this situation. Please direct your correspondence to the attention of my staff member, **Lisa King**, in my Brea office. My fax number is **(714) 257-9242.**

Thank you in advance for your assistance. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

GARY G. MILLER
Member of Congress

OSD 01404-09

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GENE TAYLOR
4TH DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

http://www.house.gov/genetaylor

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2404

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527 CENTRAL AVENUE
LAUREL, MS 39440
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412 HWY 90, SUITE 8
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520
(228) 469-9235

February 3, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write to express my concerns about the acquisition and subsequent sale of real property of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) at Gulfport, Mississippi, occurring in 2003.

I have recently received copies of letters sent by former Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Charles S. Abell to the chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees (dated August 6, 2003) notifying them that the AFRH intended to sell "two beachfront properties" located at 1804 and 1814 Beach Drive, Gulfport, Mississippi. For your review, I have attached copies of the aforementioned letters.

Mr. Abell's letters state that the properties "were acquired earlier this year as part of a larger property acquisition." The letters explain that the "original acquisition was for 10.02 acres of land on the eastern border of the Gulfport facility" and that the purchase price for this acreage was "$5.692 million."

According to Mr. Abell's letters, the "AFRH is currently in receipt of two offers to purchase the property from Messers. Brent Warr and Gene Warr" and he had "decided to accept these offers" which would "result in $1 million, which will be deposited into the AFRH Trust Fund." The letter, however, distinguishes that the two properties being resold to the Warrs'are "smaller" than the original 10.02 acre parcels.

As I review this transaction, the following questions come to mind:

1. At the time that AFRH purchased the original 10.02 acres, what was the property's total appraised value, including acreage and all structures on the property?
2. What was the size of the "smaller" parcels sold to the Warrs? What, if any, portions were retained by AFRH after the sale?
3. What was the appraised value of the property that the AFRH sold to the Warrs?
4. What was the sale price of the property that the AFRH sold to the Warrs?
5. According to the 2003 letters, "$1 million was to be deposited into the AFRH Trust Fund." If there was a discrepancy between the sale price and the sum deposited in the AFRH Trust Fund for these properties, what became of the balance?

OSD 01429-09

6. Mr. Abell's letter described the parcels that the AFRH sold to the Warrs as beachfront properties. Where are these properties located with respect to the rest of the original purchase? Are these parcels within the boundaries of the 10.02 acres in the original purchase?

I would greatly appreciate if you could furnish answers to the questions posed above and any relevant documents on which they are based including but not limited to appraisals, deeds, financial transactions, property descriptions, sale papers, etc.

I request that you furnish the information within two weeks of receipt of this letter. If you need additional time to provide answers to these questions or have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gene Taylor

GENE TAYLOR
Member of Congress

GT:sp
Enclosures (2)

CC: Hon. Ike Skelton, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
Timothy Cox, Chief Operating Officer, AFRH

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We write in support of Dr. Solomon Passy's nomination for the position of Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). We respectfully request that the United States lend its support to Dr. Passy during the diplomatic discussions to select NATO's next Secretary General as the current term of Secretary General Japp de Hoop Scheffer expires later this year.

We are informed that Prime Minister Sergey Stanishev of Bulgaria proposed Dr. Passy as a candidate for the Secretary General position during a meeting with President Bush on June 18, 2008.

For nearly two decades, Dr. Passy has demonstrated a clear vision and solid leadership in international relations, particularly in regard to NATO. As a member of Bulgaria's parliament he authored legislation in 1990 to withdraw Bulgaria from the Warsaw Pact and to join NATO and the European Union. That year, Dr. Passy also founded the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria, an NGO in Bulgaria to strongly support NATO membership. Years later, Dr. Passy's vision was achieved when, while serving as Bulgaria's Foreign Minister, he negotiated and signed the two accession treaties that made Bulgaria a full Member of NATO in 2004 and the EU in 2005.

International circumstances present a window of opportunity for advances in both intra-European and transatlantic relations. We believe that the selection of a Secretary General from Bulgaria who is as superbly qualified as Dr. Passy, would strengthen ties between NATO and the United States as well as serve the important cause of continued European integration.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

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OSD 01430-09

Signed by:

Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL)

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)

Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC)

Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)

DEMOCRATS

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MALCOM A. SHORTER
STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives
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REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

February 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As part of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs responsibilities, I authorize Geoffrey Bestor and Arthur Wu, staff on the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, to travel on official government business to Albuquerque, NM during the period of February 17-18, 2009.

The primary purpose of their visit is to observe the joint venture between VA and the Air Force at Kirtland Air Force Base; and to review the Research and Development Cooperative Studies Program operations in Albuquerque.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in New Mexico. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Bernie Dotson of the Committee staff at 202-226-3653.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/tc

OSD 01439-09

DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

DPC

BYRON L. DORGAN
CHAIRMAN

February 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

It is my pleasure to invite you to speak to the Senate Democratic Caucus at our annual weekend issues conference, which will be held the weekend of May 1, 2009 in Bedford Springs, Pennsylvania.

This is the one time each year that Senate Democrats meet outside of Washington to brainstorm and strategize on the most pressing challenges facing our nation. Our Caucus is very interested to hear your strategies for addressing the multiple national security challenges facing the United States.

My staff will work with your office to schedule a time for you to speak, either on Friday afternoon, May 1 or Saturday morning, May 2. President Obama has confirmed his attendance at the conference.

I know my colleagues will be thrilled if you are able to join us. Please let me know whether you will be able to attend, or have your staff contact Chuck Cooper at the Democratic Policy Committee at (202) 224-4637.

Sincerely,

Byron L. Dorgan
Chairman

~~SECDEF~~	~~DEPSECDEF~~	SPLASST	~~EXECSEC~~	~~USDP~~
~~USDI~~	~~DSD~~	CCD	CBLCH	FILE

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OSD 01526-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 5, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Ms. Jennifer Miller, Mr. Jeff Shockey and Mr. Tom McLemore, professional staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on official business to Vienna, Austria and Paris, France during the approximate time period of February 15–21, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to review matters relating to the CIA, NSA and counter-terrorism operations and activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial transportation.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01529-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225–2771

February 3, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable John T. Salazar, a Member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Mexico, Nicaragua and Jamaica during the approximate time period of February 16 – 22, 2009. He will be joining a delegation led by the Honorable Eliot Engel, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government and non government officials regarding political and economic developments, and general bilateral relations with each country.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01533-09

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-3771

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

February 13, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Adam Harris, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of February 19 – 23, 2009, to Israel. The purpose of this trip is to meet with Intelligence Community personnel to discuss conditions in Israel.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 01612-09

LINCOLN DAVIS
4TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

SENIOR WHIP

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4204

February 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

First, let me congratulate you on the continuation of your service under the new administration. I believe it to be a testament to your exceptional competence, common-sense approach, and devotion to protecting and preserving the United States of America. At a time when we face a variety of foreign and domestic challenges and threats, we are fortunate to have someone of your skill at the helm of the Department of Defense.

I write today to respectfully request an update on implementation of funds already authorized under H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, which was passed in the 110th Congress. Specifically, Section 8116 appropriates funds for the use of special pay for members of the armed forces whose period of obligated service is extended, or whose eligibility for retirement is suspended, due to the President's authority to extend such service or suspend such retirement. This is commonly referred to as stop-loss authority and the increase is capped at five-hundred dollars per month. Under H.R. 2638, no funds are to be allocated until the Secretary of Defense submits a provisional plan for the distribution of such payments to the Committee on Appropriations. It has recently been called to my attention by a constituent that these funds have not yet been allocated to this group of soldiers.

As you know better than most, our soldiers and their families are making enormous sacrifices as they continue to perform admirably. The toll of service is particularly difficult on the families of those whose service is extended. I feel that the modest increase in pay for this group of dedicated service men and women is just and equitable. Fully understanding the enormity of your responsibilities, I respectfully urge your attention to this matter. Thank you for any updates you may provide and for your commitment to this great nation.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress

LD:TG

OSD 01636-09

410 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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FAX: (202) 226-5172

629 NORTH MAIN STREET
JAMESTOWN, TN 38556
(931) 879-2361
FAX: (931) 879-2389

477 NORTH CHANCERY STREET
SUITE A-1
MCMINNVILLE, TN 37110
(931) 473-7251
FAX: (931) 473-7259

1064 NORTH GATEWAY AVENUE
ROCKWOOD, TN 37854
(865) 354-3323
FAX: (865) 354-3316

1804 CARMACK BOULEVARD
SUITE A
COLUMBIA, TN 38401
(931) 490-8699
FAX: (931) 490-8675

www.house.gov/lincolndavis

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2009

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

Dear Dr. Gates:

We are writing to express our strong support for the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program and request your consideration of a reprogramming of funds for Fiscal Year 2009. We are aware of significant undesired consequences for the E-2D program as a result of the enacted funding levels for Fiscal Year 2009, and we urge your personal attention to this issue.

As you know, the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program continues to perform satisfactorily on both cost and schedule. Since enactment of the appropriations bill, an Operational Assessment has been completed and the program remains on track to receive Milestone C approval in Spring 2009. After reviewing the final appropriated levels for this program in Fiscal Year 2009, however, we are concerned that current funding will be inadequate to sustain this program in transition from development to low rate production. We believe there are negative impacts to both the cost and delivery schedule of these aircraft.

Therefore, we request that you reprogram funds in Fiscal Year 2009 to support the procurement of the third Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) Lot I aircraft in Fiscal Year 2009, and provide advance procurement for the third Lot II aircraft in Fiscal Year 2010. Furthermore, we urge you to ensure that the Fiscal Year 2010 request includes procurement funding for all three LRIP Lot II aircraft.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to your strong support for prioritizing reprogramming of Fiscal Year 2009 funding for the E-2D program.

Sincerely,

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress

OSD 01644-09

CAROLYN McCARTHY
Member of Congress

GARY L. ACKERMAN
Member of Congress

TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
Member of Congress

MICHAEL A. ARCURI
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Donald Winter, Secretary of the Navy
ADM Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

BRETT GUTHRIE
SECOND DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

COMMITTEE ON
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HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS
HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your ongoing service and commitment to the defense of our country. I am extremely proud that my Congressional District is home to the Fort Knox military installation.

Located at Fort Knox is Ireland Army Community Hospital. The hospital provides a vital service to the entire community. Built in 1957, Ireland Army Community Hospital (IACH) provides top quality health care to Fort Knox and six surrounding states. IACH serves the Fort Knox community with primary and specialty care providers. In addition to Kentucky, IACH's area of responsibility also includes Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin. The hospital is also home to Camp Memorial Blood Center and an Optical Fabrication Laboratory.

As you know, included in *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (H.R. 1) are substantial funds for infrastructure improvements at Department of Defense facilities. I urge you to give Ireland Army Community Hospital full consideration when deciding how to allocate these infrastructure investment funds.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. Should your staff have any questions or need more information please contact John Connell in my Washington office at (202) 225-3501 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

BRETT GUTHRIE
Member of Congress

OSD 01659-09

1001 CENTER STREET, SUITE 300
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101
270-842-6690

www.guthrie.house.gov

510 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-3501

THIS MAILING WAS PREPARED, PUBLISHED, AND MAILED AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE.

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TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

February 6, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable John P. Murtha and the Honorable Norman Dicks, member of the Committee on Appropriations, and Paul Juola and Timothy Prince, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of February 15 – 18, 2009, to Seattle, Washington and Colorado Springs, Colorado. The purpose of this trip is to visit Madigan Army Hospital to obtain briefs on military health care and visit wounded Servicemen; to visit and tour Department of Defense and contractor installations in preparation for the fiscal year 2010 budget markup. Authorization is also granted for Mr. Murtha to be returned to Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 01714-09

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 9, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Sarah Young, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of February 16 – 18, 2009, to Colorado Springs, Colorado. The purpose of this trip is to join CODEL Murtha for his visit to Fort Carson, and to receive briefings on fiscal year 2010 budget and current status of the Missile Defense Agency .

Per diem expenses of not to exceed $109 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01716-09

KEVIN BRADY
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
8TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

DEPUTY WHIP

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
SOCIAL SECURITY
TRADE

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

February 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert Michael Gates
Secretary of Defense
Office of the Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to you again to urge the Department of Defense (DoD) to produce a full accounting for each facility in Iraq that was involved or associated with an electrocution death or injury of any U.S. personnel or contractor. Since Congressional attention was focused on this issue, the response from DoD and related departments such as the DoD Office of Inspector General (DoD IG) have been less than satisfactory.

As you know, last year in the 110th Congress, government representatives from DoD, DoD IG, and the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) testified before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee regarding deficient electrical systems in Iraq. During that hearing, I directly asked each agency to identify who was responsible for the installation and maintenance of electrical generator that caused accidental electrocutions of U.S. personnel. One of the deceased was a twenty-three year old Army National Guard soldier, Staff Sgt. Chris Everett of Huntsville, Texas. Staff Sgt. Everett was my constituent, and his untimely death occurred, not because of enemy fire, but because the power-washer that he was using to wash a Humvee was improperly grounded. These are not isolated incidents, as the Army has acknowledged at least 16 possible cases of electrocution.

Moreover, recently I was extremely dismayed to learn that there has been yet another report of an American soldier receiving shocks from facilities installed and maintained by U.S. contractors in Iraq. The Associated Press (AP) reports that Pfc. Justin Shults was rendered unconscious and suffered severe burns while showering in Tarmiyah, Iraq. That these incidents continue to threaten the lives and safety of our fighting men and women are unacceptable.

Mr. Secretary, I believe you are as outraged as I am by these incidents, and I strongly urge that the Department of Defense and its related agencies provide me a detailed

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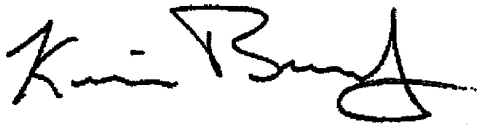
OSD 01740-09

accounting regarding the chain of custody for the operation and maintenance of electrical equipment and facilities that are connected to electrocutions. Also, please provide an estimate as to when this report will be available.

Thank you for your leadership and service to our country, and your prompt attention to this important and tragic issue.

Sincerely,



Kevin Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
Eighth District of Texas

Cc: The Honorable Gordon S. Heddell, Acting Inspector General Department of Defense

JOHN R. CARTER
31ST DISTRICT, TEXAS

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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4331

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TEMPLE, TX 76502
(254) 933-1392

February 9, 2009

Hon. Robert Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Hon. Wilkie:

Mr. John Rockey, President of Rockey Enterprises regarding requests a copy of the lease criteria bid for GSA Lease, Solicitation Order 8TX2425A, has recently contacted me. GSA desires to lease approximately 50,000 square feet of office space in San Antonio to accommodate DOD Tricare Management Activity Center. He is concerns why his viable Class B property offering is not considered.

I have enclosed, for your review, copies of the correspondence I received. I would appreciate any information you can provide so that I may pass it along to my constituent. I trust that this case will receive your full consideration.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cheryl, Bell County Office, 6544 B South General Bruce Drive, Temple, TX. 76502, phone 254-933-1392. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John Carter
Member of Congress

JC:ch

OSD 01760-09

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Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 17, 2009

Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 12, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Rush Holt, Chairman of the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, and Mr. Adam Harris, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Israel on February 20-23, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with Intelligence Community personnel to discuss conditions in Israel.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to change the dates of travel for the Honorable Rush Holt to February 19-23, 2003, and to February 18-23, 2009 for Mr. Adam Harris.

It will be appreciated if officials of the Department would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 01803-09

STEVE KAGEN, M.D.
WISCONSIN
8TH DISTRICT

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February 16, 2009

Department of Defense
Attn: Congressional Liaison
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

RE: Dale Lautenbach – Visions Upholstery and Canvas

Dear Congressional Liaison,

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Mr. Dale Lautenbach, owner of Visions Upholstery and Canvas, a contractor for the Department of Defense. Mr. Lautenbach contacted my office for assistance with correcting what he believes to be an injustice regarding the acceptance of a recent bid to produce gloves for the DOD.

Mr. Lautenbach sent a bid to the DOD on January 12, 2009, which was the deadline to bid on the project. Unfortunately, the fax was not received and/or processed by the DOD. A hard copy of the proposal was also submitted via U.S. Mail. Mr. Lautenbach has already furnished a copy of his fax history that proves that he sent the proposal on time, however this bid is still being held up by the legal department.

I respectfully request that you look into this matter to determine if the proposal submitted by Visions Upholstery and Canvas can be accepted by the DOD. Mr. Lautenbach wishes to continue his good working relationship with the DOD and also put people back to work here in northeast Wisconsin. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Steve Kagen, MD

Steve Kagen, MD
Member of Congress

SK/rl

OSD 01849-09

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Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 9, 2009

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 7, 2009, regarding Codel Tanner. Please note that the following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable John Tanner (D-TN) and Mrs. Betty Ann Tanner
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and Mr. Ron Gladney
The Honorable Bart Gordon (D-TN) and Mrs. Leslie Gordon
The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)
The Honorable Dennis Moore (D-KS) and Mrs. Stephene Moore
The Honorable John Boozman (R-AR) and Mrs. Cathy Boozman
The Honorable Jeff Miller (R-FL) and Mrs. Vicki Miller
The Honorable Mike Ross (D-AR) and Mrs. Holly Ross
The Honorable David Scott (D-GA) and Mrs. Alfredia Scott
The Honorable Charlie Melancon (D-LA) and Mrs. Peachy Melancon
The Honorable Baron Hill (D-IN)

Ms. Melissa Adamson, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Kathy Becker, Office of Rep. Tanner
Mr. Paul Belkin, CRS Detailee to House Committee on Foreign Affairs

(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6), Office of the Attending Physician

OSD 01863-09

Please note that Mr. David Hobbs, NATO PA Secretary General, has been invited to travel with the delegation from Paris to Vienna.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 9, 2009

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 15, 2009, regarding Codel John Lewis. Please note that Turkey, Greece, and the United Arab Emirates have been added to the itinerary. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable John Lewis (D-GA)
The Honorable Spencer Bachus (R-AL) and Mr. Stuart Bachus
The Honorable Jim McDermott (D-WA) and Mrs. Therese Hansen
The Honorable Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX)
The Honorable Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)
The Honorable Al Green (D-TX)
The Honorable Andre Carson (D-IN) and Mrs. Miriama Carson

Mr. Michael Collins, Floor Asst. to the Chief Deputy Democratic Whip
Mr. Michael Staley, Chief of Staff to Rep. Bachus
Ms. Jamila Thompson, Senior Policy Advisor to Rep. Lewis
Ms. Brenda Jones, Communications Director to Rep. Lewis

Please note that Mr. Stuart Bachus will be traveling with the delegation on a reimbursable basis per DOD directive.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 01865-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

February 10, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representatives C.W. Bill Young, Rodney Frelinghuysen, Mike Simpson, and Ken Calvert, members of the Committee on Appropriations and Tom McLemore, professional staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on a CODEL led by Representative Carolyn Maloney to Naples, Rome, and Venice, Italy and Dublin, Ireland during the approximate time period of April 14–20, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with Defense officials at Aviano Air Force Base and Vicenza Army Base to view operations and discuss resource requirements. In addition, we will meet with US Ambassadors to Italy and Ireland, as well as senior Italian officials for political/operational updates. Spouses are authorized to accompany the Member for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01867-09

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

February 23, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As the new Administration prepares its fiscal year 2010 budget request for missile defense, I hope you will make providing our combatant commanders sufficient theater missile defense capability your highest priority within the existing missile defense budget.

The threat from short- and medium-range missiles represents the overwhelming ballistic missile threat to United States interests, its deployed forces, and friends and allies around the world. Our military commanders recognize this point. The Joint Capability Mix Study II (JCM II), conducted by the Joint Staff in 2007 to examine theater upper-tier missile defense requirements, concluded that to meet their minimum warfighing requirements, combatant commanders require nearly twice as many interceptors as the 96 Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptors and 133 Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) interceptors currently planned.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee in 2007, General James Cartwright stated that his priority with regard to missile defense was to expand, "beyond long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles to start to address those that hold at threat our forward deployed forces, or allies and our friends. Those are more in the short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, things that Patriot, Standard Missile-2 and [Standard Missile]-3 will be able to address, and THAAD as it comes on."

Over the past several years, Congress has consistently directed the Department of Defense to devote greater priority within the existing missile defense program toward countering the short- and medium-range ballistic missile threat. Commenting on the JCM II recommendations in the Joint Explanatory Statement that accompanied the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 [Public Law 110-417], the bill's managers stated they were, "deeply disappointed that the Department of Defense has not planned or budgeted for even this minimum requirement, and we believe that achieving this minimum inventory should be the highest priority for the Missile Defense Agency. We expect the Department of Defense to budget accordingly starting with the budget submission for fiscal year 2010."

I fully agree with President Obama's position that we should only deploy missile defenses that have been sufficiently tested and proven to work. Theater missile defense systems, such as Patriot PAC-3,

OSD 01929-09

THAAD, and Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (Aegis BMD) meet the President's criteria. The Director of Operational Test and Evaluation's (DOT&E) Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report stated that "the inherent BMDS defensive capability against theater threats increased during the last fiscal year and DOT&E expects this trend to continue." Furthermore, in 2008, the commander of the Navy's operational test and evaluation force declared the Aegis BMD 3.6 system to be operationally effective and suitable.

In addition to the JCM II recommendations, there are other ways to focus our limited investments in mature systems that address near term threats. The Department should examine the feasibility of upgrading additional Aegis cruisers and destroyers to be able to conduct ballistic missile defense operations. Under the current program of record, only 22 Aegis cruisers and destroyers are planned to be upgraded by the Missile Defense Agency. Given the existing operational demands on these vessels, and growing requirement by combatant commanders around the world for ballistic missile defense-capable ships, this assessment should be a priority. I would also encourage you to explore the options for deploying a land-based version of the SM-3 missile. Such a capability has the potential to expand missile defense coverage for U.S. deployed forces and our friends and allies around the world

I recognize that the Administration will likely be forced to make tradeoffs as it develops the fiscal year 2010 defense budget. Given the need to fund other high priority defense programs, reductions to the missile defense program may be required. However, due to the existing threat from short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, the requirements of our regional combatant commanders, and the strong testing record of theater missile defense systems, I believe that addressing the recommendations outlined in the JCM II study (*i.e.*, doubling the number of THAAD and SM-3 interceptors) should be the Department's highest priority within the missile defense budget. I ask that you take this into account as you develop the fiscal year 2010 budget request.

Thank you for your consideration and attention. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ellen O. Tauscher
Chairman
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Committee on Armed Services

cc: Honorable Peter R. Orszag, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Honorable John Young, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
Honorable Michelle Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
Admiral Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations
General James Cartwright, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
General Kevin Chilton, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command
Lieutenant General Patrick O'Reilly, Director, Missile Defense Agency

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 4, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Ed Pastor, a Member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Australia and New Zealand, during the approximate time period of February 13–22, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government officials, to review intelligence and energy programs.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01934-09

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LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
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TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
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TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Sarah Young, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 4 – 6, 2009, to San Jose, California. The purpose of this trip is to receive an overview of the plan that authorizes the creation of a new Enterprise Architecture (EA) to comprehensively resolve persistent electronic health record issues.

Per diem expenses of not to exceed $109 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01935-09

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
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TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 23, 2009

Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 10, 2009, granting authorization for members and staff to travel on a CODEL led by Carolyn Maloney, to travel to Naples, Rome, and Venice, Italy and Dublin, Ireland during the approximate period of April 14 – 20, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to additionally authorize Representative Steven LaTourette to travel on this CODEL.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01936-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Last October the United States Congress passed, and President Bush signed into law, the Code Talkers Recognition Act, Public Law 110-420. Senator Inhofe and I were the lead sponsors of this bill in our respective legislative bodies. The purpose of this act is to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to a select group of Native Americans for their heroic service in World War I or World War II.

Found within the legislation is a directive asking the Defense Department, along with the Treasury Department, to help fully indentify all individuals who are deserving of this award.

Section 5, subparagraph (b) states:

The Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the tribes, shall:

(1) Determine the identity, to the maximum extent practicable, of each Native American Tribe that had a member of that tribe serve as a Native American Code Talker, with the exception of the Navajo Tribe.
(2) Include the name of each Native American tribe identified under subparagraph (a) on a list
(3) Provide the list, and any updates to the list to the Smithsonian Institution for maintenance

Over the last few months our offices have held meetings with officials from the Department of Defense and the Department of the Treasury in an attempt to move this process forward. After speaking with all the parties involved, it is our understanding that the Office of the Army Historian or some other archival department within the Department of Defense has a tentative list of individuals who would be deemed "Code Talkers" within the definitions of the recently passed legislation.

I am writing to ask you to expedite this identification process so that the United States Congress can move forward in honoring these brave soldiers. I will enclose a copy of the public law pertinent to this request for your review. If you have any questions about our expedited request, feel free to contact Tom Wharton (226-2275/Boren) or Clark Peterson (224-4721/Inhofe).

Sincerely,

James Inhofe
United States Senator

Sincerely,

Dan Boren
Member of the House of Representatives

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OSD 01986-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Earl Pomeroy, a member of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Macedonia on official business during the approximate time period of April 4-10, 2009.

The main purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the Kosovo Assembly and the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. In Bosnia, the delegation will meet with members of the national parliament, the national executive, and other leaders to better understand the constitutional reform process and to discuss HDAC efforts within the region. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 01987-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 5, 2009

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 22, 2009, regarding Codel Boehner. Please note that the delegation will no longer be traveling to Turkey, but has added Belgium to the itinerary.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 01994-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 2, 2009

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 22, 2009, regarding Codel Hoyer. Please note that (b)(6) has been requested as escort.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02074-09

CAROL SHEA-PORTER
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5456
(202) 225-5822 (FAX)

33 LOWELL STREET
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(603) 641-9536
(603) 641-9561 (FAX)

104 WASHINGTON STREET
DOVER, NH 03820
(603) 743-4813
(603) 743-5956 (FAX)

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND
PUBLIC LANDS

www.shea-porter.house.gov

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express our concern about recent reports that the Department of Defense has awarded KBR a $35.4 million contract that includes major electrical projects and request that you review the contract award and report to us explaining why the contract award was made to KBR, given its long record of deficient electrical work in Iraq.

As you are aware, KBR has held a contract for building maintenance for U.S. military facilities in Iraq since 2003. During this time, there have been numerous investigations into the dangers KBR's faulty electrical work is creating for our military personnel. The Department of Defense Inspector General is currently investigating the electrocution deaths of 18 Americans (16 soldiers and 2 contractors) in KBR-maintained facilities. KBR is under criminal investigation for the electrocution deaths of several U.S. soldiers in Iraq. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform conducted an in-depth investigation into the problem of electrocutions in U.S. facilities in Iraq and the death of Staff Sgt. Ryan Maseth, 24, a decorated Green Beret electrocuted in his shower on January 2, 2008. The Committee's investigation showed that KBR was alerted to the deficiencies in this and other cases, but failed to take corrective action. In 2008, the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) issued a "Level III Corrective Action Request" to KBR, indicating that the contractor was in "serious non-compliance." This action request, the final warning before a contract is terminated, points to KBR's continuing failure to ensure electrical safety for our troops. With this history, it is not surprising that Capt. David J. Graff, commander of the DCMA's International Division, was quoted in an Associated Press article, stating that "many within DOD have lost or are losing all remaining confidence in KBR's ability to successfully and repeatedly perform the required electrical support services mission in Iraq."

Despite these serious, ongoing concerns, the Department of Defense has awarded KBR a new contract that includes the type of work that KBR failed to perform adequately for years. Threats to the safety and lives of soldiers or others because of known hazards and negligent performance of work are not acceptable.

OSD 02173-09

We would therefore appreciate a thorough review of the recent contract award to KBR. At the very least, when our soldiers put their lives on the line for us in a war zone, we not only owe them the assurance that they will not be electrocuted in the shower on their return from a mission, but also that those who provide them with services put our soldiers' safety ahead of their profits.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jan Schakowsky

Eric Tarsa

Betty McCollum

Charlie Wilson

John B Larson

HARRY TEAGUE
2ND DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1007 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-2365
FAX: (202) 225-9599

http://teague.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3102

COMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
WATER, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
HEALTH

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to update you on the situation regarding the improper administration of insulin at William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC) in El Paso, Texas.

On February 5, 2009, I wrote to WBAMC Commander, Colonel James Baunchalk, requesting answers to questions I had about the incident. Last Friday, February 13, 2009, Colonel Baunchalk responded in writing to my list of questions. Those responses are attached for your information. Colonel Baunchalk's staff has also been in contact with my office and has provided me with the following pieces of information:

- Of the 2,114 persons that may have received an insulin injection with the "pen device", 1,188 persons have been contacted.
- 144 persons have died due to conditions unrelated to this incident.
- 630 persons have had blood drawn for testing.
- 33.4% (or 658 of the 1,970 living persons) are veterans.
- 782 (or 39.69%) have yet to be contacted.

In addition, this Saturday, February 13, 2009, I visited WBAMC and viewed the insulin injection device that was improperly used. I received a briefing on the proper procedure for the insulin pen, as well as a tour of the hospital.

200 EAST BROADWAY, SUITE 200
HOBBS, NM 88240
PHONE: (575) 393-0510
FAX: (575) 393-0026

DISTRICT OFFICES:
135 WEST GRIGGS AVENUE
LAS CRUCES, NM 88001
PHONE: (575) 522-3908
FAX: (575) 523-8799

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OSD 02175-09

11 SCHOOL OF MINES ROAD
SOCORRO, NM 87801
PHONE: (575) 835-8719
FAX: (575) 835-8931

The events that have transpired at William Beaumont are unacceptable. Although I have been informed that investigations are planned, we still do not now have an understanding of how the mistake could have occurred. I believe that WBAMC patients who received the shots face serious health risks, and I have made it clear that I view this situation with the utmost seriousness.

I ask you to closely monitor the situation at WBAMC to make sure affected patients are contacted, tested, and, if necessary, expeditiously treated. Your oversight of the investigations is also important to ensure they are exhaustive and impartial.

I look forward to working with your office on a solution that prevents this from happening again.

If you have any other questions in regards to this matter, please feel free to contact me at 202-225-2365.

Sincerely,

Harry Teague

Harry Teague
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

Congratulations on your reappointment as our nation's Secretary of Defense. I am extremely appreciative and grateful to you for your outstanding service to our nation as an Air Force officer, senior intelligence official and unyielding advocate for the men and women serving in our nation's Armed Services. In the coming years, I am confident that your leadership will guide the Department of Defense to more actively promote the health and wellbeing of our men and women in uniform.

Recently, the United States Army announced that suicide rates among Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard troops reached a record high in 2008, surpassing nationwide civilian rates. While the cause for this dramatic increase is still being investigated, it is evident that greater emphasis needs to be put on the mental health of our men and women in uniform and those retired veterans who preceded them.

Today, we know more about post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and depression than we have at any point in our history. Medical professionals now have the ability to treat or even prevent these disorders if they are addressed quickly. Unfortunately, many sufferers are uninformed of their options, unable to access them or are too embarrassed to seek help.

In light of these rising suicides, Congress and the current Administration have a responsibility to promote and fund initiatives that make mental health care an ongoing process for all military personnel, beginning at enlistment and continuing long after returning from combat. Our troops and veterans should never be made to feel weak or abandoned when seeking professional help. By fully funding and properly prioritizing military and Veterans Administration mental health initiatives, we can counteract the pervasive culture of denial and push a new culture of acceptance and treatment.

In the coming months, I look forward to working with you and your staff in redoubling our efforts to provide quality mental health services to all service members, past and present. Thank you again for all of your efforts and I look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

André Carson
Member of Congress

OSD 02178-09

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STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
http://veterans.house.gov

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DAVID P. ROE, TENNESSEE

KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

February 9, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to authorize Juan Lara, Majority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Mike Brinck, Minority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity to travel on official committee oversight business to Sites in Florida from February 16 to February 19, 2009. The purpose of the travel is to visit various Transition Assistance Program Workshops in Jacksonville, MacDill, and Key West.

The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation 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.

If there are any questions, please have your staff coordinate with Mr. Juan Lara at (202) 226-5491 or Mike Brinck at (202) 226-3668. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

BF/ jl

OSD 02181-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 11, 2009

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 8, 2009, regarding my codel to Italy and Southwest Asia. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Speaker of the House, and Mr. Paul Pelosi
The Honorable John Larson (D-CT) and Mrs. Leslie Larson
The Honorable George Miller (D-CA) and Mrs. Cynthia Miller
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
The Honorable William Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ)
The Honorable Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
The Honorable Edward Markey (D-MA) and Dr. Susan Blumenthal
The Honorable Michael Capuano (D-MA) and Mrs. Barbara Capuano

The Honorable Wilson Livingood, Sergeant at Arms
The Honorable Brian Monaghan, Attending Physician
Mr. Michael Sheehy, Senior Policy Advisor to the Speaker
Mr. Nadeam Elshami, Deputy Communications Director to the Speaker
Ms. Stacy Kerr, Special Assistant to the Speaker
Ms. Kate Knudson, Personal Assistant to the Speaker
Ms. Bridget Fallon, Director of Protocol to the Speaker
Mr. Philip DeAndrade, Senior Advisor to the Speaker
Mr. Steve Rusnak, Office of Photography
(b)(6) DSS Agent

(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF

OSD 02183-09

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 13, 2009

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 11, 2009, regarding my codel to Italy and Southwest Asia.

Please note that Mr. Liam Wasley, US Department of State, has been invited to travel with the delegation in Italy.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02207-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Ms. Janice McKinney, Assistant Director of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, to join the Committee on Foreign Affairs Codel Engel to Mexico, Nicaragua, and Jamaica during the approximate period of February 16-22, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to meet with government and non-government leaders in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Jamaica to discuss relations with the U.S., regional security and narco-trafficking, and balateral trade

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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02208-09

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DAVID PRICE
FOURTH DISTRICT
NORTH CAROLINA

March 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I want to flag a matter now before you, the construction of the North Carolina National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters in Raleigh, NC. This facility will not only serve as the nerve center for our state Guard operations; it will also house our State Emergency Operations Center. This project and several million dollars in state funding have been on hold awaiting federal funding.

I understand that a decision to provide funding for the project is now pending in your office; I strongly encourage you to approve the funding. I would be eager to discuss any questions you may have about the project.

Sincerely,

David Price

DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress

I understand the Natl. Guard Bureau fully supports this project. Thanks for your attention —

OSD 02209-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 13, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Shelley Berkley, Chairwoman of the Transatlantic Legislator's Dialogue (TLD), to lead a delegation of Members and staff to the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Estonia during the approximate period of April 13-20, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to attend the 66th meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) and to meeting with government officials in each country to discuss bilateral relations, engagement with Russia, Jewish issues, and to observe the implementation of the Visa Waiver Program. 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 (b)(6) and (b)(6) 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02211-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Lois Capps, a member of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Haiti on official business during the approximate time period of May 7-12, 2009.

The main purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the Haitian Parliament in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. Meetings with executive branch officials and site visits to USAID/Haiti projects are also envisioned. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02212-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to request that you promptly and fully distribute authorized compensation to members of our Armed Forces whose service has been extended by the Department of Defense's stop loss policy.

Over the past seven years, over 160,000 military personnel have had their service duty contracts extended due to stop loss orders. Today, there are over 12,000 soldiers in the active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard who remain on active duty beyond their scheduled separation date as a result of stop loss. This policy especially impacts the National Guard and Reservists, many of whom have already been deployed much longer than they expected. This is why we introduced legislation in the 110th Congress to provide payments to service members for each month they are extended as a result of stop loss.

On September 30, 2008, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 was signed into law (P.L. 110-329). The bill provided that all military personnel that have had their service duty contracts involuntarily extended due to stop loss orders, during Fiscal Year 2009 will receive compensation. The bill also allocated $72 million for the compensation, thus providing enough to compensate each soldier with the full $500 amount.

It has been nearly five months since the bill was signed into law and stop loss compensation payments have yet to be distributed. We urge you to work with the House and Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittees to develop a thorough and appropriate disbursement plan as quickly as possible to fulfill the Department's obligations under P.L. 110-329. Our soldiers are heroically and bravely defending our country abroad, and they are awaiting the much-deserved recognition and compensation for the unforeseen sacrifice so many have been called on to perform.

Thank you for your prompt attention and your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Betty Sutton

Betty Sutton

Frank R. Lautenberg

Frank Lautenberg

OSD 02261-09

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 23, 2009

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, Majority Leader, to lead a delegation to Denmark, France, Iraq and Afghanistan on official business during the approximate time period of May 29 – June 5, 2009. The purpose of this trip will be to conduct bilateral discussions on national security and energy issues in Denmark; to meet with government officials regarding national security and human rights challenges in France; and to meet with government officials and US military commanders and troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. A list of authorized Members (approximately 8) and staff will follow at a later date. For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members will travel at no cost to the government.

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 (b)(6) 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02262-09

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 4, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

If reports are accurate, it is our understanding that you sent a letter to Russian President Medvedev last month suggesting your Administration would halt the development of a European missile defense system in exchange for Russian assistance to stop Iran from developing nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles. We are concerned that the Administration may be undertaking a surprisingly unilateral action. Though we share your strong devotion to our national security and the security of our allies, we believe it is unwise and premature to offer such a concession. We urge you to clarify your Administration's position and respectfully caution against a policy that relies too heavily on Russian cooperation.

Reports of the letter are disconcerting for a number of reasons. Foremost, the policy does not adequately recognize the threat posed by Iran. Moreover, it rests on a questionable assumption that Russia can effectively curb Iran's nuclear ambitions and weakens our position in future bilateral negotiations. Lastly, it undermines NATO's endorsement of the European missile defense proposal. In particular, it undercuts our allies—the Czech Republic and Poland—who received bipartisan assurances that once they approved the missile defense agreements, the U.S. would provide support and funding.

Russia's actions, particularly in Eastern Europe, give us little confidence that they can be relied upon to follow through with such a commitment. Over the last year, as you know, Russia has pursued a divisive policy to re-exert its Soviet-era sphere of influence. During this time, Russia invaded Georgia, intimidated other nations from joining NATO, and threatened to target Eastern Europe with nuclear missiles should the proposed European missile defense sites be built. Further, amidst a global economic crisis, Russia has disrupted shipments of natural gas to Europe for the second time in three years. Most recently, Russia used financial incentives to persuade Kyrgyzstan to deny the U.S. access to its Manas military base in order to support coalition operations in Afghanistan. Given these events, we seriously question reliance upon Russia's support for a common approach on Iran or missile defense.

Iran has clearly indicated they have no intention of halting their nuclear or ballistic missile programs, and their recent actions substantiate this point. Last month, they launched a satellite into orbit using dual-use, long-range ballistic missile technology. Last weekend, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced that Iran has enough enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon. Two weeks ago, the International Atomic Energy Agency found that Iran underestimated by a third how much uranium it has enriched and noted that Iran has a total of 5,600 centrifuges—an increase from the 3,800 listed in a

SECDEF	DEPSECDEF	SPLASST	EXECSEC	USDP
USDI	ESD	CCD	CBLCH	FILE

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OSD 02301-09

November 2008 report—despite three rounds of United Nations Security Council sanctions.

Despite these developments, Russian leaders have indicated a fundamental disagreement with the West's views on the threat posed by Iran. Simply put, they apparently do not see a threat. Furthermore, Moscow continues to benefit economically from its support of Iran's nuclear program, specifically through the Bushehr nuclear reactor it has helped Iran build. For all these reasons, we remain skeptical that Russia would be in a position to halt Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile ambitions, and cautious of a strategy that relies on that nation's action vis-à-vis Iran to protect us and our allies.

Furthermore, we anticipate bilateral arms control negations with Russia this year and are concerned that any concessions promised in this regard may prejudice favorable outcomes. As Robert Kagan recently noted, "If Russian leaders believe that the United States is looking for a way out... they will negotiate accordingly. They might ask why they should make a deal at all." If Russia perceives it can gain U.S. concessions on missile defense now, will it be more likely to demand greater concessions later in negotiations on arms control, nonproliferation, and counter-terrorism?

Lastly, as you know, the European missile defense proposal is a NATO policy. During last year's Bucharest Summit, its leaders endorsed the proposal to place 10 interceptors in Poland and a radar in the Czech Republic, citing its "substantial contribution to the protection of Allies." According to the studies we've seen, this proposal is cost-effective and the technology, which is largely based on systems fielded today in Alaska and California, works. Should the United States jettison this proposal, we risk losing our credibility both in the alliance and as a global leader in building collective security. In today's complex geopolitical environment, our relationship with our allies and friends is paramount to addressing our mutual security concerns. What message does it send to our allies—specifically the Czech Republic and Poland—that the United States may not carry out its security commitments?

We strongly support the goal of preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, and believe it is in Russia's interests to work with the international community to achieve this goal. However, we do not believe that terminating the European missile defense proposal in exchange for Russian assistance with Iran is the best course of action to meet our national security objectives.

Mr. President, in the future, we hope you will choose consultation with the Congress and our allies instead of unilateral action when crafting such important policy proposals. There is bipartisan support in Congress for European missile defense and we look forward to the clarification of your position on this vital issue. As you discuss our collective security challenges with the international community, we encourage you to send a clear, transparent, and consistent message to our allies that we will honor our collective security commitments.

Sincerely,

John M. McHugh
Ranking Member

Michael Turner
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Cc: The Honorable Robert Gates

John Barker

Eric Cantor

Phil Singerly

W. Cole Alvin

Rob Bishop

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Trent Franks

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

February 18, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to authorize Juan Lara, Majority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Mike Brinck, Minority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity to travel on official committee oversight business to sites in Washington from April 6 to April 10, 2009. The purpose of travel is to attend various Transition Assistance Program Workshops in Ft. Lewis AFB, Bremerton AFB, McChord AFB, and Fairchild AFB, Washington.

The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation 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.

If there are any questions, please have your staff coordinate with Juan Lara at (202) 226-5491 and Mike Brinck at (202) 226-3668. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

JL/ot

OSD 02328-09

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
Washington, DC 20515

February 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to serve as an amendment to the authorization letter for an Agriculture Committee fact-finding Congressional Delegation to be lead by the Tim Holden of Pennsylvania, a member of this Committee, to Senegal, Mali, and Ghana during the period April 3 to April 17, 2009, (reference authorization letter dated December 31, 2008, changing countries from Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and airdrop in Sudan).

I request the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation and military escort, as may be required to facilitate this trip. For purposes of protocol, Members' spouses may attend at no additional cost to the U.S. government. It is anticipated that a minimum of five (5) Members, plus spouses and staff, are expected to join the CODEL. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and of such transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to Title 31, U.S.C. 1108(g).

It would be appreciated if officials of the Department would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel, including transportation. Furthermore, it is requested that the Army Liaison staff be authorized to accompany this CODEL. Thank you very much for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Wynn J Bott in the Committee's office at (202) 225-2171.

Sincerely,

Collin C. Peterson
Chairman

CCP:wb

OSD 02329-09

JOE DONNELLY
2ND DISTRICT, INDIANA

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

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LAPORTE, IN 46350
(219) 326-6808 EXT. 414
FAX: (574) 288-2825

300 EAST BROADWAY, SUITE #102
LOGANSPORT, IN 46947
(574) 753-2671
FAX: (574) 753-7615

VIA FAX

March 2, 2009

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Honorable Wilkie:

I am writing on behalf of my constituent Mrs. Kathe Kain. Kathe runs a business, Sports-O-Zone, that manufactures a Decon-Zone machine that reduces the odors, bacteria, viruses, and mold on gear after just one use. It is already in use by the U.S. Marine Corps Bases in Okanawa and Camp LeJeune, by the United States Air Force at Elmendorf Air Force Base and Peterson Air Force Base, by the Asymmetric Warfare Group at Fort Meade and the Total Force Maneuver Support Center at Fort Leonard Wood. With this proven track record, they feel that they have a valuable product for many other bases and units.

I write you to ask that you please grant every consideration consistent with U.S. law and applicable regulation in order to help in this case. If you have any further questions, you can contact my case manager Peter Gehred at peter.gehred@mail.house.gov or call him at (574) 288-2780.

Regards,

Joe Donnelly
Member of Congress

JD:pg

OSD 02379-09

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2181 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

February 19, 2009

Mr. Christian P. Marrone
Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense – Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Marrone:

I would like to extend an invitation to you to testify before the Committee on Education and Labor at the hearing entitled "*Renewing America Through National Service and Volunteerism*" to be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 10 a.m. in 2175 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

You will be given 5 minutes to testify. The lighting system located at the witness table will indicate when you can begin your testimony and how much time you have left. The light will turn yellow when you have 1 minute left and red when your time has expired. Once all witnesses have finished their testimony, the Members will have 5 minutes each to comment and ask questions of witnesses.

Also, pursuant to House Rule XI, Clause 2(g), witnesses testifying before the Committee must meet witness disclosure requirements. Please complete the attached "Truth in Testimony" form and return to Tylease Alli of the Committee staff via fax at 202-225-2350. Please provide the following 48 hours prior to the date of the hearing: a brief summary of your testimony, a brief biography, the "Truth in Testimony" form, and 50 copies of your testimony. **Please be advised that this 48 hour deadline for testimony is the absolute deadline. Testimony should be submitted earlier to Alejandra Ceja of the Committee staff if she advises you to do so. If you have any questions regarding deadlines for the submission of testimony please contact Ms. Ceja.** In addition, the Committee would like to make your written testimony available on our webpage, at http://edlabor.house.gov/. To do this, we ask that you send an electronic version of your statement in Microsoft Word format as an attachment to an e-mail to Tylease Alli (tylease.alli@mail.house.gov). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Alli at 202-226-1848.

I would like to thank you in advance for your time and interest in this matter. I look forward to hearing your testimony.

Sincerely,

George Miller

GEORGE MILLER
Chairman

OSD 02434-09

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

March 9, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On Tuesday, March 17, 2009, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs will conduct a hearing on *The Vision Center for Excellence: What Has Been Accomplished in Thirteen Months.* This hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. in room 334 of the Cannon House Office Building.

The Subcommittee invites Ward Cascells, MD, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense, and Colonel Donald A. Gagliano, USA, MD, Director, Military Eye Trauma Vision Center of Excellence, U.S. Department of Defense. Dr. Cascells and Colonel Gagliano will be recognized for five minutes each, and their complete written statement will be made part of the hearing record. Please confirm Dr. Cascell's and Colonel Gagliano's attendance by having staff contact Mr. Todd Chambers at (202) 225-3569.

Please submit 75 copies of written testimony, and a biography, to Mr. Todd Chambers at 337A Cannon House Office Building by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009. To reduce costs and facilitate the inclusion of the written testimony in the printed record of the hearing, please provide one copy of the testimony prepared in accordance with the enclosed formatting requirements.

OSD 02495-09

Due to heightened security precautions, please note that all Congressional mail delivery is delayed and commercial delivery services are prohibited. Therefore, you must contact our staff at (202) 225-3569 to make arrangements for a representative from your organization to hand deliver your testimony.

The Committee provides public access to its hearing statements on the Internet through the World Wide Web at the House of Representatives (http://veterans.house.gov) and the Library of Congress (http://thomas.loc.gov).

To facilitate this public access, please send an electronic copy of your testimony to Mr. Todd Chambers at Todd.Chambers@mail.house.gov. Ideally, the electronic copy should be in Microsoft Word format. Additionally, the hearings are now broadcast live, in real time, over the Internet, and are archived on our Web site so they may be accessed following each hearing.

We look forward to hearing the views of the organization on this matter. Please contact Geoffrey Bestor, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, at (202) 225-3569 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Harry E. Mitchell

HARRY E. MITCHELL
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

GB/tc

MELVIN L. WATT
12TH DISTRICT
NORTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEES
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3312

February 24, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-0001

Dear Secretary Gates:

My office is hosting the 12th Congressional District Annual Grants Conference on Monday, June 15, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC. This Conference will provide my constituents throughout the 12th Congressional District an opportunity to meet with representatives from federal agencies and learn about the federal grant application process.

I am writing to request your assistance by providing a representative from your agency to serve as a Conference presenter. Each presenter is asked to provide an overview of your agency's application process and funding programs.

Please confirm your agency's participation by contacting my Grant Conference Coordinator, Tamara Stinson, at (704) 344-9950 or Tamara.Stinson@mail.house.gov by Friday, April 3, 2009. I look forward to your agency's involvement. Thank you for your support of this effort.

Sincerely,

Melvin L. Watt
MLW/ts

OSD 02566-09

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DANIEL B. MAFFEI
25TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

1630 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-3701

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–3225

February 25, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to express my strong support for the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program and request your consideration of a reprogramming of funds for Fiscal Year 2009. I am aware of significant undesired consequences for the E-2D program as a result of the enacted funding levels for Fiscal Year 2009, and I urge your personal attention to this issue.

As you know, the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program continues to perform satisfactorily on both cost and schedule. Since enactment of the appropriations bill, an Operational Assessment has been completed and the program remains on track to receive Milestone C approval in Spring 2009. After reviewing the final appropriated levels for this program in Fiscal Year 2009, however, I am concerned that current funding will be inadequate to sustain this program in transition from development to low rate production. I believe there are negative impacts to both the cost and delivery schedule of these aircraft.

Therefore, I request that you reprogram funds in Fiscal Year 2009 to support the procurement of the third Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) Lot I aircraft in Fiscal Year 2009, and provide advance procurement for the third Lot II aircraft in Fiscal Year 2010. Furthermore, I urge you to ensure that the Fiscal Year 2010 request includes procurement funding for all three LRIP Lot II aircraft.

I thank you for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to your strong support for prioritizing reprogramming of Fiscal Year 2009 funding for the E-2D program.

Sincerely,

Daniel B. Maffei M.C.

cc: The Honorable Donald Winter, Secretary of the Navy
ADM Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

OSD 02569-09

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CAROL SHEA-PORTER
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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(603) 641-9561 (FAX)

104 WASHINGTON STREET
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(603) 743-5956 (FAX)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
February 26, 2009

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www.shea-porter.house.gov

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to correct a sentence contained in my letter, co-signed by 18 of my colleagues, which I sent to you on February 17, 2009.

While the letter accurately stated that the Department of Defense Inspector General is currently investigating the electrocution deaths of 18 Americans (16 soldiers and 2 contractors), my office inaccurately stated that all of the electrocutions were "in KBR-maintained facilities." It has come to my attention that some of these incidents did not occur in KBR-maintained facilities. This misstatement does not diminish my concern about a contract involving major electrical work being awarded to a company under investigation for the electrocution deaths of American soldiers.

I hope this clarification resolves any confusion.

Sincerely,

Carol Shea-Porter

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

OSD 02581-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable David Price, Chairman of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Mongolia, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste on official business during the approximate time period of May 22-31, 2009.

The main purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the Great State Hural of Mongolia, the House of Representatives in Indonesia, and the National Parliament of Timor-Leste in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02582-09

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NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

kendrickmeek.house.gov

CONGRESSMAN KENDRICK B. MEEK

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FAX: (954) 450-6768

February 25, 2009

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates,

In October of 2008, President Bush signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009. An essential part of that Act was the establishment of the Military Leadership Diversity Commission. Creation of this commission is the fruit of numerous meetings between senior members of the Pentagon, including former Undersecretary Gordon England and each of the Service Chiefs, former General Officers, and members of the Congressional Black Caucus dating back to October of 2007.

We share the goal of making sure that our military and its senior leadership reflects our larger American society, and to that end I have been looking forward to the Commission beginning its task : "conducting a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of policies that provide opportunities for the promotion and advancement of minority members of the Armed Forces, including minority members who are senior officers."

The work of this Commission will give Congress a better idea of how to address the continuing issues hampering our senior military service members. The simple fact is that minorities are overrepresented at the enlisted level and underrepresented at the officer level. This discrepancy becomes more acute at the General and Flag Officer level. We all understand that given the nature of longevity and time in grade requirements that rectifying this discrepancy will be by definition a slow process. It will take time to grow today's junior officers into tomorrow's senior leaders. That is all the more incentive to act now and to act rapidly to ensure that military leadership 30 years from now more accurately reflects our society.

The NDAA set a deadline for appointment the Commission's members of not later than 60 days after the date of enactment for the Commission's establishment; it is my understanding that only very recently did you receive nominations from all relevant services and that now the Commission awaits your approval of these nominees. To me,

OSD 02584-09

the issue of diversity is also an issue of national security as we are better served by the wide range of talents, experiences and capabilities that each group can bring to the table. The U.S. military has long been at the forefront of maximizing diversity in our nation, but we must continue to build on past successes. I know that the effort to build upon that diversity is a goal that you and I share, and I look forward to your response and to the timely forming of the Military Leadership Diversity Commission.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my staff for support, advice or recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kendrick B. Meek
Member of Congress

ROBERT E. ANDREWS
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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BUDGET COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3001

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WEBSITE:
www.house.gov/andrews

February 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are contacting you today in support of a public-private partnership being developed between Stevens Institute of Technology and McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey that is successfully working to ensure our military becomes independent of foreign oil and fossil fuels. In addition, this work will foster new technologies, create jobs and spur economic development throughout Southern New Jersey, and we urge you to consider committing $3.5 million worth of defense funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to this important initiative.

As alternative energy technology matures, it is imperative that new concepts of renewable energy production are tested and proven in the field. Military bases are ideally suited to serve as national test beds for the development of affordable alternative energy. Stevens Institute of Technology, in collaboration with the private sector, has developed innovative carbon neutral technologies that can be implemented now in the field to validate the concept of operations for distributed alternative energy systems that can meet a major portion of the demand of military bases. McGuire Air Force Base is committed to becoming a model base where alternative energy technology is tested at full scale and its efficacy is proven. The funding we are requesting would be used to install, operate and test proven biofuel alternative energy technology at McGuire Air Force Base.

This program will demonstrate the efficiency and affordability of biofuel technology to our Nation's military bases, create hundreds of jobs in Southern New Jersey over the next two years, foster a new industry that creates thousands of jobs nationwide, and become the kernel of innovation that can transfer best practices to the rest of our military establishments for years to come. We have attached additional information regarding this project to this letter for your consideration.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Our offices are prepared to provide you with any additional information you may require or answer any questions you may have about this initiative.

Cc: Wayne Arny, Undersecretary for Defense Installations and Environment

Sincerely,

Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress

John Adler
Member of Congress

OSD 02588-09

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

February 27, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to authorize Juan Lara, Majority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Mike Brinck, Minority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity to travel on official committee oversight business to sites in Washington from April 6 to April 10, 2009. The purpose of travel is to attend various Transition Assistance Program Workshops in Bremerton Naval Base, Ft. Lewis AFB, McChord AFB, and Fairchild AFB, Washington.

The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation 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.

If there are any questions, please have your staff coordinate with Juan Lara at (202) 226-5491 and Mike Brinck at (202) 226-3668. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bob

BOB FILNER
Chairman

JL/ot

OSD 02637-09

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 10, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to call your attention to the requirement that the Department of Defense (DoD) conduct a space-based interceptor study as mandated by the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 110-329).

After the Appropriations bill became law, there appeared to be disagreement as to whether or not the DoD has the legal authority to obligate and expend funds for a space-based interceptor study. The Congressional Research Service (CRS) delivered a memorandum to Senator Kyl on October 31, 2008, which concluded, "The Department of Defense appears legally required to obligate and expend $5 million for this space-based interceptor study because section 8006 of the full-year Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2009, which was enacted as Division C of P.L. 110-329, states that the obligation and expenditure of funds for projects for which amounts appropriated exceed amounts requested in the budget are required by law to be carried out in the manner provided in the tables to the same extent as if the tables were included in the text of the Act."

In addition to the clarification provided by the CRS, we learned that in December of 2008, the Director of the Missile Defense Agency, Lieutenant General Patrick O'Reilly, in a letter to Chairman Skelton, then Ranking Member Hunter, Chairman Murtha, Ranking Member Young, Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran, affirmed that the DoD must, upon the advice of the DoD General Counsel, conduct the study. MDA proposed to award a contract to a Federally Funded Research and Development Center in the near future and anticipated the study would be completed as early as summer 2009. We have also learned that Undersecretary of Defense John Young assured Senator John Kyl in a December 2008 letter, "the Department will comply with the statutory requirement and proceed with the study." Finally, the DoD General Counsel issued his opinion that the Department is legally required to conduct the study in a letter to Chairman Skelton dated February 10, 2009.

OSD 02641-09

Despite the legal requirement to conduct the study and the aforementioned correspondence from Department officials that they plans to proceed with the study and award a contract, we have been recently informed that due to political pressure, the DoD has postponed proceeding with the study. We will not debate the merits of space-based interceptors in this letter because our political opinions on the matter are irrelevant at this juncture. The purpose of the study is to explore the feasibility and advisability of the concept. The Congress has already debated the issue and the bill appropriating funds for the study has been voted on by both chambers of Congress and enacted into law. The Department should not stall its plans for conducting the study due to political pressures and any such action would be perceived as such.

This study was important to former Ranking Member Hunter and Strategic Forces subcommittee Ranking Member Everett, and this request continues their work. With a solid legal foundation, we see no reason to delay proceeding with the study in accordance with the Department's original plans and intent. We request that you provide us with the timeline for which the Department plans to obligate and expend the $5 million to conduct the study and the intended recipient of the study contract.

We are happy to discuss any questions related to this matter.

Sincerely,

John M. McHugh
Ranking Member

Michael Turner
Member of Congress

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

DEAN HELLER
2ND DISTRICT, NEVADA

1023 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
202-225-6155

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2802

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I appreciate the work the Department of Defense does in providing employment to people with severe disabilities though service contracts under the AbilityOne Program. I have the pleasure of working with Opportunity Village, a community rehabilitation program in southern Nevada that has been providing job training and employment services in southern Nevada.

For more than 35 years, Opportunity Village has supported the airmen and women at Nellis Air Force Base. Currently, Opportunity Village has a food service attendant contract and postal service center contract with Nellis. As a result, 43 people with severe disabilities are employed under these contracts.

This partnership has provided valuable services at Nellis AFB, and has assisted people with disabilities. Given this information, I ask that the Department of Defense reaffirm its commitment to not enter into contracts or agreements that will result in the loss of jobs created by the Randolph Sheppard Act, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, or small business programs. The AbilityOne Program should be part of the Air Force job creation efforts, and I urge the Department of Defense to coordinate with AbilityOne representatives to develop a policy solution that encourages job creation through both the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program and the AbilityOne Program.

Thank you for your prompt attention to my concerns and please feel free to contact me for further information. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dean Heller

DEAN HELLER
Member of Congress

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

March 3, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman Michael H. Michaud to lead a delegation of Members and staff from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs on a fact-finding visit to Afghanistan and Germany from April 13 to April 18, 2009. The delegation will include, in addition to Congressman Michaud, Congresswoman Deborah L. Halvorson of Illinois; Congressman Glenn C. Nye of Virginia; Congressman Thomas S. P. Perriello of Virginia, and Congressman David P. Roe of Tennessee; Cathy Wiblemo, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Health; and Dolores Dunn, Republican Staff Director for the Subcommittee. In addition, Vice Admiral Adam Robinson, Surgeon General of the Navy, and Lieutenant General Eric Schoomaker, Army Surgeon General, will be in attendance.

The Delegation is currently planning to travel to visit medical facilities in the chain of care of OEF service members and see first-hand the level and quality of health care being provided to active duty service members in Afghanistan. Participants will also speak directly with key medical personnel at these facilities in order to better understand the challenges of combat health care in Afghanistan. They request briefings and updates from Defense officials knowledgeable on medical evacuation procedures and policy.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in the countries to be visited. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be

OSD 02657-09

required, including transportation, to facilitate this fact-finding visit. The expenditure of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to Title 31, U.S.C., Section 1108 (g).

I would also like to request military escorts from the Army Legislative Liaison Office be authorized to accompany the delegation for administrative and logistical support.

The CODEL will be authorized to travel on foreign commercial airline carriers when there has been a determination that a U.S. flag carrier not available to meet the scheduling requirements of the traveler consistent with the "Fly America Act."

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jian Zapata of the Committee staff at 225-9756.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

CHARLES A. GONZALEZ
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
20TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4320

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SENIOR WHIP

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20302-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write with respect to the recent Federal Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling in the case of *Rothe Development Corp. v. Department of Defense and Department of the Air Force*. I am concerned how the Department of Defense (DOD) will now conduct its contracting processes and how this determination will affect small businesses in the 20th Congressional District of Texas.

In 1998, Rothe Development Inc., a woman owned small business, filed a lawsuit against DOD claiming it had lost a contract, for which it submitted the lowest bid, because of the racial set-aside program. The case called into question the DOD's entire minority-owned small business set-aside contracting program. On November 4, 2008, the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that this contracting program, which sets aside 5 percent of DOD contracts, is unconstitutional because of a lack of evidence that minority companies had ever suffered from racial discrimination in the DOD contracting process.

Small businesses in my district have been asking what this decision will mean for the DOD minority-owned small business set aside contracting program. I represent a community with a strong military presence and with a great number of minority-owned small businesses that hold contracts with all the service branches. Therefore, DOD's contracting process has a huge impact on business owners I represent. My constituents need guidance now on how DOD intends to move forward in light of this ruling.

I respectfully request a meeting with senior officials to discuss how DOD intends to address this matter and when new guidance can be expected from the agency. To arrange for the meeting, please contact Jayne Ann Wolsey, my scheduler, at 202-225-3236. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress

CAG: am

OSD 02660-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 5, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee, Committee on Appropriations, and The Honorable Kay Granger, The Honorable Jesse Jackson, Jr., The Honorable Adam Schiff, and The Honorable Ben Chandler, Members of the Committee, to travel during the approximate time period of April 13th-19th, 2009, to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Ireland. The purpose of this trip is to review U.S. policies and programs in the region, and to meet with government officials.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial and military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 02662-09

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress
Third District, New York

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3203

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
RANKING MEMBER

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING

March 11, 2009

The Honorable BJ Penn
Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment)
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1000

Dear Mr. Penn:

I am writing to you regarding the recent environmental investigation in and around the Naval Weapons Reserve Plant (NWIRP) in Bethpage, NY. As you know, this investigation has identified the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in several homes. While I applaud the Navy's pro-active efforts in sampling certain homes and educating the community by holding public meetings, I believe more needs to be done. That is why I am joining with Nassau County Legislator Edward Mangano in requesting the Navy take the following actions:

1. Provide immediate, free testing to all homeowners residing south of NWIRP
2. Expedite in-home remediation
3. Expedite an on-site remediation system
4. Designate funding to compensate affected homeowners
5. Expand the radius of neighborhood street testing and continue testing until redundant non-detected results are confirmed

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I would appreciate the Navy keeping me regularly informed of new developments regarding Bethpage.

Sincerely,

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

Cc: Dr. Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense
Mr. Donald Winter, Secretary of the Navy

OSD 02673-09

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BILL SHUSTER
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

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CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3809

March 5, 2009

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

Secretary Gates:

As you know, on September 9th, 2004 President Bush took an unprecedented step when he recognized that the atrocities occurring in Darfur constituted genocide. More than four years later, the genocide continues. In 2008 alone at least 300,000 people were displaced and there have been 43 reported aerial attacks by the Government of Sudan.

The United States should work with our allies to ensure that the United Nations mission in Darfur has the critical resources it requires. I urge you to renew efforts to secure the helicopters which the UN mission needs if it is to save lives, create an environment amenable to the peace negotiations, and ensure uninterrupted humanitarian operations.

Without helicopters, the current UN peacekeeping force's ability to respond quickly to events and fulfill its mandate to protect civilians is severely compromised. More than 20 countries have surplus aircraft that could be made available for the mission. It is my understanding that the six countries best placed to provide transport helicopters, Italy, Ukraine, India, Spain, Romania and the Czech Republic, between them have an estimated 71 helicopters available, four times the requirement.

Thank you for your leadership and your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Bill Shuster

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

cc: General Jim Jones, National Security Advisor
Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

OSD 02735-09

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ANDRÉ CARSON
7TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1407

March 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to express my strong support for the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program, and request your consideration of a reprogramming of funds for Fiscal Year 2009. I am aware of significant undesired consequences for the E-2D program, as a result of the enacted funding levels for Fiscal Year 2009, and I urge your personal attention to this issue.

As you know, the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program is the cornerstone of the Navy's Net-Centric Warfare concept, and is imperative for protection against theater air and missile threats. Unfortunately, since the Defense Appropriations Bill was not considered in regular order, there was little time to address misunderstandings and major issues before the final conference report was complete. This produced an appropriations mark that left the program at a level inadequate to sustain it in transition from development to low rate production. In addition, the current FY09 funding level might produce a delay in Initial Operating Capability (IOC) by two or more years. This is especially disappointing when the Advanced Hawkeye program continues to meet and exceed both cost and schedule goals, and is needed to address urgent threats.

Therefore, I request that you reprogram funds in Fiscal Year 2009 to support the procurement of the third Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) Lot I aircraft in the Fiscal Year 2009, and provide advance procurement for the third Lot II aircraft in Fiscal Year 2010. Furthermore, I urge you to ensure that the Fiscal Year 2010 request includes procurement funding for all three LRIP Lot II aircraft.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your strong support for prioritizing reprogramming of Fiscal Year 2009 funding for the E-2D program.

Sincerely,

André Carson
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Donald Winter, Secretary of the Navy
ADM Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

OSD 02738-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1503

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Subcommittee on Aviation
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence

March 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to urge you to act immediately to protect the jobs of people with severe disabilities working on Department of Defense (DoD) service contracts under the AbilityOne Program. Specifically, I ask that you:

1. Reaffirm the moratorium on conversions set forth in the December 29, 2004, Memorandum wherein Under Secretary of Defense Chu states, *DoD NAFIs shall not enter into contracts or agreements with DoD elements or other Federal Departments, Agencies or instrumentalities for the provision of goods and services that will result in the loss of jobs created pursuant to the Randolph Sheppard Act, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, or small business programs* until a policy solution can be reached that encourages job creation;
2. Request that the AbilityOne Program be part of the Air Force solution; and,
3. Provide notification that responses to date from Arthur Myers, Principal Director, Military Community and Family Policy, do not fully address the above two issues.

I support the DoD Food Transformation effort where it results in higher quality and efficiency to service members and lower costs. However, given the potential impact this challenge could have on the employment of thousands of people with severe disabilities in the AbilityOne Program, I strongly urge the DoD to coordinate with AbilityOne representatives to develop a policy solution that encourages job creation through both the MWR and the AbilityOne Programs. This is a crucial step to incorporate the best thinking to resolve this issue, particularly when jobs for people with severe disabilities are so rare, reflecting an unemployment rate unparalleled by any other demographic sector of our society.

Thank you for your early consideration of this urgent request. If you have any questions on this issue, please feel free to contact me or my staff, Katy Siddall, at 202-225-3806.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

LB:ks

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OSD 02741-09

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House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to evaluate current policies regarding trade and commerce with Cuba, and to examine and promote proposals to initiate cultural, academic, and health exchanges with the U.S.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority of 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

The travel will be conducted via military aircraft. It would be appreciated if officials of the Department would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 02742-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
March 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable John Tanner, Chairman of the House NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) group, to lead a delegation to Germany, France, Lithuania, Ukraine, Georgia, and Belgium during the approximate period of April 2-9, 2009. The purpose of this trip will be to attend meetings with government officials in each country in conjunction with the mission of the Assembly. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable John Tanner (D-TN)
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)

Ms. Melissa Adamson, 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 (b)(6) and military air transportation in-theatre. 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 Mr. David Hobbs, Secretary General of the NATO PA, has been invited to travel with the delegation in-theatre.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02743-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby given to Representative Kay Granger, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 27-28, 2009, to Leon, Mexico. The purpose of this trip is to participate in the US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce "A Vision for North America" Conference.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02744-09

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby given to Representative Kay Granger, member of the Committee on Appropriations and Anne Marie Chotvacs, professional staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on a CODEL led by Representative Nita Lowey during the approximate time period of April 13 – 19, 2009, to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Ireland. The purpose of this trip is to review U.S. policies and programs in the region, and to meet with government officials.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02745-09

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
JOHN P. MURTHA, PENNSYLVANIA
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Celes Hughes, Matthew Washington, and B.G. Wright, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 27 – April 3, 2009, to Qatar, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The purpose of this trip is to review programs supporting the announced U.S. troop build-up in Afghanistan.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial and military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02746-09

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Celes Hughes, Matthew Washington, and B.G. Wright, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 27 – April 3, 2009, to Qatar, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The purpose of this trip is to review programs supporting the announced U.S. troop build-up in Afghanistan.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial and military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02746-09

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BEVERLY PHETO

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March 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Ed Pastor, the Honorable Maurice Hinchey, the Honorable Tim Ryan, the Honorable Ciro Rodriguez, the Honorable John R. Carter, the Honorable Rodney Alexander, and the Honorable John T. Salazar members of the Committee on Appropriations, and Taunja Berquam and Terry Tyborowski, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on official business to Puerto Rico, and Brazil, during the time period of April 3 – April 10, 2009. The Honorable James Clyburn will travel under separate authorization. The purpose of the trip is to inspect sustainable biomass plantations, renewable energy laboratories, hydropower production, flex-fuel, and hybrid vehicle manufacturing processes, and water infrastructure. They will also be meeting with officials and the Brazilian government to discuss national energy strategies and other issues of mutual interest.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It would be appreciated in the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation, to facilitate this trip. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Army (SAFM-BUL) could be assigned to escort the delegation.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02747-09

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BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 20, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize spouses to accompany Members for reasons of protocol at no additional expense to the government.

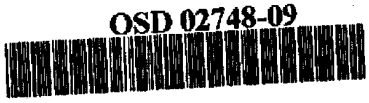
Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 02748-09



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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Adrienne Ramsay, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 27, 2009, to Rochester, New York. The purpose of this trip is to visit facilities to review the design and production capabilities and receive briefings on subsystems and payloads for national security space systems.

Per diem expenses of not to exceed $109 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 02749-09

WALTER B. JONES
3D DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

ROOM 2333
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE (202) 225-3415

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DISTRICT OFFICE:
1105-C CORPORATE DRIVE
GREENVILLE, NC 27858
(252) 231-1008
(800) 351-1097

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3303

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to request that the Department of Defense (DoD) finalize the inclusion of TRICARE Retail Pharmacy Program in federal procurement of pharmaceuticals proposed rule (73 Fed. Reg. 43394 (July 25, 2008)); 32 CFR Part 199 [DoD-2008-HA-0029; 0720-AB22) as soon as possible. According to the proposed rule, making this regulation final will save DoD $2.4 billion in Fiscal Years 2009-2011. In addition to providing badly needed savings to the DoD, the finalization of this rule ends the need for current or future TRICARE policies that favor the TRICARE Mail Order Program (TMOP) over the TRICARE retail pharmacy network.

In Fiscal Year 2006, America's retail pharmacies dispensed over 55 million TRICARE prescriptions, more than any other pharmacy practice setting. TRICARE beneficiaries, particularly retirees, have demonstrated a clear preference to obtain their prescription drugs and pharmacy services from retail pharmacies, despite the fact that there are already incentives in the TRICARE program to encourage beneficiaries to use mail order. They are our nation's current and retired armed services personnel and their families, and we need to honor them by providing them with quality, accessible health care. I believe the choice of where to obtain prescription mediations is best left to them.

Implementing the proposed rule would bring to fruition the sensible policy that the DoD, with the support of the Government Services Administration, has pursued for years. A final rule will give full effect to the intent and plain language of Section 703 of NDAA-2008[1][1] by placing retail pharmacies on an equal footing with other TRICARE pharmacy programs. Section 703 was signed into law one year ago, and as we await issuance of the final rule, DoD loses hundreds of millions of dollars of savings because manufacturers are not paying required statutory discounts on TRICARE prescriptions dispensed by retail pharmacies. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimated savings of $3.2 billion over the five-year period, including $719 million in FY 2009.

OSD 02751-09

I respectfully request that you quickly promulgate and implement a revised final rule that reflects the intent of Congress and DoD to achieve significant savings and enable TRICARE beneficiaries to choose where to obtain their prescription medications. This result will best honor TRICARE beneficiaries, promote quality health care, and preserve scarce government resources. Thank you for your continued service to our country, and for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Walter B. Jones

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

GREG WALDEN
SECOND DISTRICT, OREGON
DEPUTY WHIP

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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BEND, OR 97701
TELEPHONE: (541) 389-4408

1311 WASHINGTON AVENUE
LA GRANDE, OR 97850
TELEPHONE: (541) 624-2400

March 13, 2009

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

Lieutenant General Clyde A. Vaughn
Director, Army National Guard
NGB-ARNG
111 South George Mason Drive
Arlington, VA 22204

Dear Secretary Gates and Lieutenant General Vaughn:

I write today to urge you to direct money from the $50,000,000 allocated for Army National Guard Military Construction in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (PL 111-5) towards construction of The Dalles Armory located in The Dalles, Oregon. According to their FY2010 appropriations request, the Oregon Military Department indicated that their federal request for this project is $17,023,000. It is my hope that this project can be funded through the money available in PL 111-5 to allow construction to begin immediately.

The Oregon Military Department has indicated that this project is ready to execute now and will help the local and state economy by providing jobs in construction and maintenance during the period of construction and supporting the local economy after construction. They estimate that construction projects of this scope average a total of 62 sub-contracts with an average of 12 employees per contract. The total number of construction related jobs is estimated to be between 750 and 1,000.

This project is vital to the community in The Dalles because it is a unique partnership between the Oregon Military Department and Columbia Gorge Community College and will provide prolonged benefit to the local economy as part of the community college campus with classrooms available to the college during the week.

It is important that this project is completed as expeditiously as possible. I can think of no better way to create jobs, stimulate the state and local economy, and also advance the mission of the men and women who have dedicated themselves to protecting our country. Thank you for your time and full and fair consideration consistent with applicable law, rules, and regulations. I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Greg Walden
Member of Congress

OSD 02768-09

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
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2181 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

March 18, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE – 703-695-1219
The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Marcia L. Fudge to travel on a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) led by the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to evaluate current policies regarding trade and commerce with Cuba, and to examine and promote proposals to initiate cultural, academic, and health exchanges with the United States.

It is requested that the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation is authorized pursuant to 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. The CODEL requests the U.S. Air Force liaison support to this Delegation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Clifton Ronald St. Clair Williams III at 202-225-7032. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE MILLER
Chairman

GM:ejh

OSD 02984-09

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS
8TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0308

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense, Pentagon - Room 3E970
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

Dear Sect. Gates:

I write regarding two studies mandated by the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (NDAA), PL-110.417, which were recently due to be submitted to Congress but have not yet been received. These studies of the Department of Defense's renewable energy pursuits, such as the use of solar power, are vital to progress on developing a comprehensive strategy on reducing the Department's operational energy consumption.

Section 333 of the 2009 NDAA requires your office to conduct a study examining the feasibility of using solar and wind energy to provide electricity for expeditionary forces. In particular, the study must examine the potential for solar and wind energy to reduce the fuel supply; the extent to which such reduction will decrease the risk of casualties associated with convoy operations; the overall costs and benefits of using these technologies; the sustainability and operating requirements of solar and wind energy systems; and potential opportunities for experimentation within current training environments. The report was due on 11 February, 2009, 120 days after enactment of the 2009 NDAA, however the report has not yet been submitted to Congress.

The second report, due 1 March, 2009, was required by the House Report accompanying the 2009 NDAA. It directed your office to report on technologies that are suitably mature to be integrated into reset and recapitalization programs that, if deployed, could reduce energy consumption. Likewise, this report has not yet been received.

I respectfully request that copies of these studies are immediately furnished to the Congress as they are likely to provide important insights for potential action during this year's defense authorization cycle. I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress

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OSD 02986-09

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March 11, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to express my outrage at the Army's use of funds to purchase land to expand the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site in direct violation of clearly stated Congressional intent.

In 2008, Congress passed the Military Construction Appropriations Act with an amendment stating *"None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used for any action that is related to or promotes the expansion of the boundaries or size of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado."* The clear intent of this measure was to prevent the appropriation of funds for the proposed expansion of the Pinon Canyon site used by the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado.

It has come to my attention that the Army has recently completed a deal with a Colorado landowner for the acquisition of approximately 70,000 acres of land near the existing Pinon Canyon facility. This acquisition comes less than six months after members of Congress expressed their intent to impose a ban on expansion.

The expansion of the Pinon Canyon site has been adamantly opposed by Colorado Members of Congress as well as the farmers and ranchers in Southern Colorado because a larger training facility will result in the condemnation of private property, decreased land values, a devastating impact on the local economy, and on the environment.

The Pinon Canyon site has always been a bane for the local communities. When the initial land was purchased, some landowners complained of strong-arm tactics and fears of condemnation. When the site was to open, the Army heralded construction jobs and long-term employment, but after twenty years the site has not helped the local economies. Additionally, many were led to believe that the site would not allow live-fire exercises, but that promise was also broken.

Today, I am troubled that the Army has decided to not only violate the trust of the local community but has also decided to skirt clearly defined Congressional intent that this facility not be enlarged. In January 2009, the Government Accountability Office released a report on the Department of Defense justifications for the expansion of Pinon Canyon. This report recommended that the Army provide more information to Congress before further action be

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taken. Not only was no further information provided, it now appears that the Army has decided to disregard Congress' intentions altogether. Please advise me on why the Army is progressing forward on the purchase. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Betsy Markey
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are acutely aware that the US Transportation Command and the US Air Force place a very high priority on recapitalizing the fleet of KC-135 Refueling Tankers. We agree with this priority. Unfortunately, as the Government Accountability Office concluded last year, the previous source selection process for the KC-X Tanker was deeply flawed. We write to you today to highlight several key points that we believe must guide a future source selection process if it is to be successful.

First and foremost a future competitive source selection must be fair to all parties while delivering the best value solution for the warfighter at a reasonable cost for the taxpayer. In the previous source selection, the competition was not conducted fairly on several levels. The Department of Defense (DOD) must not repeat past mistakes:

- Do not allow "competition at all costs" to distort the KC-X solicitation and source selection process. In the months leading up to the release of the final Request for Proposals (RFP) for the previous KC-X solicitation, the Air Force bent to the combination of external pressure for "competition at all costs" coupled with refusal by one potential offeror to compete unless the RFP was changed to its satisfaction. This led to last minute changes in key elements of the Combined Mating and Ranging Planning System (CMARPS) evaluation tool for the sole purpose of qualifying one offeror's proposal.

- Conduct the competition on a level playing field for all parties. In the previous KC-X competition, the Northrop Grumman/EADS team benefited from unfair advantages that derive from illegal government subsidies and waivers of regulations that apply to products produced in the United States. Specifically, the United States government has a complaint pending before the World Trade Organization (WTO) stating that the A-330 aircraft produced by EADS/Airbus benefitted from $5 billion in illegal government subsidies. Note that Section 886 of the FY2009 National Defense Authorization Act requires DOD to conduct a review of the impacts of subsidies on the aerial refueling tanker competition upon completion of the proceedings of the WTO. The KC-X competition also has highlighted the unequal treatment that American producers face when competing with products from several allied nations. Our American producers must abide by many regulations (Berry Amendment, Buy America Act, International Traffic in Arms Regulations, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and cost accounting

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standards) that add cost for domestic products but are waived for items produced in other countries.

➢ Take into account full and accurate life-cycle costs for proposals. According to Defense Acquisition University studies, Operation and Support (O&S) costs constitute approximately 72 percent of total weapon system costs. It is imperative that these costs be a significant factor in source selection decisions, and that they be estimated properly. DOD made a serious error in the previous KC-X Tanker source selection analysis when it based estimates of Most Probable Life-Cycle Cost (MPLCC) on a 25-year interval rather than the 40-year interval that was stipulated (and approved by the JROC) as the required service life of the aircraft. Furthermore, GAO recommended that a future source selection give greater attention to the impact of fuel costs in its life-cycle cost analysis. GAO concluded that "even a small increase in the amount of fuel that is burned per hour by a particular aircraft would have a dramatic impact on the overall fuel costs." Well established commercial data shows that the Airbus A-330 aircraft consumes 24% more fuel per flight hour than does a Boeing 767 aircraft. This would result in very significant differences in operating costs.

➢ Insist that proposals fully comply with all key requirements of the solicitation. In the previous KC-X Tanker source selection evaluation, GAO concluded that in two instances the Air Force disregarded the fact that the Northrop Grumman/EADS proposal failed to comply with requirements of the solicitation. Specifically, GAO found that the Air Force "improperly made award" when it "unreasonably determined that the awardee's refusal to agree to the specific solicitation requirement that it plan and support the agency to achieve organic depot-level maintenance." GAO also concluded that "the record does not demonstrate the reasonableness of the agency's determination that the awardee's proposed aerial refueling tanker could refuel all current Air Force fixed-wing tanker-compatible receiver aircraft in accordance with current Air Force procedures, as required by the solicitation."

➢ Insist that source selection evaluation be accomplished in accordance with the evaluation plan that is established for the solicitation. GAO found that the Air Force "did not assess the relative merits of the proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria identified in the solicitation, which provided for a relative order of importance for the various technical requirements, and where the agency did not take into account the fact that one of the proposals offered to satisfy more "trade space" technical requirements than the other proposal, even though the solicitation expressly requested offerors to satisfy as many of these technical requirements as possible." Furthermore, GAO concluded that the Air Force "violated the solicitation's evaluation provision that "no consideration will be provided for exceeding [key performance parameter] KPP objectives" when it recognized as a key discriminator the fact that the awardee proposed to exceed a KPP objective relating to aerial refueling to a greater degree than the protester."

➢ Carefully consider national security impacts and industrial base impacts. Given the crucial role that air refueling plays in providing global reach for our military, DOD must carefully weigh the importance of preserving domestic design knowledge and production expertise. Furthermore, industrial base impacts must be assessed given the fragile economic conditions and weak domestic employment environment. Federal code

(10 U.S.C. 2440) requires evaluation of technology and industrial base impacts in conjunction with major defense acquisitions.

We also think that it is important to the successful progress of the KC-X Tanker acquisition that DOD commence discussions with the potential offerors. Our understanding is that for the last several months DOD has resisted discussions that would help the government and industry exchange information, ideas and perspectives. If this program is to move forward and yield a positive outcome, we recommend that DOD engage with industry.

Finally, we urge you to take the necessary time to allow the new Administration team to thoroughly consider the framework for the next source selection process. As much as the Air Force needs to begin recapitalizing the KC-135 fleet, we think it is essential that the solicitation requirements and acquisition strategy have the input and support of the new DOD leadership team that will be responsible for conducting the source selection and getting the program under way.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

NORM DICKS
Member of Congress

TODD TIAHRT
Member of Congress

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Washington, DC 20515–6015

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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 16, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated March 9, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Kay Granger, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, to travel to Leon, Mexico during the approximate period of March 27-28, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize travel during the approximate time period of March 27-29, 2009.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03053-09

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REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman Michael H. Michaud to lead a delegation of Members and staff from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs on a fact-finding visit to Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Germany from April 13 to April 18, 2009. The delegation will include, in addition to Congressman Michaud, Congresswoman Deborah L. Halvorson of Illinois; Congressman Glenn C. Nye of Virginia; Congressman Thomas S. P. Perriello of Virginia, and Congressman David P. Roe of Tennessee; Cathy Wiblemo, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Health; and Dolores Dunn, Republican Staff Director for the Subcommittee. In addition, Vice Admiral Adam Robinson, Surgeon General of the Navy, and Lieutenant General Eric Schoomaker, Army Surgeon General, will be in attendance.

The Delegation is currently planning to travel to visit medical facilities in the chain of care of OEF service members and see first-hand the level and quality of health care being provided to active duty service members in the countries to be visited. Participants will also speak directly with key medical personnel at these facilities in order to better understand the challenges of combat health care.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in the countries to be visited. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be

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required, including transportation, to facilitate this fact-finding visit. The expenditure of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to Title 31, U.S.C., Section 1108 (g).

I would also like to request military escorts from the Army Legislative Liaison Office be authorized to accompany the delegation for administrative and logistical support.

The CODEL will be authorized to travel on foreign commercial airline carriers when there has been a determination that a U.S. flag carrier not available to meet the scheduling requirements of the traveler consistent with the "Fly America Act."

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jian Zapata of the Committee staff at 225-9756.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As a member of the United States House of Representatives, it is an honor to recommend Dr. Solomon Passy for the position of the next Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). We ask that you give this request your full consideration.

NATO as an institution is an important vehicle for keeping peace and stability in the region. With the expected return of France to the military organization will open a window of opportunity for major and profound reforms in the Alliance and a new NATO-EU, Euro-American cohesion. Therefore, we trust that a person like Dr. Passy, bringing the inspiration of New Europe, may synergize best with this momentum.

Dr. Passy's credentials are very impressive. In 1990, as a member of parliament, he launched his idea for Bulgaria to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact to join NATO. At the time this goal was only supported by 15% of the population. The network he created, the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria, succeeded in its goal to reverse popular opinion: in 2004 when Foreign Minister Passy raised the Bulgarian flag at NATO Headquarters, he gained the support of 80% of the Bulgarian people. Also, he successfully negotiated and signed the Accession Treaty of Bulgaria with the European Union in 2005. Both ventures have made him one of the most popular ministers in Bulgarian history.

Another highlight of Dr. Passy's distinguished career was his leadership during Bulgaria's term on the United Nation's Security Council, which lasted from 2002 to 2003. During his tenure, he was able to demonstrate a remarkable ability to develop relationships in a way that permitted the passage of numerous resolutions and other important acts highlighting Bulgaria's successful term on the Council.

Also worth mentioning is his extensive experience in Afghanistan working closely with President Hamid Karzai on election and economic issues that impact the nation as a whole. As Chairman-in-Office for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), he directed the first exporting of an election observation team to Afghanistan to monitor the 2004 presidential election. Given the growing

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narcotics concern that has developed out of Afghanistan, he has worked diligently on assisting the people of Afghanistan to replace poppy crops with that of roses—A Bulgarian treasure.

Dr. Passy has a proven track record in foreign relations. He has been one of the main instruments of his country's successes and there is no one better with his knowledge and experience to work in this capacity.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact either of our offices.

Sincerely,

Joe Wilson

JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

Madeleine F. Bordallo

MADELEINE BORDALLO
Member of Congress

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(202) 225-2771

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 202(b), Public Law 601, 79th Congress (codified at 2 U.S.C. §72 a (b)), this Staff has been directed by the Committee on Appropriations to make an inquiry of the affect of stop loss on servicemembers.

Please designate an appropriate point of contact to arrange for obtaining the data pertinent to this inquiry and notify my office by telephone within five business days of the receipt of this letter. If there are any questions regarding this matter, I can be contacted on (202) 225-3881.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Pomerantz

David M. Pomerantz
Director
Surveys and Investigations Staff
House Committee on Appropriations

cc - Comptroller of the Department of Defense
cc - Secretary of the Army

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CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

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JON TRAUB,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 18, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI) to participate in the CODEL being led by Senator Robert Casey (D-PA), to Brussels and Belgium. This travel will take place during the period of Thursday, March 19, through Monday, March 23, 2009; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The purpose of this trip is to attend the 2009 Brussels Forum on transatlantic economies. Rep. Kind will also speak at the Forum and will meet with officials from European Parliament and the European Commission.

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

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 03130-09

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

March 23, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to call to your attention the need to revise your Department's policy on outsourcing. Over the past eight years the Administration has misused the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, the policy which governs public-private competitions to potentially outsource work to the private sector. A-76 became a mandate for pushing more and more work into the private sector, even work that is closely associated with inherently governmental functions, in order to meet arbitrary competition goals.

The last Administration's push to outsource resulted in hundreds of billions of expenditures with little to no oversight from the Department of Defense (DoD). In fiscal year 2008, DoD obligated about $200 billion for contractor-provided services, more than doubling the amount it spent a decade ago when measured in real terms. Yet the Defense Department is unable answer basic questions such as: how many contractors and subcontractors there are, what is their average salary, and precisely what work are they doing? The responsibility for acquiring services within DoD is spread among individual military commands, weapon system program offices, or functional units on military bases with no central oversight. The DoD Inspector General (IG) recently reported that your office pressured the Military Services to conduct outsourcing studies, and recently revealed to my subcommittee that contractors grant civilians access to military bases, including in highly sensitive areas like Iraq and Afghanistan, without evidence of appropriate background checks.

OSD 03190-09

The House Appropriations Committee has attempted for years to impose oversight of contract services and shift away from what has become an over reliance on contractors. The Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes a one year government-wide moratorium (section 737) on beginning or announcing any A-76 studies. I was heartened by President Obama's recent Memorandum on government contracting in which he states "Government outsourcing for services also raises special concerns." OMB must "... clarify when governmental outsourcing for services is and is not appropriate..." However, I found it disappointing when I learned of a response from your office to twenty members of Congress who had expressed concern about a particular A-76 study; the response suggests that the concerns about outsourcing expressed by this subcommittee and by the President have not been understood by your office. The same official who had advocated outsourcing during the Bush administration stated in a letter (attached) dated March 9, 2009, that "Public Private competition under OMB Circular-76 is a proven management tool that improves business efficiencies while generating significant savings to the taxpayer."

In light of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, I advise you to cease to initiate or announce new A-76 studies. I also suggest that you halt A-76 studies pending OMB review of the A-76 program.

I request a prompt response to this letter.

Respectfully,

John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

Attachment
As stated

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http://markey.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2107

March 23, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to urge you to appoint former U.S. Representative (b)(6) to serve on the Defense Policy Board.

I have known (b)(6) since I first arrived in Congress in 1976, and I worked closely with him during the 1980s and early 1990s on numerous arms control and defense policy legislative initiatives. During his service in the House, Les was widely regarded as one of the most thoughtful and effective national leaders on arms control issues. He used his position on the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee to advance several successful arms control initiatives, including authoring a successful effort to ban the testing of anti-satellite weapons in space. In addition, (b)(6) was one of the key House leaders of the effort to cut funding ill-advised "Star Wars" strategic ballistic missile defense programs, and a strong proponent of efforts to secure a strategic nuclear arms reduction treaty with the Soviet Union. In addition to these initiatives, Les was also a longstanding advocate for smart defense procurement and realistic testing of new conventional weapons systems.

In his post-Congressional career, (b)(6) has continued to be active in Democratic politics and in policy discussions on arms control and national security issues. As our nation moves forward to grapple with issues relating to recent Chinese tests of anti-satellite weapons, what to do about proposed missile defenses in Europe, and how to restart the arms control process with the Russians, I believe that (b)(6) would provide the Defense Department with frank and insightful advice and counsel. I believe that Les AuCoin would be an invaluable addition to the Defense Policy Board, and I strongly urge you to consider naming him to this important position.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

SECDEF	DEPSECDEF	SPLASST	EXECSEC	USDP
USDI	ESD	CSD	CBLCH	FILE

Cc: Don Gips LA

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OSD 03222-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Dr. Kay King, Director of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, to join the Committee on Foreign Affairs Codel Carnahan to Egypt, Ethiopia, Cyprus, and Lebanon during the approximate period of April 3-11, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to attend the 120th meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and to meet with government officials 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03243-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Ms. Catlin O'Neill, Floor Assistant to the Speaker, to accompany Codel Tauscher (authorized by the House Armed Services Committee) to Israel and Egypt during the approximate period of April 5-10, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to review Israeli Missile Defense Operations and participate in bilateral discussions with key allies in the Middle East.

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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03245-09

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

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6143

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

March 19, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We would like to ensure that the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is included in the Administration's Congressional briefings related to the results of the strategic review of U.S. efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan you have commissioned.

As you are well aware, 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. Pursuant to Committee Rule 8(a)(5), the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs has jurisdiction encompassing oversight of national security, homeland security, and foreign affairs. Our Committee has the significant role of oversight of interagency activities in the national security arena.

Beyond manifest jurisdictional oversight interests, our Subcommittee has devoted significant time and energy on the oversight of U.S. policy, programs, and resources related to our efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Over the past two years, our Chairman has personally led three Congressional delegations to Afghanistan and Pakistan. During that same period, the Subcommittee has held eight related hearings.[1]

Last month, we held a hearing on the U.S. mission to train and equip the Afghan police and army with a focus on the accountability of arms and other sensitive military equipment. Over the last two weeks, we have held a public hearing and hosted a classified briefing on the nature of the complex threat environment within Afghanistan and Pakistan. We are currently planning oversight hearings on the proposed troop

[1] For more information on these activities, please go to: http://nationalsecurity.oversight.house.gov.

OSD 03246-09

buildup and civilian surge in Afghanistan, as well as on regional players and considerations that are fundamental to U.S. efforts in South Asia.

Our work on this subject, both in the hearing room and on the ground, has allowed the Members of this Subcommittee the opportunity to acquire a depth of understanding on the nature of the security threat in Afghanistan and Pakistan. We stand committed to continue constructive oversight of U.S. plans and activities in this strategically important, and troubled, region.

We appreciate your timely attention to this matter and look forward to working with you as we move forward in creating more effective foreign policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan, while making sure that every dollar entrusted to us by the American taxpayers is wisely spent.

Sincerely,

John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

Jeff Flake
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

cc: Vice President Joseph R. Biden
Secretary Hillary Clinton
Secretary Robert Gates
National Security Advisor James L. Jones
Special Envoy Richard Holbrooke
Under Secretary Michele Flournoy
Mr. Bruce Riedel, Brookings Institution

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
ROB NABORS

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 20, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize the Honorable Michael Honda, also a member of the committee, to participate in this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03247-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to voice our support for the VH-71 presidential helicopter replacement program.

The Marine One presidential helicopter is more than just a symbol of the office or a simple means of transport; it is integral to the safety and security of our president and thus our nation. That is why we urge you to resist any attempt to politicize the VH-71 presidential helicopter program by singling it out among the large number of major programs that have exceeded their original budgets. This program is too important to be derailed by politics.

We share your strong commitment to increasing accountability in the use of tax dollars and applaud your promise to reform the broken defense acquisition system. In recent years, too little attention has been paid to ensuring the wise management of major defense priorities. In many cases, excessive requirements are packed into programs at enormous expense and with little ultimate value to the warfighter.

However, we are alarmed by the political controversy surrounding the VH-71 program and fear it could lead to a decision that jeopardizes the security of our Commander in Chief and wastes valuable taxpayer money. There is little doubt that the need to replace the aging legacy fleet of presidential helicopters is real, urgent, and thoroughly documented. The current fleet has been in service more than 35 years and it is time for an upgrade to best protect the President and his family. This country cannot afford its President to be vulnerable or cut off from communications in a time of emergency.

VH-71 was initiated by the White House in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks and was awarded to the current industry team in 2005 after one of the most rigorous and scrutinized competitions in history, which was not protested by the losing contractor. Congress has repeatedly noted that excessive requirements coupled with unrealistic price and schedule estimates have driven current cost projections for the program's second phase beyond what is reasonable. Nevertheless, we believe canceling the program entirely would be irresponsible and self-defeating.

To date, $3 billion has been invested in the VH-71 program and yielded notable results. Eight of the nine aircraft comprising the first phase of the program, Increment 1, have achieved flight and are meeting or exceeding all performance parameters. The fiscal year 2009 House Defense Appropriations bill noted that Increment 1 is a "marked improvement" that "exceeds the

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OSD 03248-09

performance of the current fleet in virtually every respect." Based on the outstanding performance of this aircraft, we urge you to consider expanding the Increment 1 fleet to make it the long-term solution if the more advanced Increment 2 aircraft cannot be procured in a cost-effective manner.

Furthermore, we believe the Navy could purchase a full fleet of 23 Increment 1 helicopters within the original budget profile. Doing so would send an important message that security and fiscal responsibility are compatible when it comes to our national defense. Without question, simply canceling VH-71 at this advanced stage would be the least responsible alternative both for the safety of your office and the investment of the American taxpayer.

Marine One is an important national security asset serving the Office of the President and is directly linked to the security of our nation. The VH-71 Marine One program was initiated by a previous administration, will enter service during your administration, and will serve future presidents for decades to come. You will have our complete support – and the support of the American people – as you move forward with this critical program.

Sincerely,

Rep. Patrick J. Murphy

Rep. Maurice Hinchey

Rep. Bill Shuster

Rep. Jo Bonner

Rep. Robert Brady

Rep. Roscoe Bartlett

Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger

Rep. Michael Arcuri

Rep. Jeff Miller

Rep. Doug Lamborn

Rep. Ander Crenshaw

Rep. Chris Carney

Rep. Dan Maffei

Cc: [redacted]

The Honorable John J. Young
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

The Honorable BJ Penn
Acting Secretary of the Navy

The Honorable Rahm Emanuel
White House Chief of Staff

Gregory B. Craig
White House Counsel

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225–2771

March 19, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representative Ken Calvert and Ms. Jennifer Miller, and Mr. Jeff Shockey, professional staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on official business to Stuttgart, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt, Germany and Vienna, Austria during the approximate time period of April 4-10, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to review matters relating to the CIA, NSA and counter-terrorism operations and activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial transportation.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03249-09

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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C.A. "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER, MARYLAND
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
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JO BONNER, ALABAMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
ROB NABORS

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Sam Farr, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to join a CODEL led by the Honorable Eliot Engel, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, to Trinidad and St. Vincent on April 17-21, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to attend the Fifth Summit of the Americas and meet with government and non-government officials regarding political and economic developments, and general bilateral relations with each country.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority of 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

The travel will be conducted via military aircraft. It would be appreciated if officials of the Department would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03250-09

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We urge you to cancel the OMB Circular A-76 privatization review of public works at the United States Army Garrison, West Point.

The A-76 program was shut down by Congress in the Omnibus Appropriations Act that the president signed into law earlier this month because of longstanding concerns. Two Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports issued last year detail how poor guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) had resulted in systematically overstated savings and understated costs as well as a disproportionately adverse impact on older, female and African-American civil servants. As GAO noted, even after eight years, A-76 proponents are still unable to "reliably assess whether competitive sourcing truly provides the best deal for the taxpayer."

Moreover, the A-76 program raises concerns about compliance with the law. The Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2009 limits multifunction OMB Circular A-76 privatization reviews, like the one of public works at West Point, to no longer than 30 months. The West Point A-76 privatization review was formally announced in September 2006, 30 months ago. However, an A-76 privatization review starts not at formal announcement -- but when preliminary planning begins, when money is first spent on hiring consultants and reassigning civil servants from their usual jobs. Indeed, this preliminary planning is actually required by the OMB Circular A-76. We understand that preliminary planning for the West Point public works privatization review actually began over seven years ago in 2002 and included at least five full-time civil servants.

We are also concerned about compliance with the provision in the fiscal year 2008 Defense Authorization bill, which forbids the Department of Defense from carrying out competitive sourcing-related direction from OMB. Less than two months after enactment, West Point tried to utilize the prohibition by petitioning the Army for relief from carrying out the public works privatization review. In its March 19, 2008 letter, the installation discussed a detailed plan for internal reengineering of its public works functions that would be "less disruptive" than the A-76 privatization review, but yet "yield efficiency and real savings," and thus be "a win-win for West Point and the West Point community." Nevertheless, this petition was rejected. Even OMB during

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the previous administration acknowledged that the A-76 process should not be considered the exclusive process for generating efficiencies when officials in July 2008 renamed competitive sourcing, calling it "commercial management," and emphasized business process reengineering instead of contracting out.

This privatization review is already well past the 30 month limitation imposed in law, which means that the actual costs likely exceed any savings. In addition, West Point is prepared to achieve a satisfactory resolution that benefits taxpayers and the West Point community. We in Congress have already recognized the failure of OMB Circular A-76 privatization reviews by eliminating them. Today, we strongly urge you to cancel the West Point public works OMB Circular A-76 privatization review.

Sincerely,

MAURICE HINCHEY
Member of Congress

JOHN HALL
Member of Congress

CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

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DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 3, 2009

Mr. Christian Marrone
Acting Assistant Secretary / Legislative Affairs
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Marrone:

To carry out my Congressional duties in the area of national defense, I am seeking your assistance in receiving information regarding the stationing of U.S. troops at U.S. military installations overseas.

In view of plans for changes in troop deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan announced by President Obama, this information would be helpful to me in understanding the President's plans in the larger worldwide context.

Therefore, I would appreciate a comprehensive report from DoD listing all military bases abroad where U.S. troops are stationed, the number of troops at each installation, and the cost of maintaining each of these bases.

In view of the urgency of this request, I would appreciate a personal response as soon as possible. If the information cannot be made public, I would be willing to schedule a personal classified briefing in an appropriate venue on Capitol Hill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

CBR/em

OSD 03255-09

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1ST DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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Toll Free: 1-866-367-1614

March 17, 2009

The Honorable William Lynn
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Lynn,

I am writing to you regarding the need for an overpass on State Road (SR) 85 at Eglin Air Force Base, near the 7th Special Forces Group (SFG) cantonment area. SR 85 is the only highway connecting southern Okaloosa County with northern Okaloosa County. Today's daily commute traffic is already at the top end of capacity. The Air Force decision for beddown of the BRAC-mandated move of the 7th SFG results in unacceptable degradation of traffic flow.

I have been advised that the Army, Air Force, SOCOM, and the 7th Special Forces Group all have identified the need for this overpass. In addition, I am told that no Service has programmed for this overpass in the Future Year's Defense Plan (FYDP). This is especially disappointing given that it will take emergency programming action if we are to have any hope of completing this BRAC related requirement by the fall of 2011.

I've written the relevant officials in the Army, Air Force and SOCOM and I hope that you are able to direct these officials to coordinate so that emergency programming action for the SR 85 overpass is generated as soon as possible. As of now, the Services cannot agree on a plan, and your involvement in this issue is necessary and would be much appreciated.

With warm personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Jeff Miller
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OSD 03325-09

CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

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DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

230 Non-Career

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to offer my highest possible recommendation of (b)(6) (b)(6) for a political appointment in your Department. She has a wealth of experience in the Department of Defense. (b)(6) is most interested in, and has a background that qualifies her highly for positions in the areas of personnel policy, small business utilization, diversity management and equal opportunity. (b)(6) combined Federal government and Political Appointee career spans more than 20 years in the Department of Defense (DoD), serving in Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Department of the Air Force (resume enclosed).

I have known (b)(6) since 1998 when she joined my Washington Congressional office as a Brookings Institution Legislative Fellow through a highly competitive program while employed in DoD, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness). At that time she served as Equal Employment Manager, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Equal Opportunity). Upon leaving my office she returned to the Department as a political appointee, serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Civilian and Military Equal Opportunity.

As you can see, (b)(6) has had a long and distinguished career. Her professional credentials and experience in the Department of Defense, specifically, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, supports and ensures that she could hit the ground running, immediately assuming important and critical duties within the Department.

(13 March 09)

OSD 03333-09

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I cannot speak highly enough of (b)(6) She has been at times advisor and coordinator of The Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program, now institutionalized in the State Department. As a result of her work currently 30 Fellows are now assigned as Foreign Service Officers to U.S. Embassies around the world, and will soon be joined by another 30 Fellows who are completing their graduate school studies, and in the pipeline for service in the diplomatic corps.

It is (b)(6) record that makes me so confident of the great job she has done for your Department and would do again, upon returning to the Department of Defense. I've personally seen her in action. Nothing would make me more proud than to see her serve again as a contributing member of your DoD team.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

Enclosure:
Resume

cc: Mr. Don Gips
Assistant to the President
& Director of Presidential Personnel

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Washington, DC 20515–6015

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(202) 225-2771

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 202(b), Public Law 601, 79th Congress (codified at 2 U.S.C. §72 a (b)), this Staff has been directed by the Committee on Appropriations to make an inquiry of the Department of Defense to determine if the Antideficiency Act was violated when it requested funds within the Army.

Please designate an appropriate point of contact to arrange for obtaining the data pertinent to this inquiry and notify my office by telephone within five business days of the receipt of this letter. If there are any questions regarding this matter, I can be contacted on (202) 225-3881.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Pomerantz

David M. Pomerantz
Director
Surveys and Investigations Staff
House Committee on Appropriations

cc - Comptroller of the Department of Defense
cc - Secretary of the Army

OSD 03334-09

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

You are invited to designate a witness or witnesses to testify before the House Armed Services Committee on Measuring Value and Efficiency: How to Assess the Performance of the Defense Acquisition System on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 7:30 AM in room 2212 Rayburn House Office Building.

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 120 copies of your prepared statement be delivered to room 2120 Rayburn House Office Building by the morning of Monday, March 30, 2009. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. This request may be satisfied by a transmittal via e-mail to Alicia Haley at alicia.haley@mail.house.gov.

I appreciate your willingness to designate a witness or witnesses to appear before the committee and look forward to your department's testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Andrew Hunter on the committee staff at (202) 225-6703 or at Andrew.Hunter@mail.house.gov.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT ANDREWS
Chairman

IS:cd

OSD 03490-09

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 26, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Since the Eisenhower Administration, it has been the policy of the government that it should not compete with its citizens. That policy is outlined in the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, which governs all public-private competitions to potentially outsource work to the private sector. Originally, the A-76 process was intended to be used as a tool to determine the most competitive and efficient source for performing "commercial" work – either in the public or private sector. However, it became almost a mandate in recent years for pushing more and more work into the private sector, even work that is closely associated with inherently governmental functions, in order to meet arbitrary competition goals.

The House Armed Services Committee has taken several steps to mitigate the undue burdens on the Department of Defense. In response to a congressional mandate, the Department of Defense Inspector General reviewed the military services' A-76 programs. In its interim report (April 22, 2008) the DOD Inspector General noted that:

- *The Army is undergoing many efforts that impact competitive sourcing planning, such as Base Realignment and closure, growing the Army, and the war.*
- *The Air Force feels "pressure in the budget to conduct" privatization studies.*

These findings were reaffirmed in the final report of December 15, 2008.

Furthermore, The Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes a one year government-wide moratorium (section 737) on beginning or announcing any A-76 studies.

Many of the Department's A-76 studies have dragged on far beyond the time limits authorized in the 2003 revised Circular A-76, as well as those imposed by statute. This creates an unfair strain on the federal employees whose jobs are being competed, as well as the contractors who have submitted bids for the work. In many cases, an individual service has requested a cancellation – either because the installation is seeking an alternative approach or because the original study was not appropriate – only to be denied by the Department.

OSD 03502-09

We are aware that the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Installations and Environment) in a letter to many members of Congress, reaffirmed the competitive sourcing policy that was set in place by the 2001 President's Management Agenda; this is the same official who advocated so strongly for competitive sourcing within the Department during the Bush Administration.

In light of the President's memo (dated March 4, 2009), as well as concerns raised by the military services, we urge you to immediately halt any pending A-76 studies as well as the initiation or announcement of any A-76 study, and to rescind the 2008 competitive sourcing policy memo. This will allow the Administration and Congress time to conduct a comprehensive review of the Department's A-76 program and to determine the best course for moving forward with a sound competitive sourcing policy.

We request a prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely,

IKE SKELTON
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee

SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
Chairman
Readiness Subcommittee

IS: cg

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Ms. Jennifer Stewart, Senior Policy Advisor to the Republican Leader, to travel with Senate Codel Kyl to Israel, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkey during the approximate period of April 4-13, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to address issues of terrorism, defense, and national security.

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 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03520-09

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Congress of the United States
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Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 19, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representative Ken Calvert and Ms. Jennifer Miller, Mr. Jeff Shockey and Mr. Tom McLemore, professional staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on official business to Stuttgart, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt, Germany and Vienna, Austria during the approximate time period of April 4-10, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to review matters relating to classified programs and counter-terrorism operations and activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial transportation.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03522-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Dr. Kay King, Director of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, to join the Committee on Foreign Affairs Codel Berman to India, Pakistan, Cyprus, and Italy during the approximate period of April 13-21, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to engage dialogue with Pakistani and Indian officials regarding counter-terrorism, foreign assistance, and nuclear cooperation.

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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03551-09

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House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Christopher White and Linda Pagelsen, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 31 – April 1, 2009, to Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. The purpose of this trip is to conduct intelligence oversight on classified programs.

Per diem expenses of not to exceed $109 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via automobile.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03553-09

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2009

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

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Gates and Secretary Shinseki:

The establishment of a Vision Center of Excellence (VCE) for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of military eye injuries was authorized by the FY2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) (PL100-181 Section 1623). This legislation established the VCE as a joint Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program to improve the care of American military personnel and veterans affected by combat eye trauma and to aid those suffering from vision loss and vision anomalies.

Despite the legislative mandate, bureaucratic problems have hindered any significant progress toward the establishment of the VCE. A Director for the VCE, Colonel Donald Gagliano, and a VA Deputy Director of VCE, Dr. Claude Cowan, were belatedly appointed as recently as November 2008. Currently, these two officials are working with virtually no office space, few resources, limited staffing, no organizational charter, and inadequate funding.

According to the initial DoD/VA estimates, approximately $5 million is needed to establish the VCE. According to March 17, 2009 testimony to the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, only $3 million had been identified by DoD for the VCE in FY2009. To date, only $7,000 has been spent on the VCE by DoD since November 2008.

There is an ever increasing prevalence of combat eye trauma and TBI visual dysfunction among service members, as well as increasing numbers of battle wounded who have penetrating direct eye trauma and/or TBI-related visual complications. Review of DoD medical diagnostic reports demonstrates that approximately 4,970 Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom servicemembers were diagnosed with direct eye injuries between September 2001 and October 2008. Data from the Defense

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OSD 03557-09

Veterans Brain Injury Center estimates that 70% of all TBI wounded servicemembers screened at Walter Reed Army Medical Center reported visual complaints.

The prompt implementation of the VCE would allow our visually impaired wounded warriors to receive coordinated specialized treatment and rehabilitation specifically tailored to traumatic injury to the eye and visual nervous system. We therefore respectfully request that both DoD and VA address this as a priority issue as soon as possible.

This requires a concentrated effort by the DoD and VA to get the VCE on track. Most immediately, the DoD and VA must provide the $5 million in funding for the remainder of FY2009. Furthermore, the DoD and VA must oversee approval of the organizational structure and charter for the VCE and provide the appropriate staffing, joint office space, and resources to begin full implementation of VCE operations.

The establishment of the VCE is an unparalleled opportunity to dramatically improve eye care services for our nation's servicemembers and veterans. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you in the future in support of our wounded servicemembers and veterans.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

John Boozman
Member of Congress

Harry Mitchell
Member of Congress

Harry Teague
Member of Congress

Zack Space
Member of Congress

Tim Walz
Member of Congress

Glenn Nye
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representative Steve Israel, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of April 6, 2009 to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The purpose of this trip is to meet with Fort Bragg leadership to discuss wounded warrior care, suicide prevention, and mental health care.

Per diem expenses of not to exceed $109.00 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of appropriations estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial and/or military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

Dave Obey
Chairman

OSD 03566-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated March 11, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Ed Pastor and other Members of the Committee on Appropriations to travel to Brazil on April 3-10, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize spouses to accompany Members for reasons of protocol at no additional expense to the government.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03568-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 26, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I make reference to my letter dated March 5, 2009, authorizing a delegation led by the Honorable Nita Lowey, to travel to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Ireland during the approximate time period of April 13-19th, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize the Honorable Steven Rothman, a Member of the Committee, as well as Nisha Desai-Biswal, Anne Marie Chotvacs, Kirstin Brost, and Alex Gillen, staff on the Committee, to travel with the delegation.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making necessary arrangements for this travel. The travel may be conducted via commercial and military aircraft.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03572-09

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March 31, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE – 703-695-1219
The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Mazie K. Hirono to travel on a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) issued by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, led by Congressman Russ Carnahan to Egypt, Ethiopia, Cyprus and Lebanon on April 2-11, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to participate in the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) 120th session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The IPU's work focusing on human rights including ILO labor rights for organizing and collective bargaining and women's issues including non-discrimination in employment and equal work. And the IPU mobilizes parliamentary action on a wide range of global issues, including HIV/AIDS, migration, and development cooperation.

It is requested that the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation is authorized pursuant to 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. The CODEL requests the U.S. Air Force liaison support to this Delegation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact David Beraka, Foreign Affairs Committee, at 202-226-3328. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE MILLER
Chairman

GM:ejh

OSD 03575-09

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-4000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We strongly support moving forward with a pending rule addressing TRICARE reimbursement rates to hospitals serving military servicemen and women in rural areas, and we encourage the Department of Defense to once again take up consideration of this matter as soon as possible.

We have a strong interest in maintaining access to the highest quality health care for active military personnel, veterans, and their dependants. This is especially important for those who require access to care in rural areas. While TRICARE payment policies generally follow Medicare payment formulas, TRICARE reimbursements to Medicare Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) have been historically lower than those of Medicare and Medicaid, in some cases nearly 20 percent lower. Critical Access Hospitals serve rural areas across the country, and this payment disparity is hindering their ability to continue providing care to their patients.

A 2008 draft rule promulgated by the Department of Defense would increase TRICARE reimbursements to CAHs so that they are on par with current Medicare reimbursement rates. This change would bring relief to all Critical Access Hospitals, and particularly those that serve a large number of military personnel, veterans and their dependents. Maintaining access to care in rural areas is of critical importance at a time when our servicemembers are returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. We also note, however, that the rule omits several critical aspects of Medicare's reimbursement policy for CAHs. We urge the Department of Defense to adopt Medicare's exact methodology for determining CAH reimbursement for inpatient and outpatient care, including an exemption from the "lesser of costs or charges" principle and mechanisms to provide interim payments and cost settlement.

The Critical Access Hospitals Proposed Rule on Reimbursement was published in the Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 87) on May 5, 2008, and the public comment period closed on June 4, 2008. It is our understanding that the Department of Defense finalized the rule and sent it to Office of Management and Budget in October, but that no further action has been taken. In a memorandum issued by White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel on January 20, 2009, the heads of Executive departments and agencies were instructed that:

> "no proposed or final regulation should be sent to the Office of the Federal Register (the "OFR") for publication unless and until it has been reviewed and approved by a department

OSD 03602-09

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or agency head appointed or designated by the President after noon on January 20, 2009, or in the case of the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Defense."

We recognize that the new Administration has an interest in reviewing those proposed regulations currently under consideration. However, we believe publishing the final Critical Access Hospitals Rule on Reimbursement, with the critical modifications described above, is important to ensuring the health of rural Americans. We ask the Department of Defense to act expeditiously to move this rule forward.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Charlie Wilson
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

Rich Boucher
Member of Congress

Jerry Costello
Member of Congress

Wally Herger
Member of Congress

John Salazar
Member of Congress

Marion Berry
Member of Congress

Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

Zack Space
Member of Congress

Jerry Moran
Member of Congress

Walt Minnick
Member of Congress

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress

Norm Dicks
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable S. Ward Casscells, M.D., Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs

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

March 23, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are greatly concerned by reports that the Airborne Laser (ABL) program is facing severe budget cuts or even termination in the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget proposal. The ABL is America's premier directed energy effort and represents not only a tremendous potential for our nation's warfighters, but also for maintaining America's technological edge. It is critical to the future of our national security capabilities. For these reasons, we urgently request the ABL remain a robustly funded program.

According to the Missile Defense Agency, the ABL provides a unique capability *"to detect, track, target, and destroy ballistic missiles shortly after launch during the boost-phase. Its revolutionary use of directed energy makes it unique among the United States' airborne weapon systems, with a potential to attack multiple targets at the speed of light with a range of hundreds of kilometers."*

Our military warfighters agree that the ABL is essential for addressing many of the challenges facing our nation. General B.B. Bell, the former Commander of the United States Forces Korea, wrote in 2007, *"...from a warfighter's perspective, the ABL will be an important ingredient in our much needed and required layered missile defense capability for the Korean Peninsula."* This is a legitimate capability our nation needs.

As you know, the Airborne Laser began during the Clinton administration in the face of an increasing ballistic missile threat. Since that time, the proliferation of ballistic missiles has only grown. Today, outside of Russia, China and our Western allies, there are 3,000 ballistic missiles around the world. That number is continuing to grow every year. As threats proliferate around the globe, the relevance and importance of the ABL as the nation's only fully designed boost-phase missile defense system will continue to increase.

OSD 03624-09

The ABL is performing well and is scheduled to shoot down a boosting ballistic missile by the end of the year. Should the ABL be severely under-funded or canceled, the promise of speed-of-light and extreme precision in the hands of the warfighter will disappear, as will the fragile industrial base that supports it. In short, we will have wasted the resources that have been well invested since the Clinton administration.

Again, we respectfully request your support for the Airborne Laser program.

Sincerely,

Norm Dicks
Member of Congress

Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress

Todd Akin
Member of Congress

Buck McKeon
Member of Congress

Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 31, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

As you are aware, recent news reports suggest that North Korea is imminently close to launching a long-range Taepodong ballistic missile that could reach the United States. The commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific recently testified before our committee, "We're ready to defend U.S. territory, our allies and our national interests if the president so directs." However, it remains unclear whether the administration has made any decision, based upon comments made by your Secretary of Defense this weekend where he said the administration is, "not prepared to do anything about it." We respectfully encourage you to authorize our military commanders to employ our nation's missile defense system, should the United States or our allies be put at risk.

These reports suggest, and senior officials within your administration have confirmed, that North Korea is loading a Taepodong rocket on its east coast launch pad. However, there is a great deal of uncertainty as to the purpose of this launch. Last week, the Director of National Intelligence said, "they're trying to use the rationale of a legitimate space launch for a missile, which is in its foundation a military missile." Adding to this uncertainty, three of our nation's top military commanders recently testified before our colleagues in the Senate that they couldn't be sure whether North Korea plans to launch a communications satellite or test an offensive missile.

The uncertainty surrounding this imminent launch is deeply disturbing considering the Taepodong missile has the potential range to strike Okinawa, Guam, Alaska, and Hawaii. Equally disturbing are reports that North Korea's progress in ballistic missile technology is benefiting Iran, as demonstrated in Tehran's recent satellite launch last month. The only certain issue is that North Korea continues to engage in missile proliferation. Furthermore, any such launch would explicitly violate United Nations sanctions and pose a provocative and destabilizing threat to the region and the American people.

While we support diplomatic efforts by your administration to prevent such a launch from occurring, we also believe prudent steps can be taken to make use of our missile defense capabilities should the United States or our allies be put at risk. Our nation's top military generals recently testified before Congress that they believe our missile defense system is "effective" and has a "high probability" of intercepting an incoming missile if they were commanded to do so.

OSD 03626-09

At present, our global, integrated missile defense system consists of satellites, radar tracking sensors, ground-based interceptors in Alaska and California, Aegis missile defense ships, and Patriot batteries. We have worked closely with our Japanese and South Korean allies to leverage our respective missile defense capabilities for the joint protection of our countries and deployed forces. The military commander responsible for the defense of our homeland recently said, "If we felt the North Koreans were going to shoot a ballistic missile at us today, I am comfortable that we would have an effective system that would meet that need." The military commander responsible for defending our forward-deployed forces and allies in the Pacific said we have an "effective ballistic missile-defense system."

Recent reports suggest that Japan has authorized its military to shoot down any debris from the North Korean rocket that might fall toward its territory. Given the confidence our military commanders have expressed in our missile defense system, we respectfully encourage you to make a similar decision. We also ask for your response as to what plans and preparatory measures your administration is taking should the North Korean rocket endanger the United States or our allies.

Mr. President, we appreciate your attention to this serious matter. Our nation is faced with a challenging set of circumstances and we believe that by leveraging all tools of national power we can increase the safety and security of the American people and our allies.

Sincerely,

John M. McHugh
Ranking Member

Michael Turner
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates ✓
Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
Admiral Michael Mullen

Bill Shuster

Doug Lamborn

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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

April 1, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 20, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize John Blazey, a staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to participate in this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03675-09

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 20, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Barbara Lee and other Members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize the use of a commercial chartered plane between Miami, FL and Cuba, if military aircraft is unavailable.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03677-09

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
14TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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April 1, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing to request an update on the current status of the implementation of the Defense Incident-Based Reporting System (DIBRS). Specifically, I am interested in knowing whether the Department of Navy Criminal Justice Information System (DONCJIS) is finally operational and reporting to DIBRS.

I am sure you will agree that the collection of statistics and data is crucial to learning how many sexual assaults and other crimes are occurring in the United States military. Despite the clear need for a well-functioning system for reporting such crimes, implementation of DIBRS is long overdue. As you know, Congress enacted the Uniform Federal Crime Reporting Act (P.L. 100-690) in 1988, which requires federal agencies and departments, including DoD, to report crime data to the Justice Department. The law also created the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). In 1996, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness issued Directive 7730.47, concerning the creation of DIBRS. However, twenty one years have passed since the passage of the Uniform Federal Crime Reporting Act and DIBRS has yet to be completed.

This issue has been a concern of mine for some time, and I am disappointed by the ongoing delay of such an important system. At a meeting on November 19, 2004, with then Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Program Integration Jeanne Fites and John Awtrey, Director of OUSD Law Enforcement Policy and Support, I was told that all the services would be integrated into DIBRS by mid-2005. On August 9, 2005, I received a letter from Under Secretary Fites informing me that because the Navy was transitioning to a new Department of Navy Criminal Justice Information System (DONCJIS), DIBRS would not be fully operational until Fall 2006. That target was then pushed back to June and then October 2007. The last information I received stated that a new date had been set for December 1, 2008, but that date has passed as well.

To date, the transition to DONCJIS by the Navy has seemed to be the main problem slowing the full operation of DIBRS. As the Department of the Navy's budget estimate for FY09 includes requests for funding for a contractor to support, develop, test, train, deploy, and

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implement the system, it seems that these tasks are still in the process of being completed. Therefore, I would like to know when the Navy is now expected to be fully reporting to DIBRS, and what you will do to ensure that the Navy meets this new deadline.

This issue assumes greater urgency in light of the latest statistics on sexual assault from the DoD's annual report for FY08. The analysis documented 2,923 reports of sexual assault in FY08, representing roughly an 8% increase from the previous year. It is extremely vital that the DoD, policymakers, servicemen and women, and all stakeholders know the true story about crime in the military. Only when there is an accurate accounting of the crimes that may be occurring in the U.S. military can the DoD hope to institute effective policies for preventing such increases in the future. I fear that additional delays will hamper the DoD's ability to assemble an accurate accounting of criminal activities, and may in fact prevent the full implementation of DIBRS indefinitely. Such an outcome would be unacceptable to me and many of my colleagues who have long been concerned about the safety of all servicemen and women. I look forward to hearing about your efforts to ensure the completion of DIBRS.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Maloney

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

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ROB NABORS

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Linda Pagelsen, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of April 6 – 16, 2009, to Japan and South Korea. The purpose of this trip is to tour facilities and receive briefings on U.S. Forces Korea, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and intelligence activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 03721-09

Congressional Hispanic Caucus

United States Congress

Washington, DC 20515

CHAIRWOMAN
NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ
12TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

March 31, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Congratulations upon being selected by President Obama to continue to serve as our nation's Secretary of Defense. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) applauds your work thus far in leading the Department of Defense. The CHC is identifying individuals who we feel are outstanding candidates for positions in the Administration. In an effort to help bring the diversity to the Executive Branch that President Obama has sought, we are forwarding you the name of one of those candidates.

Today, we write to inform you that the CHC has endorsed Pedro Rustan Jr. to serve as the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). He currently serves as the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office's Ground Enterprise Directorate. Prior to that he was the Director of the Advanced Systems and Technology Director there. He has a strong history as a consultant to NASA, Institute of Defense Analysis, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and many other corporations. Furthermore, he has over 15 years of service to our nation's military, in various capacities, including Research Scientist for the Air Force and Program Manager for the Defense Nuclear Agency. For these reasons, and his desire to serve the Obama Administration, we endorse Pedro Rustan Jr. for this role that is vital to our nation's advancement.

Again, we are eager to work with you to promote our shared goals of diversity. If there is any way we can be of assistance during this critical time, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Nydia M. Velázquez
Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Charles A. Gonzalez
Chair
CHC Nominations Ad Hoc Task Force

CC: Don Gips, Director of White House Personnel
Michael Camuñez, Special Assistant to the President, Presidential Personnel

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JO ANN EMERSON
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
8TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

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Washington, DC 20515–2508

April 2, 2009

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Secretary Robert Gates
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates:

A matter of great importance has come to my attention. Rare earth minerals and materials play an essential role in highly sophisticated electronic devices used for the defense of our nation. The National Minerals Advisory Board has specifically identified rare earth elements and alloys as "strategic and critical" to the defense of our country.

At the present time, the United States imports 100% of rare earth minerals and alloys; the primary source of rare earth minerals being China. Even if the United States begins mining these minerals, there are no domestic refining facilities to create the alloys used for these sophisticated electronic devices. If the flow of these minerals and alloys were to be interrupted, the nation would face extreme challenges in the development and creation of electronic devices which could be detrimental to the nation's defense.

With the United States dependent upon other nations for these rare earth minerals and alloys, are there any plans within the Department of Defense to develop a strategy to address this disparity? Are you contemplating a comprehensive strategy that would involve the domestic mining, refining, and a stockpile of these elements? If there is not a strategy to address the disparity, what is the present plan of action if the supply of rare earth minerals and alloys is interrupted?

Thank you for examining this matter and I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,

JO ANN EMERSON
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Committee on Appropriations

Washington, DC 20515-6015

March 30, 2009

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BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable James P. Moran, Member of the Committee, to travel during the approximate time period of April 13-April 21, 2009, to Cyprus, India, Pakistan, and Italy. He will be joining the CODEL led by the Honorable Howard Berman. The delegation will meet with government leaders in Cyprus, India, and Pakistan. The purpose of the trip is to discuss issues affecting global commerce, the Middle East, and military security issues.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03765-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

Authorization is hereby given to the Honorable Harold Rogers, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel with a Congressional Delegation led by Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This trip is during the approximate time period of April 3 – April 13, 2009, to Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Italy. The purpose of this trip is to review transportation, defense, and homeland security issues with government officials.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the Member for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 03766-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Ben Chandler, a member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of April 2-April 11, 2009, to Egypt, Ethiopia, Cyprus, Lebanon, and Ireland. He will be joining the CODEL led by The Honorable Russ Carnahan. The purpose of this trip is to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Union's 120th meeting being held in Addis Ababa, to assess USAID programs, and to meet with government officials from each country.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03767-09

ERIC J.J. MASSA
29TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3229

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FAX: 607-654-7568

317 NORTH UNION STREET
OLEAN, NY 14760
PHONE: 716-372-2080
FAX: 716-372-2869

11 March 2009

The Honorable William J Lynn
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Secretary Lynn,

We write to express our concern surrounding the Army's impending Single Channel Ground-to-Air Radio systems (SINCGARS) contract. The Army plans to award a total of $636M of FY07-FY09 funds on this contract. It is our understanding that this technology is legacy, will not provide the communications capability needed by the Army in the coming years, and could be replaced by newer and more robust radios. The Army continues to move forward with the Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) program, which will ensure that FCS-equipped, combat, and support units are able to exchange information and network on the battlefield. It is essential that all radios and communication devices are multi-band and JTRS compliant to ensure a seamless transition into this program. It is our feeling that the Army has not only not taken the proper action to ensure procurement of state-of-the art, JTRS compliant radios, but that the further purchase of SINCGARS radios will lessen the planned need for JTRS radios, increasing their unit cost. Congress has been expressing its concerns over this program and procurement for years. Specifically, in FY07 the defense appropriations committee requested the Secretary of the Army provide a report to the congressional defense committees that included an evaluation of the SINCGARS capable commercial off the shelf tactical radios that can meet operational needs. The Secretary of the Army agreed to hold $175M of program funds until the Army was able to conduct a review of the SINCGARS operational requirements document (ORD). This report was never delivered to congress. In the FY2009 Defense Appropriations Bill the entire SINCGARS request was fenced off pending a certification from Secretary of Defense that any such procurement of SINCGARS radios will utilize full and open competition that will provide best value for Army radio requirements including consideration of multi-band, JTRS capable solutions. This certification has not been received by the defense committees.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) that was released by the Army in December of 2008 encourages industry to offer solutions that include JTRS functional capabilities, but did not require them. The ORD, which was originally drafted in 1974, was not, in our opinion, revised or updated appropriately for this solicitation. It doesn't make sense to use a ten year old requirement document for such an important and evolving program, especially considering its connection to the multi-billion dollar JTRS program.

The SINCGARS procurement is just one example of the increasing need for acquisition reform. If the ORD had been revised or re-written it could have created the opportunity for additional contractor bids and more product functionality. The Army could have moved forward with a technology that exists today and would be compliant with future Army programs. We are spending millions of dollars on a product that we know we will have to replace in the near future despite knowledge that a better solution could be engineered to the Army's exact needs. A CBO report dated 11 Feb 2009 states that if the Army decides to replace SINCGARS radios with the more flexible and capable JTRS ground mobile radio

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OSD 03796-09

(GMR) it would increase its current planned purchase by six fold. The Army's current $15B estimate for buying GMR would increase accordingly. If the Army were to re-allocate the $636M set aside for SINCGARS toward a JTRS-compliant radio today, they could save the program future funds. In this instance, the acquisition process is blatantly wasting taxpayer's money while simultaneously outfitting our military with sub-standard equipment. We urge you to look at the long term negative implications of the acquisition process on the capability of our Armed Services. We strongly encourage you, as you carefully review future plans for this program, to ensure that future procurements of radios and communications devices will use an updated set of requirements, tailored for the needs of our future force.

Very Respectfully,

Eric J.J. Massa
Member of Congress

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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 2, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to ask that you provide a witness to testify before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on the overall state of the Department of Defense's acquisition workforce and the Department's implementation of acquisition workforce-related provisions in the annual defense authorization legislation for the past four years, including, in particular, the implementation of the Acquisition Workforce Development Fund, the use of any special hiring authorities, and Section 834 of the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act. This hearing will take place on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at 1:00 PM in room 2212 Rayburn House Office Building. For your information, I am also requesting witnesses from the Services and the Government Accountability Office.

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 50 copies of your prepared statement be delivered to room 2120 Rayburn House Office Building by the morning of Friday, April 24. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. These materials may be transmitted via e-mail to Suzanne.McKenna@mail.house.gov or provided on disk.

I appreciate your willingness to assist the subcommittee and look forward to the Department's testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Suzanne McKenna on the committee staff at (202) 225-5050.

Sincerely,

Vic Snyder
Chairman

VFS:ak

OSD 03798-09

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JANICE MAYS,
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

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JON TRAUB,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Kendrick Meek (D-FL) to participate on the CODEL being led by Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY), to Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This travel will take place during the time period of Friday, April 17 through Tuesday, April 24; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The purpose of this fact-finding trip is to attend the Fifth Summit of the Americas and meet with government and non-government officials regarding our bilateral and plurilateral trade agreements with nations in the region, trade preferences and more generally, how best to shape trade to promote economic development, stability and prosperity.

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

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 03812-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 30, 2009

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 26, 2009 regarding Codel Hoyer. Please note that the Honorable Richard Neal is no longer traveling. The Honorable Aaron Schock (R-IL) is authorized to travel instead.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03813-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 31, 2009

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 13, 2009, regarding Codel Berkley to the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Estonia during the approximate period of April 13-20, 2009. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Shelley Berkley (D-NV) and Dr. Larry Lehrner
The Honorable John R. Carter (R-TX) and Mrs. Erika Carter
The Honorable Steve Cohen (D-TN)
The Honorable Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and Mr. Tom Foxx
The Honorable Phil Gingrey (R-GA) and Mrs. Billie Gingrey
The Honorable Bart Gordon (D-TN)
The Honorable Paul E. Kanjorski (D-PA) and Mrs. Nancy Kanjorski
The Honorable Ron Klein (D-FL) and Mrs. Dori Klein
The Honorable Cliff Stearns (R-FL)
The Honorable Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)

Ms. Amanda Sloat, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. Riley Moore, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Sarah Preisser, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. Richard Urey, Chief of Staff to Representative Berkley

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03882-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 26, 2009

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 22, 2009 regarding Codel Hoyer. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Majority Leader
The Honorable Roy Blunt (R-MO)
The Honorable Joseph Crowley (D-NY) and Mrs. Kasey Crowley
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and Mr. Edward Allard
The Honorable Gregory Meeks (D- NY)
The Honorable Elijah Cummings (D-MD) and Dr. Maya Rockeymoore
The Honorable Adrian Smith (R-NE)
The Honorable Gerry Connolly (D-VA)
The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Mr. Steve Schultz
The Honorable Richard Neal (D-MA)
The Honorable Norman Dicks (D-WA) and Mrs. Suzanne "Suzie" Dicks

Ms. Mariah Sixkiller, Office of the Majority Leader
Mr. Brian Diffell, Office of the Republican Leader
Ms. Katie Grant, Office of the Majority Leader

The delegation will be accompanied by:

(b)(6) USN
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) DSS Agent

OSD 03883-09

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
March 31, 2009

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 5, 2009, regarding Codel Tanner to Germany, France, Lithuania, Ukraine, Georgia, and Belgium during the approximate period of April 2-9, 2009.

Please note that the Lithuanian Minister of Defense, Rasa Jukneviciene, has been invited to travel with the delegation from Strasbourg to Vilnius on Saturday, April 4, 2009.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03884-09

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April 8, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE – 703-695-1219
The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Judy Biggert to travel on a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) led by Congresswoman Susan Davis to Georgia, Afghanistan, and the Czech Republic on May 7-12, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to observe and gain an on-the-ground perspective of President Obama's new strategy in Afghanistan. And while in country, the delegation will meet with a host of U.S. and Afghanistan nationals, including several non-profit organizations that have been establishing and improving schools and educational programs.

It is requested that the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation is authorized pursuant to 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. The CODEL requests the U.S. Marines give support to this Delegation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jackie Abba at 202-225-3515. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George Miller

GEORGE MILLER
Chairman

GM:ejh

OSD 03953-09

ROBERT E. ANDREWS
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM AND UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3001

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WEBSITE:
www.house.gov/andrews

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As a friend of Taiwanese Americans in my New Jersey district, and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I write to you today about an issue of importance to me and ask that you clarify the United States and our position vis-a-vis our high-level military contacts with Taiwan.

Taiwan today is a bastion of democracy in Asia. Its vibrant democracy of 23 million produces an annual GDP of over $320 billion, making it the world's 18th largest economy. Taiwan is the 8th largest trading partner of the United States, and a strong ally, sharing with the United States the ideals of freedom, democracy, and self-determination.

While Taiwan has made a remarkable peaceful transition to democracy over the past decades, I have noticed a discrepancy with the international accolades Taiwan has received (and receives) for these democratic and economic achievements - especially from the United States.

One of the fields we can improve in is in our high-level military contacts with Taiwan. I believe that we place unnecessary restrictions on our military-to-military ties with Taiwan. Indeed, it strikes me as counterproductive that we cling to these self-imposed restrictions on our exchanges with Taiwan of U.S. generals, admirals, and senior defense officials to Taiwan.

In order to develop an appreciation for Taiwan's specific military needs and, in turn, to spell those needs out to American policymakers, U.S. generals and flag officers have to be able to visit Taiwan and see its military in action. Although visits by expert teams of U.S. captains and colonels to Taiwan are helpful, these lower-ranking officers lack the authority and the "joint" command experience of general officers necessary to have an effective exchange with Taiwan's senior military leaders. And anyone familiar with the ways of Washington knows that having a well-informed general or admiral make a case for a new initiative is vital if it is to be given a respectful hearing by senior military and civilian decision-makers.

Similarly, it is difficult for Taipei and Washington to discuss contingency responses to

OSD 03963-09

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possible Chinese aggression when U.S. generals and flag officers are not able to meet regularly with their Taiwanese counterparts.

I look forward to receiving from you a clarification on the status, guidelines, and rules that regulate our interaction with Taiwan and our high-level military contacts with Taiwan.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress

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House of Representatives

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http://www.house.gov/judiciary

April 8, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to request authorization for Representative Daniel Lungren, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, to lead a delegation of Members to Guantamino Bay, Cuba. Mr Lungren will be accompanied by Representative Tom Rooney, and Committee Counsels Sam Sokol and Sean McLaughlin. The date of travel for this delegation is Friday, May 1, 2009.

It will be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation and escort, to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for payment of actual and necessary expense and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. § 1108.

If you have any questions concerning this travel, please contact Teresa Vest with my Committee staff at 202-225-3951. Your assistance with this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman

OSD 03988-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Ms. Patrice Willoughby, Staff Director of the Congressional Black Caucus, to accompany Codel Lee/Kilpatrick (authorized by the House Appropriations Committee) to Cuba during the approximate period of April 3-8, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to evaluate current policies regarding trade and commerce with Cuba, and to examine and promote proposals to initiate cultural, academic, and health exchanges with the U.S.

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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04003-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3001

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April 7, 2009

William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
United States of America
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1010

Dear Mr. William J. Lynn III,

I would like to request a meeting with (b)(6) CIH, CSP, (b)(6) (b)(6) and other key individuals to discuss the implementation of a program for BreathScan alcohol detection and safety devices. I feel that the implementation and progression of this program would make all of our military personnel safer. I would also like to note how this program aligns with one of the key FY 2010 budget recommendations, "institutionalizing and properly funding the critical and permanent nature of the wounded", that Secretary Gates will be making to President Obama. It is my understanding that various Department of Defense entities have already expressed a strong desire to obtain a significant number of the BreathScan Alcohol and Safety devices. I would like to learn more about the demand for this program as well as obtain recommendations on what can be done to expedite the progress and progression of this program.

BreathScan devices have been used successfully in the past to help prevent drunk driving and alcohol-related incidents. These devices have been successfully used by the military for the past seven years and I strongly believe that they can be used as a means to help soldiers control their alcohol intake and help prevent many of the problems associated with alcohol abuse.

An article in the Journal of the American Medical Association, dated August 13, 2008, highlighted the problems of binge drinking and other types of alcohol abuse experienced by returning combat veterans, especially in Reserve Component units. Extensive documentation in the form of articles and press releases is available to illustrate the success of the BreathScan program in preventing these problems from occurring throughout the military. In fact, it is my understanding that the Army Substance Abuse Program now views BreathScan as part of an extensive and holistic program that

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OSD 04111-09

they wish to deploy. It is also my understanding that Reserve Component units are also extremely interested in this program.

Therefore, I would like to schedule a meeting with the relevant Department of Defense personal that need to be involved to move this request forward. Please contact my scheduler, Kristin Ianco at 856-546-5100 or Kristin.Ianco@mail.house.gov for scheduling information or contact my military legislative assistant, Nathaniel Bell 202-225-6501, Nathaniel.Bell@mail.house.gov for substantive information or background pertaining to this request.

Respectfully,

Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress

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REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

April 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I authorize Congressman John J. Hall to travel on official government business to Iraq and Afghanistan during the period of April 4-11, 2009.

Mr. Hall will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, member of the House Committee on Armed Services. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to gauge troop morale, listen to their concerns, and formulate ideas and remedies to the problems they are facing once they leave military service.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in Iraq and Afghanistan. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Bernie Dotson of the Committee staff at 202-226-3653.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 04180-09

BILL SHUSTER
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

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April 7, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Obama,

Following the testimony of General Duncan J. McNabb, USAF, Commander of the United States Transportation Command before the Senate Armed Services Committee on March 17, 2009, I urge you to carefully consider the strategic use of Azerbaijan, and specifically the airfield at Baku, as a staging point for United States distribution, cargo handling, and refueling services.

As the Co-Chairman of the Azerbaijan Caucus, my colleagues and I have spent a great deal of time building ties with Azerbaijan, and I believe Azerbaijan offers a safe, secure and strategically valuable alternative to support our movements into Afghanistan. Azerbaijan has been a coalition partner in our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, has supported our requests for assistance, and has been a strong partner in the war on terrorism.

From an ease of operations standpoint, Azerbaijan offers a large state-of-the-art handling facility in Baku with significant available capacity and an air route across the Caspian Sea and Turkmenistan's airspace directly into Afghanistan. Utilizing this corridor avoids Iranian airspace all together and offers a very short flight time into Afghanistan.

Currently, I understand problems have emerged shipping cargo through Dubai and throughout other hubs in the region. With an influx of cargo and personnel needed to support efforts in Afghanistan, I also understand that Azerbaijan may offer better flight times, the Baku airfield may offer greater command and control, is less congested allowing cargo to get into Theatre more quickly, offers competitive pricing, and has a domestic commercial fleet of aircraft to supplement our efforts.

I urge you to work with the Department of Defense and the State Department to fully examine the benefits operations in Azerbaijan would have as we increase our focus on Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

Bill Shuster

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
Secretary of Defense Robert Gates
General Duncan McNabb, USAF, United States Transportation Command

OSD 04292-09

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write regarding the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report addressing the listing and oversight of Superfund sites at DOD facilities, Superfund: Greater EPA Enforcement and Reporting are Needed to Enhance Cleanup at DOD Sites (GAO-09-278), urging you to rapidly take all steps necessary to remediate contaminated DOD sites.

The GAO report reached several disturbing conclusions:

- While the number of DOD sites considered for placement into the Superfund program has declined over the past decade, DOD sites still account for 9 percent of all Superfund sites.
- Despite years of negotiations, DOD and EPA have not finalized Interagency Agreements setting out the terms for clean-up of 11 of the 140 DOD Superfund sites, despite the statutory requirement to do so, reportedly because DOD disagreed with the terms contained in the Agreement documents and simply refused to sign the documents. These sites include (1) Air Force Plant 44 (Tucson, AZ) (2) Andrews Air Force Base (MD) (3) Brandywine Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (MD) (4) Fort Meade (MD) (5) Hanscom Field (Bedford, MA) (6) Langley Air Force Base (VA) (7) McGuire Air Force Base (Trenton, NJ) (8) Naval Air Station Whiting Field (Milton, FL) (9) Naval Computer Telecommunication Area Administrative Master Station (Wahiawa, HI) (10) Redstone Arsenal (Huntsville, AL) and (11) Tyndall Air Force Base (Panama City, FL).
- Despite the requirement for Interagency Agreements to be signed at all federal Superfund sites, the Superfund statute (Section 120 of CERCLA) contains no enforcement mechanism that could be used if a federal agency refuses to do so. Although EPA may initiate administrative enforcement actions under other laws (such as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act) to compel DOD to clean up contaminated sites, EPA chose not to pursue enforcement actions until 2007, more than 10 years after these sites were first placed into the Superfund Program. Currently, there are EPA Administrative orders in place at 4 sites: Fort Meade (MD), McGuire Air Force Base (Trenton, NJ), Tyndall Air Force Base (Panama City, FL), and Air Force Plant 44 (Tucson, AZ).

We believe that the Department should immediately enter into the appropriate Interagency Agreements and expedite the cleanup of these sites. We request that you provide us with a detailed description of your plans to do so, including:

OSD 04353-09

- Specific timeframes for when Interagency Agreements will be signed at each of the DOD Superfund sites currently lacking them, and the status of any negotiations regarding their text, including who is participating in these negotiations.
- Milestones agreed to by EPA and DOD that are expected for inclusion in Site Management Plans for the cleanup of each of these sites;
- Any outstanding issues that may impact these schedules and milestones.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter. Please provide your response no later than close of business on Friday May 1, 2009. If you have any questions or concerns, please have your staff contact Michal Freedhoff (Rep. Markey, 52836), or Derrick Ramos (Rep. Green, 51688).

Sincerely,

Rep. Edward J. Markey

Rep. Gene Green

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

April 15, 2009

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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter to you dated March 20, 2009, concerning whether the Army violated the Anti-deficiency Act when funds were transferred from the Defense Working Capital Fund, Army to Military Personnel, Army. This investigation includes a review of all controls Army employs to assure development of information needed to provide accurate and timely adjustments to payroll, bonuses, special and incentive pays, permanent change of station, and other entitlements. This inquiry would benefit from viewing similar controls and underlying systems used by the Navy and Air Force for pay management.

It is requested that the Air Force and the Navy designate an appropriate point of contact to arrange for obtaining the data pertinent to this inquiry and notify my office by telephone within five business days of the receipt of this letter. If there are any questions regarding this matter, I can be contacted on (202) 225-3881.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Pomerantz

David M. Pomerantz
Director
Surveys and Investigations Staff
House Committee on Appropriations

1 – Secretary of the Air Force
1 – Secretary of the Navy

OSD 04359-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 7, 2009

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 30, 2009 regarding Codel Hoyer. Please note that H.E. Maria Carolina Barco Isakson, Ambassador to the United States from Colombia, and Ms. Sylvia Constain Rengifo, Assistant to the Ambassador, are invited to travel with the delegation Cartegena to Medillin, Colombia.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04367-09

JEFF FLAKE
6TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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April 15, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Pursuant to a March 31 meeting with officials from the Department of Defense, I am writing to formally request information regarding specific earmarks outlined in the conference report language of the FY 2008 Defense Appropriations bill.

At the meeting with Defense Department officials, I was informed that all funding for projects managed by the Department is awarded in a manner consistent with the federal regulations for competitive bidding – including all projects earmarked by Members of Congress. As such, please provide relevant information on the competitive bidding process for each of the projects listed on the enclosed spreadsheet, including any relevant Justification and Approvals (J&As). Each of these projects was a congressionally directed earmark in the FY 2008 Defense Appropriations bill (H.R. 3222; P.L. 110-116). The spreadsheet contains all of the relevant information that might be of assistance in locating the J&As.

A timeframe of when I can expect to see this information would be appreciated. In addition, to expedite the delivery, I would appreciate receiving information as it becomes available. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact my Legislative Director, Mr. Chandler Morse, or my Legislative Assistant for defense matters, Ms. Colleen Gilbert, at (202) 225-2635.

Sincerely,

JEFF FLAKE
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Blaine F. Aaron
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Budget and Appropriations Affairs

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OSD 04423-09

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As you know, the United States is currently facing a number of daunting national security challenges. With our ongoing involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as our efforts to combat terrorism, the need to recruit and retain qualified men and women for military service is greater than ever. We are writing to request that the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) be restored as a meaningful advisory body with authority to independently advise the Secretary of Defense on issues concerning military women. Doing so would be a highly effective way to quickly identify and address the obstacles to women choosing long-term careers in the armed forces, and would ensure that the U.S. military is well prepared for today's wartime realities.

DACOWITS was established in 1951 as a civilian board of individuals appointed by the Secretary of Defense for the purpose of providing advice and recommendations on matters affecting women in the armed services. For half a century, the Committee served as a vital link between the Department of Defense and the civilian community and gained a reputation for conducting valuable and highly respected analysis on integrating women into the military, making the armed services more effective overall.

Many in the security community were surprised and dismayed when the Bush administration failed to renew the Committee's charter shortly after taking office. In its place, then Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld introduced a new mandate for DACOWITS which cut members, staff, and funding, revoked the Committee's autonomy, and diluted attention to women's issues. In addition, former Secretary Rumsfeld imposed restrictions which made the Committee's military installation visits less frequent and less effective, and reduced its diversity and transparency in terms of membership selection and policies. The broader effect of these actions has been to sideline serious study of women in the military, and depriving our armed forces of an untold number of skilled and capable leaders.

Former Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Dr. David Chu publicly stated his belief that DACOWITS' work to increase the proportion of women in the

OSD 04513-09

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military had "probably reached its natural limits."[1] This statement does not mesh with the abundance of studies and reports indicating that many women in the armed forces feel they are coming up against a "brass ceiling" as they struggle to rise through the ranks and demonstrate their leadership. Under its original charter, DACOWITS worked to address women's specific needs as they entered the armed forces in increasing numbers. Some of the progressive changes made as a result of DACOWITS' work include coed bootcamps, the gender "norming" of fitness standards, programs to address sexual harassment, and family friendly work policies. These institutional changes benefit both men and women, and help the U.S. military maintain its reputation as the best in the world. Whoever is appointed as the next Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness should have an in depth understanding of the need to consider the differing needs of servicemen and women, and should appreciate the demonstrated benefits of reducing gender based discrimination in the armed forces.

We believe that DACOWITS must be re-established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act with the mission to advise the Secretary of Defense on a broad range of matters relating to women in the military. Additionally, it must be restored to its former status through an increase in its membership to at least 25, to be chosen from diverse backgrounds, and this Committee should be supported with an adequate budget to carry out the analysis and data collection which has proven so valuable in the past. We are confident in your dedication to creating an enabling and supportive environment, so that our servicemen and women can reach their full potential and contribute the best of their skills and abilities to the protection of our country. The revitalization of DACOWITS would greatly facilitate this goal. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

ERIC MASSA
Member of Congress

[1] Stone, Andrea. "Women Warriors Play an Essential Role in Military." *USA TODAY*. 11 January 2002. http://www.usatoday.com/news/sep11/2002/01/10/warriors.htm. (Accessed 31 March 2009).

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JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA
STEVE DRIEHAUS, OHIO

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
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AARON SCHOCK, ILLINOIS

April 15, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and its Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs hereby request your testimony at a joint hearing entitled, **"Afghanistan and Pakistan: Oversight of a New Interagency Strategy."** The hearing is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 29, 2009, at 10:00 AM in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building.**

Please contact Andy Wright or Steve Gale at (202) 225-2548 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Edolphus Towns
Chairman
Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform

John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

cc: Darrell Issa
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Jeff Flake
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs

OSD 04514-09

JIM GERLACH
6TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS, INSURANCE AND GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT
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(202) 225-4315
FAX: (202) 225-8440

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3806

April 3, 2009

Mr. Robert L. Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Dense for Legislative Affairs
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Wilkie:

Knowing of your interest in veterans issues, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on a letter recently sent to President Obama regarding the status of disabled veterans health care.

As you may know, President Obama recently stated he desired to institute a policy to save the federal government revenue by shifting some of the health care burden from the federal government to private insurance companies related to the care of service-connected and disabled veterans. If this policy were to be instituted, it would have a disastrous set of consequences related to health care for disabled veterans. Not only would this plan absolve the federal government of its responsibility to these veterans by potentially requiring veterans to pay for their own care, this plan would also harm the quality of that care.

In response to this plan, a number of my Republican colleagues and I sent a letter urging President Obama to remove the proposal from the Fiscal Year 2010 budget and continue to provide service-connected and disabled veterans the care they deserve. Instead of looking for ways to save money by burdening our veterans, I believe that the President should ensure the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has the resources it needs to fulfill its mandate to treat service-connected injuries and disabilities. I believe the needs of these servicemembers should take national priority over partisanship and cost reduction initiatives.

As a result of the outcry against this proposal, I am happy to let you know that President Obama has stated that he will no longer seek approval of this plan. This decision ensures that service-connected and disabled veterans will continue to receive the health care they need and deserve. Furthermore, please rest assured that I will continue to urge Congressional leadership to provide increased funding for health care services to treat service-connected injuries and disabilities.

I appreciate your interest in veterans issues and will continue to do what I can to not only protect existing benefits and programs, but also seek ways to improve them. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress

JG: DM

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BERKS COUNTY
840 NORTH PARK ROAD
WYOMISSING, PA 19610
(610) 376-7630
FAX: (610) 376-7633

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FAX: (610) 594-1419

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
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TRAPPE, PA 19426
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FAX: (610) 409-7988

OSD 04535-09

JOHN R. CARTER
31ST DISTRICT, TEXAS

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE SECRETARY

REPUBLICAN STEERING COMMITTEE

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MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
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TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515–4331

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TEMPLE, TX 76502
(254) 933–1392

April 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

The people of Central Texas proudly support the Active Duty (AD) and Active Duty Family Members (ADFM) assigned to Fort Hood, Texas. Metroplex Adventist Hospital is located within 1 mile of an entrance to Ft Hood and works very closely with Darnall Army Medical Center in the coordination and support of health care service delivery to our soldiers and their families. Metroplex has become one of the nation's largest community providers to TRICARE beneficiaries and is essential for military readiness and support.

Metroplex is in a unique position relative to its ongoing provision of health care services to the AD and ADFM of Ft. Hood in the following ways:

Ft. Hood has approximately 50,000 soldiers assigned to the post;

Metroplex derives 72% of its patient service revenue from government programs with 29% being from TRICARE specifically;

TRICARE outpatient volume at Metroplex accounts for more than 37% of its total outpatient revenue; and,

In 2008, TRICARE outpatient visits at Metroplex totaled 39,400, of which 10,300 were emergency room visits.

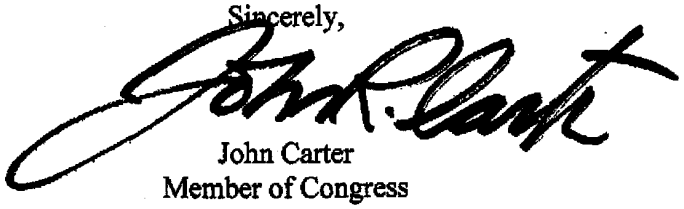
Most hospitals affected by the reimbursement cuts imposed by TRICARE's Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) will be able to recover lost revenue from other payment sources; however, Metroplex will not due to its extraordinary dependence on government payment sources for revenue.

Metroplex is working diligently with the TRICARE Regional Office-South and officials from Humana Military in seeking an exception to the planned reimbursement cuts that will result from OPPS implementation. They have requested this exception in order to remain a vital part of the community network of health care service providers.

OSD 04560-09

For the reasons stated above, I urge you to exempt Metroplex from the OPPS rule, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



John Carter
Member of Congress

CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ
23RD DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

HEALTH

DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 21st, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to you in reference to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law as Public Law 111-5 on February 17th, 2009. Specifically, I am requesting information on the Department of Defense's implementation plans for Section 1001 of that law.

Section 1001 allows for homeowner assistance to wounded members of the Armed Forces and for assistance to military members permanently reassigned during the specified mortgage crisis, among others. It authorizes the Secretary of Defense "to acquire title to, hold, manage, and dispose of, or, in lieu thereof, to reimburse for certain losses upon private sale of, or foreclosure against, any property improved with a one- or two-family dwelling situated at or near a military base or installation" providing the member meets listed criteria.

Additionally, please provide information on what office at any given base should a service member be referred to for specific information, criteria, and processing procedures with reference to this provision.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. I look forward to hearing the Department's implementation plans on this section. Please contact my Military Legislative Assistant with any concerns or questions at (202) 225-4511 or Norm.Cannon@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress

OSD 04567-09

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to respectfully request your assistance in reinstating the National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force's *Port and Highway Interdiction* mission. This tasking was terminated nearly 8 years ago and removed from the responsibilities of the National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. We are confident this mission set is both immensely important to the national security of our country and provides outstanding training for our soldiers and airmen.

As you know, the Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO) along the US-Mexico border have become an increased threat to our country. These criminal and terrorist organizations control the avenues of approach to the U.S. and utilize these avenues to smuggle humans and illegal narcotics. These same organizations then use the lack of oversight on southbound cargo to transport money and weapons to the cartels- thus fueling the violence and destruction.

During the period of National Guard support to *Port and Highway Interdiction*, Texas guardsmen were credited with well over $1 billion dollars in drug seizures per year. Texas also laid claim to well over $27 million in cash seizures in one year alone. These statistics prove the viability and importance of having Guard men and women working the secondary search areas along the border- freeing uniformed officers to be out in front of the public.

The threat to Texas and the United States by drug trafficking organizations is clear. A holistic approach must be taken to quell the violence, death and destruction caused by these narco-terrorist organizations. Port and Highway interdiction is a critical aspect of this approach and must be reinstated immediately.

Sincerely,

Rep. John Carter (TX-31)

Rep. Sam Johnson (TX-03)

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OSD 04624-09

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Rep. Joe Barton (TX-06)

Rep. Kay Granger (TX-12)

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Rep. Kenny Marchant (TX-24)

Rep. Michael McCaul (TX-10)

Rep. Michael Conaway (TX-11)

Rep. Ted Poe (TX-02)

Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX-01)

Rep. Pete Olson (TX-22)

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225–2771

April 3, 2009

Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 10, 2009, granting authorization for members and staff to travel on a CODEL led by Carolyn Maloney, to travel to Naples, Rome, and Venice, Italy and Dublin, Ireland during the approximate period of April 14 – 20, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to additionally authorize Kevin Jones, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations to travel on this CODEL.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 04684-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

April 7, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 10, 2009, granting authorization for members and staff of the Committee on Appropriations to travel to Italy and Ireland on April 14-20, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize travel and per diem expenses incurred by post personnel traveling outside of their duty station in support of CODEL travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 04685-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Funding for the Purchase of F-22s in the FY2010 Department of Defense Budget

Dear President Obama:

We are gravely concerned regarding recently announced plans to cap production of the F-22A Raptor at 187 aircraft. Simply put, this number is insufficient to meet potential threats to America and to guarantee our nation's air superiority decades into the future. Over 30 air campaign studies completed over the last 15 years have validated a requirement for far more than 187 F-22 Raptors to replace the original force of 800 F-15 A-D Eagles. The decision announced by Secretary Gates not only ignores these facts, but also the validated requirement of our very own Air Force.

Secretary Gates indicated his commitment to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter as America's 5th generation fighter jet. While the JSF is a very capable platform, it is designed for multi-role strike missions and not optimized for the air dominance missions of the F-22. Moreover, it is several years away from full-scale production.

As discussed in the January 21 letter to you signed by 194 House Members, the F-22 program annually provides over $12 billion of economic activity to the national economy. As we face one of the most trying economic times in recent history it is imperative to preserve existing high paying, specialized jobs that are critical to our nation's defense. Over 25,000 Americans work for the 1,000+ suppliers in 44 states that manufacture this aircraft. Moreover, it is estimated that another 70,000 additional Americans indirectly owe their jobs to this program.

Mr. President, in light of these concerns and in consideration of the importance of the F-22 program to both American national and economic security, we strongly urge you to reconsider this decision and to certify that continued production of this vital asset is indeed in the national interest of the United States.

Sincerely,

David Scott
Member of Congress

Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress

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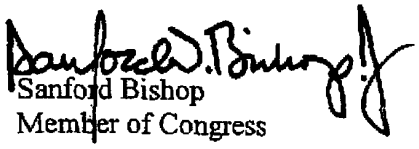
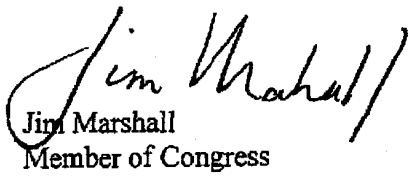
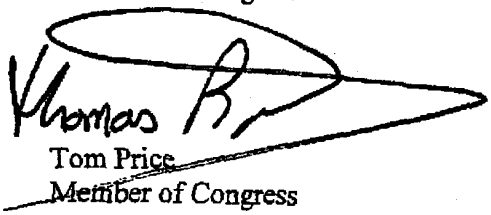
OSD 04710-09

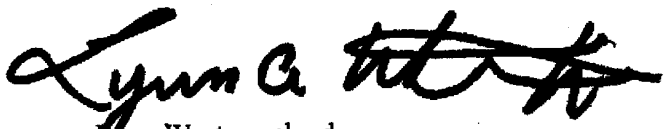

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress


Jim Marshall
Member of Congress

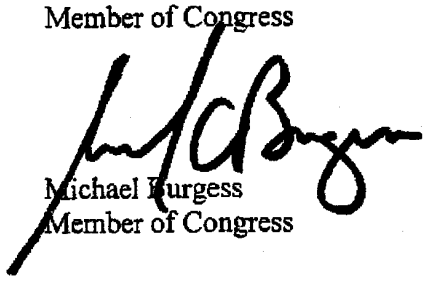

Tom Price
Member of Congress

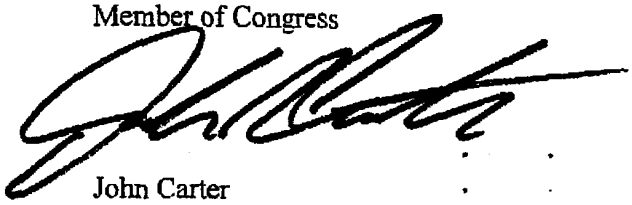

Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress

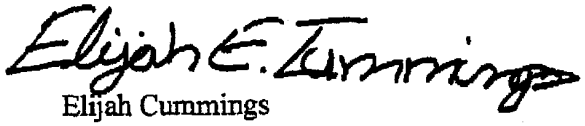
Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Dan Boren
Member of Congress

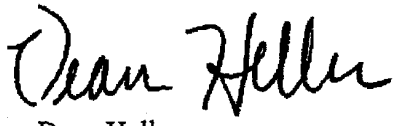
Allen Boyd
Member of Congress


Michael Burgess
Member of Congress


John Carter
Member of Congress


Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress


Dean Heller
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

Re: Funding for the Purchase of F-22s in the FY2010 Department of Defense Budget

Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress

Kendrick Meek
Member of Congress

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

Paul Broun
Member of Congress

Howard "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress

Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress

STEVEN R. ROTHMAN
9TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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FAX (201) 798-1725

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

April 13, 2009

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
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The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

As a supporter of the Obama Administration's Iraq withdrawal plan, I would ask that, as practicable, the Department of Defense withdraw National Guard troops prior to any other military personnel.

The National Guard has a well established history of keeping our homeland safe. Their deployment in Iraq places states in difficult situations. States are more likely to be impaired when responding to an emergency because of the small number of personnel available and the absence of essential equipment. The personal and financial strain placed on the National Guard and their families are particularly difficult due to the fact that the majority of National Guard men and women work full-time jobs in addition to their military service.

In my home state of New Jersey, pending before the State Senate is a resolution declaring that the Congressional Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) of October 16, 2002, has expired, and urging the President to return all New Jersey National Guard troops. New Jersey is not alone in this sentiment. States such as Oregon, New Mexico, Maryland, Vermont, and many others have similar measures pending in their state legislatures.

Our soldiers deserve the most thoughtful and sound plan to return home. I respectfully request that, as soon as practicable, the Department of Defense prioritize the withdrawal of National Guard troops from Iraq before other military personnel. I look forward to your kind and prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress

SRR:ag

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OSD 04713-09

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 17, 2009

Mr. Christian P. Marrone
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs (Acting)
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Marrone:

I am writing to request that Mr. Steven R. Miller, Director of Operations Analysis Procurement Planning Division for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Cost Analysis Improvement Group, and Mr. Joshua T. Hartman, Director of the Space and Intelligence Capabilities Office and Senior Advisor to the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, testify before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces on space system acquisitions and the industrial base on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at 1:00 PM in room 2212 Rayburn House Office Building.

Over the past decade, most national security space acquisition programs have experienced significant cost growth and schedule delays. The subcommittee requests your testimony on the causes of these problems, and on the capacity of the space industrial base to deliver satellites in a timely and cost-effective manner. Specifically, the subcommittee would ask that you address the following questions: What are the root causes of cost growth and schedule delays in the acquisition of national security space systems? Are plans for national security space acquisitions properly balanced with the industry's capacity to deliver? What recommendations should the Congress or the executive branch consider for addressing these problems?

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 35 copies of their prepared statements be delivered to Mr. Zach Steacy in room 2216 Rayburn House Office Building by the morning of Tuesday, April 28, 2009. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. This request may be satisfied by a transmittal via e-mail to zachary.steacy@mail.house.gov or disk.

OSD 04724-09

I appreciate your assistance and look forward to Mr. Miller and Mr. Hartman's testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Bob DeGrasse on the committee staff at (202) 225-2191.

Sincerely,

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER
Chairman
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

EOT:bd

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

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6143

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

April 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee is investigating government-wide vulnerabilities related to information security, particularly in the area of cyber security.

Today, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that computer spies may have infiltrated the Department of Defense's Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program, which is reportedly the most expensive weapons program ever managed by the Department.[1] Citing both current and former government officials as a source, the article reports that cyber attackers were able to copy data related to the design and electronics system of the F-35 Lightning II by infiltrating the computer systems of contractors involved with the JSF Program.[2] Further, the article reports that these attacks may have originated from a foreign source.

If true, these allegations are serious and potentially far-reaching. Given the potential national security implications of this matter, we hereby request that the Department provide Committee staff with a briefing regarding the events alleged in the above article. After receiving this briefing, the Committee may request additional briefings and/or information from the Department.

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[1] "Computer Spies Breach Fighter-Jet Project," *The Wall Street Journal* (April 21, 2008), p. A1.
[2] See id.

OSD 04830-09

To arrange the briefing, please have your staff contact Christopher Knauer or Kevin Barstow with the Majority staff at (202) 225-5051 and Christopher Bright with the Minority staff at (202) 225-5074. In the meantime, if you have any questions related to this request, please do not hesitate to contact us directly or have your staff contact Committee staff. The allegations raised in this article are serious and we appreciate your understanding of the urgency of this request.

Sincerely,

Edolphus Towns
Chairman

Darrell Issa
Ranking Member

BARNEY FRANK
4TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

2252 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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(202) 225-5931

29 CRAFTS STREET
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558 PLEASANT STREET
ROOM 309
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740
(508) 999-6462

THE JONES BUILDING
29 BROADWAY
SUITE 310
TAUNTON, MA 02780
(508) 822-4796

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

April 21, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I have told people that I think it is reasonable to wait on the question of repealing the anti-gay military policy until you have put the Iraq policy in place and some dust has settled with the military. Specifically, I've argued that we should be doing hate crimes and a nondiscrimination bill this year, and deal with the military policies for next year. But the recent statement by Secretary Gates suggesting that it isn't clear that we're ever going to do this is not only very disappointing to me personally, but a source of significant unhappiness among people who supported you very strongly. I realize that this was Secretary Gates' musing and not your position, but given the fact that he is the Secretary of Defense and said it, I think it is important, and I have told this to both Rahm and Greg, that you make it clear that this is not your administration's policy and that you do intend to get to it in this Congress.

Barney Frank

BARNEY FRANK

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OSD 04831-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 22, 2009

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 to Jordan, Qatar, Iraq, and the United Kingdom during the approximate time period of May 6-12, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government officials in each country to discuss issues of mutual concern. For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members may travel 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 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04854-09

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 24, 2009

241 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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13873 PARK CENTER ROAD
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(800) 945-9653 (IN STATE)

110 NORTH CAMERON STREET
WINCHESTER, VA 22601
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(800) 850-3463 (IN STATE)

wolf.house.gov

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
US Department of Defense
The Pentagon Room 3E 880
Washington DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to strongly recommend that you read Andrew Krepinevich's book, 7 Deadly Scenarios: A Military Futurist Explores War in the 21st Century, which was published by Bantam earlier this year, at your earliest convenience.

Drawing on his extensive research as a consultant to several secretaries of defense, the CIA, the Homeland Security Council, and the Joint Forces Command, Mr. Krepinevich offers a grave assessment of seven critical global trends and their potential to develop into security crises for the United States. He paints a stark picture of the enormous security challenges we will experience should Pakistan collapse, dirty bombs be detonated inside the U.S., or the world experience a global pandemic, to name a few.

7 Deadly Scenarios has received acclaim from Sens. Jack Reed and Joe Lieberman as well as national security journalists, such as Tom Ricks. I have enclosed a summary of the book, key reviews, and his full biography for your reference.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:tc

BEST Leisure

THIS STATIONERY PRINTED ON PAPER MADE OF RECYCLED FIBERS

OSD 04871-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 25, 2009

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 to China during the approximate time period of May 22-31, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government officials in each country to discuss issues of mutual concern. For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members may travel 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 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04882-09

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 28, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

In your April 6, 2009 press conference on fiscal year 2010 major budget issues you announced a series of key defense program equipment decisions that you had recommended to the President.

In support of your view that the American people deserve "to learn of these recommendations fully and in context," we would very much appreciate being provided, by the time the fiscal year 2010 budget is submitted to Congress, the background materials that led to your decisions.

We ask that the materials provided by the services to your office in supporting their recommendations be provided, as well as the analysis completed, the options considered, the supporting rationale for your final decision, and the detailed recommendation you made to the President for the F-22, Combat Search and Rescue-X, F-35, Joint Cargo Aircraft, Future Combat Systems, KC-X, and the Next Generation Bomber. The requested detailed information for each program of interest is provided in attachments.

Sincerely,

Neil Abercrombie
Chairman,
Air and Land Forces
Subcommittee

Roscoe Bartlett
Ranking Member,
Air and Land Forces
Subcommittee

NA/RB: bg
Enc.

OSD 04888-09

KC-X

Written recommendations made and supporting materials provided by the Department of the Air Force for the FY 2010 budget and Future Years Defense Program for the quantity and budget for the KC-X program.

The analysis completed by your office; the options considered; the supporting rationale for your final decision; and the detailed recommendation made to the President.

Subsequent to your April 6 press conference, you were quoted by two news organizations as saying that the program costs of two KC-X variants would be an additional $7-14 billion. Please provide the analysis and data that supports how $14 billion was determined to be the upper limit of the estimate.

Concerning cost and schedule, how did you arrive at your decision to conduct a competition that would result in the down select to only one winner?

Attachment 6

Next Generation Bomber (NGB)

Written recommendations made and supporting materials provided by the Air Force for the FY 2010 budget and Future Years Defense Program for the quantity and budget for the NGB program.

The analysis completed by your office; the options considered; the supporting rationale for your final decision; and the detailed recommendation made to the President.

Given the current phase of the NGB acquisition program, please provide your specific concerns, issues and aspects of the acquisition program that support your statement "we will not pursue a development program...until we have a better understanding of the need, the requirement, and the technology."

Please provide the amount and status of any previous or current fiscal year funds authorized/appropriated, obligated and expended for the NGB program.

Please provide the status of any NGB acquisition program contracts awarded and the estimated termination liability costs associated with each.

Please provide a detailed description of the public and/or private sector workforce impacts and risks involved with preservation of industrial base capabilities associated with termination of the NGB program.

Attachment 7

DUNCAN HUNTER
52D DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR

1429 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0552
(202) 225-5672
FAX: (202) 225-0235

1670 GORDELL COURT, #200
EL CAJON, CA 92020
(619) 448-5720
FAX: (619) 448-2281

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

May 1, 2009

Honorable Roberts M. Gates
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing this letter to respectfully request that you restrict any military personnel from leaving the Unitcd States and crossing into Mexico. I urge that you take immediate action of this important matter.

As you know, the recent spread of the "Swine Flu" has caused many to fall gravely ill in the United States. This morning, officials at Marine Base Camp Pendleton confirmed that two Marines have "Swine Flu" and are currently hospitalized and recovering in quarantine. In addition, a third Marine at Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms has been infected. He is currently in isolation along with 30 of his fellow Marines that he came in contact with.

While there have been limited deaths in the U.S. related to this illness, it is imperative that we are proactive in preventing our men and women in uniform from contracting this deadly virus. In order to maintain combat effectiveness and prevent the spread of this sickness to other members of our military and their families, we must temporarily prohibit the travel of U.S. military personnel into Mexico which is highly infected with the "Swine Flu." Furthermore, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an April 27 notice recommending that American citizens avoid all nonessential travel to Mexico at this time. It would be reckless and irresponsible if we did not heed this warning and continued to allow our service personnel to cross into Mexico.

Sincerely,

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress

OSD 04915-09

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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THOMAS J. ROONEY, FLORIDA

ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 30, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Secretary Lynn:

You are invited to testify before the House Armed Services Committee on The Department of Defense at High Risk: The Chief Management Officer's Recommendations for Acquisition Reform and Related High Risk Areas on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 10:00 AM in room 2118 Rayburn House Office Building.

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 120 copies of your prepared statement be delivered to room 2120 Rayburn House Office Building by Monday, May 4, 2009. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. This request may be satisfied by a transmittal via e-mail to Caterina Dutto at caterina.dutto@mail.house.gov.

I appreciate your willingness to appear before the committee and look forward to your testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Andrew Hunter on the committee staff at (202) 225-6703 or at andrew.hunter@mail.house.gov.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON
Chairman

IS:cd

OSD 04947-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Ed Pastor, Chairman of the House delegation to the US-Mexico Interparliamentary Group, to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Seattle, Washington during the approximate period of June 5-7, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to attend the annual meeting of the US-Mexico Interparliamentary Group. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05023-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 30, 2009

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 23, 2009, regarding Codel Hoyer.

Please note the new dates of May 26-29, 2009, and that the delegation will only be traveling to Denmark.

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 (b)(6) 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05024-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Rush Holt, a Member of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Macedonia, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina on official business during the approximate time period of May 25 – June 2, 2009. The main purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the Kosovo Assembly and of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. In Bosnia, the delegation will meet with members of the national parliament, the national executive , and entity leaders regarding the status of Bosnia's governance. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05025-09

MIKE COFFMAN
6TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0606

1508 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7882

DISTRICT OFFICE:
9220 KIMMER DRIVE
SUITE 220
LONE TREE, CO 80124
(720) 283-9772

April 15, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

President Obama,

As you are well aware, piracy has become a serious threat to both American and international shipping. The majority of these pirate attacks have taken place along the coastline of Somalia – a coastline the same length as the United States eastern seaboard – and in the Gulf of Aden north of Somalia.

The recent kidnapping of Captain Richard Phillips following a raid on his commercial ship, the Maersk Alabama, by Somali pirates proves more aggressive action is needed to combat piracy. The incident involving the Maersk Alabama was a spectacular show of courage, good luck, the extraordinary military skill of U.S. Special Forces and the smart decision-making by the Captain of the USS Bainbridge, Commander Frank Castellano. Unfortunately, in the future, the pirates may be unwilling to take a ship's Captain hostage to protect the safety of the crew or the crew of a merchant vessel may be unable to fight back. They were very lucky that the U.S. Navy arrived before the pirates were able to make it back to land which would have made it extremely difficult to track them down.

The piracy problem is not a law enforcement challenge because the pirates have unrestricted access to Somali port facilities and land bases that are sanctioned by the governing institutions of Somalia irrespective of how dysfunctional they are. This is a military problem and these attacks on U.S. merchant ships constitute an act of war on the United States.

A new course of action should be reviewed. Sending U.S. Warships to patrol these waters isn't enough to protect U.S. flagged merchant ships. This is an area that is 1.1 million square miles and the U.S. Navy, or any navy, has their hands full trying to protect this vital shipping lane. The placement of small detachments of U.S. Marines or sailors aboard U.S. flagged merchant ships would help bring an end to the piracy problem off of the coast of Somalia for U.S. commercial shipping. This would be a much more cost effective way of ending any advantage that the pirates have. New rules of engagement should give U.S. military personnel, assigned to U.S. merchant ships, the authority to engage any small boat if it demonstrates hostile intent when approaching a U.S. merchant ship.

OSD 05026-09

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There is a precedent for using U.S. military personnel on U.S. flagged merchant vessels. During WWII, U.S. military personnel were deployed on U.S. flagged ships to provide protection. These detachments were called "The Naval Armed Guard," and were established after the 1941 repeal of the "Neutrality Act of 1936," which had outlawed the arming o U.S. merchant vessels.

It isn't necessary to talk about military operations against the pirates along the Somali coastline when we have the option to put small military detachments on board U.S. commercial ships. These raids would not only put members of our military unnecessarily at risk but there would always be the potential for collateral damage causing harm to the innocent hostages and civilians in the target areas.

Mr. President, how many sailors and Marines are available for such actions and are you willing to temporarily station military detachment on U.S. flagged merchant ships?

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Mike Coffman, M.C.

CC: The Honorable Robert Gates

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Your internal budget process consists of serious deliberation on threat analysis, risk assessment and cost benefit tradeoffs in regard to budgetary decisions. This information is critical for Members of Congress and the public to know, and for this reason I am concerned about a disturbing trend of restricting budget and inspection information within the Department of Defense.

I understand that you recently asked senior officials in the Department to sign a Non-disclosure Agreement as it relates to the President's FY10 Budget proposal. While I fully understand that some of these discussions must be kept confidential, I am concerned that 1) this agreement is not strictly limited to predecisional discussions, and 2) that Congress may be excluded from oversight and engagement due to the restrictions put in place by this agreement.

Specifically, the Agreement states that, budget-related information restricted includes "[information,] **predecisional or otherwise,** concerning the Administration's deliberation of the nature and amounts of the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2010, and any supplemental budget request submitted during the current fiscal year." Can I expect a candid answer from a senior military official when I ask them about the process used to establish priorities, either now, or after the President's detailed Budget is released to the public? Members of Congress deserve candid answers from senior military officers that are not suppressed or censored--either directly, or implicitly via a culture of regulations that muzzles their independent professional judgment.

We are well aware that only the President and his staff see the full revenues and resource requirements of the United States Government, and members of his Administration are expected to implement his guidance. However, the Constitution charges Congress, not the Executive, with the mandate to raise and support armies and navies, and it grants authority to Congress to fund the budget for our defense and the other constitutional responsibilities. I am concerned that these restrictions on the deliberation of these tradeoffs are reflected in the President's Budget this year and future years severely and unnecessarily limits the Congress in these constitutional duties.

The Congress, and the Nation as a whole, can ill-afford our Nation's senior military leadership to be forced to equivocate or be pedantic in so far as their professional opinion is concerned, particularly as it relates to risk calculation and threat analysis associated with the priorities of the Department of Defense and the allocation of taxpayer dollars.

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OSD 05129-09

Furthermore, I am concerned to learn that previously unclassified INSURV inspections will now be classified. It is sometimes only through the media and public awareness, as was this case with the inspections of the *USS Stout* and *USS Chosin,* that we learn of the urgent need to address some of the shortfalls the military has, including the $417 million shortfall in ship depot maintenance for this year alone. If these reports are classified, we are unable to communicate these needs to the public.

Lastly, senior Army officials abruptly withdrew from a recent hearing before the House Armed Services Air and Land Forces Subcommittee on Future Combat System. This hearing was to focus on the status of the FCS program in light of a recent GAO report that made recommendations on this system. These actions continue to contribute to the perception that the Department in not interested in engaging with Congress to determine the best possible solution. The classification of inspections and excluding Congress from budgetary discussion serve as an impediment for Congress to fulfill its constitutional responsibility to provide the necessary resources to support our national security strategy and the rest of the federal government.

More than ever, our budget needs a close look. In fact, President Obama indicated in one of his first Executive Orders concerning the Freedom of Information Act, that "A democracy requires accountability, and accountability requires transparency. As Justice Louis Brandeis wrote, 'sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants.'" We understand that most budget documents are not subject to FOIA under 5 USC 552(b)(5), and it may be timely to reconsider this exemption.

There is no more serious responsibility that President Obama, you, or we have than to ensure the security of this great Nation. We remain strong supporters of your efforts and of the candor with which you have testified before Congress. We look forward to working with you to ensure our Nation has the defense it needs. Thanks you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

[illegible]

Howard P. Buckingham

Joe Wilson

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
April 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable John Tanner, Chairman of the House NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) group, to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Norway, Sweden, and Finland during the approximate period of May 22-31, 2009. The purpose of this trip will be to attend the NATO PA's Spring Session and to meet with government officials in each country in conjunction with the mission of the Assembly. For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members may travel 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 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 Mr. David Hobbs, Secretary General of the NATO PA, has been invited to travel with the delegation in-theatre.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05208-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Richard E. Neal, Chairman of the US-Ireland Interparliamentary Group, to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United Kingdom during the approximate period of June 26 – July 5, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to express the United States' strong support for the new power-sharing government in Belfast and to meet with government officials in both countries to discuss issues of mutual concern. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05209-09

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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

May 6, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

You are invited to testify before the House Armed Services Committee on the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Budget Request from the Department of Defense on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 10:00 am in room 2118 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 120 copies of your prepared statement be delivered to room 2120 Rayburn House Office Building by the morning of Monday, February 4, 2008. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. This request may be satisfied by a transmittal via e-mail or disk.

I appreciate your willingness to appear before the committee and look forward to your testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Andrew Hunter on the committee staff at (202) 225-6703 or at Andrew.Hunter@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Ike Skelton
Chairman

IS:cd

OSD 05301-09

TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON
15TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

AGRICULTURE
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–1315

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2371

DISTRICT OFFICES:
2004 FOX DRIVE
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820
(217) 403-4690

☐ 202 NORTH PROSPECT ROAD
SUITE 203
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61704
(309) 663-7049

☐ 655 WEST LINCOLN
UNIT 8
CHARLESTON, IL 61920
(217) 348-6759

☐ 1001 MARKET STREET
SUITE 102
MOUNT CARMEL, IL 62863
(618) 262-8719

April 23, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am writing you today to lend my support for Cbana Labs, Inc and their STTR Phase II funding for the Micro-burner based flame Ionization Detectors for Micro-scale Gas Chromatographs.

Cbana Labs is a cutting edge company that currently is working on vapor and particle sampling vacuums, handheld explosive detectors in addition to the ionization detectors. Their work will have a wide range of uses and could prove very useful in National Security and for Military personnel.

I ask that Cbana Labs, Inc be given any and all consideration for STTR Phase II funding. If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me at (217) 403-4690.

Sincerely,

Timothy V. Johnson
Member of Congress

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OSD 05307-09

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

ROBERT WEXLER
19TH DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

April 27, 2009

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

Dear Robert:

I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to you as you begin serving as Secretary of Defense. Your appointment to this position is indicative not only of your qualifications to serve, but of your commitment to President Obama's message of change and your desire to lead our nation through the many challenges we face.

At this trying time in our nation's history, I have no doubt that your leadership in the U.S. Department of Defense will be a benefit to all who serve with you, and I look forward to working with you and President Obama as we lead our nation in a new direction. Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime I may be of assistance to you as you work with President Obama, Vice President Biden, and the Executive Cabinet to accomplish these goals.

With warm regards,

Robert

Robert Wexler

OSD 05308-09

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HVC-304, THE CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7690

MICHAEL J. DELANEY
STAFF DIRECTOR

JAMES M. LEWIS
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

May 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will hold an open hearing on the Government Accounting Office's upcoming report on Personnel Security Clearance Reform from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. We invite you or your designee to testify at this open session.

In March of 2008, our Subcommittee requested that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) evaluate the joint ODNI-DOD reform effort, relative to best practice standards that GAO has used to evaluate other government reform efforts. The Committee also asked GAO to review the criteria that the Administration is using to assess the effectiveness of its efforts. The day of the hearing, GAO will release its report on those reform efforts. We request that you be prepared to respond to GAO's findings at the upcoming hearing.

Please provide your statement for the record by May 14, 2009. Please limit oral testimony to ten minutes. Questions regarding this hearing may be directed to Ms. Mieke Eoyang, Subcommittee Staff Director, at 202-225-7690.

Sincerely, and gratefully,

Representative Anna G. Eshoo
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Intelligence Community Management

Representative Sue Myrick
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Intelligence Community Management

OSD 05356-09

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May 6, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE – 703-695-1219
The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan to travel on a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) led by Congressman James Langevin to Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, and Germany on May 24th through June 2nd, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to visit Leadership and service members and to visit the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Also, members will meet with U.S. Agency for International Development and State Department representatives to discuss education programs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is requested that the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation is authorized pursuant to 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. The CODEL requests the U.S. Air Force give support to this Delegation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Becky Cruz Lizama at 202-225-2646 or Mr. Craig Greene at 202-225-4151. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George Miller

GEORGE MILLER
Chairman

GM:ejh

OSD 05386-09

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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
http://veterans.house.gov

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

April 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman Timothy J. Walz to travel on official government business to Israel, the West Bank, Egypt, and Turkey during the period of May 24-May 31, 2009.

Mr. Walz will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Senator Robert Casey, Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to meet with regional leaders to discuss the potential progress on the Middle East Peace Process, the regional response to Iran's nuclear program, and Turkey's integration with its neighbors. Mr. Walz will bring to bear in discussions a focus on the quality of life of military personnel and future veterans

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in Israel, the West Bank, Egypt, and Turkey. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Bernie Dotson of the Committee staff at 202-226-3653.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 05449-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 4, 2009

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 22, 2009, regarding the delegation I am leading May 6-12, 2009. Please note that the following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Speaker, and Mr. Paul Pelosi
The Honorable Rush Holt (D-NJ)

The Honorable Wilson Livingood, House Sergeant at Arms
The Honorable Brian Monaghan, Attending Physician
Mr. John Lawrence, Chief of Staff, Speaker Pelosi
Ms. Wyndee Parker, Senior Policy Advisor, Speaker Pelosi
Mr. Drew Hammill, Communications Director
Ms. Bridget Fallon, Chief of Protocol for the Speaker

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05456-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 6, 2009

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 13, 2009, regarding Codel Capps to Haiti. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Lois Capps (D-CA)
The Honorable David Dreier (R-CA)
The Honorable Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
The Honorable Gwen Moore (D-WI) and Mr. Adesolu Omokunde

Mr. John Lis, Staff Director, House Democracy Assistance Commission
Ms. Margarita Seminario, Professional Staff Member, HDAC
Mr. Tommy Ross, Legislative Director, Office of Rep. David Price
Ms. Rachael Leman, Policy Director, House Rules Committee
Ms. Muftiah McCartin, Committee Staff Director, HRC (Majority)
Mr. Brad Smith, Committee Staff Director, HRC (Minority)
Mr. Clay Wellborn, Deputy Assistant Director, CRS (authorized by HCFA)
Ms. Maureen Taft Morales, Senior Analyst, CRS (authorized by HCFA)

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05458-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 6, 2009

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

This letter will authorize the Honorable Charles B. Rangel (D-NY) to lead a delegation of Members and staff to the funeral of the late Honorable Jack F. Kemp.

It is requested that the Department of Defense provide bus transportation and Air Force escort as needed to support the movement of current Members of Congress, former Members of Congress, and Congressional staff between the U.S. Capitol and Washington National Cathedral on Friday, May 8, 2009. Spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government for protocol purposes only. A complete list of Members and staff authorized to travel will follow at a later date.

Authorization for the expenditure of funds should be made pursuant to 31 USC 1108 (g)

Thank you in advance for your prompt assistance with the matter.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05463-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 7, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Mr. John Sullivan, Parliamentarian of the House, to accompany Codel Kosmas (authorized by the House Committee on Science and Technology) to Florida during the appropriate period of May 11, 2009.

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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05465-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 7, 2009

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 6, 2009 regarding Codel Rangel (D-NY) to the funeral of the late Honorable Jack F. Kemp. The following persons are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel (D-NY)
The Honorable Jerry Lewis (R-CA)
The Honorable Dan Lungren (R-CA) and Mrs. Bobbi Lungren
The Honorable James Moran (D-VA)
The Honorable Mike Pence (R-IN) and Mrs. Karen Pence
The Honorable Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ) and Mrs. Marie Smith
The Honorable Frank Wolf (R-VA) and Mrs. Carolyn Wolf

The Honorable Dan Beard, Chief Administrative Officer

The Honorable E. Thomas Coleman (Former Member) and Mrs. Coleman
The Honorable James Courter (Former Member)
The Honorable Gary Franks (Former Member)
The Honorable Robert Livingston (Former Member)
The Honorable Robert Michel (Former Member)
The Honorable Donn Anderson (Former Officer of the House)

Mrs. Cheryl Sensenbrenner
Mrs. Vicky Tiahrt

Thank you in advance for your prompt assistance with the matter.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05466-09

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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

May 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Last Thursday, Congress received the Department of Defense's portion of the President's Fiscal Year 2010 budget submission. I understand that the detailed justification of budget estimates will be provided this week. Concurrent with the submission of the budget details, I had also expected the Department to submit the report required by law regarding F/A-18 procurement and the 30-year aviation force structure report. As you know, section 123 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417) requires you to submit a report comparing costs of F/A-18 multi-year versus annual procurement options, not later than March 1, 2009. Further, section 231a of title 10, United States Code, requires you to submit an annual aircraft plan and certification along with the submission of the President's budget.

Unfortunately, Committee staff has been told by the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) that these reports may not be submitted, or, at best, the F/A-18 multiyear report will be delayed and a "notional" thirty-year aviation plan might be submitted. If this is the case, I respectfully ask that you reconsider and transmit the two reports in a manner that is consistent with both the statute and the spirit of the law. The information requested in the required reports is critical to our Subcommittee's oversight responsibilities and for budget transparency.

I look forward to working closely with you as we move through the authorization and appropriation process this year.

Sincerely,

W. Todd Akin

W. TODD AKIN
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Seapower
and Expeditionary Forces

OSD 05492-09

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"VACANT"

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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May 7, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On April 21, 2009, Ranking Member Lamar Smith and I introduced H.R. 1983, a bill to enact certain laws relating to small business as title 53, United States Code, "Small Business." The bill restates the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, along with related provisions in other Acts, as a new positive law title of the United States Code. The new positive law title replaces the existing provisions, which are repealed by the bill.

I am writing to invite you, as the head of an agency with responsibility for administering laws that will be included in title 53, to review the bill, and to share it with other interested parties as appropriate. I ask that you and others bring any questions or suggestions to the attention of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel and, if you wish, to the attention of the Judiciary Committee as well.

The bill was prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives as part of its ongoing responsibility under 2 U.S.C. §285b to prepare, and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary one title at a time, a complete compilation, restatement, and revision of the general and permanent laws of the United States.

All changes in existing law made by the bill are purely technical in nature. The bill was prepared in accordance with the statutory standard for codification legislation, which is that the restatement of existing law shall conform to the understood policy, intent, and purpose of Congress in the original enactments, with such amendments and corrections as will remove ambiguities, contradictions, and other imperfections.

OSD 05506-09

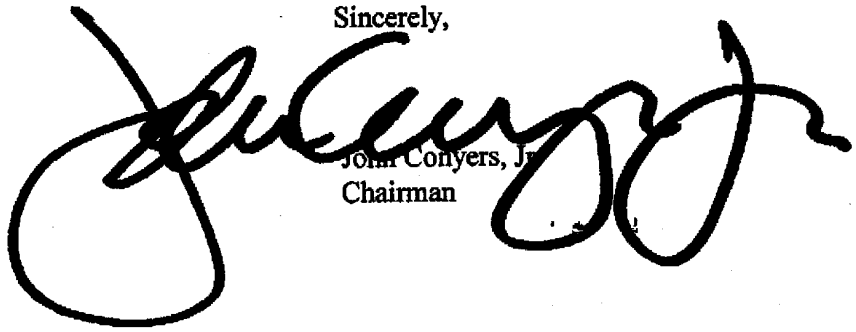
Please note that the bill is not intended to make any substantive changes in the law. As is typical with the codification process, a number of non-substantive revisions are made, including the reorganization of sections into a more coherent overall structure, but these changes are not intended to have any substantive effect. Nor would changes of a substantive nature be within the scope of this bill. Rather, we are asking you and others to review the bill from a technical perspective, to help make sure that the bill does not inadvertently make changes that could be construed to have substantive effect, and that it does not create or maintain any ambiguities that can be clarified or contradictions that can be corrected.

I would appreciate it if all comments could be received no later than November 3, 2009, after which time the Committee will proceed to consider the bill and move it to the floor as expeditiously as possible.

The bill, along with a detailed section-by-section explanation of the bill, can be accessed on the internet site of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel (http://uscode.house.gov/). Persons interested in obtaining a printed copy of the bill and explanation, and persons interested in submitting comments on the bill, should contact Tim Trushel, Senior Counsel, Office of the Law Revision Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2-308 Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515. The telephone number is 202-226-9058, and the email address is Tim.Trushel@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

David Heymsfeld, Chief of Staff
Ward W. McCarragher, Chief Counsel

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

May 18, 2009

Mr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
1300 Defense Pentagon
Wash DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I would like to invite you or your representative to testify before the Committee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation regarding **Piracy Against U.S.-Flagged Vessels: Lessons Learned.** The hearing will take place on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 2167 of the Rayburn House Office Building (HOB).

Witnesses must have 50 copies of written testimony hand-delivered to Room 507 Ford HOB, to the attention of Ianta Summers, by close of business on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. In addition, 50 copies of testimony must be hand-delivered to 2165 Rayburn HOB, to the attention of Jimmy Miller, by close of business on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. Name, mailing address, organization represented, and telephone number must appear on the face of the testimony.

For the purpose of complying with House Rule XI, clause 2(e)(4), requiring each committee to make its publications available in electronic form to the maximum extent practicable, each witness is strongly urged to submit testimony in Microsoft Word format (i.e. copy on disk).

Witnesses are recommended to limit their testimony to a five-minute oral summary of their statements. The full statement will be included in the printed record of the hearing.

If you need special accommodations, please contact Jimmy Miller at (202) 225-4472 at least four days before the hearing.

OSD 05507-09

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact John Cullather, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, at (202) 226-6861. His facsimile number is (202) 226-8068.

I look forward to your testimony.

Sincerely,

Elijah E. Cummings
Chair
Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation

DAVID WU
1ST DISTRICT, OREGON

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3701

May 18, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon Way
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to invite you to the groundbreaking of the "Remember Me" Rose Garden in Washington, DC in order to honor the spirit of the men and women whose lives were lost on September 11, 2001. This rose garden in Washington, DC will honor the victims of the Pentagon attack, including the crew and passengers of American Airlines Flight 77.

The "Remember Me" Rose Garden will break ground on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 10:00 AM at the LaSalle-Backus Education Campus (501 Riggs Rd. NE, Washington, DC 20011). Backus Middle School, which has since merged with LaSalle Elementary School, was one of three Washington, DC schools that had students and teachers perish on Flight 77. These students and teachers, along with staff members from the National Geographic Society, were on their way to California on a National Geographic Society study program.

"Remember Me" Rose Garden is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Portland, Oregon—the "City of Roses." A rose garden will be created on or near each of the three sites of the September 11 tragedy. The gardens are meant to uplift and renew the spirit of our nation and provide a beautiful sanctuary where the families and friends of all who died can come to seek comfort and peace.

It would be a great privilege and distinct honor if you would be able to attend the "Remember Me" Rose Garden groundbreaking ceremony in Washington, DC. If you are unable to attend, a member of your staff would be most welcome. If you have questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Sue Casey, the founder of the "Remember Me" Rose Garden: 503-453-3352 (o); 503-539-7531 (c); sue@remember-me-rose.org.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

With warm regards,

David Wu
Member of Congress

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OSD 05513-09

JAMES P. MORAN
8TH DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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www.moran.house.gov

May 14, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E718
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I thank you for your continued dedication to the nation's men and women in uniform and for your own service to our nation.

The current prohibition on allowing gay men and lesbians to serve openly in the military, known commonly as "don't ask, don't tell" is a policy that should be rescinded. There continues to be evidence that the discriminatory policy costs the Department of Defense hundreds of millions in wasted expenditures, thousands of men and women are prevented from serving their country in uniform, and hundreds of military specialists are discharged annually, all to the detriment of our national security. Public opinion is shifting as a majority of the American public and growing numbers in the military community support a change in policy. Moreover, during his candidacy, and now reiterated in statements made by his Administration, President Barack Obama has asserted it is his intention to end the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

I understand that during this time the nation, and the Department of Defense in particular, faces many challenges. Nevertheless, I feel that every day that the "don't ask, don't tell" policy remains law our military is disadvantaged and good soldiers are unable to serve. To increase transparency on the effects the "don't ask, don't tell" policy is having on our military, I request that the Office of the Secretary of Defense provide monthly reports on the number of military personnel discharged because of this policy. Since January, I have made similar requests of the Army for discharge data. However, so as not to single out one service branch, disclosure across the entire Department would be a more appropriate way to assess the impact of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The servicemembers and civilians working for the Department of Defense reflect the very best our nation has to offer. I look forward to working with the President and the Department on repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy so that our military can be even stronger. I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Moran

James P. Moran

JPM/hdb

OSD 05551-09

JEFF FLAKE
6TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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VICE CHAIRMAN

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House of Representatives

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NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

May 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In a letter sent to you on April 15, I requested information related to the competitive bidding process that preceded the awarding of earmarks in the conference report language of the FY 2008 Defense Appropriations bill. Specifically, I asked you to provide me with all relevant information on the competitive bidding process for a selected list of earmarks, including any relevant Justifications and Approvals (J&As).

Since that time my staff has been working productively with the Office of the Comptroller, which is the office initially tasked with completing this request. However, it is my understanding that the assistance and cooperation of the Office of Acquisition, Technology and Logistics is crucial to the collection of this information.

I respectfully request that action be taken at the appropriate level to task the Office of Acquisition, Technology and Logistics jointly with this request. The initial meeting initiating this request took place on March 31. I am very anxious to see this information before the Congress begins work on appropriations for the next fiscal year. Should you need further guidance, please contact my Legislative Director, Mr. Chandler Morse, or my Legislative Assistant for defense matters, Ms. Colleen Gilbert, at (202) 225-2635.

Sincerely,

JEFF FLAKE
Member of Congress

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OSD 05646-09

TED POE
2ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4302

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FAX: (281) 446–0252

BEAUMONT
505 ORLEANS
SUITE 100
BEAUMONT, TX 77701
PHONE: (409) 212–1997
FAX: (409) 212–8711

May 13, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am disturbed to have learned from a recent news report that some of our troops based in Iraq were not adequately provided with enough rations of drinking water nor the use of safe potable water. It is my understanding the Defense Department contracted these services and the processes to provide these basic services did not work; leading to several health problems as a result such as dehydration, dysentary, and kidney infections.

I would like to obtain a prompt response from you on how this problem was addressed once it was learned, what has been done to ensure safe water supplies are never compromised again, and how the Department is treating the affected troops as a result of this failure.

I have visited Iraq many times and understand the extreme conditions our troops operate in. As the hot summer months approach and as we begin to enhance operations in Afghanistan, I'm sure you agree with me that providing our troops in harms way with all they need to keep them safe and focused on their important missions is priority number one. I appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to your timely reply.

God and Texas,

TED POE
Member of Congress
TEXAS

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OSD 05648-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

It has recently come to our attention that service members returning from deployment have indicated they were allocated only two liters of bottled drinking water per day, and were forced to find additional water for themselves. It is our understanding that this was not an isolated event and service members stationed across Iraq during various phases of the war have reported the problems.

The Army minimum to avoid dehydration can reach as high as 15 liters per day to prevent heat casualties in desert climates. As a result of the bottled water drinking shortages, these same service members indicate at other times they were forced to "improvise" to avoid dehydration by drinking potable and nonpotable bulk water. As you know, questions on the quality of bulk water still remain, and it is not authorized for drinking in Iraq. However, the soldiers indicate consumption of this water was necessary to avoid dehydration and are now experiencing short term and long term health effects of illnesses associated with drinking unclean water.

Many of us have visited Iraq and we are all well aware of the extreme conditions our troops stationed there face. We are dismayed to hear these accounts and believe the health and safety of our service members must be a priority and taken seriously. Therefore, we respectfully request that you investigate these water shortage claims immediately and provide the finding to our staff for review.

Sincerely,

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Solomon Ortiz
Member of Congress

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Ron Paul
Member of Congress

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OSD 05657-09

ERIC J.J. MASSA
29TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3229

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PHONE: 716-372-2090
FAX: 716-372-2869

13 May 2009

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

Secretary Gates,

Sir,

Attached please find a Congressional Research Service report that outlines the major contractual and programmatic milestones in the history of the Army's SINCGARS radio program which began with an ORD in December of 1974. It also includes the historical information of the Joint Service's JTRS radio program. I would like to meet with you personally to discuss my concerns with this program. I find it outrageous that DoD is still investing taxpayer dollars into this outdated technology, especially given that newer, more capable radio technology exists. The Army intends to spend in excess of $700Mil this FY on outdated technology. What the attached report does not include is information on the FY09 NDAA which fenced off $87Mil pending SecDef certification. That certification has not been made to my knowledge so I'd like to know how DoD plans to go forward with their planned procurement. There are serious questions surrounding this entire program and the spending of taxpayer money associated with it.

Very Respectfully,

Eric J.J. Massa
Member of Congress

Sir,
I strongly believe that
this $700 million spending plan is in
direct opposition to the goals of FCS.

OSD 05659-09

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MALCOM A. SHORTER
STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives
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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

May 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman Timothy J. Walz to travel on official government business to Israel, the West Bank, Syria, and Turkey during the period of May 24-May 31, 2009.

Mr. Walz will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Senator Robert Casey, Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to meet with regional leaders to discuss the potential progress on the Middle East Peace Process, the regional response to Iran's nuclear program, and Turkey's integration with its neighbors. Mr. Walz will bring to bear in discussions a focus on the quality of life of military personnel and future veterans

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in Israel, the West Bank, Syria, and Turkey. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jian Zapata of the Committee staff at 202-225-3036.

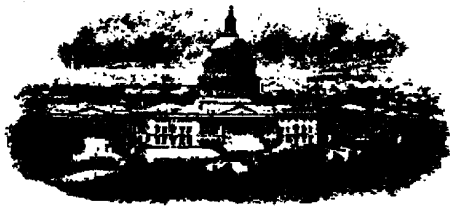
Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 05661-09

DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA
WASHINGTON OFFICE
2111 RAYBURN BUILDING
TELEPHONE 202-225-5765



COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

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

May 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

A recent Federal Circuit Court decision in Rothe Development Corp. v. U.S. Department of Justice held that 10 U.S.C. 2323 is unconstitutional on its face, resulting in a complete injunction of that statute, which provides certain Department of Defense contracting preferences for small disadvantaged businesses. This judicial action is clearly limited to 10 U.S.C. 2323, but some agencies appear to believe that the Rothe case may affect small business programs and activities under other Federal statutes like the Small Business Act.

Thus we are writing to urge that the Department of Defense issue immediate clarifying guidance to all of its agencies involved in contracting with the private sector. While the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense issued an interim guidance memorandum on March 10, 2009 concerning the application of the Rothe case, the memorandum failed to explicitly address the applicability to small business programs and activities that are carried out under Federal statutes other than 10 U.S.C. 2323.

In our view, the guidance should be explicit with respect to these other programs and activities. This approach was taken by the Army Corps of Engineers in a March 9, 2009 communication to contracting personnel, stating that its Rothe guidance to cease contract activities that rely exclusively on the authority of 10 U.S.C. 2323 "DOES NOT apply to small business set-asides, HUBZone small business set-asides, 8a set-asides, service disabled veteran owned small business set-asides or Alaska Native Corporations (ANC) as these categories are governed by separate statutes that were not impacted by the [Rothe] ruling." This is precisely the kind of guidance that should be sent out deparment-wide as soon as possible.

Please let us know as soon as possible if and when the Department of Defense plans on issuing clarifying guidance that expressly addresses the small business programs and activities that are not affected by the ruling. Thank you.

OSD 05662-09

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907-271-5978

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612 W. WILLOUGHBY AVENUE, SUITE B
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907-586-7400

CALL TOLL-FREE
1-866-990-5979

Sincerely,

Don Young
Member of Congress

Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress

Dale Kildee
Member of Congress

Tom Cole
Member of Congress

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REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On Thursday, June 4, 2009, the Subcommittee on Health of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs will conduct a Hearing on *"Meeting the Needs of Family Caregivers of Veterans."* The Subcommittee would like to assess how the VA meets the needs of family caregivers of veterans and to identify any gaps in supportive services for family caregivers. This hearing will be held at 10:00 A.M. in room 334 of the Cannon House Office Building. We request you or your designee to present testimony on behalf of the U.S. Department of Defense

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Jeff Burdette through email at jeff.burdette@mail.house.gov . You will be recognized for five minutes to make an oral statement; however, your complete written statement will be made a part of the hearing record. Please submit 75 copies of written testimony prepared in accordance with the enclosed formatting requirements to the Subcommittee on Health at 338 Cannon House Office Building by 6:00 P.M. on Monday June 1, 2009. Moreover, please include a brief biography with your testimony.

Due to heightened security precautions, please note that all Congressional mail delivery is delayed and commercial delivery services are prohibited. Therefore, you must contact our staff at (202) 225-9154 to make arrangements for a representative from your organization to hand deliver your testimony.

The Committee provides public access to its hearing statements on the Internet through the World Wide Web at the House of Representatives (http://veterans.house.gov) and the Library of Congress (http://thomas.loc.gov). To facilitate this public access, please send an electronic Microsoft Word copy of your statement to Jeff Burdette at jeff.burdette@mail.house.gov. Additionally, the hearings are now broadcast live, in real time, over the Internet, and are archived on our Web site so they may be accessed following each hearing.

OSD 05667-09

Please contact Jeff Burdette, Legislative Assistant to the Subcommittee on Health, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs, at (202) 225-9154 or jeff.burdette@mail.house.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

Enclosure

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May 14, 2009

The Honorable Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Geren:

I am writing to request that the Army provide a briefing to discuss the circumstances surrounding the award of a sole source contract to acquire 22 Russian Mi-17 helicopters for the Iraq military. It is my understanding that the Army's Threat Systems Management Office (TMSO) is responsible for the award of this contract.

According to information brought to the subcommittee's attention, spanning from July 2008 to as recently as April 2009, this contract was awarded – with no competition – to an American company, ARINC, that has minimal background brokering helicopter sales. It was reported that, through subcontracts, the eventual supplier of the helicopters is a Russian company called Kazan. Kazan is supplying the helicopters as commercial items to another company in the United Arab Emirates called Airfreight Aviation Limited. That company is converting those helicopters for military use before they are delivered to Iraq. Both Kazan and Airfreight Aviation Limited are linked to a Russian agency that is banned from doing business with the U.S. That Russian agency was accused in 2006 of violating the Iran and Syria Nonproliferation Act.[1] Of further interest is the report that the full $322 million of the contract has been paid, but no helicopters have been delivered to date.

If these reports are true, I am concerned that this situation creates the appearance that the Army may have circumvented the law and/or was biased in the award of a contract to one supplier without full consideration of other suppliers through a transparent process. As part of our ongoing oversight responsibilities, I would like to offer the Army the opportunity to address the allegations raised in these reports by means of a thorough

[1] Pub. L. No. 106-178; 50 U.S.C. § 1701 note (2005). The Act was updated in 2006 to include North Korea, as well. (Pub. L. No. 109-353).

OSD 05668-09

written response, official supporting documentation, and related briefing to our Subcommittee. Specifically, I request that the Army provide clarification on the following:

1. Please identify the relevant contract(s), and parties and subcontractors thereto, at issue in the helicopter transaction. Additionally, please provide copies of all documents related to the negotiation, pricing data, and costs of the contract.

2. Is it true that the contract award was made through a U.S. company to a supplier that is owned by a Russian company that is banned from doing business with the U.S. under the Iran-Syria Nuclear Non-proliferation Act? If true, at what point was the Army, the Department of Defense, or any components thereof aware of that fact?

3. Is it true that the contract was awarded with no competition? If so, in an environment in which defense contract cost overruns have reached historic levels, why did the Army decide to award a contract for these helicopters without conducting any competition? Are there any other helicopter suppliers who could have fulfilled this contract? Is it true that other American companies would have been in a position to broker this sale? Please explain the Army's decision and official documentation that supports the rationale for this decision.

4. Is it true that the U.S. company that received the no bid contract has no history of dealing with helicopter sales? What analysis did the Army undertake to determine that this particular company was qualified to receive a no bid contract in an area outside of its specific expertise? Please provide documentation that depicts the rationale for the decision to award the contract to this company.

5. Is it true that the total contract award of $322 million has been paid but no helicopters have been delivered to date? Further, does the Army know how much of the contract funds each entity in the supplier chain has received? If so, please provide this information to the Subcommittee.

6. Is it true that the cost-per-unit of each of the helicopters under this contract (almost $15 million) is significantly higher than the perceived market rate for this model of helicopter, which otherwise currently costs between $6 and $8 million? Please provide an explanation of these costs and rationale for why the per-unit costs are higher in this case.

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. Pursuant to Committee Rule 8(a)(5), the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs has jurisdiction encompassing oversight of national security, homeland security, and foreign affairs. In order for the Subcommittee to conduct appropriate and constructive oversight of these matters, it is important that we

receive appropriate clarification and explanation of the issues noted above, and others as relevant.

Please contact Brendan Culley, Scott Lindsay, or Andy Wright of the Subcommittee staff at (202) 225-2548 to coordinate the briefing and document production. The Subcommittee requests that the document production and briefing occur on or before July 1, 2009. Thank you for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,

John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

cc: Rep. Jeff Flake
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense

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256-355-9400

The Bevill Center
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Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674
256-381-3450

http://griffith.house.gov

May 15, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We have serious objections to the stop work order issued May 11, 2009 for the Kinetic Energy Interceptors (KEI) program. This decision is without justification.

Overall, we are concerned with the handling of the May 7, 2009 Kinetic Energy Interceptor termination announcement. KEI was noticeably absent in an April press conference that outlined Department of Defense program cancellations and restructures. However, it was rolled out as a cancellation during the May 7, 2009 FY10 President's Budget briefing and quickly followed by a Missile Defense Agency stop work on May 11, 2009, with the goal of de-staffing the program by the end of June. This surprise announcement and immediate stop work notice has precluded any meaningful discussion between the Congress and the Department on the merits of the cancellation and the resulting impacts to the nation.

In partnership with the Department of Defense, Congress has supported the requested budgets for the KEI program. In past years, Congress went beyond what was requested, and provided the Department with additional dollars to accelerate this critical boost phase capability. In total, the Department has expended more than one billion dollars toward this effort to date, in providing the nation with a technically viable solution for boost and ascent engagement of a ballistic missile targeting our nation, deployed forces, and allies. Six years of development and testing, with most of the more than one billion of funding spent to date, was to culminate in the first booster flight in the fall of 2009 – less than five months from now. With the issuance of the stop work, the Department is walking away from this investment without the benefit of knowing what this technology has to offer.

The FY09 appropriated budget and accompanying language for the KEI program not only fully supported the requests but went further to encourage the Department to accelerate the development of this capability for the war fighter. The FY09 appropriations specifically funded continued KEI development, static tests, and the first booster flight in 2009.

OSD 05670-09

We strongly urge you to rescind the KEI stop work order and to continue toward culmination of the 2009 booster flight. We look forward to working with the Department in the FY10 budget cycle to best determine the way ahead for this vital boost and early engagement capability resident in the KEI program.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and we look forward to your prompt response and a positive resolution.

Sincerely,

Congressman Parker Griffith

Congressman Rob Bishop

Congressman Ed Pastor

Congressman Lincoln Davis

Congressman Trent Franks

Congressman Jerry Lewis

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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

May 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On April 6th you announced your recommendation to terminate the VH-71 Presidential helicopter program. You further stated that the Increment I aircraft would not be suitable to become operational for the long term as the Navy's estimated service life of the airframe is only about ten years. However, the Navy's estimate was based on a test which only concluded that the airframe was suitable to last until the proposed Increment II would have been completed. Further testing would prove that the service life of the Increment I aircraft could well exceed the 10,000 hour mark.

I recommend that you reconsider the recently imposed "stop work" order for Increment I aircraft and determine whether Increment I aircraft would be suitable as a replacement for the entire Presidential rotary wing aircraft fleet. I believe that the cancellation proposal could create serious risks for the fleet, and possibly for Presidential security.

Many aircraft in the current fleet are approaching forty years of service. The Navy has invested $3.2 billion in development costs for the Increment I version and of the five Increment I Pilot Production vehicles, four are completed and require only one additional year of flight testing before entering service.

The Increment I aircraft is far superior to all rotary wing aircraft in the current fleet of Presidential helicopters. It is prudent to make use of the aircraft that have been produced at such a high cost to the taxpayer. A follow-on program

OSD 05679-09

to begin in fiscal year 2011 will only disguise the immediate need, and significantly delay development. The options for potential competitors will remain much the same in 2011.

Additionally, the Administration, in its fiscal year 2010 budget request only asked for $85 million in program termination costs. The Navy, by its own admission has stated that it expects cancellation costs to approach $555 million, and would require an additional $4.4 billion to extend the life of the current aging fleet. Given these estimates, it would appear that poor business decisions are being made regarding this replacement program and that determinations are being made based on public perception.

In light of these concerns, we urge you to reconsider your decision, and commit to a Presidential helicopter fleet consisting of the currently developed Increment I aircraft.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your continued dedicated work for our nation's defense.

Sincerely,

John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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AARON SCHOCK, ILLINOIS

May 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs hereby request your testimony, or the testimony of one of the following designees at a hearing entitled, "**Afghanistan and Pakistan: Oversight of a New Interagency Strategy**": Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Michele Flournoy, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen or Commander of U.S. Central Command General David H. Petraeus. Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke will also be testifying.

The hearing is scheduled for **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2009, in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building.** This letters revises the invitation designating the hearing as originally scheduled for April 19, 2009.

Please contact Scott Lindsay or Andy Wright at (202) 225-2548 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Edolphus Towns
Chairman
Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform

John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

OSD 05944-09

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REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

May 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to authorize Juan Lara, Majority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Orfa Torres, Majority Staff Legislative Assistant of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Mike Brinck, Minority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; and; William Gibson Minority Military Fellow, to travel on official committee oversight business to sites in Washington from June 8 to June 12, 2009. The purpose of travel is to attend various Transition Assistance Program Workshops in Ft. Lewis Army Base, McChord AFB, Whidbey Island NAS, and Bangor NAS, Washington.

The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation 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.

If there are any questions, please have your staff coordinate with Juan Lara at (202) 226-5491 and Mike Brinck at (202) 226-3668. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bob

BOB FILNER
Chairman

JL/ot

OSD 05949-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 8, 2009

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 6, 2009, regarding Codel Capps to Haiti. Please note that this is now Codel Hirono as Representative Capps is no longer able to travel. In addition to the previously listed travelers, the Honorable Jim McDermott (D-WA) and the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP) are authorized to travel with the delegation.

Please also note that Mr. Brad Smith is no longer traveling.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05950-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 14, 2009

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 7, 2009 regarding Codel Rangel (D-NY) to the funeral of the late Honorable Jack F. Kemp. The following persons are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Jane Harman (D-CA)
The Honorable Hank Johnson (D-GA)
The Honorable Paul Ryan (R-WI)

The Honorable Robert Garcia (Former Member) and Mrs. Jane Garcia
The Honorable Bill Lowery (Former Member)
The Honorable David Martin (Former Member)
The Honorable Norm Minetta (Former Member)
The Honorable Marty Russo (Former Member)

Mrs. Leisha Pickering
Mrs. Amy Upton

Mr. Ted Daniel, Office of the Sergeant at Arms
Mr. Robert Fitzpatrick, Office of the Sergeant At Arms
Mr. Jack Looney, Office of the Sergeant at Arms
Mr. Jay Pierson, Republican Cloakroom

Thank you in advance for your prompt assistance with the matter.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05951-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 14, 2009

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 23, 2009, regarding Codel Oberstar. Please note that the following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable James L. Oberstar, Chairman (D-MN) and Mrs. Jean Oberstar
The Honorable Cliff Stearns (R-FL)
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
The Honorable Bart Stupak (D-MI)
The Honorable Candice Miller (R-MI)
The Honorable Daniel Lipinski (D-IL) and Mrs. Judy Lipinski

Mr. Peter Quilter, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Robyn Wapner, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Shanna Winters, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Mary McVeigh, Staff Associate, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. Jason Lamote, Professional Staff, Committee on Transportation
Dr. Kay A. King, Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
Mr. Carl Ek, Analyst, CRS, Detailee to Committee on Foreign Affairs

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05952-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 14, 2009

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 25, 2009, regarding my upcoming delegation to China. Please note that the following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Speaker, and Mr. Paul Pelosi
The Honorable James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI) and Mrs. Cheryl Sensenbrenner
The Honorable John B. Larson (D-CT) and Mrs. Leslie Larson
The Honorable Edward J. Markey (D-MA) and Dr. Susan Blumenthal
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Mr. Jonathan Blumenauer
The Honorable Jay Inslee (D-WA) and Mrs. Trudi Inslee
The Honorable Jackie Speier (D-CA)

The Honorable Wilson Livingood, Sergeant at Arms
The Honorable Brian Monaghan, Attending Physician
Ms. Stacy Kerr, Office of the Speaker
Mr. Jonathan Stivers, Office of the Speaker
Mr. Brendan Daly, Office of the Speaker
Ms. Bridget Fallon, Office of the Speaker
Ms. Karen Wayland, Office of the Speaker
Mr. Michael Long, Office of the Speaker
Mr. Steve Rusnak, Office of Photography

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05953-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 18, 2009

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 23, 2009, regarding Codel Tanner. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable John Tanner (D-TN), Chairman, and Mrs. Betty Ann Tanner
The Honorable John Shimkus (R-IL)
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and Mr. Ron Gladney
The Honorable Dennis Moore (D-KS) and Mrs. Stephene Moore
The Honorable John Boozman (R-AR) and Mrs. Cathy Boozman
The Honorable Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Mrs. Cheryl Flake
The Honorable Jeff Miller (R-FL) and Mrs. Vicki Miller
The Honorable Mike Ross (D-AR) and Mrs. Holly Ross
The Honorable Ben Chandler (D-KY) and Mrs. Jennifer Chandler
The Honorable Kendrick Meek (D-FL) and Mrs. Leslie Meek
The Honorable David Scott (D-GA)
The Honorable Mike Turner (D-OH)

Ms. Melissa Adamson, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Kathy Becker, Office of Rep. Tanner
Mr. Vince Morelli, CRS Detailee to Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Marilyn Owen, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs

Please also note that Mr. David Hobbs, Secretary General of the NATO PA, and H.E. Benson Whitney, U.S. Ambassador to Norway, have been invited to travel with the delegation in-theatre.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05954-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Mr. Roland Daigle and Mr. David Adams, staff of the Honorable James R. Langevin (D-RI) to join the Committee on Armed Services Codel Langevin during the approximate period of May 24 – June 2, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to conduct oversight duties in conjunction with Mr. Langevin's position as a member of the Armed Services 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 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.

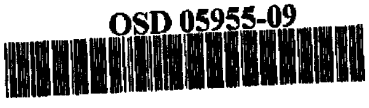
Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05955-09



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 20, 2009

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 14, 2009, regarding my upcoming delegation to China. Please note that in addition to the previously authorized travelers, the following staff members are authorized to travel:

Mr. Gerry Waldron, Professional Staff Member, Select Committee on Energy
Mr. Thomas Schreibel, Office of Rep. Sensenbrenner

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05956-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 21, 2009

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, 2009, regarding my upcoming delegation to China. Please note that in addition to the previously authorized travelers, the following staff member is authorized to travel:

Ms. Wyndee Parker, Office of the Speaker

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05957-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
The Office of Secretary of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon Way
Room 3D921
Washington, DC 20301

We are writing to convey our support for the Army plan to assign an additional Brigade Combat Team (BCT) to the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field, Georgia. We share your expressed concern for the great hardship endured by the soldiers and their families and agree with your guiding principle to prevent the under-manning of units for combat while changing the policy on stop-loss. We believe the plan to bring the 5th BCT to Fort Stewart is in concert with the guiding principle of your statement on April 6th and will continue the progress made in revitalizing our armed forces.

Unquestionably, Fort Stewart is, for numerous strategic reasons, an ideal location for the Army to grow. But just as important it is imperative that the Army and the Department of Defense not lose sight of the issue of reliance—that state and local governments and the civic and business leaders relied on the request of the Army and the Department to be ready to accommodate these soldiers and their families. Accordingly, they have already invested about $450 million dollars in anticipation of the arrival of the BCT.

While we recognize the extensive military analysis and fiscal constraints required in determining the location of a BCT, we firmly believe that it is in the best interest of the Department of Defense to take into full account the investment at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field made by local communities long ago. The communities made these decisions by taking to heart the clear assurance from Department leaders that the BCT was coming. They responded to the Department's requests to provide the essential private sector support in advance of the arrival of the Brigade. In deciding this issue, we believe the Army and the Department must consider the extensive, good faith reliance of its partner community. The Department must live up to its commitments. It must not break its word.

The City of Hinesville, the surrounding communities, and the State of Georgia have demonstrated unwavering support for soldiers and families over many years. The area now is clearly recognized as one of the most Army-friendly installation in the U.S. Community

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OSD 06021-09

leaders have faithfully and diligently worked with the Department and the private sector to ensure that the facilities and infrastructure is ready to receive the additional brigade. To date the community's investment of about $450 million in preparation for the expected growth to include $72 million in public school projects and other public sector infrastructure investment. The State of Georgia has again expanded its acclaimed HOPE Scholarship program to further extend the access to military families for full tuition, room and board to any Georgia public college or university for students who graduate from high school with a B average.

We believe adding the 46th BCT in the Army to Fort Stewart would enhance the immediate operational effectiveness of the 3rd Infantry Division at the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field. When taking into consideration the emerging Center of Maneuver Excellence at Fort Benning and the growing presence of the BCTs at Fort Stewart, the Army has an exceptional home base in the state of Georgia to meet all mission challenges for our nation's defense. Resources are already either in place or pending final construction to swiftly accommodate the arrival of the new Brigade and their families. No other U.S installation can so effectively and quickly meet these needs. Commanders would have an Army unit with maximum adaptability and capability to meet combat requirements. Soldiers would be able to focus on their training, knowing that their families are settling into an installation and community that continues to welcome and accommodate them.

Fort Stewart's strategic location in southeast Georgia makes it easily accessible by road, rail and sea. Hunter Army Air Field provides a strategic Airborne Point of Entry for unit deployment. Movement to ports takes place in hours vice days and weeks. At 280,000 acres, Fort Stewart is the largest military installation east of the Mississippi River. The Army has invested some $670 million at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field in the past three years making it one of the most modern and efficient installations in the nation with additional construction pending for increased capacity. Training is efficient and cost effective due to the installation's digital multipurpose range training complex and other facilities located within minutes of the cantonment areas. Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field also has no significant environmental impact or encroachment issues. Just this month Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field won its fourth Army Community of Excellence installation award.

Accordingly, it is our request that the Department continue as originally planned to expand growth at Fort Stewart through the assignment of the additional BCT without adversely affecting the alignment of the current forces stationed at Fort Stewart and Fort Benning. We urge you to meet with Fort Stewart community leaders in the near future and permit them the opportunity to directly share their views and additional information on this issue.

Thank you for your distinguished service to our nation and thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

John Barrow

Jack Kingston

Sanford Bishop

Paul Broun

Hank Johnson

Nathan Deal

John Lewis

Phil Gingrey

Jim Marshall

John Linder

David Scott

Tom Price

Lynn Westmoreland

GERALD E. CONNOLLY
11TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEES:
FEDERAL WORKFORCE, POSTAL SERVICE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND PROCUREMENT

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE
MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4611

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ANNANDALE, VA 22003
(703) 256-3071

PRINCE WILLIAM OFFICE:
4308 RIDGEWOOD CENTER DRIVE
WOODBRIDGE, VA 22192
(703) 670-4989

May 19, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear President Obama,

I am writing in the hope that you can clear up some confusion regarding the possible placement of detainees currently held at Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp. First of all, I would like to applaud your decision to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay. Because of the actions of the previous Administration, Guantanamo has become a lightning rod for anti-U.S. criticism. Your decision to close the facility sends a signal that will restore U.S. credibility and build goodwill across the globe, give a boost to our diplomatic efforts abroad, and make Americans safer.

Of course, your decision to close the facility will require that some difficult choices be made regarding the placement of the 241 detainees currently held there. Like many of my colleagues, I want to be sure that those decisions are made with our national security interests placed above all others. That is why I supported an amendment to the FY2009 Supplemental Appropriations Bill prohibiting the use of funds to transfer detainees to the United States until the Administration submits to Congress a comprehensive plan detailing the disposition of each individual and certifies to the Governor and legislature of each state that the detainees do not pose a security risk.

Some members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation have claimed that your Administration has a plan to house detainees at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Stafford, VA, a facility neighboring my district. As you are aware, MCB Quantico does maintain a detention facility. I am sure, however, that you share my view that it is not the appropriate place to house detainees awaiting trial or incarcerate those convicted and sentenced in the future.

MCB Quantico is a Level I secure facility with a maximum potential capacity of about 90 inmates. It is not equipped to house inmates for longer than 90 days and is generally used to temporarily hold inmates awaiting transfer to a larger facility. Level I is the lowest tier in the military correctional system. Level I facilities are sometimes the equivalent of a local jail. There are at least nine major military prison facilities more secure and with more capacity than MCB Quantico. Furthermore, MCB Quantico is an open base located just miles from residential neighborhoods and, unlike some of our Level II and Level III facilities, does not have a history of detaining enemy combatants or high-level terrorism suspects. I am sure that your Administration has already determined that a Level I facility such as MCB Quantico is not the appropriate location for these detainees.

OSD 06067-09

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Unlike some of my Republican colleagues, I have the utmost confidence in the men and women of our armed forces to securely detain these prisoners anywhere in the nation. But I am sure you agree that Level II or Level III facilities such as Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, WPNSTA, Charleston, SC, or Fort Knox, KY are better equipped to house these prisoners. Ideally, the Guantanamo detainees will be held in appropriate locations overseas. But if that is not possible, they should be held in Level II or Level III secure facilities with excess capacity and a history of performing this kind of mission. MCB Quantico does not fit those criteria.

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia

GC/HA
cc: Secretary Robert Gates
Attorney General Eric Holder, Jr.

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
GUAM

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FAX: (671) 477-2587

http://www.house.gov/bordallo

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I write to respectfully request that you convene a meeting of the Economic Adjustment Committee (EAC) at the earliest possible convenience and in accordance with a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report recommendation from April 9, 2009. Additionally, I would request an opportunity to address the EAC to present issues related to the military build-up on Guam.

As was stated in the GAO report, more can be done by the Department of Defense (DoD) to help find ways to address Guam's civilian infrastructure improvement needs. Furthermore, the report stated that senior DoD leadership needed to engage at the appropriate levels to help facilitate a successful military build-up. I believe that the DoD, through the EAC, can better leverage the cooperation of other federal agencies to plan and budget for civilian infrastructure needs on Guam because of senior and executive level involvement in the committee. I appreciate the DoD's continued support and recognition of the importance of this program and I want to continue working closely with the Department to ensure that this build-up is a success for our entire community.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any further questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Matthew Herrmann at matthew.herrmann@mail.house.gov or at 202-225-1188.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

OSD 06072-09

ERIC J.J. MASSA
29TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3229

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FAX: 202-226-6599

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PHONE: 585-218-0040
FAX: 585-218-0053

89 WEST MARKET STREET
CORNING, NY 14830
PHONE: 607-654-7566
FAX: 607-654-7568

317 NORTH UNION STREET
OLEAN, NY 14760
PHONE: 716-372-2090
FAX: 716-372-2869

May 21, 2009

Secretary Robert M. Gates
Secretary of War
United States of America
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-0001

Dear Secretary Gates: Sir,

It has recently come to my attention from multiple sources, including reports from returning American military personnel, that we have purchased Russian-made helicopters for the Afghan military. I have been further informed that emergency supplemental funding may have been used, in addition to annual budgetary funding.

I further understand that this program is a Defense or Department of State-administered initiative.

Unless advised to the contrary by you, I intend to publicly discuss what I consider to be an exceptionally misguided and inappropriate use of United States government funding. Therefore, I ask to hear from you as quickly as possible.

Very Respectfully,

Eric J.J. Massa
Member of Congress

OSD 06091-09

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CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS
JOINT COMMITTEE
ON TAXATION
CHAIRMAN

GEORGE A. DALLEY
CHIEF OF STAFF

JAMES E. CAPEL
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I commend your decision to investigate the recent fatal shooting of five service members at Camp Liberty in Iraq in order to identify shortcomings in mental health care for troops deployed in war zones.

This incident highlights not only the inherent danger to our deployed troops, even on their own bases, but the potential psychological consequences of combat stress and repeated deployments. The incident at Camp Liberty, as well as the growing incidences of suicide in the ranks, make it clear that more must be done to address the mental and psychological well-being of our men and women in uniform. The number of cases of suicide in the military has increased dramatically since the Vietnam War, reaching an all-time high of 128 cases in 2008.

I am horrified at the thought that the terrible slaughter in Iraq could easily have occurred in hometown, U.S.A. I agree with the calls for expansion of psychological testing during deployments in war zones. But I believe it is equally important to provide for intensive mandatory psychological evaluations of members of the armed forces immediately prior to separation as a precautionary step in the transition to civilian life.

As a veteran of the Korean War, I have experienced the difficulty of transitioning to the real world after a stint in combat. The situation is worse today. That is why I have introduced legislation (H.R. 1963) which would require all those separating from active duty to receive counseling in how to repackage their military skills, where and how to find employment, along with physical and psychological testing. The growing incidences of post-separation domestic violence, PTSD and suicide, demands that we do more for those who have contributed so much to our country.

I strongly urge you to expand your Camp Liberty investigation in order to determine the need for this universal mandatory approach. It seems clear to me that dealing with the difficulties of earning a living in a shrinking economy is increasingly fraught with uncertainty and stress, such as we've never seen before.

OSD 06095-09

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FAX: (202) 225-0816

PLEASE RESPOND TO OFFICE CHECKED

☐ DISTRICT OFFICE
163 WEST 125TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10027
TELEPHONE: (212) 663-3900
FAX: (212) 663-4277

Mr. Secretary, with full appreciation for your commitment to the welfare of our troops, I am prepared to work with you, Chairman Ike Skelton, and Chairman John Murtha to find ways to address these issues.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means

CBR/krj
Enclosure:
cc: Hon. Ike Skelton, Chairman, Armed Service Committee
Hon. John Murtha, Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense

Josh dinner meeting Call me if a problem

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
JOHN SPRATT, SOUTH CAROLINA
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JOE SESTAK, PENNSYLVANIA
GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA
NIKI TSONGAS, MASSACHUSETTS
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CHELLIE PINGREE, MAINE
CARTY CHESLEY, NORTH CAROLINA
MARTIN HEINRICH, NEW MEXICO
FRANK M. KRATOVIL, JR., MARYLAND
ERIC J.J. MASSA, NEW YORK
SCHIRY BRIGHT, ALABAMA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

JOHN M. MCHUGH, NEW YORK
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
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DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
JOHN C. FLEMING, LOUISIANA
MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO
THOMAS J. ROONEY, FLORIDA

ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

May 21, 2009

Hon. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express our concern about the Department of Defense Health Information Technology (Health IT) systems. The committee has long expressed concern about how the department has managed its Health IT systems, and recent events have only deepened those fears.

A joint hearing on the Department of Defense Health IT systems was held on March 24, 2009, by the subcommittee on Military Personnel, with oversight responsibility for the Military Health System, and the subcommittee on Terrorism and Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, with oversight responsibility for Department of Defense Information Technology programs. At that hearing, we heard from the military services about the difficulties they have encountered with Health IT systems, specifically problems with the system known as AHLTA. We were encouraged that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and his staff agreed that there are serious problems with the Health IT systems. We were further encouraged when they presented what appeared to be an ambitious and comprehensive plan to overhaul the system that would address all of the issues raised by the services and would provide the best Health IT system possible for the department's beneficiaries.

At that hearing, we were assured that the Department was committed to moving forward with their proposed solution, but that cost details could not be discussed because both the Fiscal Year 2009 supplemental request and the Fiscal Year 2010 budget request were still in preparation.

During our review of the Fiscal Year 2010 budget justification materials, we were surprised to find no mention of the plan referenced by Health Affairs during the March hearing. Further, a review of the Fiscal Year 2009 supplemental request did not turn up any mention of the proposed solution. Most recently, in testimony during the May 15, 2009, hearing on the

OSD 06110-09

Defense Health Program budget, the Acting Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the Chief Information Officer failed to provide any additional insight into the cost of the proposed solution.

We find this troubling. It calls into question the ability of the department to deliver on the commitments made by Health Affairs during the March hearing, as well as the promise of a Joint Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record recently announced by you and Secretary Shinseki, at least for health information. We therefore respectfully request that you look into the situation and report back to the committee with the actual status and content of any plan or strategy to improve the Department of Defense Health IT systems, as well as projected costs and a budget submission schedule. We look forward to discussing your findings.

Very truly yours,

Susan Davis
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Military Personnel

Joe Wilson
Ranking Member

Adam Smith
Chairman
Subcommittee on Terrorism
Unconventional Threats and Capabilities

Jeff Miller
Ranking Member

SD/AS/JW/JM:dk

MIKE COFFMAN
6TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0606

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LONE TREE, CO 80124
(720) 283-9772

June 2, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Room 3E880
Washington DC. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Last week I had the opportunity to visit with our military and civilian leaders in both Iraq and Afghanistan. I was able to spend time talking to some of our troops and with members of our diplomatic corps as well. I was deeply impressed with the unwavering dedication of all of our young men and women who serve our nation during such difficult times and under such challenging circumstances.

This was my first trip back to Iraq since having served with the United States Marine Corps in al Anbar province from August 2005 to March 2006. No doubt, I was deeply impressed with the progress that has been made and I'm confident that we are now on our way to bringing our direct involvement in Iraq to a just conclusion.

However, I am deeply disturbed by what I saw in Afghanistan. There is little question that the focus of the main effort, since 2003, has been with Iraq and that we are only now shifting our attention to Afghanistan.

In neglecting Afghanistan, the radical elements of the Afghan Taliban have regained a strong foothold in the country. They have been able to deny the government of Afghanistan the security necessary for the political process to move forward and have caused much of the population to lose faith with their nascent representative government.

Mr. Secretary, we've made enough mistakes already in Afghanistan that have allowed the once-defeated enemy to reemerge and dominate whole provinces. It's time we were honest with the American people about the true cost of what it will take to win this war.

I'm reminded of how we reversed the situation in Iraq. General David Petraeus is credited with devising and executed a strategy commonly referred to as the "surge." The surge had two primary components that were at the heart of the strategy. The first part was increasing U.S troop strength from 140,000 to 160,000 and the second was a redeployment of our forces from

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the larger more secure base camps, located outside of Iraqi population centers, to smaller forward operating bases within their communities. The surge provided enough security to allow the political process to move forward and thus gave Iraq a level of stability that now permits the United States and our coalition partners to proceed with a phased withdrawal from the country.

Afghanistan has no history of effective governance, has a larger and equally diverse population than Iraq, is physically a larger county than Iraq, and has a determined resurgent enemy. Yet when you add together our projected troop strength, military advisors and trainers (68,000) along with the contributions from our coalition partners in Afghanistan (32,000), it all comes out to a number that is far less than the commitment we made in Iraq during the surge in 2007 when Coalition Forces in Iraq totaled 168,000 plus 14,000 from our coalition partners. Equally troubling is the current plan's increase in Afghan security forces, both police and army, to 216,000 which is far less than the 615,000 total that is currently serving in Iraq.

While the Pakistan Army is now launching offensive operations against their indigenous Pakistani Taliban, they have shown little enthusiasm, if any, for confronting the Afghan Taliban on their side of the border who enjoy a safe haven critical to their success.

When I questioned you and Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee about the projected resources dedicated to Afghanistan, Admiral Mullen answered that once we get into the mission, we will have an opportunity to reassess what we need.

Mr. Secretary, I think that it is obvious that there are not sufficient resources dedicated to winning the war in Afghanistan and that each day we move forward without a sufficient plan is a day that prolongs this war and unnecessarily increases the number of our young men and women who are either killed or wounded.

My guess is that senior officials within the Department of Defense probably already know that the plan is inadequate but they are fearful that it will be unpopular to put out larger requirements and reverse the goal of giving our troops a longer dwell time between deployments. It would also force reconsideration of the three additional Army brigade combat teams that were initially planned for but were cut out of the Administration's new Defense budget.

Mr. Secretary, again, by not putting in the necessary resources to win in Afghanistan, we are continuing the same old policies of dragging out a war that has already gone on for too long and has cost too many lives.

The right thing to do may not be the best decision politically for the Administration, but it is the best decision on behalf of those whom we are asking to serve in Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

Mike Coffman

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA
WASHINGTON OFFICE
2111 RAYBURN BUILDING
TELEPHONE 202-225-5765

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

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

June 1, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As you continue your visits to Elmendorf Air Force Base and Ft. Greely I write to urge you to reconsider funding the construction of Missile Field Two and the fielding of the final fourteen Ground Based Interceptors at Ft. Greely, Alaska and to continue funding procurement of the F-22 Raptor until final publication of the next Mobility Capability Study and the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review.

We are sending the wrong message to our enemies by stopping the placement of these interceptors. North Korea continues to build its missile capabilities and is now able to launch a missile capable of hitting any place in the United States. As they showed by threatening to hold more nuclear and missile tests, North Korea's test of a two stage Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) on April 5th of this year was only the beginning. They have begun to restore their nuclear reactor, tested numerous short range missiles and a nuclear weapon and are preparing to test another ICBM. All of this has occurred since your announcement that we would not finish fielding the Ground Based Interceptors at Ft. Greely.

While thirty interceptors may be enough to counter the current threat from North Korea, it is clear that it will not be enough in the future and these interceptors will need to be fielded to ensure our ability to counter all missile threats from Rogue Nations. Before capping Missile Field Two, it is important that the realities of construction in the Interior of Alaska be taken into consideration. Due to the Arctic climate, permafrost and extreme temperatures, the construction season is significantly shorter in Alaska than it is in the Lower 48 States. Putting off construction now may not leave enough time to complete construction of Missile Field Two when it is needed.

OSD 06360-09

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Also, as you have seen at Elmendorf Air Force Base, the F-22 Raptor is and will continue to be an important platform for ensuring air dominance for our military. For that reason, I believe it is a mistake to cap the number of F-22s purchased by the Air Force at 187. Having seen the F-22 fighters stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, I believe the F-22 is the best fighter in the world now and will remain the best fighter for the next twenty years. It is the only 5th Generation fighter that has been fielded. And there are already situations in which a 4th Generation fighter like the F-15 or F-16 would be unable to operate in due to sophisticated and lethal air defense systems like the SA-20 and S-300/400. Stopping production now, when the first F-35 squadrons won't be fully formed until 2013, will leave a critical vulnerability in the Air Force's ability to provide air dominance.

Of course, I understand that fighters with the capabilities of the F-22 are expensive, which is why it makes sense to field a fleet made up of both F-22s and the less expensive F-35s. Prior to lowering the number of F-22s due to the budget crunch caused by the Global War on Terror, the Air Force was going to purchase 381 F-22s and approximately 1,800 F-35s. While the F-35 does not have the capabilities of the F-22, it is still more than capable of forming the backbone of the fighter fleet with the help of the F-22. The F-22 is the advanced, clearing force and the F-35 is the holding force and their capabilities and procurement numbers reflect that. It is not an either/or situation—both planes are necessary for the Air Force to continue to control the skies.

Even with a proper mix, however, a fleet of 183 F-22s is not enough to deter or meet the potential threats facing our country. Once training, maintenance and tests are factored in to that number, it leaves only 100 fighters available. There have been over 30 air campaign studies over the last 15 years that showed a requirement for far more than 183 F-22s to replace a fleet of over 800 F-15s. And with so few F-22s, the planes will be used more often, they will age quickly and they will not be available for all of the missions which they could be used for. And since the production line will be shut down, the Air Force will have to choose between using planes that aren't as well suited for missions or restarting production at significant costs. That situation will, more likely than not, leave the United States in the same vulnerable position it is in now, with rapidly aging planes and an Air Force that is unable to establish air dominance with minimal loss of planes and people the way it has over the past 50 years.

Assuming that we will not face threats which will require the capabilities of the F-22 to meet is a dangerous decision that we will regret. By procuring 243 F-22s, the amount that most Air Force threat studies have shown to be necessary, we will ensure that we will not only have enough F-22s to meet all threats, but we will prevent threats from becoming reality by ensuring that many countries decide that fighting the United States is not worth the drastic losses our Air Force will inflict.

Thank you again for taking the time to come to Alaska and tour our military installations. The men and women that serve in Alaska are among the best in the world and I am proud to represent them in Congress. I hope you will continue to do everything in your power to provide them with the necessary equipment and support for them to continue to protect our country everyday and I look forward to working with you in the future to ensure our military remains the best the world has ever seen.

Sincerely,

Don Young

DON YOUNG
Congressman For All Alaska

WALTER B. JONES
3D DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3303

June 3, 2009

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

Secretary Gates:

Last year I had the pleasure of introducing the leadership of Camp Lejeune to Caroline Canines for Service. Together, they have successfully implemented a program that utilizes the inmates at the brig to train dogs to assist wounded personnel returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. This program benefits the rehabilitation of both the inmate and the wounded Marine.

Care for our wounded veterans may take many forms. The program at Camp Lejeune may train these animals to perform up to 80 functions. Dogs may also be trained to provide mobility to the disabled and bring a degree of normalcy to an individual's life. In addition, these dogs give unconditional love and loyalty to the people they serve.

The program at Camp Lejeune's brig is unique and has gained the attention of many around the nation. I believe the Department of Defense would benefit from replicating this program at other appropriate installations. I would encourage you to determine if this effort could be expanded to other bases.

Sincerely,

Walter B. Jones

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Thank you!

OSD 06364-09

PAUL C. BROUN, M.D.
10TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–1010

June 3, 2009

Ms. Elizabeth King
Assistant Secretary of Defense
Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

VIA Facsimile (703-693-5530)
URGENT MEMBER REQUEST

Dear Ms. King:

In 1985, Public Law 99-145 created the National Science Center to stimulate interest and increase the math and science proficiency of our nation's students. Beginning as a partnership between the U.S. Department of the Army and the National Science Center Inc., funding has been allocated until fiscal year 2010, discontinuing at that point due to budget constraints.

The Tenth Congressional District of Georgia, which I represent, is home to the only National Science Center Discovery Academy in the nation. Without continued funding, the mission of the Center, to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education throughout the nation, will become extremely difficult to fulfill. As a ranking member on the Committee on Science and Technology and as a physician, I understand the importance of educating our children in these crucial subjects and stand in support of the Center's mission.

With this, I am requesting the assistance of your agency in finding funding avenues available to assist the National Science Center. Specifically, the Center is interested in grants and public-private partnership opportunities. I would appreciate your written response as to the manner in which your agency can assist the Center. This initiative is of the highest importance to my office and I would greatly appreciate an expedited response to this matter. I am enclosing documents which further describe the mission and history of the National Science Center. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my Grants Coordinator, Nicole Acevedo, at 706-447-3857.

Warm Regards,

Paul C. Broun, M.D.
Member of Congress

Encl. as stated

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BOB ETHERIDGE
2ND DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

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June 4, 2009

Secretary Robert Gates
Department of Defense
The Pentagon Office of The Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to you regarding a recent decision by Dr. Shirley Miles, the Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), to increase middle school class sizes and remove kindergarten classroom aides throughout DoDEA schools. I urge you to reexamine this policy and move to ensure our students get the attention they need for success in the 21st Century. Study after study has demonstrated that smaller classes improve learning and increase academic achievement, especially in the early grades. Military children, in particular, need special attention to address the challenges of frequent moves and parents who are deployed. It is unacceptable to shortchange our students by increasing class size.

As the only former state schools chief serving in Congress, I know firsthand how important it is to have quality teachers who can address the needs of each individual child. Education is the key to the future for our children, and class size is a critical component of making sure that our schools provide the best possible learning environment for our students. According to the research by the U.S. Department of Education, reducing class size is one of only four reforms that have been shown to increase student achievement. There are also health, safety, and socialization benefits to smaller class sizes and reduced pupil-to-teacher ratios (PTR). Yet the DoDEA's decision moves our schools in the opposite direction, increasing the student-to-adult ratio in kindergarten from 14.5:1 to 18:1, and increasing the PTR for middle school from 16:1 to 25:1. This plan shortchanges our students and will reduce our schools' effectiveness.

Eight elementary schools and one junior high school in my district would be affected by these changes. Albritton Junior High School stands to lose 12 teachers. While the elementary schools would gain 8 teachers on paper, the elimination of dedicated teacher's aides for kindergarten classrooms means a significant reduction in classroom oversight and effective pupil-to-teacher ratios. This is the wrong direction for our schools to be going, and it contradicts both good pedagogy and parent and student needs. In DoDEA's recent customer service survey, parents and students both indicated their belief that lowering class sizes was one of the most important things that could be done to improve DoD schools.

OSD 06536-09

Research shows that in the early years classes with 13 to 17 students achieve better results. The Federal goal is to have class sizes no larger than 18, and best practices for kindergarten call for class sizes to be limited to 12. I urge you work towards this goal in DoD schools and ensure that our military children get the attention they need in the classroom. Thank you in advance for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Bob Etheridge
Member of Congress

BE:dw

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
GUAM

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

June 2, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn, III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E944
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Lynn,

I write to respectfully request that a meeting of the Economic Adjustment Committee (EAC) be convened this month to help address the pressing civilian infrastructure requirements and other budget concerns relating to the implementation of the military build-up on Guam.

I urge you and senior officials at the Department of Defense (DOD) to move forward in scheduling and planning this next EAC meeting without delay. A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report dated April 9, 2009, recommends that DOD regularly convene meetings of the full executive-level EAC to coordinate interagency planning and assistance for the Government of Guam. As stated in the GAO report, DOD concurred with this recommendation. Much work remains under an aggressive and constrained timeline for the military build-up on Guam to be implemented successfully. A meeting of the EAC this month is important for timely and improved coordination among federal agencies with the Government of Guam. This coordination is needed to successfully budget for and satisfy identified program requirements.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

OSD 06540-09

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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AARON SCHOCK, ILLINOIS

June 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to raise an issue with you regarding the efforts of my Subcommittee staff to schedule a briefing with the Department of Defense. The staff has been attempting for over two months to schedule a briefing with the appropriate Department officials to gather information about U.S. global defense posture. To date, they have not received a satisfactory response. Please accept this letter as a formal request for your assistance in facilitating this briefing.

My staff is seeking information on both past and future plans for U.S. overseas basing strategy. Specifically, I have tasked the Subcommittee staff with reporting on:

- management of the U.S. global defense posture;
- the total size, shape, and cost of the U.S. overseas military footprint;
- recent activity related to realignment or redeployment of overseas forces; and
- future plans to review the global defense posture, particularly in the context of the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review.

It is my understanding that the Office of the Under Secretary for Policy and the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Installations and Environment are the most relevant offices for this inquiry.

At my direction, my staff initiated contact with the Department on this issue on March 31, 2009. After contacting the Department again on April 17, 2009, the assigned action officer within the Office of Legislative Affairs informed them that the Department needed an additional two weeks to address the request, due to the need to focus on hearings being held by other congressional committees. After honoring that request, the

OSD 06557-09

staff contacted the Department at least five times both by phone and by email between May 13 and May 26, 2009. In each of these communications the Department simply requested more time.

I do not believe this to be an unreasonable request, but my Subcommittee staff has expended an incredible amount of effort to facilitate this briefing. At this point, I feel compelled to request your attention to this matter in the interest of expediting a response. I request a response from the Department no later than Friday, June 12, 2009. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

cc: Rep. Jeff Flake
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 1, 2009

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 30, 2009, regarding Codel Pastor to Seattle, Washington during the approximate period of June 5-7, 2009. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Ed Pastor, Chairman (D-AZ) and Mrs. Verma Pastor
The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords, Vice Chairman (D-AZ)
The Honorable Devin Nunes (R-CA)
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
The Honorable Silvestre Reyes (D-TX) and Mrs. Carolina Reyes
The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ)
The Honorable Henry Cuellar (D-TX)
The Honorable Jared Polis (D-CO)

Mr. Peter Quilter, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Dr. Kay A. King, Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
Mr. Jim Farr, Finance Clerk, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Samantha Goldstein, Staff Assistant, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06660-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 2, 2009

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 1, 2009, regarding Codel Pastor to Seattle, Washington during the approximate period of June 5-7, 2009. In addition to those previously listed, the following persons are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Bob Filner (D-CA) and Mrs. Jane Merrill

In addition, the following persons have been invited to travel with the delegation:

Ms. June Beittel, CRS detailee to House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Irene Bruno, Interpreter, Department of State
Ms. Teresa Willett, Interpreter, Department of State
Ms. Isabel Mangan, Interpreter, Department of State
Ms. Olivia Reinshagen-Hernandez, Interpreter, Department of State
Ms. Barbara Phillips, Interpreter, Department of State

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06661-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

June 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representatives C.W. Bill Young, Rodney Frelinghuysen, and Jo Bonner, members of the Committee on Appropriations and Tom McLemore, professional staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on a CODEL led by Parker Griffith to Paris and Normandy, France during the approximate time period of June 12-15, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to attend the Paris Air Show and meeting with government and business executives to discuss aerospace and defense issues of mutual interest and to attend a wreath laying ceremony.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 06662-09

RANKING MEMBER:
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/minority/republicans.htm
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

May 11, 2009

Mr. Robert Wilkie
Assistance Secretary of Defense for
Legislative Affairs
1300 Desense Pentagon
Washington D.C. 20301

In reply refer to: 2064549mg

Dear Mr. Wilkie:

Mrs Gladys Valdes has contacted my Congressional district office regarding her need to have the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Small Business Administration review and certify her company solicitations as soon as possible.

Mrs. Valdes states that she is the owner of Ibiley Manufacturing Corporation, a small Hispanic business located in Miami, Florida. Her company has been manufacturing military uniforms for the DOD since September of 2001. Presently, most of her solicitations, and specifically SPM1CI-09-R0033 and M6785409R3000, have not yet been certified. As soon as these solicitations are assigned to her, she could bring back to work 120 of her employess who are currently receiving unemployment. I am enclosing a copy of Mrs. Valdes' correspondence which contains details regarding this case.

Mrs Valdez respectfully requests that the DOD and the SBA certify her solicitations withouth delay, consistent with all aplicable rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

IRL/mg
cc: Mr. Guy Torres, Director
SBA, HUB-Zone
409 3 St. Sw 8th Floor
Washington D.C. 20416.

cc: Ms. Gladys Valdes
Ibiley Manufacturing Corporation
1927 West Flager St.
Miami, Florida 33135

OSD 06664-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

June 4, 2009

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BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to The Honorable Adam Schiff and The Honorable Steve Israel, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of June 26, 2009 – July 3, 2009, to Ireland, Jordan, Algeria, and Tunisia. The Honorable Cliff Stearns, The Honorable Solomon Ortiz, The Honorable Darrell Isa, The Honorable Gene Green, and The Honorable Donald Manzullo will participate in the CODEL under separate authorization. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government and non-government officials, assess aid programs and policies, and discuss security issues facing the region.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 06668-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

June 9, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On March 23rd, I wrote to you asking you to review your Department's policy on outsourcing and suggesting that you halt A-76 studies pending the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) review of the A-76 program pending the Office of Management and Budget's review of the A-76 program. I requested a prompt reply.

I was disappointed with the response that I received on April 28th, from your former Undersecretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics which largely restated the facts contained in my letter to you. The response also stated that the "Department is reviewing the current (A-76) program". This response appears to misstate what is indeed occurring within the Defense Department and does not address my concerns.

Originally, the OMB Circular A-76 process was to be used as a tool to determine the most efficient source for performing "commercial" work – either in the public or private sector. The use of the OMB Circular A-76 process was extensively criticized by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in two 2008 reports. According to GAO, the OMB guidance for the A-76 process was flawed. As a result, there may have been inadequate tracking of costs and savings but moreover, there are serious concerns that agencies, particularly DoD, had started privatization studies in response to arbitrary targets. Moreover, the DoD Inspector General has found that an OMB error in the A-76 calculation of

OSD 06687-09

"overhead" could wrongly and unfairly result in the outsourcing of workload. However, DoD has recently used OMB A-76 to push more and more work into the private sector. Indeed, in fiscal year 2008, DoD more than doubled spending for contractor provided services compared to the amount it spent a decade ago but your Department has been unable to answer basic questions such as how many contractors and subcontractors there are and their average salaries.

To halt the continued conversion of functions to contractor performance until the Administration could conduct a thorough review of its a-76 policy, the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes a government-wide moratorium on beginning or announcing any A-76 studies. In addition, the President has announced a broader review of "...when governmental outsourcing for services is and is not appropriate..." Yet, the Defense Department is continuing to move forward with numerous public-private competition studies that were in progress before the moratorium took effect, and without further validation of estimated savings, to include converting government functions to contractors.

Therefore I once again, strongly this time, recommend that you immediately suspend all ongoing activities related to OMB Circular A-76 studies, including the conversion of functions performed by federal employees to contractor performance and I recommend that you do so for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2009.

I once again request a prompt response from you to this letter.

Respectfully,

John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

JOHN D. DINGELL
15TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

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June 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing with regard to media reports on the actions of Defense Department (DOD) contractors in Afghanistan. Of particular concern is an alleged incident involving employees of Paravant, a subsidiary of the private security contractor currently known as Xe, formerly known as Blackwater Worldwide. Paravant is owned by Erik Prince, founder, owner, and former Chief Executive Officer of Blackwater. It has been widely reported that on May 5, 2009, four off-duty Paravant employees opened fire on Afghan civilians. One of the Afghans died and two others were injured in the shooting.

On May 19, 2009, U.S. military spokesman, Lt. Col. Chris Kubik, stated that Paravant violated the terms of its contract with DOD, which bars contractors' employees from carrying the types of firearms used in the shooting and from possessing any firearms outside of training settings. The employees allege that Paravant supplied them the guns, which also violated the terms of the contract.

The State Department decided not to renew its contract with Blackwater Worldwide (now Xe) after the Iraqi Government, in January 2009, refused to renew its operating license. The Iraqi government cited the company's involvement in a 2007 shooting incident in Baghdad in which 17 innocent civilians were killed as a reason for its decision. Fallout from that incident prompted Mr. Prince to resign from Blackwater Worldwide in March 2009 and change the company's name to Xe. Collectively, five of the contractors involved in the September 2007 Baghdad shooting have been charged by the U.S. Depart of Justice with 14 counts of manslaughter, 20 counts of attempted manslaughter, and one count of using a machine gun to commit a crime of violence. A sixth Blackwater employee pleaded guilty in December of 2008 to charges of voluntary manslaughter and attempt to commit manslaughter.

In light of the serious nature of the alleged crime on May 5, 2009, and other reports on Blackwater/Xe's recklessness in the use of force against civilians, I believe DOD may wish to review its contract with Paravant. The following questions relate to the ability of DOD to terminate its contract with Paravant and to review the past performance of a contractor and its employees in determining the award of a future contract under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). Please provide answers to the following questions by July 8, 2009:

1. The FAR sets forth the policies and procedures for termination of federal contracts for default or for the convenience of the government. 48 CFR § 49.000 *et seq.* "The Government has a contractual right to completely or partially terminate a contract for default because of the contractor's actual or anticipated failure to perform its contractual obligations." 48 C.F.R. § 49.401 (a). Should the government wish to terminate the contract for default, it "is not liable for the contractor's costs on undelivered work and is entitled to the repayment of advance and progress payments, if any, applicable to that work." 48 CFR § 49.402-2 (a).

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Given the failure of Paravant to comply with the terms of its contract, does DOD plan to terminate Paravant's contract for default?

2. The government may also terminate a contract for convenience when it is not in default but has failed to perform due to causes beyond the control or fault of the contractor, or when continued performance by the contractor is no longer in the best interest of the government. 48 C.F.R. § 49.401 (b). Termination for the convenience of the government spares the contractor financial hardship by providing fair compensation "for the work done and the preparations made for the terminated portions of the contract, including a reasonable allowance for profit." 48 C.F.R. § 49.201 (a).

   If DOD will not be terminating Paravant's contract for default, does it plan to terminate Paravant's contract for convenience?

3. Subpart 9.000 of the FAR "prescribes policies, standards, and procedures for determining whether prospective contractors and subcontractors are responsible." The FAR's policy states that the Government may only enter into contracts with responsible companies. 48 C.F.R. § 9.103 (a) For the contract to be awarded, the contractor must "affirmatively demonstrate its responsibility, including, when necessary, the responsibility of its proposed subcontractors." 48. C.F.R. § 9.103 (c). Determination of whether a contractor is responsible is based on several criteria, including the contractor's having a satisfactory performance record, 48. C.F.R. § 9.104-1 (c), and having a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics. 48. C.F.R. § 9.104-1 (d).

   Agencies may consider the past conduct or performance of key employees of prospective contractors when assessing whether contractors have satisfactory performance records, or satisfactory records of integrity and business ethics, in making responsibility determinations. Comp. Gen. Dec. B-165915, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-248572, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-211353, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-210390, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-205602, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-204928; Comp. Gen. Dec. B-202325, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-270849, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-251533.

   Given the past performance of Blackwater/Xe's CEO and owner, and its employees, why did DOD find Paravant sufficiently responsible to be awarded a contract?

On April 6, 2009, you released a statement in which you called for reshaping the way the Pentagon does business, including an overhaul of its approach to contracting. In addition to questioning the Pentagon's contract with a specific private security contractor, I believe this letter provides a strong case for reevaluating the Pentagon's relationship with private security contractors overall. Thank you in advance for your attention to the matter. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Erica Fein at (202) 225-4071.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

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JON TRAUB,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 12, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Geoff Davis (R-KY) to participate on the CODEL being led by Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA), to Moscow, Russia. This travel will take place during the period of Saturday, June 27 through Wednesday, July 1, 2009; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The purpose of this trip is to meet with government and non-government officials to discuss the future of U.S.– Russia bilateral trade relations, energy, as well as examine current domestic politics.

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

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 06713-09

KAY GRANGER
12TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 29, 2009

Honorable William Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington D.C.

Dear Secretary Gates,

One of the unfortunate and enduring legacies of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) is the fragile psychological health of our returning servicemembers. Traumatic stress, both physical and psychological may not manifest itself for many months or years, and yet its latent symptoms can negatively affect soldiers, their families, and their communities long after their return from deployment. The psychological health of our returning servicemembers will continue to result in a serious undercurrent of health care demands to the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The North Texas region has both urban areas and vast rural areas. We have an unusually large number of returning servicemembers and are beginning to experience serious gaps in the responsiveness of the health care system to their known and future needs. In the Ft Worth and Dallas metropolitan area we have seen families and servicemembers in crisis who are coming to the Tarrant County private and public university-based mental health clinics, emergency departments, and hospitals. As you know, a recent RAND Corp study estimates that 1 in 5 servicemembers who served in OEF and OIF have PTSD, but only 1 out of 2 who are in need of behavioral health care seek it, so we know firsthand that a large challenge looms in our region.

There are several challenges to our servicemembers, their families and the psychological health care system in the North Texas region. As we enter the eighth year of OEF and OIF, we cannot wait any longer to provide comprehensive solutions to these challenges so that we can begin to integrate and assimilate our returning warriors and their families back into civilian life. The challenges faced include:

Lack of education and outreach to the community so that returning servicemembers and their families understand the range of services available and how to access them;

OSD 06762-09

Lack of access to behavioral health care providers. TRICARE coverage is often limited and difficult to navigate, some providers accept TRICARE while others do not, and many insurance policies cover only a limited number of visits, which are often too few to address deep seated, potentially life threatening conditions that need longer treatment protocols to resolve;

A lack of regional data on the size and scope of the challenge in our area, which is critical to help financially strapped municipalities and organizations properly allocate resources to help public university-based, county, and rural- based mental health clinics, emergency departments, and hospitals;

The lack of education for our primary care physicians, who are our first line of defense and referral in the community and who need to be educated in the nuances of military life as well as understanding the symptoms of stress disorders, separation anxiety, depression and hostility;

And finally and most importantly, the huge lack of behavioral health care providers (psychiatrists, psychologists, etc) in DOD and VA. This is without question the most critical issue in the care and psychological treatment of our returning servicemembers and their families. This is the one challenge which the DOD and VA will not (and cannot) solve in the near future. As the Acting Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs stated before the House Department of Defense Appropriations Subcommittee on March 3, 2009, there are simply not enough psychological health professionals available in DOD and the VA to treat the number of service members and families that have been impacted by both wars

Forseeing these challenges, the Congress inserted language in the FY 2009 Department of Defense Appropriations bill that directed the Department to, "... make funds available for projects and programs throughout the United States that (1) serve a high population of returning service members (2) encompass large urban and rural areas (3) have an existing infrastructure that utilizes a combination of local mental health associations, community support networks, private sector mental health care provider networks, and universities for purposes of enhancing the local access, delivery, education and outreach of mental health services for returning service members and their families...".

In the past 20 months, Congress has provided over $1 Billion to the Department of Defense for the psychological health care of our servicemembers and their families. I have the utmost respect and admiration for the good men and women at the Department who are doing their best to provide treatment to our soldiers under difficult circumstances. But the Department faces a task which calls for solutions now, not in the distant future. Seminars, websites and webinars are simply not a substitute for direct one-on-one contact with professional behavioral health care providers.

In the North Texas region, we have developed precisely the model that was identified in the FY 2009 DoD Appropriations legislation. This initiative led by the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) in Fort Worth, (which has one of the

largest behavioral health care programs in the state) has the psychological health professionals already in place to handle the challenges for our region. UNTHSC and its team have partners and contracts throughout the North Texas region for training health and behavioral health professionals, providing mental health services to the communities, and has a large network of referral sources across both urban and rural areas. UNTHSC has affiliations with the VA and other military organizations, as well as with private and public hospital and outpatient providers. In fact, UNTHSC has provided to me an excellent proposal to rapidly address the growing issues of education, outreach and training as well as providing screening, treatment and referral services to our returning servicemembers and their families. This proposal has also been reviewed by the Department but no action has been taken.

Mr. Secretary, I request that, in accordance with the language in the FY 2009 Appropriations legislation, that funding be provided to entities in the north Texas region as soon as possible so that we may immediately begin the critical work of providing our returning warriors and their families with the access to psychological care they need to ease and support their transition back to civilian life. I can think of no obligation that the federal government has that is more important than this.

Sincerely,

Kay Granger
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On Tuesday, September 15, approximately 400 business leaders from our respective congressional districts in North Carolina will come to Capitol Hill for "The Washington Perspective" Economic Development seminar hosted by myself, Rep. Larry Kissell, Rep. G.K. Butterfield, Rep. Bob Etheridge, Rep. Walter Jones, Rep. Melvin Watt, Rep. Virginia Foxx, Rep. Patrick McHenry, and Rep. Heath Schuler.

We would be honored to have you join us as a speaker at this important event. This seminar has been held annually for more than a decade and has been covered by C-SPAN. In the past, we have been honored to have had esteemed speakers such as: Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, former Director of Office of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns, Senator Joe Biden, *New York Times* Op-Ed Columnist David Brooks, and ABC News Correspondent George Stephanopoulos.

We are hosting this seminar in an effort to give the businessmen and women of North Carolina an opportunity to meet with federal government officials and political analysts to discuss issues that may affect their livelihood. Your thoughts and views on the many issues which impact the business community would offer these individuals a unique perspective on how federal policies and laws are formed.

The seminar will be held in the Congressional Auditorium in the new Capitol Visitor Center. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. and the program will last from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. We are aware of the constraints on your time and would be happy to accommodate your schedule. Please contact Kara Spencer in Congressman Mike McIntyre's office at (202)225-2731 or email her at kara.spencer@mail.house.gov to let her know if you can participate.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mike McIntyre

Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress

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COMMITTEE ON
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TIM RYAN

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
17TH DISTRICT, OHIO

June 8, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Ohio Members of Congress, we are especially proud of an industry that is of vital importance to our state and the nation. Ohio is a leader in the production of strategic materials critical to our national security, like titanium and other high-performance "specialty metals." We strongly support laws that ensure that the United States will remain a world leader in the production of specialty metals and a key supplier to the Department of Defense.

We write to draw your attention to a pending DoD regulation on use of specialty metals for defense products that will likely undermine the Specialty Metals Amendment, 10 U.S.C. 2533b, which requires use of domestic specialty metals in major defense articles such as ships, aircraft, and tanks. We believe that two aspects of this proposed rule will benefit offshore sources for these critical metals at the expense of domestic manufacturers, who are the only guaranteed source of these materials so essential to our national defense.

First, the proposed regulation adopts an overly-broad exception to the specialty metals laws for so-called "commercial-off-the-shelf-items" (COTS). We agree that COTS items should not be subject to unique DoD contracting rules. However, DoD's proposed definition of "COTS" allows for drastic modifications of items for military applications, after which they bear no resemblance to the sorts of items available in the commercial marketplace. This proposed rule ignores a long-standing statutory definition of "COTS", meaning items *"offered to the Government, without modification, in the same form in which it is sold in the commercial marketplace."*

Second, DoD's rule uses an overly-broad definition of what it means for metals to be "produced" in America, abandoning a long-standing requirement that specialty metals must be melted in the U.S. Under DoD's proposed definition of "produced," simple heat treatment -- a low-cost, late stage process -- converts foreign metals into "domestic" metals. We understand that this questionable definition may have been adopted to address certain metal product shortages, but such problems are more honestly addressed through existing waivers and exceptions. To define something as "produced in America" despite such limited contribution by domestic workers sets a terrible precedent.

OSD 06777-09

197 WEST MARKET STREET
WARREN, OH 44481
330-373-0074
330-373-0098 FAX

241 FEDERAL PLAZA WEST
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503
330-740-0193
330-740-0182 FAX

1030 EAST TALLMADGE AVENUE
AKRON, OH 44310
330-630-7311
330-630-7314 FAX

TOLL-FREE: 1-800-856-4152
WWW.HOUSE.GOV/TIMRYAN

Before the pending regulation was published and during the previous legislative cycle, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) took the extraordinary step of drafting language in its Committee Report on the FY 2009 Defense Authorization Act. In its report, the HASC expressed its displeasure regarding these same two critical issues. Despite the Committee's clear statements, the proposed rule issued in July 2008 ignored legislative intent.

We are concerned that the DoD rule is indicative of a larger issue; that is, a lack of emphasis on preserving the domestic industrial base for strategic materials. One example is the December 2008 report by DoD's Strategic Materials Protection Board (established to protect domestic strategic materials production) stating: "specialty metals, as defined in 10 U.S.C. 2533b, are not 'materials critical to national security' for which only a U.S. source should be used; and there is no national security reason for the Department to take action to ensure a long term domestic supply of these specialty metals." We disagree and urge DoD to adopt a clear and consistent position that recognizes the importance of strategic materials like titanium, nickel-alloys, specialty steel, beryllium, and high-performance magnets.

The specialty metals laws provide the incentive our metals suppliers need to innovate and ensure that our military has ready access to the safest and most reliable equipment needed in combat. We join Senator Sherrod Brown in asking that your Administration consider these matters in the course of its regulatory review.

Sincerely,

Rep. Tim Ryan

Rep. Marcy Kaptur

Rep. John Boccieri

Rep. Marcia Fudge

Rep. Charlie Wilson

cc: The Hon. Robert Gates
The Hon. Ike Skelton
The Hon. Sherrod Brown

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 9, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable David Price, Chairman of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Hungary, Mongolia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste on official business during the approximate time period of June 25 – July 5, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the parliaments in each country in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06778-09

DANA ROHRABACHER
46th District, California

Committees:
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Ranking Republican, Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight
Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment
Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0546
(202) 225-2415 FAX: (202) 225-0145

DISTRICT OFFICE:
101 Main Street, Suite 380
Huntington Beach, CA 92648-8118
(714) 960-6483 FAX: (714) 960-7806

South Bay: (310) 377-9493

http://rohrabacher.house.gov

June 10, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

You have received an invitation to ride in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade & Celebration. We would highly recommend that you accept this offer and share with us this wonderful celebration of Independence Day. Should you decide to be a part of the parade you might consider riding with the two of us. It would be a truly bi-partisan vehicle on a truly non-partisan day. Should you decide to participate in the parade but ride in a vehicle on your own rather than with us, don't worry, we will not take offense. Your participation in anyway would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress

OSD 06779-09

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
JOHN P. MURTHA, PENNSYLVANIA
NORMAN D. DICKS, WASHINGTON
ALAN B. MOLLOHAN, WEST VIRGINIA
MARCY KAPTUR, OHIO
PETER J. VISCLOSKY, INDIANA
NITA M. LOWEY, NEW YORK
JOSÉ E. SERRANO, NEW YORK
ROSA L. DeLAURO, CONNECTICUT
JAMES P. MORAN, VIRGINIA
JOHN W. OLVER, MASSACHUSETTS
ED PASTOR, ARIZONA
DAVID E. PRICE, NORTH CAROLINA
CHET EDWARDS, TEXAS
PATRICK J. KENNEDY, RHODE ISLAND
MAURICE D. HINCHEY, NEW YORK
LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, CALIFORNIA
SAM FARR, CALIFORNIA
JESSE L. JACKSON, JR., ILLINOIS
CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK, MICHIGAN
ALLEN BOYD, FLORIDA
CHAKA FATTAH, PENNSYLVANIA
STEVEN R. ROTHMAN, NEW JERSEY
SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., GEORGIA
MARION BERRY, ARKANSAS
BARBARA LEE, CALIFORNIA
ADAM SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL HONDA, CALIFORNIA
BETTY McCOLLUM, MINNESOTA
STEVE ISRAEL, NEW YORK
TIM RYAN, OHIO
C.A. "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER, MARYLAND
BEN CHANDLER, KENTUCKY
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, FLORIDA
CIRO RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

June 9, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
TOM LATHAM, IOWA
ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
MARK STEVEN KIRK, ILLINOIS
ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
DENNIS R. REHBERG, MONTANA
JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS
RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
JO BONNER, ALABAMA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated June 4, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Adam Schiff and the Honorable Steve Israel, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Ireland, Jordan, Algeria, and Tunisia during the approximate time period of June 26, 2009 - July 3, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize John Blazey, a staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to participate in this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 06781-09

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

June 15, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write to applaud your decision to terminate the troubled VH-71 presidential helicopter replacement program. A program that does not meet requirements in terms of capability and schedule, and is twice the original cost after only fours years, is a program that should be canceled if we are going to keep defense programs accountable for their projected budgets and timelines.

Nevertheless, we do have serious concerns over the sunk costs of the program. Projected to be nearly $3.2 billion, this cost represents a real investment by the taxpayer that should not to be ignored. We believe it would be prudent to move forward with the program in a way that does not waste this substantial taxpayer investment.

One solution might be to award the contract to the only other qualified competitor, Sikorsky's H-92 helicopter, and team Sikorsky with the incumbent systems integrator, Lockheed Martin. As you know, Sikorsky, the prime contractor for the Marine One since the 1950s, has fulfilled its contracts on time and on budget. This solution offers the dual benefit of "saving" some of the previously sunk costs, particularly jobs in both New York and Maryland, and creating additional American jobs by having those aircraft manufactured in the United States. At a time of severe economic crisis, this solution seems ideal.

You correctly identified the need to terminate a program with costs that grew from an estimated $6.5 billion to over $13 billion, but also made clear that there is a need to develop a follow on option. It is our understanding that the Sikorsky H-92 is currently qualified to meet the mission requirements and is currently more "fail-safe" than the VH-71 Increment I aircraft. By teaming Sikorsky with Lockheed Martin, the Navy can develop a helicopter that can safely transport the president while not only providing the best value for the taxpayer, but also maintaining and creating American jobs.

Thank you for the consideration of this request and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress

JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

OSD 06786-09

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Raymond Mabus
Secretary of the Navy

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
JOHN P. MURTHA, PENNSYLVANIA
NORMAN D. DICKS, WASHINGTON
ALAN B. MOLLOHAN, WEST VIRGINIA
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JAMES P. MORAN, VIRGINIA
JOHN W. OLVER, MASSACHUSETTS
ED PASTOR, ARIZONA
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CHET EDWARDS, TEXAS
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SAM FARR, CALIFORNIA
JESSE L. JACKSON, JR., ILLINOIS
CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK, MICHIGAN
ALLEN BOYD, FLORIDA
CHAKA FATTAH, PENNSYLVANIA
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SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., GEORGIA
MARION BERRY, ARKANSAS
BARBARA LEE, CALIFORNIA
ADAM SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL HONDA, CALIFORNIA
BETTY McCOLLUM, MINNESOTA
STEVE ISRAEL, NEW YORK
TIM RYAN, OHIO
C.A. "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER, MARYLAND
BEN CHANDLER, KENTUCKY
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, FLORIDA
CIRO RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

June 12, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
TOM LATHAM, IOWA
ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
MARK STEVEN KIRK, ILLINOIS
ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
DENNIS R. REHBERG, MONTANA
JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS
RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
JO BONNER, ALABAMA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated June 4, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Adam Schiff and the Honorable Steve Israel, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Ireland, Jordan, Algeria, and Tunisia during the approximate time period of June 26, 2009 – July 3, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize Shalanda Young and Clelia Alvarado, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to participate in this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 06873-09

Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, *Maryland*
Chairman

Sen. Sam Brownback, *Kansas*
Ranking Minority Senator

Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, *Connecticut*
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, *Rhode Island*
Sen. Tom Udall, *New Mexico*
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, *New Hampshire*
Sen. Saxby Chambliss, *Georgia*
Sen. Richard Burr, *North Carolina*
Sen. Roger F. Wicker, *Mississippi*

Fred L. Turner, Chief of Staff

Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, *Florida*
Co-Chairman

Rep. Christopher H. Smith, *New Jersey*
Ranking Minority House Member

Rep. Edward J. Markey, *Massachusetts*
Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter, *New York*
Rep. Mike McIntyre, *North Carolina*
Rep. G. K. Butterfield, *North Carolina*
Rep. Joseph R. Pitts, *Pennsylvania*
Rep. Robert B. Aderholt, *Alabama*
Rep. Darrell E. Issa, *California*

June 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I am writing to authorize Representative Darrell Issa to travel on an official delegation led by Representative Rahall, CODEL Rahall. Representative Issa will travel to Lebanon, Cyprus, and Egypt from July 9 to 13, 2009. The delegation will meet with newly elected leadership of the Lebanese government, observe the democratic institutions forming in Lebanon, and discuss the regional economic, security and energy concerns in Lebanon, Cyprus, and Egypt.

The delegation has requested Marine Corps military support and military 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 for your assistance in the matter.

Sincerely,

Alcee L. Hastings, M.C.
Co-Chairman

OSD 06874-09

234 Ford House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
Telephone: (202) 225-1901 http://www.csce.gov Facsimile: (202) 226-4199

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 16, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:
We appreciate your interest stated during the May 13, 2009 House Armed Services Committee hearing to protect child custody rights for our men and women in uniform.

As you know, legislative language addressing this issue has already passed the House of Representatives three times. First, as Section 577 of the House passed FY2008 National Defense Authorization Act (HR1585). Additionally, portions of this legislation were also included in Section 584 of the final House passed version of the FY2008 NDAA (HR 4986). Finally, last year this language passed the House as a stand-alone bill (HR 6048) and was attached to the FY2009 NDAA. Nearly 60 members from both sides of the aisle signed on to HR 6048 as co-sponsors.

Today, the House Armed Services Committee passed their FY2010 NDAA. This bill contains similar language that would protect custody rights for military parents. As we move forward with the current legislative session and consideration of the FY2010 NDAA, we look forward to your continued interest in addressing this important issue to ensure that our men and women in uniform have their parental rights protected.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

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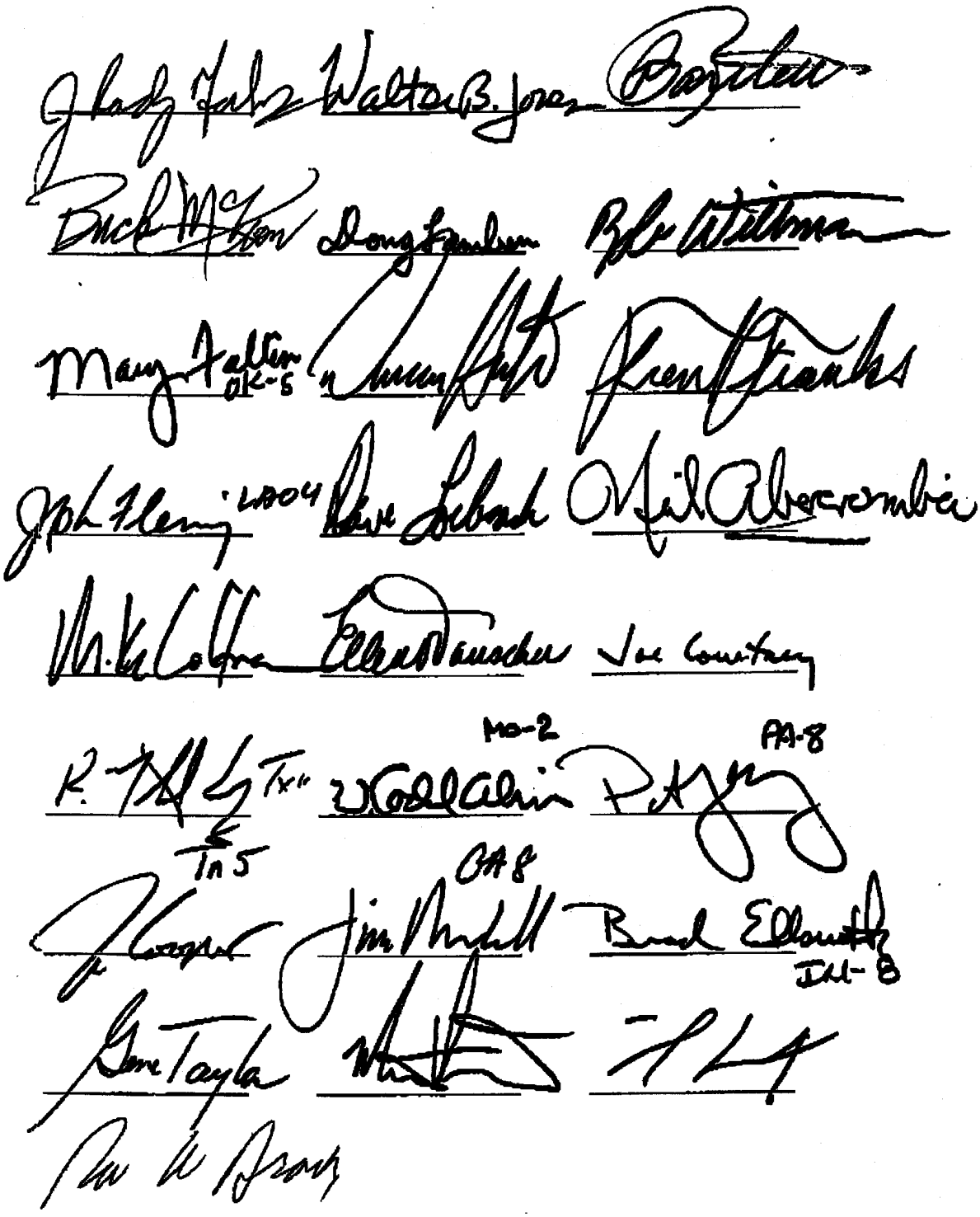
OSD 06875-09



Jhady Fahr Walter B. Jones [signature]

Buck McKeon Doug Lamborn Bob Wittman

Mary Fallin OK-5 [signature] Trent Franks

Joh Fleming LA04 Dave Loebsack Neil Abercrombie

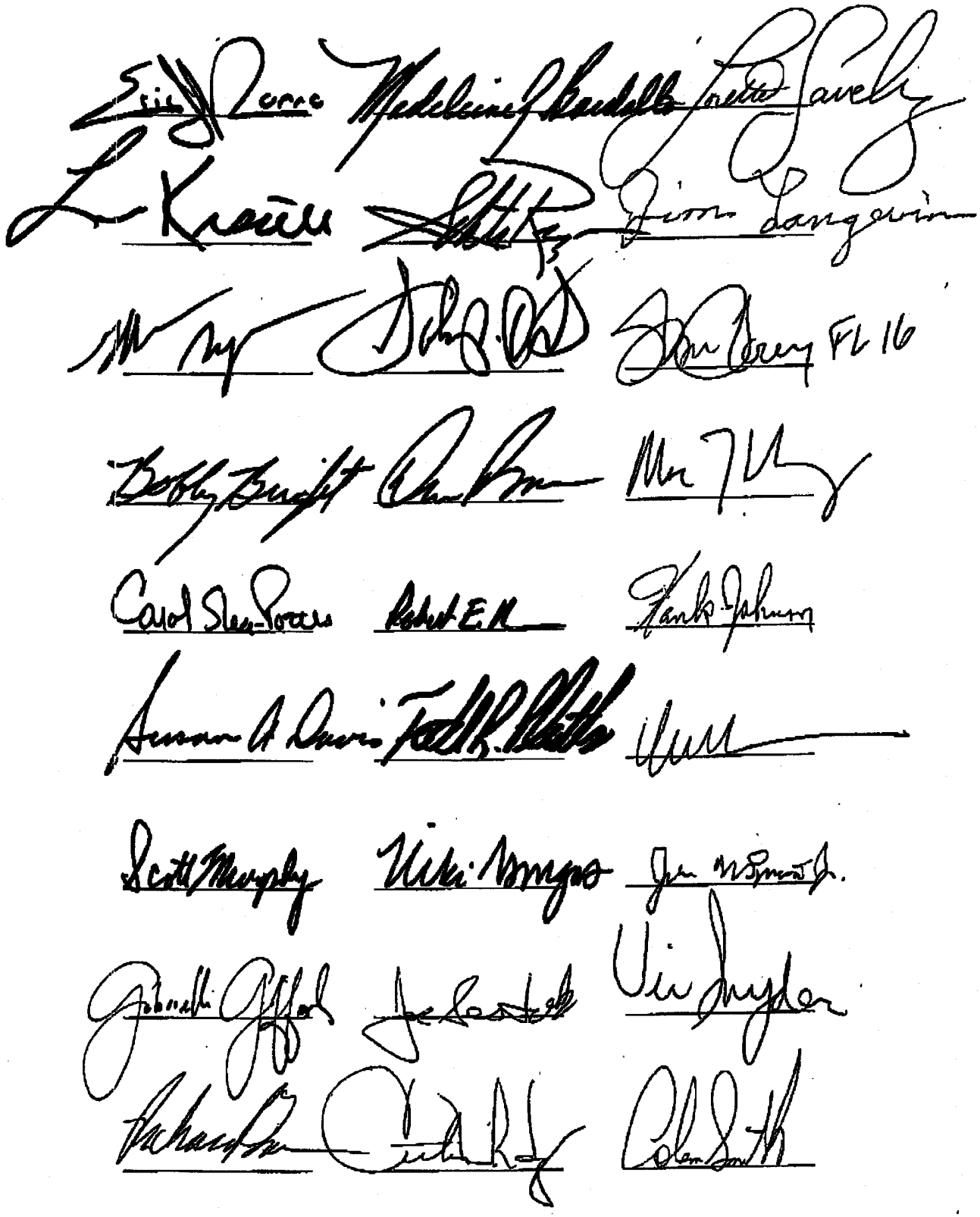
Mike Coffman Ellen Tauscher Joe Courtney

R. [signature] Tx11 Todd Akin MO-2 [signature] PA-8

Tn 5 [signature] OA 8 Jim Mitchell Brad Ellsworth IN-8

Gene Taylor [signature] [signature]

[signature]



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 16, 2009

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 9, 2009, regarding Codel David Price June 25 – July 5, 2009. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable David Price, Chairman, (D-NC) and Mrs. Lisa Price
The Honorable Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and Mrs. Sandy Buchanan
The Honorable Jim McDermott (D-WA)
The Honorable Jim Cooper (D-TN) and Mrs. Martha Cooper
The Honorable Phil Gingrey (R-GA) and Mrs. Billie Gingrey
The Honorable Bob Etheridge (D-NC) and Mrs. Faye Etheridge

Mr. John Lis, Staff Director, House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC)
Ms. Margarita Seminario, Professional Staff Member, HDAC
Mr. Brad Smith, Professional Staff Member, Committee on Rules
Ms. Rachael Leman, Professional Staff Member, Committee on Rules
Ms. Janice McKinney, Assistant Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
Mr. Clay Wellborn, CRS (authorized by HCFA)
Mr. Bruce Vaughn, CRS (authorized by HCFA)
Ms. Sherry Shapiro, CRS (authorized by HCFA)
Mr. Will Tuchrello, Library of Congress –Jakarta-Dili (authorized by HCFA)
Mr. Yadi Yasin, Library of Congress (Dili) (authorized by HCFA)

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06915-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 16, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable David Price, Chairman of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Colombia, Paraguay, and Peru on official business during the approximate time period of August 15-23, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the parliaments in each country in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06945-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 18, 2009

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 23, 2009, regarding Codel Neal June 26 – July 5, 2009. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Richard E. Neal (D-MA)
The Honorable Tim Murphy (R-PA)
The Honorable Jerry Costello (D-IL)
The Honorable Mike Doyle (D-PA)
The Honorable Tim Holden (D-PA)
The Honorable Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL)
The Honorable Donald M. Payne (D-NJ)
The Honorable Nydia M. Velasquez (D-NY)

Mr. William Tranghese, Office of Rep. Neal
Ms. Susan Mosychuk, Office of Rep. Murphy

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06981-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Alcee Hastings, Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and a delegation of Members and staff to accompany Codel Cardin to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Belarus, Lithuania and Greece during the approximate period of June 26 – July 3, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to meet with government officials in each country and to attend the 18th Annual Session of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA). For protocol purposes only, spouses may travel at no cost to the government. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), Co-Chairman, CSCE
The Honorable Christopher Smith (R-NJ) and Mrs. Marie Smith
The Honorable Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Mr. Robert Slaughter
The Honorable Mike McIntyre (D –NC) and Mrs. Dee McIntyre
The Honorable G.K. Butterfield (D-NC)
The Honorable Robert Aderholt (R–AL) and Mrs. Caroline Aderholt
The Honorable Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Mrs. Kathy Issa
The Honorable Lloyd Doggett (D–TX) and Mrs. Libby Doggett
The Honorable Gwen Moore (D-WI)

Mr. Fred Turner, Chief of Staff, CSCE
Mr. Bob Hand, Policy Advisor, CSCE
Ms. Shelly Han, Policy Advisor, CSCE
Mr. Ed Joseph, Policy Director, CSCE
Mr. Cliff Bond, Senior Advisor, CSCE
Mr. Alex Johnson, Policy Advisor, CSCE
Mr. Winsome Packer Policy Advisor, CSCE
Mr. Neil Simon, Communications Director, CSCE
Mr. Daniel Redfield, Office Manager, CSCE
Mr. Josh Shapiro, Staff Assistant, CSCE

OSD 06983-09

Please note that Chairman Hastings and Ms. Janice Helwig, Policy Advisor, CSCE, are also authorized to travel to Albania en route to Lithuania. For that portion, 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).

Codel Cardin has requested Navy 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

JARED POLIS
2ND DISTRICT, COLORADO

501 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0602
(202) 225-2161
(202) 226-7840 (FAX)

website and email:
http://polis.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
SUBCOMMITTEES:
EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
HIGHER EDUCATION, LIFELONG LEARNING AND COMPETITIVENESS
HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE ON RULES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
STEERING AND POLICY

June 18, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

My partner, (b)(6) accompanied me on the Dodd/Pastor Codel on June 5-7, 2009 pursuant to a waiver issued by Speaker Nancy Pelosi. In her June 4 letter notifying you of her waiver, the Speaker asked that you in turn use your waiver authority to facilitate (b)(6) participation.

Given that (b)(6) is my domestic partner and is designated by Congress as my Congressional spouse, with a spouse pin and Congressional ID, I request that you waive the requirement that I have to reimburse $1,140.40 to the military for (b)(6) travel, which is not required of Congressional spouses.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter, and I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Truly,

Jared Polis

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

OSD 07053-09

BOULDER OFFICE
4770 BASELINE ROAD, SUITE 220
BOULDER, CO 80303
303-484-9596
303-568-9007 (FAX)

DISTRICT OFFICES

MOUNTAIN OFFICE
101 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1010
FRISCO, CO 80443
970-668-3240

THORNTON OFFICE
1200 EAST 78TH AVENUE, SUITE 105
THORNTON, CO 80229
303-287-4159

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Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 9, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Mr. John Sullivan, Parliamentarian of the House, to accompany Codel Kosmas (authorized by the House Committee on Science and Technology) to Florida during the appropriate period of June 12-13, 2009.

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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07074-09

BART GORDON, TENNESSEE
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RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS
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http://science.house.gov

June 12, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Adrian Smith, a member of the Committee on Science and Technology, to travel with CODEL Thompson to Guantanamo Bay on June 15, 2009.

The delegation will meet with U.S. military leaders on a fact-finding mission to gather information about the issues surrounding Guantanamo Bay prison. As this is an issue Congress will be considering in the coming months, it is important that Members learn about as much as possible about the situation at Guantanamo Bay in order to carefully consider any policy implications.

I request the expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses such as transportation and military escorts as may be required as authorized by 31 USC 1108(g).

I would appreciate the Department of Defense, specifically the United States Army, furnishing such assistance as may be required. Travel will be conducted by military air.

If you have any questions please contact Leigh Ann Brown at (202) 226-8669. Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON
Chairman

OSD 07075-09

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

June 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman David P. Roe to travel on official government business to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on June 15, departing and returning on the same day.

Mr. Roe will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Congressman Mike Thompson, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis, and Counterintelligence of the Select Committee on Intelligence. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to visit with service members stationed at Guantanamo Bay and view first-hand the conditions these service members have been working under.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jian Zapata of the Committee staff at 202-225-3036.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 07077-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 3, 2009

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 2, 2009, regarding Codel Pastor to Seattle, Washington during the approximate period of June 5-7, 2009. In addition to those previously listed, please note that Mr. Marlon Reiss has been invited to travel with the delegation.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07078-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

June 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Robert Aderholt, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel with CODEL Kosmas on June 12-13, 2008, to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The purpose of this trip is to attend the launch of Space Shuttle Endeavour, STS-127 and the accompanying NASA briefings.

I request the expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses such as transportation and military escorts as may be required as authorized by 31 USC 1108(g).

I would appreciate the Department of Defense, specifically the United States Air Force, furnishing such assistance as may be required. Travel will be conducted by military air.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 07079-09

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Congress of the United States
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Committee on Appropriations
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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

June 17, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby given to Elizabeth Dawson, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of June 27- July 3, 2009, to France and Belgium. The purpose of this trip is to review Department of Defense activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 07097-09

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JANICE MAYS,
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JON TRAUB,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to inform you that I will be leading a Congressional Delegation to Nairobi, Kenya, during the approximate time period of Saturday, August 1 through Saturday, August 8, 2009; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The primary purpose of this trip is to attend the eighth annual United States-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum ("AGOA Forum") being held in Nairobi at that time.

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

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/gsm

OSD 07122-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your actions to eradicate our nation's use of torture. We agree that the use of torture, under any circumstance, is simply wrong. Within hours of taking office, you began the process of restoring a standard of moral behavior on this issue. We are proud to have a President who works to provide for the common defense of our nation's land and people along with the common defense of our nation's values.

As veterans who now serve our country in the House of Representatives, we know that the use of torture not only degrades the values we served to protect, but that it endangers servicemen and women on the front lines today. Internationally acceptable interrogation standards honor our own forces by ensuring that, when they are asked to fight for justice and the rule of law, they will not be asked to abrogate the rule of law or besmirch their own sense of justice.

Recalling the controversy surrounding enhanced interrogation techniques and the legal justifications for torture offered by the Bush Administration, we request clarification on a few issues that have been raised about your Executive Order 13491, *Ensuring Lawful Interrogations*.

First, the Order does not define armed conflict. Since this is a central concept to the Order, given that all interrogations must comply with Army Field Manual 2-22.3 (Manual) if an individual is under our nation's control due to armed conflict, how do you define armed conflict?

Second, are there individuals currently under the control of the United States on whom your Administration does not confer the protections of the Manual's interrogation standards?

Third, if there are individuals under the control of the United States who are not afforded the protections of the Manual, do those individuals – regardless of how the United States

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classifies them – receive the benefit of the Detainee Treatment Act (the McCain Amendment), specifically protection from "cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment?"

Fourth, to what, if any, criminal sanctions would an agent of the United States government be subject for breaking the provisions of the Detainee Treatment Act?

Fifth, the current Manual provides reasonable examples of prohibited actions, e.g., waterboarding, electric shocks, and deprivation of food. What prevents the U.S. Army from changing the Manual and altering the defined prohibited activities?

Again, we sincerely appreciate your efforts on this vital matter and would welcome clarification of these issues. Your Order takes the United States in the right direction by providing protection from torture; however, we feel that positive law both to prohibit torture or cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment by our agents and to define a baseline of what constitutes this type of treatment is essential to our democracy. We ask for your support in this endeavor.

We look forward to working with you to help our nation restore its standing as a fair and humane world power.

Sincerely,

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

John Conyers
Member of Congress

Pete Stark
Member of Congress

Edward Markey
Member of Congress

Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

CC: Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense
Eric Holder, Attorney General of the United States
Dennis Blair, Director of National Intelligence

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TOLL FREE: 1-877-780-0028

June 22, 2009

Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon, Rm. 3D921
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

I understand that my Legislative fellow, (b)(6) has applied for the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense-Crisis Management and Defense Support to Civil Authorities. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response of the House Homeland Security Committee, I would like ask for your support and offer my strong endorsement of (b)(6) for the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense- Crisis Management and Defense Support to Civil Authorities

(b)(6) has spent the last 28 years serving his country and specifically the last 8 years working at the forefront of Homeland Defense/Security and Emergency Preparedness and Response issues. He has been involved at the beginning of every major issue facing our post 9/11 environment. He was decorated for his actions on 9/11, he managed the Defense Departments efforts to secure our airports and borders as the TSA and newly reorganized CBP and ICE organizations were stood up and he authored the first ever Defense Intelligence Strategy, a seminal document designed to provide guidance and clarity to our Defense Intelligence organizations.

Continuing to serve as a Volunteer Advanced Life Support provider in Fairfax County, Va., (b)(6) is well versed in both emergency preparedness and response as well as having a through understanding of the intricate relationship between the Executive and Legislative branches. Combining this experience with his defense expertise, he would provide the Defense Department with political expertise and an understanding and ability to talk the language of the local officials that the Civil Support mission requires.

Please consider this as my strong endorsement of (b)(6) as a leading candidate for Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense- Crisis Management and Defense Support to Civil Authorities.

If selected, he will be a credit to the Administration and the Department.

Sincerely,

Henry Cuellar, PhD.
U. S. Congressman
28th District of Texas

OSD 07190-09

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100 NORTH F.M. 3167
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JOE SESTAK
7TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

(202) 225–2011

June 4, 2009

Mr. Eric Fanning
Department of Defense Legislative Liaison
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

RE: Letter of Recommendation, Rear Admiral Richard A. Buchanan, US Navy (Ret)

Dear Mr. Fanning,

It is my distinct pleasure to most strongly recommend Rear Admiral Richard A. Buchanan, US Navy (Ret) for a non-career position in the Obama-Biden Administration. His Presidential Appointment Application has been submitted, and I am most pleased to be able to provide a detailed letter as a listed reference in his application.

Admiral Buchanan has an extensive and distinguished career in the military service and in the private sector. He has proven his outstanding leadership, tremendous business acumen and creative strategic mind in a number of challenging and responsible positions as outlined on his attached resume.

Specifically, I want to bring to your attention that his extraordinarily diverse military experience as Commanding Officer of USS Parche SSN 683, as Commander Submarine Group Two and as the Director of Operations and Logistics at United States Strategic Command makes him particularly suited for Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, for Under Secretary of Energy in the Department of Energy and as the Principal Deputy Director for the Director of National Intelligence.

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of the United States Navy Memorial Foundation, he has a true appreciation for and is especially well informed about personnel issues that affect the Defense Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs. His extensive experience and enthusiasm for the importance of high quality men and women to serve in our military today and for those individuals to be supported, as veterans, after their service is complete is remarkable. His background in these areas of interest supports his nomination as Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness or Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits.

It has been my pleasure to know of Admiral Buchanan's outstanding leadership skills, personal ambition and charismatic leadership personally and by reputation throughout his active duty military career and in his private sector career with EDS supporting Navy Marine Corps Intranet; at Raytheon where his responsibilities for Navy programs gave him great insight into contracting and program management as well as the financial responsibilities in the for-profit business world; and at the Navy Memorial Foundation where his creative and strategic vision inspired

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significant improvements in the recognition for the men and women who serve in the Navy and the Sea Services.

I can unequivocally support Admiral Buchanan as a candidate for any of the Obama- Biden Administration positions identified in the enclosed list. Thank you for considering this outstanding candidate for service in our government.

Warmly,

Joe Sestak

Joe Sestak
Member of Congress

Enclosures:

- Potential Presidential Appointments
- Resume for Rear Admiral Buchanan

JOE SESTAK
7TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

(202) 225-2011

June 30, 2009

Tho Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Room 3D844
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates,

In the FY 2009 Defense Appropriation Bill (the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act) was a $1.2 million dollar appropriation for a project requested through my office. That project, which was brought to my attention by Data View, Inc., a small business in my District, was for a key component of the Pentagon's Advanced Emergency Response Integrated Environment (AERIE), the use of uncomplicated visualizations that rapidly convey complex incident or event situation information to incident command and agency leadership. Today I was informed that these funds may not be used for this purpose, but rather to fund the development and implementation of a notification system. This is unacceptable, and I request your assistance in either clarifying the situation or rectifying it.

During a process to oversee the expenditure of appropriated funds which I requested, my staff called the Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA) and was informed that they would be provided a status update. This morning the Executive Director for Data View, Inc. contacted my office to say he has been notified by the PFPA that his project was not going to be funded this year, despite the appropriation. Rather, funding for the project would be revisited in FY2010. I have asked Data View, Inc. to put together a more detailed chronology of its contacts with PFPA, which is enclosed.

Data View, Inc. is a small company with limited contract work. They will be unable to maintain their staff through to FY2010 on the potential for funding in that fiscal year. They have also informed me that if the project could at least be partially funded in FY09 and then further funded in FY10, that would allow them to maintain their staffing and intellectual resource levels.

As a former Three Star Admiral with thirty-one years experience in the Navy, having worked both in the White House and the Pentagon, I am fully aware of the financial constraints faced by agencies such as PFPA. But I am also aware of the difficulties faced by small businesses attempting to provide contract work within the Defense Department. (The chronology highlights the false starts and changes of direction just on this project.)

OSD 07223-09

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Tho Honorable Robert Gates
June 30, 2009

I requested these appropriated funds for a project that would provide needed added security to the Pentagon and could be done by an innovative and hardworking small business. The concept of dynamic visualization in this project has significant potential in improving communications and coordination of inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional issues. And I believe that PFPA, and in particular the Integrated Emergency Operations Center, is an ideal candidate to be a showcase for this type of collaborative tool with its mission to rapidly comprehend situational awareness and communicate actionable information in context.

Mr. Secretary, I request that the $1.2 million dollars, or at least a significant portion of that funding appropriated in the FY09 Defense budget be used, as intended, to implement a system that utilizes uncomplicated visualizations that rapidly convey complex incident or event situation information to incident command and agency leadership as a key component of the Pentagon's Advanced Emergency Response Integrated Environment (AERIE).

I look forward to your assistance in this matter. I can be reached through my Chief of Staff, Bibiana Boerio, at 202-225-2011.

Thank you for your service to our Nation.

Sincerely,

Joe Sestak
Member of Congress

Cc: Paul Juola, Subcommittee Clerk, House Defense Appropriation Subcommittee
Mr. Stephen Calvery, Director of Pentagon Force Protection Agency
Mr. Mark Wallace, Director of the Pentagon Integrated Emergency Operations Center

Enclosure

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BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

June 29, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your letter of June 22, 2009, regarding the Presidential Helicopter Replacement Program.

While I appreciate your concerns about controlling the costs of this program, I am deeply concerned about the lack of value that the nation has to show for the substantial investment made to date. It is the Congress, and the Appropriations Committee in particular, that will end up carrying the burden of accommodating the changes in judgment and past missteps associated with this program.

I understand that from the period December 2003 through the present the Department of Defense has spent $3.2 billion on this program and has acquired a total of 9 aircraft 5 of which could be put to operational use.

I firmly believe that we must be able to demonstrate some value from the investment made in this program. Therefore I strongly encourage you to make use of those VH-71 helicopters that could be placed into operational service as soon as possible.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

OSD 07354-09

BOB FILNER
51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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website: www.house.gov/filner

July 2, 2009

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

Dear Secretary:

On June 30, 2009, Seaman August Provost was found dead in a Camp Pendleton guard shack. The press is reporting that the body was burned. The death of Mr. Provost is suspected as a homicide and possible hate crime. I am writing to urge you to begin a full and detailed investigation on the death of Mr. Provost.

Mr. Provost made the selfless and courageous decision to serve his country, and regardless of his sexual orientation, he should be treated with honor and respect.

I trust and hope the military will investigate this homicide and possible hate crime in a professional manner. I am requesting full disclosure in this matter.

I look forward to your timely response. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 619-422-5963.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/wl
2515414

OSD 07389-09

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JON TRAUB,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 26, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Charles Boustany, Jr. (R-MD) to participate on the CODEL being led by Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) to Lebanon, Cyprus, and Egypt, with a short stop to refuel in either Ireland or Germany. This travel will take place during the period of Saturday, June 27 through Wednesday, July 1, 2009; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The purpose of the trip is to meet with government and non-government officials to discuss economic security, trade, and energy concerns of these countries, as well as meet with the newly elected leadership for the Lebanese government.

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

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 07441-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 24, 2009

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 19, 2009 regarding Rep. Alcee Hastings and Codel June 26 – July 3, 2009. In addition to the previously mentioned travelers, please note that the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) is authorized to travel.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07455-09

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

June 22, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I authorize Congressman Joe Donnelly to travel on official government business to Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Afghanistan, and Germany during the period of June 26-July 3, 2009.

Mr. Donnelly will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Congressman Brad Ellsworth, member of the House Committee on Armed Services. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to meet with our troops and future veterans on the ground to better gauge troop morale, listen to their concerns, and formulate ideas and remedies to the problems they are facing once they leave military service.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in the countries to be visited. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Bernie Dotson of the Committee staff at 202-226-3653.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 07456-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 23, 2009

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 18, 2009, regarding Codel Neal June 26 – July 5, 2009. Please note that the following people have been invited to travel with the delegation in country: Jami Papa; Sighle Doherty, Gráinne Ní Néill, and Orla O'Hanrahan.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07457-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 25th, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to request a briefing with reference to the Department of Defense School of Nursing. The DoD School of Nursing provision was passed by the House of Representatives as part of HR 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for 2010. It directs the Department to establish a DoD School of Nursing that will graduate not less than 100 nurses per year with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree by 2015.

The purpose of this briefing will be to brief Representatives Rodriguez, Smith, Gonzalez, and Cuellar of the San Antonio delegation, and our staffs, on the Department's efforts and plans to establish a DoD School of Nursing per PL 110-181, the National Defense Authorization Act for 2008, Section 955, and discuss initial thoughts on appropriate locations for such a school.

Specifically, we would like to discuss preliminary basing options and the viability of Fort Sam Houston, Lackland AFB, or other area assets as homes for the DoD School of Nursing, including the potential for partnerships with the Department of Veterans Affairs and locations of poly-trauma centers to aid in the education and training of nurse candidates.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to hearing from you promptly on a possible meeting date. Please feel free to contact us directly or Representative Rodriguez's Military Legislative Assistant, Norm Cannon, with any concerns or questions at (202) 225-4511 or Norm.Cannon@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

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OSD 07497-09

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Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000
VIA FAX: 703.571.8951

REFERENCE: NAVY SEAMAN AUGUST PROVOST III

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am requesting a Congressional Inquiry into possible allegations surrounding the murder of Seaman Provost who was found dead Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, north of San Diego that require the full attention of the Armed Services Committee. Seaman Provost was a resident of the TX 18th Congressional District and a constituent of mine.

On behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, I met with the family of Twenty-nine year-old Houston native Navy Seaman August Provost III last Friday evening. The family was told that Seaman Provost was shot three times, had his hands and feet bound, his mouth gagged, and his body may have been burned. I have committed to the family that a full investigation into the murder of Seaman Provost will take place.

We have the greatest respect of the U.S. Military. It is the backbone of our Democracy. However, those who serve in the U.S. Military should be able to serve without concern of violence between military personnel. I look forward to a positive response so that I can report back to the family.

Very Truly Yours,

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

OSD 07499-09

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Fax 609-750-0618

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Congress of the United States

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Committee on Appropriations

Committee on Education
and Labor

Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence

Committee on Natural Resources

July 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to inform you that the delegation I was going to lead to Macedonia, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina during the time period of May 25-June 2, 2009 was cancelled.

Thank you very much for your time and assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Rush Holt

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07517-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are requesting a briefing on the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the KC-X acquisition, prior to its release to industry.

As members of the United States House of Representatives, we are most interested in understanding the intended evaluation and criteria from the previous source selection and the rationale for those changes. In addition, we want to understand the steps the Department has taken to address the areas of concern indentified by the June 18, 2008, General Accountability Office KC-X ruling.

As you may recall, during your testimony before the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense on June 8, 2009, you stated that you would "share the draft RFP here in Congress as being a transparent process."

Mr. Secretary, we appreciate your stated commitment to move forward quickly in an open and transparent manner with this acquisition effort and look forward to your response to this request. To schedule this briefing, please contact Jon Hand with Congressman Jo Bonner at (202) 225-4931.

Sincerely,

Jo Bonner
United States Representative
First District – Alabama

Bobby Bright
United States Representative
Second District - Alabama

OSD 07706-09

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9TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

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Washington, DC 20515

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FAX: (704) 864-2445

July 7, 2009

William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary
Public Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Lynn:

I write to personally invite you to join me and top government officials for a summit of moderate American Muslim leaders on July 20, 2009. The meeting will take place from 3:00-5:00 pm in the Congressional Room North, located in the US Capitol Visitors Center. You are also welcome to stay for a second session when these leaders meet with Members of Congress.

Over the past several years, many Members of Congress have had great concerns about the groups with which government agencies meet and use for outreach to the American Muslim community. This meeting seeks to link government officials with often-overlooked, moderate Muslim leaders.

During the meeting, moderate Muslim leaders I have invited will talk about their organizations and their programs. In addition, they will discuss issues important to the Muslim community here in America and analyze several international issues. You will be able to ask them questions about their work and obtain their opinions about issues of interest to you and your office. I have personally met with these leaders and worked with their groups on many projects; I am confident you will find this time with them very valuable.

If for some reason you cannot attend, I ask that you please send a representative from your office. However, it is my hope that you can attend this very important summit on July 20.

For more information, please contact my staffer, Andy Polk, at Andy.Polk@mail.house.gov or 202-225-1976. Please RSVP to him by July 16, 2009.

Sincerely,

Sue Myrick

Sue Myrick
Member of Congress

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Washington, DC 20515–6015

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BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

July 6, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congresswoman Kay Granger, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on July 10-11, 2009, to Marinette, Wisconsin and return to Ft. Worth, Texas. The purpose of this trip is to attend a keel laying for the new USS Fort Worth at the Marinette Marine Shipyard.

I request the expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses such as transportation and military escorts as may be required as authorized by 31 USC 1108(g).

I would appreciate the Department of Defense, specifically the United States Air Force, furnishing such assistance as may be required. Travel will be conducted by military air.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 07694-09

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STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives

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335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

July 7, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As part of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs responsibilities, I authorize Cathleen Wiblemo, Director of the Subcommittee on Health, and Martin Herbert, Director of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, to travel on official government business to Chicago, IL and Hines, IL during the period of August 11-13, 2009. In addition, Sidath Panangala, Analyst on Veterans Policy with the Congressional Research Service will accompany Ms. Wiblemo and Mr. Herbert as a detailee.

The primary purpose of their visit is to gain further information and monitor the progress made by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Navy in partnering to implement a jointly administered medical facility in North Chicago, IL. In conduct of this effort, they will visit the North Chicago VA Medical Center and the Great Lakes Naval Health Clinic. Additionally, they will visit the Hines VA Medical Center in Hines, IL and the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago, IL to gain a greater understanding of the work being done at these facilities.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in Illinois. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C. Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jeff Burdette of the Committee staff at (202) 225-9154.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

CW/jb

OSD 07879-09

BILL SHUSTER
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

RURAL HEALTH CARE COALITION

CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3809

June 26, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am contacting you to request that you review the Department of Defense's continued application of congressionally authorized exceptions to the Berry Amendment relating to the procurement of para-aramid fibers and yarns, as well the procurement of fire-resistant rayon fiber, from foreign sources. The materials are used in the manufacture of body armor and fire-resistant uniforms, respectively.

As you know, the Berry Amendment requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to give preference in procurements to domestically produced, manufactured, or home-grown products – notably food, clothing, fabrics, and specialty metals. Exceptions to this amendment allowing DOD purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns, as well the procurement of fire-resistant rayon fiber, from foreign sources may no longer warranted owing to the availability of suitable materials in today's U.S. marketplace. The recent use of these exceptions is having an adverse impact on U.S. manufacturers and has undercut our policy of maintaining a strong and viable defense industrial base.

In 1998, partially due to limited domestic competition and a reliance on sole-source contracts, a statutory exception was created to the Berry Amendment to allow for purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns from foreign sources. The statutory exception is only applicable when the Department makes a determination that procurement of para-aramid fibers and yarns from domestic sources will result in sole-source contracts or subcontracts. As a result of the exemption, the Department's purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns have become increasingly dependent on foreign suppliers over the last decade. The marketplace has changed significantly in the last decade, however, and a variety of suitable materials now exist domestically.

Similarly, in 2008 a statutory exception was created for fire-resistant rayon fiber for the production of uniforms. This exception allowed the Department to procure fire- resistant rayon fiber for uniforms from foreign suppliers if a determination was made that either fire-resistant rayon fiber was not available domestically, or procuring such fiber domestically would result in sole-source contracts.

OSD 07890-09

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118 WEST MAIN STREET
SUITE 104
SOMERSET, PA 15501
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FAX: (814) 443–6373

100 LINCOLN WAY EAST
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CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201
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FAX: (717) 264–0269

In the short period during which this provision has been in effect, foreign suppliers have dramatically increased their market share. Currently, 90 percent of the fielded Flame Resistant Army Combat Uniforms are constructed of imported fiber. While environmental and other concerns have caused domestic sources to forego production of fire-resistant rayon fiber for uniforms, there are a variety of other fire-resistant fibers in today's domestic marketplace—some of which have out-performed rayon in evaluations for Army uniforms. As a result, the "rayon" exception is not relevant and should not apply to future procurements.

Congress has given the Secretary of Defense discretion to determine whether either exception should be used. However, current law mandates an annual review by the Secretary of Defense. I look forward to working with you to advance a more balanced policy that both promotes competition and preserves our ability to maintain and grow our domestic defense capabilities. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Bill Shuster

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

TODD TIAHRT
4TH DISTRICT, KANSAS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION
RANKING MEMBER
DEFENSE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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July 14, 2009

The Honorable Ashton Carter
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics
Department of Defense
Pentagon, Room 3E673
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Carter:

It has come to my attention that the United States Air Force and United States Navy are currently negotiating a Memorandum of Agreement to proceed to Phase 2 of a demonstration program called Imminent Fury. While I am an advocate for the development of an irregular warfare capability, I am deeply concerned that this program will ignore domestic manufacturers in favor of foreign competitors.

Originally a Navy demonstration program under the direction of Secretary Donald Winters, Imminent Fury was designed to provide information on the benefits of a light attack aircraft to the warfighter. An Embraer Super Tucano aircraft was leased by the Navy for this program. Throughout Phase 1 of the demonstration program, the Navy insisted that is agnostic with regards to the specific aircraft used. Given that a similar domestic aircraft was still under development, the Navy made the argument that the lease of a foreign aircraft was required for Phase 1.

As the Navy now along with the Air Force move forward with Phase 2, it is my understanding that the domestic Hawker-Beechcraft AT-6B, will be available for testing and evaluation. (The AT-6B is a derivative of the T-6, which is the widely-used joint primary training platform for the United States military.) Throughout the concept development and demonstration phase, acquisition best practices necessitate the evaluation of alternatives, especially within the domestic market. Furthermore, the Air National Guard (ANG) will be conducting similar evaluation activities using a Hawker-Beechcraft AT-6B, an option clearly available to the Navy and Air Force.

The United States Government has invested $8.4 million into the Air National Guard evaluation of the AT-6B and will likely invest additional resources in FY2010. For the Department to ignore this investment and continue testing a foreign aircraft is the wrong

OSD 07908-09

approach, especially when the T-6 has served as the joint primary training platform for the DOD for the past eight years.

In addition, Brazil, the home of Embraer, is not an exempt country under DFARS 225.872-1. As you know, this means that the Department of Defense is required to evaluate the availability of domestic products prior to contract award to a company from a non-qualifying country.

Based on all this information, I strongly recommend that the Department examine the ANG demonstration program and develop a strategy for Imminent Fury that utilizes domestic aircraft. To continue to lease the Embraer, when a similar domestic product is reasonably available, is inappropriate.

I look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress

cc: [redacted]

The Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy

The Honorable Michael Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, Chairman
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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

July 15, 2009

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TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to ask you to immediately begin a thorough review of the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) and to provide a complete list of all proposals pending as of July 20 for CERP projects in excess of $1,000,000. For years, this Committee has questioned the use and management of CERP funds, totaling more than $10 billion since 2004. I understand the value of this program for our combatant commanders. However, the Army and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) have failed to justify ever-growing CERP requests or to execute proper management or oversight of these funds, most of which are today being spent on the kind of infrastructure and development projects more appropriately executed and administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development. A fundamental review of CERP, its purpose, use and scope, is overdue.

Recent press reports and information from officials in-theater indicate intense pressure on Provincial Reconstruction Teams and combatant commanders to "rush to spend" hundreds of millions of dollars in CERP funds remaining for fiscal year 2009. Proposals for multi-million projects are being thrown together with less thought given to the urgency or usefulness of the project than to a desire to ensure all funds are spent. This practice could conflict with section 8004 of the fiscal year 2009 Defense Appropriations Act, which prohibits more than 20 percent of the appropriations in that Act limited for obligation in the current fiscal year from being obligated in the last two months of the year.

The original purpose of CERP was to provide combatant commanders a resource for responding to "small-scale, urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction" needs in their area of operation to immediately assist the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, a majority of CERP funds are spent on road construction and other "bricks and mortar" projects that, while important, far-exceed the intended scale and scope of the urgent projects CERP was intended to support. Furthermore, the pressure to spend CERP funds, which naturally drives commanders toward large-scale construction projects, is squeezing out the small-scale humanitarian projects identified by company-grade and Special Forces troops as providing an immediate benefit both to local nationals and to the safety and security of our own forces.

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Over the last five years, CERP has grown from an incisive counter-insurgency tool to an alternative U.S. development program with few limits and little management. It is well-past time for better oversight of this program from the Department of Defense. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

While we strongly support our defense facilities and recognize that we need a robust acquisition workforce, we are writing to express a concern that has been brought to our attention regarding the method the government is currently using to increase the size of its defense acquisition workforce. It is our understanding that on April 6, 2009, you announced your goal to "increase the size of the defense acquisition workforce by converting 11,000 contractors and hiring an additional 9,000 government acquisition professionals by 2015."

We would like to call your attention to an unintended consequence this policy is causing. We are hearing from our small businesses that the policy is directly responsible for a significant loss of employees to government positions. This action results in the contractor losing a valuable resource they have trained at considerable cost-- sometimes specifically to meet government requirements -- as well as revenue the contractor would have earned.

Our small businesses, such as the ones negatively impacted by the recent announcement, are the driving force of our economy. Many small, defense contractors have suffered this past year as a direct result of this tough economy. This has contributed to increases in unemployment across the nation.

We want to do everything possible to help, not hinder, our small businesses. Moving forward, we would like to work with you and the Department of Defense to create a balanced policy that would achieve your goal of strengthening our defense, without harming our small businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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OSD 08010-09

STEVE AUSTRIA (OH-07)
Member of Congress

JASON CHAFFETZ (UT-03)
Member of Congress

GREGG HARPER (MS-03)
Member of Congress

DUNCAN HUNTER (CA-52)
Member of Congress

ROBERT LATTA (OH-05)
Member of Congress

CONGRESSWOMAN
CHELLIE PINGREE

1ST DISTRICT
MAINE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATION

COMMITTEE ON RULES

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 6th, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your recent visit to Bath Iron Works (BIW) and for taking the time to meet some of the hard working and dedicated Mainers who contribute to the shipyard and our nation's defense. As Admiral Gary Roughead said, BIW is a "national treasure", and I am glad you were able to see the facility firsthand.

Maine has a long and proud history of contributing to the armed forces in unique and diverse ways. In 1815, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) in Kittery, Maine, built its first ship for the United States, the USS WASHINGTON. Today, PNSY is preparing to work on next generation of nuclear submarines, the VIRGINIA class. Bangor International Airport in Bangor, Maine, is the primary departure and arrival point for the troops serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Each day, a group of dedicated veterans known as the "Troop Greeters" welcome our brave men and women returning from combat and bid farewell to those departing for duty.

As you probably know, Maine is home to literally hundreds of small businesses who are Department of Defense subcontractors. Many of these small businesses provide the DOD with innovative research, products and materials to make our country stronger and more secure. I hope you will come back to Maine to see more of how our state including these small business contractors who are contributing to our national defense.

Thank you for considering this request, and I look forward to seeing you in Maine soon.

Sincerely,

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

OSD 08012-09

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U.S. House of Representatives
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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

July 16, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
The Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On Wednesday, July 29, 2009, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs will conduct a hearing titled "Meeting the Needs of Injured Veterans in the Military Paralympic Program." This hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. in room 334 Cannon House Office Building.

The Committee invites you, or your designee, to testify at the hearing to discuss the number of seriously injured service members who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan in the past three years; what the Department of Defense is doing to assist our seriously injured returning service members with their rehabilitation and what their experience has been with the U.S. Paralympic Program or similar programs; how many programs the Department of Defense currently has in place; and, what partnerships the Department of Defense has formed to provide rehabilitation services to returning service members.

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Ms. Debbie Smith at (202) 225-6389. You will be recognized for five minutes to make an oral statement; however, your complete written statement will be made a part of the hearing record. Please submit 70 copies of written testimony to Ms. Debbie Smith at 335 Cannon House Office Building by 10:00 a.m. on July 27, 2009. To reduce costs and facilitate the inclusion of the written testimony in the printed record of the hearing, please provide one copy of the testimony prepared in accordance with the enclosed formatting requirements.

OSD 08162-09

The Committee provides public access to its hearing statements on the Internet through the World Wide Web at the House of Representatives (http://veterans.house.gov) and the Library of Congress (http://thomas.loc.gov).

To facilitate this public access, please send an electronic copy of your testimony to Ms. Debbie Smith at debbie.smith@mail.house.gov. Additionally, the hearings are now broadcast live, in real time, over the Internet, and are archived on our Web site so they may be accessed following each hearing.

I look forward to hearing your views. Please contact Juan Lara, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, at (202) 225-9756 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

JL/ds

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
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RICHARD BURR, NORTH CAROLINA
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA
SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE

RICHARD D. DEBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 358, Ensuring Safe Facilities and Equipment for American Troops Overseas Act, to ensure the safety of members of the United States Armed Forces while using expeditionary facilities, infrastructure, and equipment supporting United States military operations overseas. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

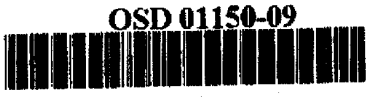
So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 01150-09



RON WYDEN
OREGON

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

February 2, 2009

COMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Robert M. Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1300 Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to express my grave concern over the apparent widespread use of burn pits for waste disposal throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. I have been informed by a constituent that his relative serving in Afghanistan is experiencing health symptoms related to smoke exposure from a burn pit that neighbors his base. The unregulated presence of these sites has endangered the health and well-being of American and allied soldiers as well as civilians, and will undoubtedly leave environmental scars in the areas we currently occupy.

I believe the problems exhibited and widely reported at Balad are indicative of a much larger problem. With approximately 11 million pounds of hazardous waste in Iraq alone, it is easily imaginable that unregulated, unmonitored burn pits may be affecting a large percentage of the service members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan post-9/11. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel (b)(6) a surgeon previously deployed to Balad, stated that everyone at the base had a memo placed in their medical files in fall 2007 noting they had been exposed to the burn pit's fumes. I'm encouraged by this acknowledgement of health risks associated with burn pits, but believe the Department of Defense must do more.

I fear that little is being done to address the issue on a broad scale. The Military Times recently reported that the burn pit in Balad is the only disposal site to be specifically tested, and the reports from my constituents suggest that this problem is not isolated to one location. Soldiers that will be deployed in these areas in the future, servicemembers that may have separated from the service or others that have returned home may be potentially affected by burn pits and should be provided with proper education, health care, and resources as soon as possible.

I believe that transparency in this issue will help alleviate the concerns of deployed personnel and the American public. Thank you for your consideration of these requests and your concern for the health of the brave men and women that serve our country. I look forward to working with you to resolve this matter in the future.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

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Ron Wyden 2022282717

2/2

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 2, 2009

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

Admiral Mike Mullen
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
9999 The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20318-9999

Dear Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen:

We appreciate the directed focus you have brought to the National Guard and Reserves through recent directives, personnel decisions, and other actions. In our September 26, 2008 letter, we asked you to look at the issue of transparency and accountability in the purchase and distribution of equipment for the National Guard and Reserves. We would appreciate an update on the Department's efforts to resolve these challenges, which have prevented equipment slated for the reserve components from actually entering Guard and Reserves inventories.

We have received a number of interim responses, including letters that referred our inquiry to the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and, later, to the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. We look forward to a more detailed response on how the Department actually plans to account for the appropriated dollars provided for National Guard and Reserve equipment.

Given its constitutional authority and paramount responsibility to the American people, Congress has a deep interest in full financial transparency. Establishing a budget and execution plan that provides transparency and accountability of Guard and Reserve equipment funding is also a key recommendation of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves. We understand that that the Department of Defense acknowledges the need for corrective action.

We would appreciate an update on the Department's plans to ensure greater accountability for National Guard and Reserve equipment. In particular, please advise on the status of evaluating the viability of such proposals as delineating Guard and Reserve funding requests within the Services' annual procurement requests or Congress creating a separate appropriation for National Guard and Reserve equipment requirements.

Thank you again for recognizing the importance of this issue and working with the Congress toward a sensible resolution.

Sincerely,

Patrick Leahy

PATRICK LEAHY
Co-Chair
U.S. Senate National Guard Caucus

Kit Bond

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND
Co-Chair
U.S. Senate National Guard Caucus

A strong and robustly equipped operational reserve force is what the American people expect and deserve. We look forward to working with you to ensure we resolve this important issue.

Thank you very much for your personal attention to and support for the National Guard and Reserve.

Sincerely,

PATRICK LEAHY
U.S. Senator

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND
U.S. Senator

TOM DAVIS
U.S. Representative

GENE TAYLOR
U.S. Representative

JIM WEBB
VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4024

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4605

February 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing with regard to a November 21, 2008, letter to you that I co-signed with 56 other U.S. Senators expressing our concerns over the new TRICARE outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS) rule. I have not received a reply to that correspondence, but in accordance with the Obama administration's new Regulatory Review guidance, I request that you extend the final regulation's effective date by 60 days and reopen it for public comment.

The reliability and validity of the data used by the Department of Defense (DoD) and its economic impact methodology have been challenged by health-care professionals. If a more effective and extended transition is not adopted to implement the new rule, many of our TRICARE beneficiaries in Virginia will experience a significant disruption in services.

In its final rule, the DoD estimated that TRICARE hospital outpatient revenue will decline by $598 million, or 25 percent, in the first year. This estimate is nearly *seven times* DoD's original estimate of $81 million as noted in the proposed rule. This discrepancy is not adequately explained in the final rule. Of note, the proposed rule's estimated impact fell below the $100 million threshold necessary for the rule to be deemed "economically significant." Had the impact exceeded this threshold, a more thorough analysis would have been required under the Congressional Review Act. Clearly, DoD's revised estimate of the decline in hospital outpatient revenue shows that a thorough review is needed before the new rule is implemented.

I recognize that DoD is required by law to make changes in the way TRICARE pays hospitals for the outpatient care they provide to our military and that it must conform to Medicare "to the extent practicable." I strongly believe, however, that these changes should be implemented with a much more effective transition. In 1996, DoD implemented a 15 percent stop-loss transition for physicians to bring TRICARE payments in line with Medicare payments. I encourage DoD to consider an identical transition for network hospitals. Cutting TRICARE hospital outpatient payments abruptly by 25 percent is unreasonable and without precedent.

In light of these deficiencies, I strongly urge you to review the final regulation regarding TRICARE payments for hospital outpatient services and re-open the rule-making process. Thank you for your consideration of my views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Webb
United States Senator

OSD 01221-09

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
CALIFORNIA

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE - CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
http://feinstein.senate.gov

February 4, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Recently, it has come to my attention that there are allegations of Bush Administration political appointees who have been improperly converted to career positions within the Department of Defense. Specifically, that two political positions were converted to career positions within the DOD's Office of Detainee Affairs, and that Bush Administration political appointees within that office assumed those career positions.

Allegations of improper "burrowing" of political appointees to career positions are concerning to me. This is especially disconcerting within the Office of Detainee Affairs due to the nature of the policy recommendations that office provides regarding Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. President Obama has decisively set a new course on detainee policy by issuing the executive order to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

Accordingly, I ask that you immediately review the circumstances behind the conversion of these positions and the hiring of any former Bush Administration appointees as career or temporary officials within the Office of Detainee Affairs. I would like to know whether Bush Administration appointees were converted to career or temporary appointments in that office. If this has occurred, when were these appointments made, and were they done pursuant to a competitive and publicly open hiring process subject to all applicable Office of Personnel Management regulations? Finally, if improper burrowing of political appointees has happened within the Office of Detainee Affairs, how and when will this will be corrected?

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely Yours,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

OSD 01223-09

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 2, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your letter of January 27, regarding the Department's use of retired military officers as "surrogates" to make the former Administration's case in the media. As you indicate in your letter, the Inspector General found no improper or illegal activities on the part of the Department's Public Affairs personnel and concluded that information briefings provided to retired military officers did not violate legal prohibitions against the use of appropriated funds for publicity or propaganda purposes.

However, the Inspector General also found that the Department excluded a retired General from further participation in the program because of his comments critical of the conduct of the Iraq war. The report also confirms that a senior DOD Public Affairs official sent an e-mail urging the Department to cultivate a core group of "reliably friendly" retired military analysts "that we can count on to carry our water." I do not think it should be acceptable for DOD officials to cut off outside commentators who express critical opinions, or to use access to information to reward political allies in the press. If this conduct is not illegal or improper under existing law or regulations, I believe that those laws and regulations need to be changed. I would appreciate if you would review the applicable laws and regulations and get back to me with your views.

Also, while the report finds insufficient evidence to determine that any contractor received a competitive advantage as a result of its ties to retired military analysts, the report fails to assess whether the retired military analysts themselves obtained financial benefits from contractors as a result of their favorable access to DOD information and officials. The report also concludes that it was appropriate for the Department to employ a contractor to ensure that the commentary of retired

OSD 01226-09

military analysts "reflected accurate information." However, the purpose of the contract, as detailed in the report, was not to determine whether the commentary was "accurate", but rather whether it was favorable – i.e., to determine "how coverage reflects or fails to reflect DoD stated policies or views (as expressed by its spokespeople and other representatives)." The report fails to assess whether it was appropriate to hire an outside contractor to determine which analysts were most supportive of Administration views.

I would appreciate if you would task the Inspector General to conduct an additional review and analysis to address these issues.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Joseph I. Lieberman plans to travel to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel during the period February 14-22, 2009. Senator Lieberman will be accompanied by Vance Serchuk and Christopher Griffin, his personal staffers designated to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Army could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01254-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On January 21, 2009, I wrote regarding the upcoming foreign travel plans to Germany and Bosnia-Herzegovina for Senator Joseph I. Lieberman and his staff during the period February 5-8, 2009. This letter is to request your further assistance. As previously indicated, Senators Joseph I. Lieberman and John McCain will co-lead the American delegation to the annual Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany.

On behalf of Senator Lieberman, I also request that you authorize travel on military aircraft with CODEL LIEBERMAN individuals not belonging to Congress or its staff, but who are part of the United States' delegation and who would travel at no additional cost to the U.S. Government on a cost-reimbursable basis. A list of these individuals is attached to this letter.

Thank you for your continued assistance in support of this conference.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosure

OSD 01261-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 3, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On January 21 and February 2, 2009, I wrote regarding the upcoming foreign travel plans to Germany and Bosnia-Herzegovina for Senator Joseph I. Lieberman and his staff during the period February 5-8, 2009. This letter is to request your further assistance. As previously indicated, Senators Joseph I. Lieberman and John McCain will co-lead the American delegation to the annual Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany.

On behalf of Senator Lieberman, I also request that you authorize travel on military aircraft with CODEL LIEBERMAN the following 2 individuals who are also part of the United States' delegation and who would travel at no additional cost to the U.S. Government on a cost-reimbursable basis:

Max Boot
Bob Woodward

Thank you for your continued assistance in support of this conference.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01262-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2009

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write to register concern about the future of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system at Fort Greely, Alaska, and to inform you of our strong support for this system.

As you know, the integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) has been in the news recently. Last week, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin expressed some concern about the BMD system, of which GMD is a key component. His comments came at the same time reports surfaced of North Korea preparing again to test its Taepodong-2 missile, which is estimated to have a range that could hit Alaska. And earlier this week, Iran successfully launched a low-orbit satellite utilizing a three-stage rocket technology, which raises great concern over that country's increased capabilities.

We were sobered by your testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee on January 27, 2009, in which you stated that: "North Korea and Iran present uniquely vexing challenges...North Korea has produced enough plutonium for several atomic bombs; Iran is developing capabilities needed to support a nuclear program...both countries have ballistic missile programs of increasing range and a record of proliferation." Your blunt assessment underscores the need for a fully functioning BMD System, in which Fort Greely plays a key role.

The federal budget includes funding to complete the fielding of all interceptors at Fort Greely to bring the system up to full capacity. Certainly a key component of this system is a more rigorous testing regimen, as stressed in the latest Director of Operational Test & Evaluation (DOT&E) annual report. Additional successful testing will continue to validate this system to the nation and the new administration. Launches for the tests currently originate from the Kodiak Launch Complex in Kodiak, Alaska, which is ideally suited for such testing and ready to execute additional tests.

At this time, we see absolutely no justification for reductions to the GMD System or slowing its implementation. To the contrary, the threats from North Korea and Iran only serve to emphasize the vital role this system should play in the defense of our nation and our state.

SECDEF	DEPSECDEF	SPLASST	EXECSEC	USDP
USDI	ESD	CCD	CBLC	FILE

LA/

OSD 01343-09

Should the Department of Defense consider any adjustments to this system, we ask that you notify us as soon as possible so that we may discuss the justification with you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Mark Begich
United States Senator

Don Young
Congressman for All Alaska

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is in further regard to my letter of February 2, 2009 concerning the travel plans of Senator Joseph I. Lieberman and his staff members, Vance Serchuck and Christopher Griffin, during the period February 14-22.

Please be advised that Senator Lieberman has added Jordan (from February 18-19) to his itinerary.

I would appreciate your continued support and assistance in connection with this travel.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01434-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is in further regard to my letters of February 2, 3 and 5, 2009 concerning the travel plans of Senator Joseph I. Lieberman and his staff members, Vance Serchuck and Christopher Griffin, during the period February 14-22, 2009.

Please be advised that Senator Lieberman will now be returning on February 23 vice February 22. In addition, Mrs. Hadassah Lieberman will now be accompanying the Senator for protocol purposes and at no expense to the U.S. Government. In addition, Senator Lieberman, Mrs. Lieberman and Senator Lieberman's two staff members, Vance Serchuk and Christopher Griffin, will now be traveling from Egypt to Israel via military air because no commercial flights are available.

I would appreciate your continued support and assistance in connection with this travel.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01435-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 4, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for the following Committee on Armed Services staff members to travel via government vehicle to Charlottesville, Virginia from February 19-20, 2009:

Richard D. DeBobes, Staff Director
Pablo E. Carrillo, Minority Investigative Counsel
Ilona R. Cohen, Counsel
Madelyn R. Creedon, Counsel
Jonathan D. Clark, Counsel
Gabriella Eisen, Counsel
Mark R. Jacobson, Professional Staff Member
Gary Leeling, Counsel
Peter K. Levine, General Counsel
William G.P. Monahan, Counsel
David M. Morriss, Minority Counsel
Russell L. Shaffer, Counsel
Richard F. Walsh, Minority Counsel

The purpose of their trip will be to attend the 2009 Congressional Staff Legal Orientation Course at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate Legal Center and School. It is requested that the Department of the Army be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01440-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 4, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 370, to prohibit the use of funds to transfer detainees of the United States at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to any facility in the United States or to construct any facility for such detainees in the United States, and for other purposes. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 01441-09

DANIEL K. AKAKA, HAWAII, CHAIRMAN
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SHERROD BROWN, OHIO
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WILLIAM E. BREW, STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
JOHNNY ISAKSON, GEORGIA
ROGER F. WICKER, MISSISSIPPI
MIKE JOHANNS, NEBRASKA
LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA

LUPE WISSEL, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

February 10, 2009

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

Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave.
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Gates and Secretary Shinseki,

We are writing to request that you convene the DoD/VA Senior Oversight Committee (SOC), because we are very concerned about the recent reports of increased suicides among active duty servicemembers. Between 1995 and 2007, there have been over 2,200 suicides among active duty servicemembers.

Such loss is unacceptable if there is any measure that can be taken to reduce it. We request that you meet as soon as possible to ensure that both the resources of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs are brought to bear on this problem. The SOC should move immediately to determine whether deficiencies exist in the way potential military personnel are screened, or in the diagnosis or treatment of active duty servicemembers who are suffering from psychological problems.

We believe that convening the SOC to look specifically at suicide prevention is a first and necessary step in a coordinated effort.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Akaka
Chairman

Richard M. Burr
Ranking Member

OSD 01487-09

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

United States Senate

Senator Tom Coburn, MD
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 172
Washington, DC 20510-3604
Phone: 202-224-5754
Fax: 202-224-6008

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE LAW

February 13, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1300

Secretary Gates,

I am writing to you in regards to the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) Program Integrity (PI) Office, which is responsible for all anti-fraud activities worldwide for the Defense Health Program. I want to congratulate the agency for identifying over $50 million in TRICARE funds for recovery in 2006 and 2007.

In order to ensure the most judicious use of anti-fraud and anti-waste funds, I am contacting you with concerns about the biennial conference that the TMA Program Integrity Office holds to educate employees, providers, and contractors on fraud, waste, abuse detection and investigation. According to Federal Business Opportunities solicitation number H94002-09-Q-0006 posted February 3, 2009, the conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee at the Opryland Hotel from April 28 to May 1, 2009.

Please provide answers to the following questions:

- What is the estimated total cost of this year's fraud, waste, and abuse conference? Please list individual estimates for airfare, hotel, per diem, audio/visual support, and conference space leasing.
- How many government workers and contractors are planning to attend this year's conference?
- What is the budget for the Office of Program Integrity? Does funding for this conference come out of its budget? If not, what budget authority appropriates these funds?
- Has anyone conducted an analysis of alternative methods of conveying this information such as videoteleconferences or site visits by the Office of Program Integrity?
- How much training do TRICARE Management Agency employees receive outside of conferences such as this?
- What is the annual salary of the average investigator at the Office of Program Integrity?

3310 MID-CONTINENT TOWER
401 SOUTH BOSTON
TULSA, OK 74103-4007
PHONE: 918-581-7651

100 NORTH BROADWAY
SUITE 1820
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102
PHONE: 405-231-4941

www.coburn.senate.gov

711 SW D AVENUE
SUITE 202
LAWTON, OK 73501
PHONE: 580-357-9878

OSD 01544-09

Additionally, please send a copy of the 2003, 2005, and 2007 conference itineraries along with their estimated costs. Thank you for your attention to this request and for your efforts to combat fraud, waste and abuse at the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

Tom A. Coburn, M.D.
United States Senator

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 13, 2009

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

Re: Domestic Source Restrictions

Dear Secretary Gates:

I have advocated for full and open competition in the defense industrial base for Department of Defense development and procurement programs, and maintain that statutory limits on competition produce suboptimal acquisition outcomes for the warfighter and taxpayer. I am aware that the Department has authorities to internally impose restrictions on competition, in the interest of national security.

Please provide me with the Department's general position on statutory domestic source restrictions and briefly detail what authorities the Department has to impose agency-wide domestic source restrictions.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John McCain
United States Senator

CC: Mr. Gary Powell, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Industrial Policy (Acting)

OSD 01553-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for two Armed Services Committee Professional Staff Members, Richard W. Fieldhouse and Dana W. White, to travel by commercial aircraft to Dayton, Ohio during the period February 19-20, 2009.

The purpose of their trip will be to visit the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) at Wright-Patterson AFB in order to receive intelligence briefings on ballistic missile threats and developments and to discuss related matters with NASIC analysts. It is requested that the Department of the Air Force be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01554-09

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD
WISCONSIN

506 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5323
(202) 224-1280 (TDD)
feingold.senate.gov

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

February 13, 2009

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

For many years I have been deeply concerned about the ongoing crisis in Somalia and the potential for greater instability in the Horn of Africa, as well as the threat this situation poses to our national security. Over the last three years, I have consistently called on the executive branch to develop a comprehensive interagency strategy toward Somalia. In 2006, I wrote legislation, passed by Congress, requiring the administration to develop such a strategy. However, despite these efforts, the previous administration maintained a disjointed and short-sighted approach toward Somalia that was counterproductive and led to increased anti-Americanism in the region. As a result, the situation in Somalia has deteriorated, undermining our national security goals, including counterterrorism.

I was pleased to hear from Secretary Clinton and Ambassador Rice at their respective confirmation hearings that they understand the strategic importance of Somalia and that your administration is committed to developing a comprehensive strategy to address this crisis. I look forward to working with the State Department in this regard. Just as important, however, is the integration of all our national security resources, including those of the Department of Defense and the Intelligence Community, into one coherent strategy. Unfortunately, while the legislation passed by Congress requires an annual interagency strategy, the reports provided to Congress by the Bush Administration addressed only diplomatic activity.

In response, I sent a classified letter raising numerous questions about interagency coordination and strategy and requesting that these issues be included in classified annexes to the congressionally required report. The Bush Administration responded only by offering disjointed and incomplete briefings. As you seek a new and more effective way forward, I urge you to bring together all elements of the U.S. government in one coherent strategy and to do so in close coordination with Congress. In that respect, I look forward to working with you on the classified, as well as unclassified, elements of a comprehensive strategy toward Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

○ 1600 ASPEN COMMONS
ROOM 100
MIDDLETON, WI 53562
(608) 828-1200
(608) 828-1215 (TDD)

○ 517 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE
ROOM 408
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
(414) 276-7282

○ 401 5TH STREET
ROOM 410
WAUSAU, WI 54403
(715) 848-5660

○ 425 STATE STREET
ROOM 225
LA CROSSE, WI 54601
(608) 782-5585

○ 1540 MAIN STREET
GREEN BAY, WI 54302
(920) 465-7508

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OSD 01575-09

The need to develop and implement a new approach is urgent. The successful election of a new president by the Transitional Federal Government parliament is a major step forward for the Djibouti process and presents a significant opportunity. I believe expanded U.S. support for this process must be a central component of our strategy, and there exists a window during which high-level, sustained U.S. engagement could help Somalia overcome the many challenges to peace and stability.

I met President Sheik Sharif during my visit to the region in December and he expressed his commitment to an inclusive process to unite Somalia. Encouraging and helping him to deliver on that expressed commitment will be crucial if the process is to effectively translate into security on the ground and lead to the development of a functional government and the rule of law. As you well know, past attempts to form a unity government have failed because they were perceived—whether accurately or not—as favoring one clan or political constituency over others.

Finally, if we are to support the Djibouti process and pursue an effective overall strategy, it is essential that we deal directly with our credibility deficit in Somalia. The previous administration's approach has spurred widespread public resentment and mistrust toward the United States, which has led to increased suspicion about U.S. intentions. This mistrust undermines our ability to engage constructively with different parties. During the first months of your administration, I believe you have a unique opportunity to change this perception. To that end, I urge you to consider making a public, unequivocal statement that you intend to make a clear break from past policies toward Somalia. I believe doing so could make a tremendous impression on ordinary Somalis and greatly advance U.S. public diplomacy efforts in the Horn of Africa and across the Muslim world.

I appreciate your consideration of these suggestions and more importantly, your administration's commitment to address the ongoing crisis in Somalia. I look forward to working together to develop and pursue a comprehensive interagency strategy that brings stability to the region and advances U.S. long-term security interests.

Sincerely,

Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Dennis Blair
Director of National Intelligence

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 6, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 390, S. 390, to expand the authority of the Secretary of the Air Force to convey certain relocatable military housing units to Indian tribes located in Idaho and Nevada. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 01610-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Mel Martinez plans to travel to Belgium during the period March 20-22, 2009. Mrs. Kitty Martinez will accompany Senator Martinez for protocol purposes and at no expense to the U.S. Government. Senator Martinez will be accompanied by Tom Weinberg, his personal staffer who has been designated to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Air Force could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01652-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Dana W. White, Professional Staff Member on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to travel via commercial aircraft to Kings Bay, Georgia on February 19, 2009.

The purpose of her trip will be to visit Kings Bay in order to tour and receive briefings on the Trident submarine and refurbishing of the DG-5. It is requested that the Department of the Navy be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01717-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Arun A. Seraphin, Professional Staff Member on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to travel via commercial aircraft Michigan on February 19-20, 2009.

The purpose of his trip will be to visit the Army Armaments Research and Engineering Center (ARDEC) in Warren, Michigan to receive briefings on Army armaments research programs. It is requested that the Department of the Army be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01795-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Arun A. Seraphin and Michael J. Noblet, Professional Staff Members on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to travel via commercial aircraft Michigan on February 17, 2009.

The purpose of their trip will be to visit the Army Tank-Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) in Warren, Michigan to receive briefings on Army vehicle and energy research programs. It is requested that the Department of the Army be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01797-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Arun A. Seraphin, Professional Staff Member on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to travel via commercial aircraft Michigan during the period February 16-17, 2009.

The purpose of his trip will be to visit the Army Tank-Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) in Warren, Michigan to receive briefings on Army vehicle and energy research programs. It is requested that the Department of the Army be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01798-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Lucian L. Niemeyer, Professional Staff Member on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to travel via commercial aircraft Georgia during the period February 16-20, 2009.

The purpose of his trip will be to visit Forts McPherson, Stewart and Gordon in Georgia to review installation requirements, BRAC implementation efforts, and to receive briefings on local readiness issues. It is requested that the Department of the Army be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01800-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Arun A. Seraphin, Professional Staff Member on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to travel via commercial aircraft New Jersey on February 19-20, 2009.

The purpose of his trip will be to visit the Army Armaments Research and Engineering Center (ARDEC) in Picatinny, New Jersey to receive briefings on Army armaments research programs. It is requested that the Department of the Army be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01801-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On February 13, 2009, I wrote the attached letter to you regarding the travel plans of Arun A. Seraphin, Professional Staff Member on the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Please be advised that the dates of travel have changed to February 18-19, 2009.

Your continued assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosure

OSD 01802-09

BERNARD SANDERS
SENATOR

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 23, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We urge you to implement an important program that addresses a critical health need for our nation's military personnel and their families. The Department of Defense (DOD) should conform to the intent of Congress and establish a comprehensive smoking cessation benefit program.

Development and implementation of a comprehensive smoking cessation program was mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 (PL-110-417). As our nation works to improve preventive medicine, we must ensure that members of our military and their families are afforded the best care available. As enacted, last year's defense bill stipulates that the DOD establish a smoking cessation program to include counseling, written educational materials about the adverse effects of tobacco use, a toll-free 24 hour "quit" hotline, and access to tobacco replacement therapy and other pharmaceuticals at no cost. The law also required the Department of Defense to submit to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees a plan within 90 days of enactment, and to implement that plan within 180 days. Although the 90-day planning period expired on January 14, 2009, no such implementation plan has been submitted.

Tobacco use is the foremost preventable cause of premature death in America. It causes more than 400,000 deaths in the United States each year and approximately 8.6 million Americans have chronic illnesses related to smoking. The financial cost of tobacco use is tremendous; total public and private health care expenditures caused by smoking amount to $96.7 billion annually. Furthermore, there is a significant payoff for addressing this health crisis early in people's lives. Quitting by the age of 30 eliminates virtually all risks associated with smoking. Smokers who quit before the age of 50 can cut in half their risk of dying from smoking related illnesses over the ensuing 15 years.

The Department of Defense has operated a successful smoking cessation pilot program in several states since 2006. Unfortunately, the majority of our military personnel and their families, including those who are stationed overseas are currently excluded from these opportunities.

We ask that you exert your personal leadership to swiftly provide a comprehensive smoking cessation program to all military personnel and Tricare participants. This

OSD 01896-09

program should also be fully funded and adequately staffed. DOD can achieve long-term savings through preventive health measures like smoking cessation programs. More important, we can seize the opportunity to improve the quality of life for our service members, who so faithfully serve our nation, and their families.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please consider Peter Tyler (Senator Sanders, 224-5141) as the staff contact.

Sincerely,

BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator

TOM HARKIN
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to request that you promptly and fully distribute authorized compensation to members of our Armed Forces whose service has been extended by the Department of Defense's stop loss policy.

Over the past seven years, over 160,000 military personnel have had their service-duty contracts extended due to stop loss orders. Today, there are over 12,000 soldiers in the active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard who remain on active duty beyond their scheduled separation date as a result of stop loss. This policy especially impacts the National Guard and Reservists, many of whom have already been deployed much longer than they expected. This is why we introduced legislation in the 110th Congress to provide payments to service members for each month they are extended as a result of stop loss.

On September 30, 2008, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 was signed into law (P.L. 110-329). The bill provided that all military personnel that have had their service duty contracts involuntarily extended due to stop loss orders, during Fiscal Year 2009 will receive compensation. The bill also allocated $72 million for the compensation, thus providing enough to compensate each soldier with the full $500 amount.

It has been nearly five months since the bill was signed into law and stop loss compensation payments have yet to be distributed. We urge you to work with the House and Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittees to develop a thorough and appropriate disbursement plan as quickly as possible to fulfill the Department's obligations under P.L. 110-329. Our soldiers are heroically and bravely defending our country abroad, and they are awaiting the much-deserved recognition and compensation for the unforeseen sacrifice so many have been called on to perform.

Thank you for your prompt attention and your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Betty Sutton
Betty Sutton

Frank R. Lautenberg
Frank Lautenberg

OSD 01931-09

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD
WISCONSIN

506 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5323
(202) 224-1280 (TDD)
feingold.senate.gov

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

FEB 20 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

Thank you for your efforts to prevent suicide and to reduce the stigma associated with mental health concerns among those who serve our nation in uniform. I write to express my concern about the record high rate of suicides among soldiers, and to ask that you reconsider the Department's policy of deploying those with mental health concerns, including PTSD, to war zones and to treat these concerns in theater rather than redeploying those struggling with these issues.

I would appreciate it if you could inform me about any plans the Department has to respond to the record high rate of suicides among soldiers. Furthermore, I would like to know how the Department has factored the issue of high rates of mental health concerns, including PTSD, into its deployment plans. As the Department prepares plans to redeploy from Iraq and increase the number of troops in Afghanistan, I urge you to take into consideration the Army and Marine Corps studies which have found that repeat deployments increase the rate of mental health problems among service members.

Mental health professionals who serve in the VA system in the state of Wisconsin have told me of their concern about the repeat deployments of those struggling with PTSD and I continue to hear from service members who do not feel that the advice of their doctors is taken seriously by their commanders. I urge you to consider a more aggressive policy of identifying those with severe mental health concerns who should not be deployed or should be redeployed. Please consider requiring a physician's certification before deploying any service member that deployment will not exacerbate the mental health concerns of any service member who has screened positive for PTSD or any other mental health concern during a post-deployment health screening or similar exam. We cannot bring down the suicide rate if we do not address this underlying issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator

OSD 01985-09

○ 1600 ASPEN COMMONS
ROOM 100
MIDDLETON, WI 53562
(608) 828-1200
(608) 828-1215 (TDD)

○ 517 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE
ROOM 408
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
(414) 276-7282

○ 401 5TH STREET
ROOM 410
WAUSAU, WI 54403
(715) 848-5660

○ 425 STATE STREET
ROOM 225
LA CROSSE, WI 54601
(608) 782-5585

○ 1640 MAIN STREET
GREEN BAY, WI 54302
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Recent press reports suggest that the Administration is contemplating a nearly 20-percent reduction in funding for the Missile Defense Agency in Fiscal Year 2010. While I realize the competition for funding among defense programs will be intense, I respectfully caution the Department that it would be imprudent to take any premature action with respect to missile defense before the completion of important policy reviews, such as the Nuclear Posture Review, the Quadrennial Defense Review, and the review of ballistic missile defense policy and strategy mandated by Section 234 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417). To precipitously reduce funding for missile defense by some $2.0 billion, as reported, would prejudge the outcome of these important reviews.

In the course of making a case for reduced spending on missile defense, some of my colleagues have argued for greater focus on theater missile defense systems, such as Aegis BMD, THAAD, and PAC-3. While I concur with the need to field these capabilities in numbers sufficient to counter the growing threat, I would caution the administration against increased funding for these programs at the expense of the defense of United States territory and population. Section 223 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364), explicitly states that priority should be given to the ground-based midcourse defense (GMD) system in addition to the aforementioned theater missile defense systems.

The GMD program is modest in scope -- only 44 ground-based interceptor missiles fielded in Alaska and California. Nearly sixty percent of the interceptors have been fielded with the remaining under contract. Therefore, I believe it would be extremely unwise not to field the remaining interceptors, so critical to our nation's safety and security, by the 2013 schedule that was approved by the Congress. Moreover, it is the only defensive system we will have in place over the next 10 to 15 years to provide a measure of protection for the American people against long-range threats from North Korea and Iran. There is no back-up system. As such, we must complete the planned fielding, continue to test and improve the system over time, and explore enabling technology that will increase the cost-effectiveness of the GMD system against future, uncertain threats. I strongly believe that any funding reductions that would jeopardize these objectives would be met with strong opposition.

With respect to the defense of our NATO allies, may I also bring to your attention Section 229 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181), which established the "policy of the United States to develop, test, and deploy as soon as technologically feasible, in conjunction with allies and friendly countries whenever possible, an effective defense against the

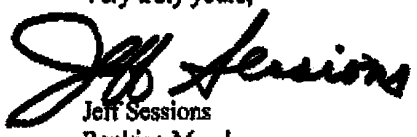
OSD 01988-09

[ballistic missile] threat from Iran" to the United States and its NATO allies. On 3 April 2008, the Heads of States and Governments participating in the North Atlantic Council in Bucharest, Romania issued a declaration in support of the deployment of a missile defense capability in Europe. The declaration stated, "We therefore recognise the substantial contribution to the protection of Allies from long-range ballistic missiles to be provided by the planned deployment of European-based United States missile defence assets." As such, I would caution the Administration against making any decisions that might negatively impact the existing missile defense agreements between the United States and its European allies until the matter has been fully vetted and the views of our European allies taken into account.

I believe funding for our missile defense programs enjoys near-consensus in Congress, especially within the defense committees. Over the last two years, for example, the net reduction to the president's request for missile defense programs was approximately 3-percent, which is an indication that we have moved beyond the politics of missile defense. A 20-percent reduction, as reported in the press, however would again politicize missile defense at a time when our missile defense capabilities are coming on line.

In closing, I would note that earlier this month Iran successfully launched a satellite into space. Additionally, we continue to read press reports that North Korea is making preparations for a similar launch this week. Given those actions and the threat they represent, it is disturbing that the Administration would contemplate significant reductions to our missile defense programs at the very time our potential adversaries are demonstrating the ability to reach U.S. territory and that of our allies with ballistic missiles. The American people, I am sure, will draw their own conclusions.

Very truly yours,



Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Committee on Armed Services

cc: Honorable Peter R. Orszag, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Honorable John Young, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
Honorable Michelle Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
General James Cartwright, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
General Kevin Chilton, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command
Lieutenant General Patrick O'Reilly, Director, Missile Defense Agency

JOHN CORNYN
TEXAS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4305

February 4, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write you in support of (b)(6) nomination to receive the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. I recently learned of (b)(6) nomination through Brigadier General (Retired) (b)(6) and I am confident that she is worthy of this award.

(b)(6) has spent more than thirty years supporting the United States Army and Air Force in San Antonio and throughout Texas. During this time she generously volunteered both physically and financially, to Fort Sam Houston, Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases, Brook Army Medical Center, the U.S. Army All American Bowl, innumerable Wounded Warrior events, and United Service Organizations (USO), as well as countless other military organizations and alliances in the San Antonio area. After reviewing (b)(6) impressive contributions to service members and their families, I believe her work merits this prestigious award.

I encourage you to give (b)(6) nomination every possible consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact Paul Taylor, of my staff, if I may be of further assistance at 202–224–2430.

Sincerely,

John Cornyn

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

OSD 01991-09

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–2101

February 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I'm writing to request your support for the continued development and procurement of the Joint Strike Fighter Alternate engine by including it in your Defense Budget submission for Fiscal Year 2010.

To do so would be in compliance with existing law and in keeping with the clear justification provided by Congress. As you know, Congress has supported the development and procurement of an alternative propulsion system for the Joint Strike Fighter for over a decade. It's my belief that such a competition is essential to obtaining these systems at the lowest possible price, and that this competition will likely lead to increased performance and overall savings throughout the life cycle of the program.

To date, the Alternate Fighter Engine Team has performed admirably, as demonstrated by the "exceptional" award fee ratings it has consistently received. It remains on budget and on schedule, which is a significant accomplishment when compared to other major development programs in the Department.

Much of the development is now complete. Less than 30% of the overall development costs for the engine will remain after this year, and production funding has already been appropriated to enable deliveries to be made in Fiscal Year 2012.

I hope very much that the Department will continue to fund the development and procurement of the Alternative engine for the Joint Strike Fighter in Fiscal Year 2010.

Sincerely,

Ted Kennedy

Edward M. Kennedy
U.S. Senator

OSD 01993-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Arun A. Seraphin and Paul C. Hutton IV, Professional Staff Members on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to travel via military van to Dahlgren, Virginia on February 27, 2009.

The purpose of their trip will be to visit NAVSEA Dahlgren in order to receive briefings and view demonstrations of Navy applied research activities. It is requested that the Department of the Navy be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 02033-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator James M. Inhofe plans to travel to Germany, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Liberia and Morocco during the period April 3-11, 2009. Senator Inhofe will be accompanied his wife, Mrs. Kay Inhofe, for protocol purposes and at no expense to the government. Senator Inhofe will also be accompanied by Anthony Lazarski, Mark Powers, and Ryan Thompson, his personal staff members who have been designated to the Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Air Force could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 02045-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 454, Weapons Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, to improve the organization and procedures of the Department of Defense for the acquisition of major weapon systems, and for other purposes. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02046-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD D. DEBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 459, to improve and enhance substance use disorder programs for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02047-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 26, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 476, Care Affordability for Military Families Act, to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the minimum distance of travel necessary for reimbursement of covered beneficiaries of the military health care system for travel for specialty health care. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02168-09

MARK BEGICH
ALASKA

SUITE SH-825
HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3004

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 19, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am very pleased to see the great outcome for the Department of Defense in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

In total, the Department of Defense has $12 billion in funding allocated to various programs, with $2.5 billion specifically allocated to defense-wide programs. I am anxious to see this money moved into the system to begin to stimulate the economy while fulfilling many of the requirements for the Department of Defense.

I would appreciate if you would provide me a prioritized list of projects the Department of Defense plans to fulfill using the $2.5 billion in defense-wide allocated funding. In particular, I would like to see what impacts this money will have on installations or projects in Alaska.

I look forward to your response while we begin to make a difference in our economy and the future of the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

Mark Begich
U.S. Senator

OSD 02196-09

DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

DPC

BYRON L. DORGAN
CHAIRMAN

February 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

It is my pleasure to invite you to speak to the Senate Democratic Caucus at our annual weekend issues conference, which will be held the weekend of May 1, 2009 in Bedford Springs, Pennsylvania.

This is the one time each year that Senate Democrats meet outside of Washington to brainstorm and strategize on the most pressing challenges facing our nation. Our Caucus is very interested to hear your strategies for addressing the multiple national security challenges facing the United States.

My staff will work with your office to schedule a time for you to speak, either on Friday afternoon, May 1 or Saturday morning, May 2. President Obama has confirmed his attendance at the conference.

I know my colleagues will be thrilled if you are able to join us. Please let me know whether you will be able to attend, or have your staff contact Chuck Cooper at the Democratic Policy Committee at (202) 224-4637.

Sincerely,

Byron L. Dorgan
Chairman

OSD 02198-09

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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 28, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 504, to redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02240-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On February 13, 2009 I wrote the attached letter to you regarding the travel plans of Senator Mel Martinez and his staffer, Tom Weinberg, during the period March 20-22, 2009.

This letter is to advise that Mr. Weinberg will no longer be accompanying Senator Martinez on this trip. Mr. Dan Fisk, Senator Martinez's staffer who has been designated to the Committee on Armed Services, will now be travelling with Senator Martinez.

I would appreciate your continued support and assistance in connection with this travel.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02241-09

E. BENJAMIN NELSON
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United States Senate

March 4, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As we face a rapidly deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan and the region, I commend the Administration for shifting our focus to that country and working to develop a strategy to ensure the security of the nation. Unfortunately, a greater commitment in Afghanistan will require further sacrifice from our country and our men and women in uniform. As such, it is our responsibility to ensure that the American people are given a clear objective for the mission in Afghanistan, one which contemplates defense, diplomacy and development.

As the deployments of additional troops are ordered to Afghanistan, I urge you not to forget recent history and the difficult lessons learned from the war in Iraq. For too long, our standards to measure success there were vaguely defined.

For just that reason, I had pushed for the establishment of 18 benchmarks for America's mission in Iraq to measure political, economic and military progress. These benchmarks were included in the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, P.L. 110-28. Likewise, I believe our mission in Afghanistan calls for a system which will allow us to objectively gauge our success both militarily and politically. The establishment of a clear objective in Afghanistan and the creation of a metric system to track the progress of all mission-critical elements will demonstrate to the American people what we hope to accomplish in Afghanistan and how we will achieve those goals.

I applaud the commitment to developing a strategic plan in Afghanistan, one which combines military action with a cohesive and strong diplomatic engagement; and I respectfully urge the Administration to develop a series of benchmarks to assess the military and political progress in Afghanistan. I believe we have an obligation to our servicemembers to ensure that their sacrifice is met with a clear objective and a means to measure success.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

OSD 02298-09

EBN:ajp

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Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, *Maryland*
Chairman

Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, *Florida*
Co-Chairman

March 4, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express the most steadfast support for Dr. Solomon Passy's nomination for Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). His record of leadership and vision distinguish his nomination.

The challenge of seeking collaboration among nations through international organizations is not new to Dr. Passy. As a former Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and most recently as chairman of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Transparency and Accountability Committee, Dr. Passy has a unique understanding of the complexity of seeking consensus among nations with diverse political, economic and social realities. Facilitating cooperation, Dr. Passy played a key role in the OSCE's outreach to Mediterranean states; support to elections in Afghanistan; support to pivotal elections in Ukraine and Georgia; and engendered a renewed commitment to supporting tolerance, education, good governance, and private enterprise by OSCE participating States. As a Commissioner on the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe since 1993 and the current Vice President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I can attest personally to the legacy of Dr. Passy's leadership.

Moreover, Dr. Passy recognizes that security institutions must adapt to amorphous and asymmetrical threats such as counterinsurgency, terrorism, various forms of trafficking, and piracy. He has long recognized that these threats cannot be countered unless the "security needs of the individual citizen" are addressed. This accounted for his strong support for development of democratic institutions and functioning market economies during his tenure as Chairman-in-Office. The challenges that NATO faces today requires the vision of a person who realizes that military strength is but one component of a strategy to provide genuine security. As NATO seeks to leverage resources in a stabilization and reconstruction capacity in states like Afghanistan, Dr. Passy is the ideal choice for Secretary General.

OSD 02300-09

234 Ford House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
Telephone: (202) 225-1901 http://www.csce.gov Facsimile: (202) 226-4199

Dr. Passy's achievements in his home country as a Member of Parliament and Minister of Foreign Affairs cannot be overlooked. He has led efforts to improve military and foreign policy oversight. He has increased military cooperation of South-Eastern Europe through the creation of the South-Eastern European Brigade. Additionally, while simultaneously balancing Bulgaria's and Europe's security interests, he has carefully reached out to nations such as Libya and North Korea. This outreach resulted in the release of Bulgarian Medics detained in Libya in 2001. Most notably, Dr. Passy was influential in Bulgaria's accession to NATO both by actions within the government and by promoting public support outside the government.

Dr. Passy has a unique combination of experience and vision. Dr. Passy's leadership will immediately be felt on issues such as collective procurement of expensive military systems, integration of non-NATO militaries into missions, improving the deployment capabilities of NATO militaries, and the relationship with Russia. This is so because he has spent his diplomatic career bringing once divided people in Europe together to achieve common goals.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin, U.S.S
Chairman

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Last October the United States Congress passed, and President Bush signed into law, the Code Talkers Recognition Act, Public Law 110-420. Senator Inhofe and I were the lead sponsors of this bill in our respective legislative bodies. The purpose of this act is to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to a select group of Native Americans for their heroic service in World War I or World War II.

Found within the legislation is a directive asking the Defense Department, along with the Treasury Department, to help fully indentify all individuals who are deserving of this award.

Section 5, subparagraph (b) states:

The Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the tribes, shall:

(1) Determine the identity, to the maximum extent practicable, of each Native American Tribe that had a member of that tribe serve as a Native American Code Talker, with the exception of the Navajo Tribe.
(2) Include the name of each Native American tribe identified under subparagraph (a) on a list
(3) Provide the list, and any updates to the list to the Smithsonian Institution for maintenance

Over the last few months our offices have held meetings with officials from the Department of Defense and the Department of the Treasury in an attempt to move this process forward. After speaking with all the parties involved, it is our understanding that the Office of the Army Historian or some other archival department within the Department of Defense has a tentative list of individuals who would be deemed "Code Talkers" within the definitions of the recently passed legislation.

I am writing to ask you to expedite this identification process so that the United States Congress can move forward in honoring these brave soldiers. I will enclose a copy of the public law pertinent to this request for your review. If you have any questions about our expedited request, feel free to contact Tom Wharton (226-2275/Boren) or Clark Peterson (224-4721/Inhofe).

Sincerely,

James Inhofe
United States Senator

Sincerely,

Dan Boren
Member of the House of Representatives

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OSD 02352-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary
The Department of Defense
1100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1100

Dear Deputy Secretary Lynn:

Recently, we were informed that the Department of Defense is considering postponing again the acquisition of a new Air Force aerial refueling tanker. As the co-Chairmen of the Senate Tanker Caucus, we believe that any additional postponement of the tanker re-capitalization program will have a serious and unnecessary adverse effect on our service members' ability to carry out the National Military Strategy. Accordingly, we recommend that the Department recommence the aerial refueling tanker competition on an expedited basis.

As you know, the Senate Tanker Caucus is a bipartisan organization whose purpose is to assist the Department in efficiently procuring whichever aircraft best meets the requirements of our National Military Strategy and provides the best value to the taxpayer. The Caucus has not, and will not, take a position supporting any particular bidder in the competition for procurement of a replacement tanker. However, the failure of recent efforts to procure a new tanker has been disconcerting to members of the Caucus.

The ability of our nation to continue to project aerial power worldwide depends on our tanker fleet. The backbone of this fleet is the KC-135, which is rapidly approaching its 50th year in service. As I am sure you agree, continuing to rely upon these aircraft for decades to come poses an unacceptable risk not only to our nation's unique global reach capability, but to our most valuable asset, our men and women in uniform.

Therefore, we respectfully recommend that the Department resume the competition to select a new aerial refueling tanker as soon as possible. We also request that our respective staffs be briefed, in a timely manner, on the Department's plans.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kent Conrad
United States Senator

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

OSD 02620-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 11, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lynn:

Earlier this month, the Armed Services Committee was informed of a proposed reorganization of the office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD/P). The proposed reorganization would establish two new Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense (DUSDs), each at a level that appears to be equivalent in authority and control to the existing Assistant Secretaries of Defense (ASDs). While ASD positions are authorized by statute, limited in number, and subject to Senate confirmation, the Department can apparently establish the DUSD positions without statutory authorization, without limitation, and without Senate confirmation.

This proposed reorganization raises broader questions about the number and status of DUSDs in the Department. For example, it appears that there are currently at least ten DUSD positions under the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD/AT&L). Of these ten DUSD positions, two were established by statute and the other eight (including the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense position) appear to have been established unilaterally by the Department. Moreover, the office's organization chart shows multiple layers of DUSDs reporting to each other. For example:

- The DUSD for Industrial Policy reports to the DUSD for Acquisition and Technology (a statutory position), who reports to the Principal DUSD.
- The DUSD for Advanced Systems and Concepts, the DUSD for Laboratories & Basic Sciences, the DUSD for International Technology Security, and the DUSD for Science and Technology all report to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering (a statutory position, but not a DUSD), who reports to the Principal DUSD.

OSD 02632-09

I am concerned that the proliferation of DUSDs at multiple levels of the organization could muddy lines of authority and may not be in the best interests of the Department of Defense. Accordingly, I would appreciate if you would provide me with the following information:

- How many DUSDs are there in the Department of Defense?
- How many DUSDs are statutory positions and how many are not?
- How many DUSDs are Senate-confirmable and how many are not?
- What is the relative rank of a DUSD and an ASD?
- Are all DUSDs of equal rank? If not, how is the rank of a DUSD determined?
- What is the authority for establishing the position of "Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense," to whom other DUSDs (and ASDs) report?

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Secretary Gates,

The Pennsylvania Delegation is writing to you on a matter of great urgency. We understand that the Air Force plans to begin the redistribution of A-10 aircraft from the 111th Fighter Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard, as early as April 2009 and that 11 of the unit's assigned aircraft are scheduled to be moved in the next few months. The remaining 6 A-10s assigned to the 111th are to be moved next year.

We strongly believe that taking A-10s from the 111th Fighter Wing is premature and ill-advised. There is no requirement to move these aircraft at this time. Although the BRAC Commission's Report directed redistribution of the 111th's A-10s, it did not require that it be done on any particular timetable. What's more, the BRAC Commission directed that the Air Force should maintain the end strength of the 111th Fighter Wing, but the loss of the unit's flying mission will result in loss of up to 80 full-time jobs and 140 military positions. Finally, the pending action completely overlooks the BRAC Commission's finding that strongly encouraged the Air Force to keep A-10s at the 111th Fighter Wing.

Taking A-10s from the 111th Fighter Wing is a serious mistake. The original recommendation to redistribute the unit's mission aircraft was based largely on the assumption that the airfield at Willow Grove would not be in operation after the Navy leaves the installation in 2011. However, legislation passed by Congress in 2007 and 2008 provided for the establishment of a joint interagency installation under state jurisdiction and control at Willow Grove. This installation will continue to include an operational airfield to be used by the Pennsylvania National Guard, other military units, other government agencies and associated users to support national defense, homeland security and emergency preparedness missions.

It makes no sense to strip this unit of its aircraft and reduce its capabilities at a time when our Nation and our Commonwealth need them most. There are sufficient A-10 aircraft in the Air Force inventory to keep all 17 mission aircraft at the 111th Fighter Wing. The 111th has the well-trained, combat-experienced aircrews and maintenance/support personnel to continue to operate the A-10s in a cost effective manner. The new joint interagency installation offers the airfield and support facilities for the 111th Fighter Wing to continue flying without major capital investments.

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OSD 02635-09

We are asking that you issue an order delaying the start of the movement of A-10s from the 111th Fighter Wing. This action will give the Air Force the opportunity to reassess the capabilities of the Horsham Joint Interagency Installation and to consider alternative future flying missions for this unit. This action will preserve the capabilities of this unit to support military operations and will leverage the tremendous skills and experience of the unit's aircrews and maintainers. Failure to act will further erode the ability of this unit and the Air Force to carry out the close air support and related missions that the men and women of the 111th Fighter Wing have performed with great distinction for many years.

Due to the urgent nature of this situation, the Pennsylvania Delegation respectfully requests that you respond to our concerns within the next two weeks. We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to receiving your views. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Senator Arlen Specter

Senator Robert Casey

Rep. Allyson Y. Schwartz

Rep. Patrick Murphy

Rep. John Murtha

Rep. Jim Gerlach

Rep. Robert Brady

Rep. Chaka Fattah

Rep. Bill Shuster

Rep. Paul Kanjorski

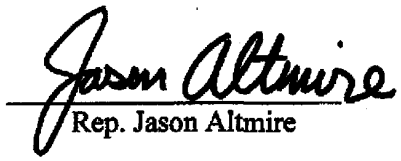
Rep. Charles Dent

Rep. Mike Doyle

Rep. Joe Pitts

Rep. Todd Platts

Rep. Glenn Thompson

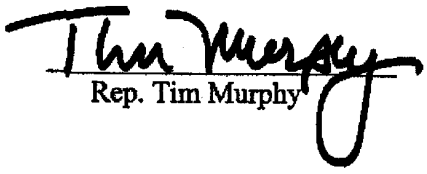

Rep. Jason Altmire

Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper

Rep. Chris Carney

Rep. Joe Sestak

Rep. Tim Holden


Rep. Tim Murphy

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 6, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lynn:

Last week, we introduced S. 454, the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, in an effort to address some of the problems that have led to massive cost overruns and schedule delays on some of our largest defense acquisition programs. At the White House on Wednesday morning, the President announced his support for the goals of our legislation and designated you to take the lead on the issue for the Department of Defense.

We would appreciate if you would provide us with any comments that the Department may have on the proposed legislation by no later than Friday, March 20, 2009.

We look forward to working with you on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

John McCain
Ranking Member

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 02642-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator John McCain plans to travel to Belgium during the period March 20-22, 2009. Senator McCain will be accompanied by a staff member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Richard H. Fontaine, Jr., Deputy Minority Staff Director. He will also be accompanied by Brooke Buchanan, his personal staffer designated to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Air Force could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 02644-09

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United States Senate

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I understand you have been invited to participate as a keynote speaker in the first annual Deterrence Symposium being held on July 29, 2009, at the U.S. Strategic Command in Omaha, Nebraska (USSTRATCOM). Your presence would be most welcome in addressing the full range of matters with regard to nuclear weapons and deterrence.

From your previous visits to Offutt Air Force Base, the home of USSTRATCOM, I know you are aware that the base maintains one of the largest military presences in the Midwest. The Command employs more than 2,700 individuals, representing all branches of the armed services, as well as DoD civilians and contractors, who oversee the Command's operationally focused global strategic missions.

I recall that you have also visited the 55th Wing at Offutt. The 55th Wing's missions of providing intelligence and surveillance make it, too, a vital unit in America's national security operations. I believe Offutt's diverse missions and global responsibilities put it on the cutting edge of transformation for the U.S. Air Force.

Finally, there are more than 1.2 million Nebraskans living in the greater Omaha metropolitan area; and these Midwestern families play a vital role in supporting those stationed at Offutt. As I am sure you are aware, military members consistently praise the people and the area for their zealous support of America's servicemembers and their families, as well as the overall U.S. military and its mission.

I respectfully urge you, therefore, to give this request your utmost consideration and allow my fellow Nebraskans to show you a little of our Midwestern hospitality. If there is anything I can do to be of assistance with this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

EBN:ajp

OSD 02666-09

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 6, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 535, to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02713-09

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

In its enclosed letter of February 12, 2009, the National Institute of Military Justice seeks legislation to expand the applicability of the court-martial sentencing option of Life Without the Possibility of Parole to rehearings involving certain individuals who were sentenced to death by a military court-martial.

We request an expedited review of this proposal by the Joint Service Committee on Military Justice and the Department's views of the merits of this initiative.

Sincerely,

John McCain
Ranking Member

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosure

OSD 02734-09

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 12, 2009

Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A critical element of our strategy for success in Afghanistan must be enabling Afghan forces to take responsibility for the security of their own country. We applaud the decision to increase the size of the Afghan National Army (ANA) to 134,000 soldiers, though the force level may well require additional growth in order to meet Afghanistan's security needs over the long term.

The United States and its allies need to do all we can to accelerate as quickly as possible the training and equipping of the ANA and the Afghan National Police (ANP). General David McKiernan, Commander, NATO International Security Assistance Force, has said he needs more embedded trainers and funding to speed up building the capacity of the Afghan security forces.

We have also heard recently that the "long pole in the tent" for growing the ANA rapidly is getting these units the basic equipment they need – machine guns, radios, and vehicles – when they need it. At a hearing on February 26th, General David Barno, former Commander, Combined Forces Command Afghanistan, testified that the main problem is "a constipated, peace-time system" for equipping these forces which is not well suited to the demands of an ongoing conflict. As you recall, similar problems were encountered in delivering badly needed military equipment to Iraqi forces. In this regard, we hope the lessons learned in Iraq will be applied to our efforts in Afghanistan.

We request that you closely examine what is needed to expedite the training and equipping of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police and report to us on what more is needed, in terms of resources, personnel, or legislative relief.

OSD 02750-09

T6:9703571895I P.2/3

We look forward to your prompt response and working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

John McCain
Ranking Member

Carl Levin
Chairman

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Jeff Sessions plans to travel to Israel, Afghanistan, Turkey and Pakistan during the period April 3-11, 2009. He will be accompanied by Sandra E. Luff, his personal staffer who has been designated to the Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Navy could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 02754-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 546, Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2009, to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service of Combat-Related Special Compensation. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02774-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 549, to provide benefits under the Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence program for certain periods before the implementation of the program. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02775-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Michael J. Noblet, Professional Staff Member on the Committee on Armed Services, to travel by commercial aircraft to Norfolk, Virginia during the period March 19-21, 2009.

The purpose of his trip will be to visit the Naval Special Warfare Group 2 at Little Creek, Virginia and the Naval Special Warfare Development Group at Dam Neck, Virginia to receive briefings on their roles and missions. It is requested that the Department of the Navy be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 02811-09

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with their responsibilities as Professional Staff Members on the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Michael J. Kuiken, Michael J. Noblet and Dana W. White plan to travel to Yemen, Libya, and Burkina Faso during the period April 6-16, 2009. They plan to transit through France and Algeria.

The purpose of their travel will be to receive briefings on Department of Defense and U.S. Government efforts relating to counterterrorism, security assistance, bilateral issues and military-to-military relations.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier transportation, should it be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Army could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 02813-09

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 590, The Defense Communities Assistance Act of 2009, to assist local communities with closed and active military bases, and for other purposes. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02972-09

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FOREIGN RELATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
JOINT ECONOMIC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Deputy Secretary Lynn,

I am writing you in order to memorialize our conversation last week, reiterate the key points, and ensure that we maintain an open dialogue moving forward.

As you know, there have been 19 deaths by electrocution in Iraq since the United States invaded Iraq in 2003; 17 of those were US military personnel and 2 were contractors. The majority of the deaths were ruled initially as accidents or the result of encounters on the battlefield. However, recent developments have prompted both the Army and Navy to reopen investigations into several deaths. These criminal investigations supplement the comprehensive review of all electrocutions undertaken by the Department of Defense Inspector General, which I understand is being wrapped up and will shortly be released.

I was initially contacted in April 2008 by Ms. Cheryl Harris, mother of SSGT Ryan Maseth, who requested that I look into a troubling pattern of electrocution deaths in Iraq. Over the past year, I have spent considerable time looking into these electrocutions and want to ensure that our servicemen and women are not senselessly placed into harm's way and that those senior Army personnel and military contractors who are responsible for these electrocutions are held accountable. Cheryl is a remarkable woman and has inspired me to remain involved on this issue to demand justice and accountability for all of the families.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OSD 02974-09

My involvement in this issue has resulted in numerous meetings, phone conversations, and exchange of correspondence with such individuals as General David Petraeus, Lieutenant General David Huntoon, and Mr. William Utt, the Chief Executive Officer of KBR. General Petraeus informed me that he had established an Electrical Safety Joint Planning Team to oversee the theater-wide assessment of all facilities following a series of electrocutions in Iraq; this team was later designated the Task Force for Safety Actions for Fire and Electricity, or Task Force SAFE. Despite the creation of this task force, we continue to hear accounts of our servicemen and women suffering electrical shocks while taking showers, as recently as a month ago. Accordingly, I have sent a series of letters and sought to arrange a personal meeting with Secretary Gates to urge his direct intervention on this issue. As we discussed, I was disappointed at the length of time it took before he responded to me and assigned you to provide personal attention to this critical safety challenge.

We continue to learn of new troubling developments on this issue. A CNN broadcast last week reported that five electricians who worked in 2005 and 2006 for KBR in Afghanistan witnessed dangerous electrical conditions there, but their warnings to senior management were ignored. As important as accountability for past cases is, we must also ensure that no further electrocutions occur, in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

During our phone conversation, you agreed to provide me updates and milestones as they occur in simultaneous Department of Defense investigations. I appreciate this offer of transparency, but also request to receive a current status report explaining to me where things stand as of today and the timeline you envision for the various DOD investigations to be completed. This status report should also provide a comprehensive overview of the status of efforts, including a schedule of any future repairs or upgrades, in the operating environment to assure that no further U.S. military personnel are harmed by electrocutions. It is my expectation that the final report will contain proposed sanctions and/or penalties against supporting contractors, particularly KBR, if their lack of action or errors contributed in any way to these electrocutions. The same threat of punitive action should apply to our military chain of command if they are held responsible in any way.

Finally, I insist that the Pentagon adopt complete transparency and forthrightness with the families of those fallen by electrocutions. These mothers and fathers, husbands and wives are entitled to receive continuous updates and full inclusion. They deserve nothing less.

I look forward to working with you in coming weeks and months.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII, CHAIRMAN

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CHARLES J. HOUY, STAFF DIRECTOR
BRUCE EVANS, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
United States Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Ms. Betsy Schmid, professional staff member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to travel for official committee purposes to Rochester, New York, on March 27, 2009. She will visit satellite manufacturing facilities in conjunction with defense and intelligence responsibilities.

Per diem expenses 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 P. L. 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)).

It would be appreciated if officials from the Department of Defense would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for travel.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations

DKI:rss

OSD 02976-09

DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII, CHAIRMAN

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BRUCE EVANS, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
United States Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Ms. Betsy Schmid, professional staff member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to travel for official committee purposes to Huntsville, Alabama, on March 31, 2009. She will visit Missile Defense Agency leadership and tour contractor facilities involved in missile defense programs.

Per diem expenses 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 P. L. 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)).

It would be appreciated if officials from the Department of Defense would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for travel.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations

DKI:rss

OSD 02977-09

DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII, CHAIRMAN

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CHARLES J. HOUY, STAFF DIRECTOR
BRUCE EVANS, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 11, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
United States Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Ms. Kate Kaufer, professional staff member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to travel for official committee purposes to China Lake and Ft. Irwin, California, and Nellis AFB, Nevada, from April 6-9, 2009. She will review Department of Defense energy conservation programs in preparation for the fiscal year 2010 budget review.

Per diem expenses 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 P. L. 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)).

It would be appreciated if officials from the Department of Defense would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for travel.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations

DKI:rss

OSD 02980-09

DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 16, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Mr. Charlie Houy, Ms. Betsy Schmid, and Mr. Erik Raven, professional staff members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to travel to Maui, Kauai, Oahu, Hawaii, and San Francisco, California, from April 5-11, 2009. They will participate in meetings on defense research and development programs and visit military sites to review defense programs and budgets for fiscal year 2010.

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

It would be appreciated if officials from the Department of Defense would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for travel.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman

OSD 02982-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with their responsibilities as Professional Staff Members on the staff of the Committee on Armed Services, William K. Sutey, John H. Quirk V, Lucian L. Niemeyer and Paul C. Hutton IV, plan to travel to Afghanistan during the period March 29 – April 4, 2009.

The purpose of their trip is to visit military bases in order to receive information regarding requirements for operations, readiness, installations, logistics and medical care from local commanders.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including in-theater military air and the use of a foreign carrier, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Army could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03047-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator John McCain plans to travel to Hong Kong, Vietnam, China and Japan during the period April 3-11, 2009. Senator McCain will be accompanied by a staff member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Richard H. Fontaine, Jr., Deputy Minority Staff Director. He will also be accompanied by Brooke Buchanan, his personal staffer designated to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Navy could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03051-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Lindsey Graham plans to travel to Hong Kong, Vietnam, China and Japan during the period April 3-11, 2009. Senator Graham will be accompanied Laura Bauld, his personal staffer designated to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Navy could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03052-09

JEFF BINGAMAN
NEW MEXICO

703 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3102
(202) 224-5521
IN NEW MEXICO--1-800-443-6658
TDD (202) 224-1792
senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov

United States Senate

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to request that you immediately reaffirm the moratorium on conversions of Department of Defense (DoD) service contracts set forth in the December 29, 2004 Memorandum. In the Memorandum Under Secretary of Defense Chu stated that "DoD NAFIs shall not enter into contracts or agreements with DoD elements or other Federal Departments, Agencies, or instrumentalities for the provision of goods and services that will result in the loss of jobs created pursuant to the Randolph Sheppard Act, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, or small business programs" until a policy solution can be reached that encourages job creation. Unfortunately, the Memorandum issued on March 7, 2007 by Arthur Meyers, the Director of Services, Air Force Manpower, muddled the issue with imprecise and contradictory language. I believe that it is necessary for you to reaffirm the standing in the Chu Memorandum in order to remove any question as to the standing of the DoD on this matter.

The moratorium is essential to protect the jobs of people with severe disabilities working on DoD service contracts under the AbilityOne Program. In 2007 I toured Adelante Development Center Inc, an AbilityOne program in New Mexico. I was impressed by the staff and their commitment but I was particularly struck by the commitment of the disabled adults who find work through the program. They take great pride in the work they do and are committed to quality in even the most basic tasks. AbilityOne programs provide more than a job, they give all of their clients the opportunity to succeed and to contribute to society. In addition, they provide the families of their clients the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their loved ones are actively engaged in work and well-looked after.

In addition, I am writing to I strongly urge the DoD to coordinate with AbilityOne representatives to develop a policy solution that encourages job creation through both the MWR and the AbilityOne Program. I support the DoD Food Transformation effort where it results in higher quality and efficiency to service members at lower costs. However, given the potential impact this challenge could have on the employment of thousands of people with severe disabilities in the AbilityOne Program, I urge DoD to carefully assess the full impact of the conversions before moving forward and to make appropriate changes to the program.

OSD 03064-09

ALBUQUERQUE (505) 346-6601 | LAS CRUCES (575) 523-6561 | LAS VEGAS (505) 454-8824 | ROSWELL (575) 622-7113 | SANTA FE (505) 988-6647

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, and to update me on this issue, please contact Annie Chávez (202)224-3882 in my office.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Friday, March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write to you today to express our strong concerns regarding the OMB Circular A-76 Study currently underway to review the operations, maintenance, and custodial duties at West Point. Congress and the President have expressed deep reservations with this process, and we encourage you to defer completing this and any pending studies until the process can be improved or replaced. Regardless, however, of the Defense Department's (DOD) stance on the larger question of A-76 studies, we believe that the serious concerns raised by West Point's union warrant cancellation of this study. With the accuracy of the study in question, it would be far preferable to cancel this study and begin a new one.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) established this type of study to ensure that the government does not waste taxpayers' money by paying government employees to perform tasks which could be completed at a lower cost by private contractors. Although we support the goal of saving taxpayer dollars, we are concerned by mounting evidence that the process unfairly disadvantages federal employees and fails to save any money. After studies by the Government Accountability Office, Congress acted in the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill to curtail the A-76 process. President Obama, too, has issued an executive order to stop new A-76 studies. With such serious reservations at the highest levels of government, we believe that the responsible course of action would be to stop any A-76 studies currently under way.

The study underway at West Point has several serious flaws. First, the process compares different price structures, making it impossible to evaluate accurately which is the lower cost. For federal employees, the study estimates the total cost to the Army of performing the work. However, when soliciting bids from private contractors, the Army is asking for "cost plus firm fixed fee" contract. These contracts allow for variable costs, which cannot be accurately compared to the fixed cost used for continuing with federal employees.

Second, the Army changed the requirements for the union halfway through the study. Originally, the Army allowed the union to combine the operations/maintenance and custodial responsibilities into a single bid, which allowed them to achieve economies of

scale. Halfway through the process, Army required the union to separate these two contracts, but did not allow them to begin the process over.

Given the serious concerns related to these studies in general, and this study in particular, we urge you to cancel the study. Millions of taxpayer dollars are at stake, and we cannot afford to risk wasting them by engaging in an inaccurate and unfair process.

We look forward to your reply. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact John Jones, of Senator Schumer's staff, at (202) 224-6542, or Kevin Fink, of Senator Gillibrand's staff, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer
U.S. Senate

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
U.S. Senate

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act authorized full funding for the third DDG-1000 destroyer, while the Department of Defense Appropriations Act provided partial funding for the third DDG-1000 and directed the Navy to budget for the remaining funding requirement in FY10. We urge you to follow through on this commitment by ensuring that the necessary funds for completing the third DDG-1000 are included in the President's budget request.

Last year, the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee demonstrated strong support for the Department's Fiscal Year 2009 budget request for funding the procurement of the third DDG-1000. Because of this support and your willingness to directly reaffirm the Defense Department's support for the President's DDG-1000 Budget request, the third DDG-1000 was fully authorized in the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act. Likewise, the Fiscal Year 2009 Defense Appropriations Act supported procurement of the third DDG-1000 by providing $1.5 billion in split-funding toward the ship's procurement. In addition to providing funding, the conference agreement included explicit direction for the Department not only to proceed with contracting for the third ship, but also to provide the ship's remaining funding in the Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

Any failure to follow through on these commitments would result in a multi-year procurement gap of complex surface combatants. Such a decision would also place at risk the nation's surface combatant shipbuilding industrial base and the jobs and unique skills of thousands of defense-critical U.S. workers.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with you to meet the Navy's requirements for a 313-ship fleet and to preserve a strong and highly skilled industrial base.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Olympia J. Snowe
United States Senator

OSD 03122-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

It has come to our attention that the Department of Defense (DOD) has undertaken an initiative to transform the manner in which it contracts food and postal services. We are concerned about the implications that this initiative could have on the jobs of people with severe disabilities working on Department of Defense service contracts under the AbilityOne Program.

Specifically, Opportunity Village is a community rehabilitation program in southern Nevada that has been providing job training and employment services for almost 55 years. No other organization in Nevada has worked as hard for people with disabilities for as long as Opportunity Village, and we both have a special place in our hearts for this agency and the people they serve. At Nellis Air Force Base (AFB), Opportunity Village has supported the airmen there for over 35 years. Opportunity Village currently has a "food service attendant" contract and a "postal service center" contract with Nellis AFB, and 43 people with severe disabilities are employed on those contracts. We also know there are literally thousands of people with severe disabilities working for other community rehabilitation programs at other Department of Defense facilities throughout our nation.

In addition, we would like to express our support for the Department of Defense's Food Transformation effort where it results in higher quality and efficiency to service members at lower costs. However, given the current economic crisis and the potential impact this change could have on the employment of dozens of people with disabilities at Nellis AFB and thousands of people with severe disabilities in the AbilityOne Program, we strongly urge the Department of Defense to coordinate with AbilityOne representatives to develop a policy solution that encourages job creation through both the MWR and the AbilityOne Programs. This is a crucial step to incorporate the best thinking to resolve this issue, particularly when jobs for people with severe disabilities are so rare, reflecting an unemployment rate unparalleled in our society.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Herbert at (202)224-3542 or Ryan Tully at (202)224-8049 in our offices respectively.

Sincerely,

Harry Reid
United States Senator

John Ensign
United States Senator

OSD 03124-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As you know, last year's Department of Defense Appropriations Act provided partial funding for the third DDG-1000 and directed the Navy to budget for the remaining funding requirement in FY10. Congress expects the Navy to adhere to this direction; therefore, we write to urge your support for full funding of the DDG-1000 program in the FY10 President's budget, and request that you continue a thorough and transparent review and evaluation of the Navy's proposal to truncate the DDG-1000 program and restart DDG-51 production.

We remain very concerned about the Navy's long-term shipbuilding plan. Despite several months of Congressional and Department of Defense requests for further analysis, the Navy has yet to provide sufficient justification in support of the proposal to truncate the DDG-1000 program and restart DDG-51 production. We continue to await an in-depth comparative analysis of the DDG-51 and DDG-1000. The Navy's failure to provide such a detailed cost analysis strongly implies a lack of supporting documentation of the Navy's position and undermines our confidence in the merits of the Navy's plan to truncate the DDG-1000 program. Congress must have this information before acquiescing to a change of this magnitude.

Supporting the DDG-1000 program will enable the Navy to leverage $11 billion in already invested research and development funding. The ship has been designed with significant growth margins including power, cooling, space, and weight to enable rapid enhancements to meet evolving threats in the existing hull. We believe that continued production and delivery of DDG-1000 class destroyers is essential to the long-term stability of our shipbuilding program and the timely delivery of needed capabilities to the Navy.

With respect and appreciation, and thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy

Jack Reed

John F. Kerry

Sheldon Whitehouse

OSD 03125-09

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress

James McGovern
Member of Congress

Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

Paul Hodes
Member of Congress

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

James Langevin
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD D. DEBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is in further regard to my letter of March 5, 2009 concerning the travel plans of Senator John McCain and Richard Fontaine and Brooke Buchanan, during the period March 19-22, 2009.

I am writing to advise that Senator McCain has added Luxembourg to his itinerary.

I would appreciate your continued support and assistance in connection with this travel.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03128-09

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT, CHAIRMAN

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TOM COBURN, OKLAHOMA
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JOHN ENSIGN, NEVADA
LINDSEY GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA

MICHAEL L. ALEXANDER, STAFF DIRECTOR
BRANDON L. MILHORN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6250

March 16, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing today to request information and documents related to the Defense Department's award of contracts for Congressional earmarks.

For each item listed in compliance with clause 9 of Rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate in the Defense Appropriations Acts for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009, the Subcommittee requests the following information and documents:

(1) The number, value, and recipient of any contract or grant awarded;

(2) Information regarding the type and extent of competition conducted, including the number and identity of competing offerors; and

(3) Communications related to the award of any contract or grant to the recipient identified by the requesting member of Congress.

I request that you provide this information as soon as possible, but in no case later than **Monday, April 6, 2009.** If you determine that you will be unable to make a complete production by this date, please contact Subcommittee staff to discuss possible modifications to this schedule.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight is set forth in Senate Rule XXV clause 1(k); Senate Resolution 445 section 101 (108th Congress); and Senate Resolution 50 (109th Congress). An attachment to this letter provides additional information on how to respond to the Subcommittee's request.

Please contact me or ask your staff to contact Margaret Daum at (202) 224-6154 with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

Enclosure

cc: Susan Collins
Acting Ranking Member

OSD 03174-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are greatly concerned by reports that the Airborne Laser (ABL) program is facing severe budget cuts or even termination in the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget proposal. The ABL is America's premier directed energy effort and represents not only a tremendous potential for our nation's warfighters, but also for maintaining America's technological edge. It is critical to the future of our national security capabilities. For these reasons, we urgently request the ABL remain a robustly funded program.

According to the Missile Defense Agency, the ABL provides a unique capability *"to detect, track, target, and destroy ballistic missiles shortly after launch during the boost-phase. Its revolutionary use of directed energy makes it unique among the United States' airborne weapon systems, with a potential to attack multiple targets at the speed of light with a range of hundreds of kilometers."*

Our military warfighters agree that the ABL is essential for addressing many of the challenges facing our nation. General B.B. Bell, the former Commander of the United States Forces Korea, wrote in 2007, *"...from a warfighter's perspective, the ABL will be an important ingredient in our much needed and required layered missile defense capability for the Korean Peninsula."* This is a legitimate capability our nation needs.

As you know, the Airborne Laser began during the Clinton administration in the face of an increasing ballistic missile threat. Since that time, the proliferation of ballistic missiles has only grown. Today, outside of Russia, China and our Western allies, there are 3,000 ballistic missiles around the world. That number is continuing to grow every year. As threats proliferate around the globe, the relevance and importance of the ABL as the nation's only fully designed boost-phase missile defense system will continue to increase.

The ABL is performing well and is scheduled to shoot down a boosting ballistic missile by the end of the year. Should the ABL be severely under-funded or canceled, the promise of speed-of-light and extreme precision in the hands of the warfighter will disappear, as will the fragile industrial base that supports it. In short, we will have wasted the resources that have been well invested since the Clinton administration.

OSD 03189-09

Again, we respectfully request your support for the Airborne Laser program.

Sincerely,

Sam Brownback

Pat Roberts

John Thune

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On March 19, 2009 I wrote to you regarding the travel plans of William K. Sutey, John H. Quirk V, Lucian L. Niemeyer and Paul C. Hutton IV during the period March 29-April 4, 2009.

This letter is to advise that they have added United Arab Emirates to their itinerary.

I would appreciate your continued support and assistance in connection with this travel.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03200-09

Carl Levin
Michigan

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I understand that former Congressman (b)(6) (b)(6) has expressed an interest in serving on the Defense Policy Board. I remember (b)(6) from his service on the House Armed Services Committee. He was knowledgeable and thoughtful on national security issues, and I think he would make a valuable contribution to the work of the Defense Policy Board.

I am enclosing his resume. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin

Enclosure

OSD 03225-09

EVAN BAYH
INDIANA

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1404

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ENERGY

March 25, 2009

The Honorable William Lynn, III
Deputy Defense Secretary
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Deputy Secretary Lynn:

It is my understanding that the Army plans to award a contract for an additional 56,000 SINCGARS radios this spring. Further, I understand that the Office of the Secretary of Defense must certify to the Congress that this competition is open and fair. As such, I respectfully request that you complete work on the certification process in a timely manner in order to meet the Army's needs.

My hope is that this contract not be delayed. The faster this contract is awarded, the more quickly the Army will be able to procure the additional tactical radios it needs while also ensuring that the radios are interoperable with current inventory and will not disrupt the Army's supporting logistics chain. These SINCGARS radio systems support near term operational needs, such as the new brigade combat teams and ground vehicle fleet. I have also been told that no Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) solutions are currently available to meet future needs, and alternate solutions may not meet full spectrum environmental requirements consistent with the SINCGARS and JTRS ORDs. Therefore, I do not believe these options are appropriate for our soldiers at this time.

Additionally, awarding this contract without delay will provide a much needed economic boost to the communities who produce these radios, which is an important concern to both the Department and Congress in these challenging times.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of my request, and thank you for your continued service in your new position.

Sincerely,

Evan Bayh
U.S. Senator

CC: Secretary of the Army Peter Geren

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OSD 03258-09

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 644, to amend title 10, United States Code, to include service after September 11, 2001, as service qualifying for the determination of a reduced eligibility age for receipt of non-regular service retired pay. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 03268-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 645, to amend title 32, United States Code, to modify the Department of Defense share of expenses under the National Guard Youth Challenge Program. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 03270-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write today to express serious concern about the administration's planned national defense spending in Fiscal Year 2010 and beyond, which appears to be insufficient to guarantee U.S. national security in the coming years. Based on the administration's budget documents submitted thus far, it appears that a marked decrease in overall defense spending is in store for our country. If recent press accounts are accurate, this will be accomplished by canceling or postponing the acquisition of numerous major weapon systems critical to our Armed Forces and necessary to ensure their future ability to defend our country.

As Congress begins the Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) budget process, it is our view that we have too little information on hand, based solely on the President's incomplete budget submission, to thoroughly and responsibly make decisions about top-line figures for the country's core defense program. For example, it is widely reported that the administration intends to shift funding that is currently part of the supplemental budget process into the normal DoD appropriations request. But, to date, Congress has not been told exactly what amount will be transferred, nor has it been informed about which particular programs will be affected. This lack of information raises a number of important questions, with potentially troubling answers.

The President's plan to substantially increase U.S. military force levels in Afghanistan, while simultaneously withdrawing all U.S. combat forces from Iraq by August 2010, will require substantial funding. However, it is our understanding that the administration will be requesting far less this year and next in supplemental funding, which is cause for great concern. It is unclear how the administration, if it intends to cut supplemental funding, expects to maintain our military forces in the field and enable them to conduct their missions safely and effectively. We would appreciate an explanation on this issue.

To be clear, we fully support efforts to maximize transparency in the budget process by including all foreseeable DoD requirements in the normal DoD budget request; however, by shifting major expenses from the supplemental requests to the base budget, while simultaneously slashing the supplemental request, the net effect would be a decrease in overall spending on our national defense. Our concern is that, under the guise of an "honest budgeting" approach to national security spending, we would be locking in an overall cut in military spending that either puts our troops in jeopardy today or our

OSD 03274-09

national security in jeopardy tomorrow as we restrict urgently needed capital investments in equipment such as planes, ships, and land vehicles.

As such, we request that your department provide us as soon as possible with more detailed information on what expenditures, and at what levels, you anticipate moving from the supplemental budget to the base defense budget for FY10 and what defense programs you anticipate eliminating or substantially reducing, in relation to the most recent Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). In addition, it is essential that we hear from our uniformed combatant commanders and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the potential problems they will face in carrying out their responsibilities under the administration's proposed defense spending blueprints. Accordingly, we request that you provide us, as soon as possible, risk assessments by each combatant commander, evaluating to what extent the President's proposed defense spending levels will limit their ability to meet ongoing requirements over the lifetime of the FYDP. Finally, we request that the Chairman's risk assessment, which is statutorily required and is long overdue, be provided within 30 calendar days.

During the early part of this decade, it became clear that defense spending decisions made during the 1990s and the resulting military "procurement holiday" that our government had taken left our Armed Forces without the needed advanced equipment and superior capabilities to defend our nation. Today, in the middle of a global war on terror, we must not allow that to happen again. Now is not the time to attempt to cash in a "peace dividend," while thousands of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are serving in harm's way, engaged in military operations in two major theaters of conflict overseas, with other very real threats on the horizon.

We urge you to examine these issues carefully as the administration completes work on its FY10 DoD budget request. Thank you for your service to our nation and your tireless dedication to its Armed Forces.

Sincerely,

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

JON KYL
United States Senator

LISA MURKOWSKI
United States Senator

JAMES M. INHOFE
United States Senator

JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

JOHNNY ISAKSON
United States Senator

JIM DEMINT
United States Senator

SAXBY CHAMBLISS
United States Senator

ROGER F. WICKER
United States Senator

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United States Senator

RICHARD BURR
United States Senator

JEFF SESSIONS
United States Senator

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to seek your assistance in obtaining funds appropriated by H.R. 1, the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009", to further the research conducted by Bell BioEnergy, Inc. on the use of bioengineered bacteria in the production of biofuels from biomass. Bell BioEnergy, Inc. is fully ready to implement the goals of this Act and produce renewable, domestically-produced, high-quality transportation fuels to enhance America's independence from foreign oil in an environmentally sound manner. Such efforts will result in the creation of a significant number of new and green jobs.

Bell BioEnergy is presently undertaking such research in the form of pilot projects conducted in collaboration with the Department of Defense and the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC) at seven military installations around the nation including Fort Benning, Fort Stewart, Fort Bragg, Fort Lewis, Fort Drum, Fort A.P. Hill, and the DESC facility at San Pedro, CA. Specifically, Bell BioEnergy is requesting $50 million to complete the research begun through these pilot projects. The objectives of the pilot projects are to:

1) Perfect the Bell BioEnergy, Inc. waste biomass to hydrocarbon fuels process

2) Further refine the unique bacteria used in the process

3) Produce sufficient amounts of usable hydrocarbon fuels (natural gas, gasoline, diesel and jet) for laboratory testing

4) Test and certify the fuels generated by the process as a drop in fuel that is fit for purpose

5) Gather the engineering and scientific data necessary to design full scale production facilities

A clear intent of Congress in enacting H.R. 1 is to provide funding for the types of projects that Bell BioEnergy has undertaken. We believe that the successful conversion

OSD 03323-09

of non-food biomass to biofuels would have overwhelmingly positive effects on our economy and energy independence and also help create a cleaner environment.

The $50 million Bell BioEnergy seeks would be employed to 1) complete construction of the seven pilot projects, 2) perform university level research to determine the most viable bacteria for the production of hydrocarbon fuels from biomass, and 3) construct the first research laboratory dedicated to the segregation and propagation of the bacteria required to produce biofuels from non-food waste biomass. We estimate that each test facility would employ five technicians and that the research laboratory would employ 25-50 scientists and technicians with secondary employment of up to 400 people.

We appreciate your consideration of this proposal, consistent with your standard policies and practices, and look forward to any feedback you may have.

Sincerely,

Saxby Chambliss

Johnny Isakson

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

We request your assistance in achieving the goal of eliminating the need for any active-duty military member to rely on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, more commonly referred to as Food Stamps.

A decade ago, the number of service members who were receiving Food Stamps exceeded 10,000. Enactment of the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) in October 2000 has helped to reduce that number. Moreover, significant increases in basic pay and allowances since FSSA became available have also greatly improved the income and quality of life for all military personnel serving on active duty. It was surprising, therefore to learn last week, following the First Lady's visit to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, that more than 3,000 service members are currently receiving food stamps.

The Food Stamp Program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and we realize that implementation can vary by state. We also acknowledge that certain pays and benefits, such as combat-related pays and government-provided housing, are generally not considered in determining eligibility for Food Stamps. Nonetheless, we consider it unacceptable that the measures put into place in 2000 and the significant improvements in pay and benefits since that time, have fallen so far short of the goal of eliminating the requirement by any service member to seek aid for nutritional assistance.

We request your views and recommendations on this topic at your earliest convenience. If legislation is required to achieve the goal we have stated, we hope that you will offer proposals for consideration within the current legislative session.

Sincerely,

John McCain
Ranking Member

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03394-09

JEFF BINGAMAN
NEW MEXICO

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senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov

United States Senate

March 26, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to respectfully request that Department of Defense (DoD) consider modifying the State Drug Interdiction and Counterdrug Activities plans for the National Guard to permit counterdrug personnel to support law enforcement in inspecting certain vehicles at ports of entry. I strongly believe that including vehicle inspection under the counterdrug mission set would enhance our ability to interdict the southbound flow of weapons and bulk cash as well as the northbound flow of narcotics.

As you know, the National Guard currently provides critical support to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) with the operation of remote cameras and sensors, and conducts aerial reconnaissance of the border in an effort to detect illegal drug smuggling operations. The Guard used to also assist CBP with inspection activities at ports of entry. However, in 2003 the so-called "3(d)" inspection mission was removed from the counterdrug mission set based on a finding by then Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz that inspection activities are not "militarily unique." At that time, I expressed deep concerns regarding this change and the fact that it resulted in CBP having to take over the duties of approximately 350 National Guard soldiers who were assisting with the dismantlement of vehicles suspected of carrying contraband.

Reinstating this mission makes sense now more than ever. The Administration has recognized the importance of reducing the flow of weapons and bulk cash being smuggled into Mexico from the United States, and the need to step up efforts to stop drugs from being trafficked into our country. Permitting National Guard counterdrug personnel to perform the 3(d) mission would free up CBP officers to perform other duties and provide soldiers with additional training experience in detection techniques that are utilized by activated troops maintaining security in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is my understanding that if this change is made the National Guard would be able to place about 30 soldiers at ports along the border just in New Mexico to assist with the interdiction of contraband at no cost to CBP.

OSD 03405-09

I greatly appreciate your prompt attention to this issue, and your assistance in ensuring the continued success of counterdrug operations along the Southwest border.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator

JB/ss

cc: The Honorable Janet Napolitano

USS Constitution Museum

20 March 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On October 22 of this year the USS Constitution Museum will hold its annual Chairman's Dinner at the Fairmont Copley Hotel in Boston. We would be most honored if you would be our keynote speaker.

The evening will follow by one day the 212th anniversary of the Boston launching of USS CONSTITUTION on October 21, 1797, as one of the first six frigates built for the US Navy. Even though the Museum is a non-profit organization, we are for all intents and purposes the Navy's museum for "Old Ironsides."

In addition to celebrating the 212th anniversary of "Old Ironsides'" launching, the Museum will present:

- The Samuel Eliot Morison Award to Dr. John Haddendorf, Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime History and Chairman, Maritime History Department at the Naval War College, in recognition of his many contributions to naval history and scholarship. This award is presented annually to individuals who have enhanced the image of USS CONSTITUTION and who reflect Rear Admiral Morison's artful scholarship, patriotic pride and eclectic interest in things maritime.

- The Charles Francis Adams Award to Boston Mayor Thomas Menino. "Old Ironsides" and the Museum have no better friend than Mayor Menino. This award honors the legacy between the Adams' family and the Navy, from President John Adams attending the launching of "Old Ironsides," to Secretary of the Navy Charles Adams dispatching "Old Ironsides" on her national cruise to 76 ports along the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts between 1931 and 1934.

I also extend a personal invitation for you to visit the USS Constitution Museum, in conjunction with any visit you may make to USS CONSTITUTION during your time in Boston.

The USS Constitution Museum's staff and I will provide additional information as details of the evening become firm, and we stand by to assist you in any manner. Our point of contact for your staff is Mr. Burt Logan, President of the Museum, who may be reached at (617) 426-1812 x 115.

Very truly yours,

James C. Stokes
Chairman
Board of Trustees

OSD 03517-09

Box 1812 Boston, MA 02129 617.426.1812 617.242.0496 (fax) www.ussconstitutionmuseum.org

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http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 19, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
United States Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Mr. Erik Raven, majority staff member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to travel for official committee purposes to Deadhorse, Alaska, and Ice Camp APLIS from March 21-23, 2009. He will participate in ICEX 2009.

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

It would be appreciated if officials from the Department of Defense would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for travel.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman

DKI:rss

OSD 03542-09

Congress of the United States

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your leadership in recent months has been instrumental in refocusing the Department of Defense on nuclear matters. We share many of the concerns you have expressed regarding the degradation of our nuclear capability and appreciate the Department's immediate implementation of plans to revitalize our strategic nuclear deterrent.

Accordingly, we write to request your leadership on a related and urgent budgetary matter involving the preservation of our nation's land-based Intercontinental Ballistic Missile ("ICBM") solid rocket motor industrial base. In the next few weeks, the Minuteman III Propulsion Replacement Program ("PRP") will cease production and government funds have been allocated to close the program's production facility. However, the Air Force has determined that it is in the national interest to maintain a land-based solid rocket motor production capability. Accordingly, the Air Force is planning to commence an ICBM Solid Rocket Motor Life Extension Program, that will preserve our nation's capability to produce land-based ICBM solid rocket motors. Unfortunately, due to a budgetary perplexity, FY2009 funds will be used to close the land-based solid rocket production facility only to reopen that same facility a few months later using FY2010 monies. The result will create unnecessary layoffs, and cost the taxpayers millions of additional dollars. However, these needless costs and risks to the industrial base can be avoided by sending Congress a reprogramming request that authorizes FY2009 funds to be used to maintain the land-based solid rocket production line instead of closing it. Therefore, we respectfully request your assistance in approving a reprogramming request of FY2009 PRP closeout funds to instead be used to immediately commence an ICBM Solid Rocket Motor Life Extension Program.

Later this month, the Air Force, under the PRP, will receive the last Minuteman III Stage 1 booster segment, and in August, will receive the last Stage 2 and Stage 3 segments. This will conclude the PRP program and for the first time since the beginning of the Cold War, our nation will not produce ICBM solid rocket motors. Therefore, the nation could lose this highly specialized production capability and compromise the long-term dependability of the Minuteman III.

Congress recognized these risks during the FY2008 budget process, and directed both the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the Air Force, to conduct studies regarding the capability of the

OSD 03554-09

defense industrial base to maintain, modernize, and sustain the Minuteman III system until 2030. This Air Force study validated the requirement to preserve an ICBM industrial base capability, and specifically a low-rate solid rocket motor life extension program production line. Unfortunately, the Secretary of Defense study has still not been delivered to the Congress.

Subsequent congressional directives have been even more specific. Following the release of the FY2009 Air Force Unfunded Requirements List, which included a request for an additional $31 million to initiate an ICBM Solid Rocket Motor Life Extension, the FY2009 Defense Appropriations Act stated, "*the Air Force is encouraged, at a minimum, to continue a warm line status for Minuteman III propulsion systems and to use funds provided for Fiscal Year 2009 to initiate a Minuteman III motor life extension program.*" This language was further clarified in a letter from Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran to the Air Force Secretary and Chief of Staff, which raised concerns about the ability of the United States to maintain a land-based solid rocket motor industrial base. This letter cited the final FY2009 Appropriations Report language and urged the Air Force to provide funding in FY2009 to maintain a viable land-based solid rocket motor production capability. Subsequently, the Air Force received Program Decision Memorandum (PDM-3) guidance to prepare to transition to this program in FY2010.

However, the delayed submission of the new Administration's FY2010 detailed Defense Budget has caused the Air Force to also defer the transition from the Minuteman III PRP program to an ICBM Solid Rocket Motor Life Extension Program. We have brought this matter to the attention of the Air Force's senior leadership, including: the Assistant Chief of Staff, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration (AF/A10) and the Director, Space Acquisition, Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/USA). Unfortunately, due to the formalities of the budgetary process, the Air Force has been unable to implement a reprogramming of FY2009 funds and immediately implement an ICBM Solid Rocket Motor Life Extension Program.

As a result of this bureaucratic budgetary conundrum our nation risks losing unique and irreplaceable expertise and skills. Specifically, delaying the implementation of a life extension program until FY 2010 will incur an estimated $20 million in additional costs. As we are sure you would agree, using funds to close a production facility only to reopen that same facility a few months later is not a responsible use of taxpayer funds.

In addition, the true value of maintaining the limited production of solid rocket motors, is to ensure that our nation has a highly skilled work force that can produce technically demanding land-based ICBM solid rocket motors. Under the current plan, 500 of these workers, who have irreplaceable specialized skills, will be laid off. Even if the Life Extension Program is initiated in FY2010 only approximately 120 workers will be rehired. However, due to the continued

uncertainty surrounding this program many of these workers may not return, resulting in further additional unwarranted costs. In addition, a long-standing supplier base would be disrupted.

Therefore, we respectfully request your assistance in approving a reprogramming request of FY2009 PRP closeout funds to instead be used to immediately commence an ICBM Solid Rocket Motor Life Extension Program. In addition, we ask that you facilitate a meeting between the Commander, Air Force Materiel Command, General Donald J. Hoffman and us to discuss the execution of your reprogramming request. Finally, we also request a status report on the study that the Congress directed to be completed by the Secretary of Defense.

We stand ready to assist with a related reprogramming request, or with any other avenue of relief that may be available, and look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

Robert F. Bennett
United States Senator

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Mel Martinez plans to travel to Spain during the period April 12-17, 2009. Senator Martinez will be accompanied by Daniel W. Fisk, his personal staffer who has been designated to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Air Force could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03558-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Ms. Madelyn R. Creedon, Counsel, and Mr. Daniel A. Lerner, Professional Staff Member, on the Senate Armed Services Committee, to travel by commercial transportation to California. Ms. Creedon will be traveling during the period April 5-9, 2009; and Mr. Lerner will be traveling during the period April 6-9, 2009.

The purpose of their trip is to receive briefings on missile defense and defense space programs at Los Angeles Air Force Base, Vandenberg Air Force Base, and Edwards Air Force Base. It is requested that the Department of the Air Force be assigned the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03560-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Ms. Madelyn R. Creedon, Counsel, and Mr. Daniel A. Lerner, Professional Staff Member, on the Senate Armed Services Committee, to travel by commercial transportation to Alabama and Colorado. Ms. Creedon will be traveling during the period April 15-17, 2009; and Mr. Lerner will be traveling during the period April 12-17, 2009.

The purpose of their trip is to receive briefings on missile defense and defense space programs at Redstone Arsenal, Shriever Air Force Base, and Peterson Air Force Base. It is requested that the Department of the Air Force be assigned the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03561-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Mr. William K. Sutey and Mr. John H. Quirk V, Professional Staff Members on the Senate Armed Services Committee, to travel by commercial transportation to Florida, Virginia, and Louisiana, during the period April 14-17, 2009.

The purpose of their trip is to survey Department of Defense and Department of the Army plans and programs related to current and future security force assistance operations at the United States Special Operations Command, United States Joint Forces Command, Joint Readiness Training Center, and 162d Brigade. It is requested that the Department of the Army be assigned the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03562-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with my responsibilities as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, I plan to travel to Poland, Czech Republic, Russia, and Belgium during the period April 12-18, 2009. Senator Susan M. Collins, who is also a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, will travel with me. I will be accompanied by two Senate Committee on Armed Services Staff Members, Richard D. DeBobes, Staff Director and Richard W. Fieldhouse, Professional Staff Member. Senator Collins will be accompanied by Robert Epplin, her personal staffer who has been designated to the Committee on Armed Services.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Army could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03564-09

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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6475

SSCI #2009-1404

March 30, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Enclosed please find the "Terms of Reference of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program," which the Committee adopted on March 5, 2009, by a strong bipartisan vote. In the course of the review, we may be submitting requests for documents to departments and agencies in addition to the CIA, including the Department of Defense. Accordingly, we wanted to make sure that you are aware of the scope of our review.

A thorough review of the detention and interrogation program is essential for shaping future detention and interrogation policies. We are aware of the related responsibilities of two of the Special Task Forces that you are now either helping to lead as Co-Chair or Co-Vice Chair : the Special Task Force on Interrogation and Transfer Policies (Executive Order 13491) and the Special Task Force on Detainee Disposition (Executive Order 13493). Our review, and these reviews, share common interests. We look forward to working together with you and others in the Administration on the policies that will guide the CIA's detention and interrogation efforts in the future.

We have marked the Terms of Reference as "Committee Sensitive." Other than as released by the Committee, it is our intention that the Terms of Reference should not be made available to the public and should be used for official government use only.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
Chairman

Christopher S. Bond
Vice Chairman

Enc.: Terms of Reference, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program

OSD 03565-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 26, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On March 24, 2009 I wrote to you regarding the travel plans of Senator Mel Martinez and his staffer, Daniel Fisk, during the period April 12-17, 2009.

This letter is to advise that Senator Martinez's schedule requires him to depart from Orlando, Florida via Miami to Madrid. Similarly, for scheduling reasons, on his return from Madrid, Senator Martinez needs to return to Orlando, Florida. In addition, it is necessary for Mr. Fisk to travel roundtrip from Washington to Madrid via Miami, Florida in order to be able to accompany Senator Martinez on the international portions of this trip.

I would appreciate your continued support and assistance in connection with this travel.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03571-09

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 26, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 711, to require mental health screenings for members of the Armed Forces who are deployed in connection with a contingency operation, and for other purposes. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 03573-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 27, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 731, to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for continuity of TRICARE Standard coverage for certain members of the Retired Reserve. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 03574-09

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
UNITED STATES SENATOR
MARYLAND

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

March 18, 2009

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie
Assistant Secretary (Legislative Affairs)
Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to you to request your consideration to provide my office a Department of Defense Legislative Fellow for calendar year 2010.

Currently serving as my 2009 Defense Fellow is (b)(6) (b)(6) a Navy Medical Service Corps Officer. He is a most welcomed addition, and his expertise in Navy Medicine and military construction has proven extremely beneficial to my projects team as Maryland's military bases undergo the BRAC transition.

I ask that you give special consideration to providing my office with a Defense Fellow for 2010 who possesses a similar Navy or Army medical background. This would provide my office with an invaluable ability to better understand the intricacies of the medical planning efforts, challenges and noteworthy achievements toward the successful completion of the Walter Reed National Medical Center.

Let me close by offering to you my personal thanks for allowing (b)(6) to join my staff for the 2009 program. He is a most impressive representative of the Department of Defense and proudly exemplifies the professionalism of the men and women serving in our Nation's Armed Forces.

I look forward to working with you to continue this mutually beneficial program. Should you have any questions, please contact me or my Chief of Staff, Mr. Chris Lynch at (202) 224-4524 or chris_lynch@cardin.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

OSD 03576-09

Reply To: ☐ 509 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2004
(202) 224-4524
WWW.CARDIN.SENATE.GOV

Reply To: ☐ TOWER 1 SUITE 1710
100 S. CHARLES STREET
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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 31, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On March 24 and March 26, 2009 I wrote to you regarding the travel plans of Senator Mel Martinez and his staffer, Daniel Fisk, during the period April 12-17, 2009.

This letter is to advise that Daniel Fisk will no longer accompany Senator Martinez. Instead, Senator Martinez will be accompanied by Tom Weinberg, his Chief of Staff and his personal staff member who has been designated to the Committee.

I would appreciate your continued support and assistance in connection with this travel.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03631-09

[redacted]

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
United States Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

It would be appreciated if you would request the temporary assignment of an employee of the Department of Defense to serve as a legislative detailee to the Senate Committee on Appropriations during the 111th Congress, 1st Session, effective April 20, 2009, and ending on September 30, 2009, with an option to extend if needed by the Committee. The detailee will provide assistance to the Majority staff of the Subcommittee on Defense during the FY 2010 appropriations process, and it is my understanding that such an assignment would be on a non-reimbursable basis, with the Department of Defense continuing to cover the detailee's salary, benefits, and related expenses, including travel, for the duration of the assignment with the Committee.

Additionally, it would be beneficial to have the employee's security clearance certified by the agency of the Office of Senate Security as soon as possible following the assignment.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman

DKI/bbz

OSD 03633-09

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-10000

Admiral Michael Mullen
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
9999 Joint Staff Pentagon
Washington, DC 20318-9999

Dear Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen:

We understand that the Air Force will be deciding soon where to base the new Global Strike Command headquarters, and we know that you have been monitoring the decision process since it began last fall. As part of our effort to inform senior defense leaders, it is our pleasure to provide you with this copy of "Why Minot," a comprehensive description of how Minot, North Dakota, meets or exceeds all Air Force Global Strike Command headquarters basing criteria. We have also sent this material to Secretary Donley, General Schwartz and General Corley.

"Why Minot" showcases the full array of benefits that the base and the city have to offer. We want to stress in particular how Minot is the only location that offers the ability to bring direct oversight to every aspect of the operational nuclear mission. Minot possesses the complete range of Air Force operational nuclear expertise – a nuclear bomber wing, an ICBM wing, and a nuclear weapons storage area. A major lesson of the past two years is that the Air Force must increase command supervision at the operational level. Standing up a new major command without doing so would be a major missed opportunity.

We also want to stress the incredible support the community of Minot offers the Air Force. Strong support by the community will pay dividends for the Air Force by helping to ease issues like the environmental assessment process and base expansion. When combined with our delegation's commitment to assisting the Air Force in its mission to restore confidence in nuclear surety and regain its reputation as the world's best nuclear steward, this support is unparalleled.

After reviewing "Why Minot," we believe you too will agree that Minot is indeed the best location for Global Strike Command! Thank you as always for your service.

Sincerely,

KENT CONRAD
U.S. Senate

BYRON DORGAN
U.S. Senate

EARL POMEROY
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03681-09

* HARRY REID
NEVADA

MAJORITY LEADER

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

March 31, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

It has come to my attention that a company – SolarReserve – has identified a site near Tonopah, Nevada for a state of the art solar power plant that could produce enough power to serve 100,000 homes. This facility requires a tower similar to a large smoke stack about 600 feet tall. The primary impediment to moving forward on this facility is an imminent objection from the Defense Department.

Of apparent concern to DOD is that the site for the proposed solar power plant is located 25 miles northwest of the Nellis Air Force Range, beyond the town of Tonopah and over the San Antonio Mountains. It is my understanding that the Air Force's concern is related to potential interference with radar and the height of the tower.

SolarReserve began discussions with the Air Force in early 2008. After meeting with the Nellis AFB radar experts, the company has already agreed once to move the solar project from a proposed site 5 miles away from the base to the current site in order to greatly diminish any impact the project might have on military activities. Now, however, the Air Force has extended its objections to the new site.

I appreciate the need for exercising caution in making decisions that could affect military training and testing activities. The Department must ensure that projects do not interfere with its critical activities. At the same time, I am very concerned by the Department's inattention to developing mitigation strategies that provide for the safe development of renewable energy facilities and the complete lack of a standardized, centralized process for reviewing impacts of proposed renewable energy projects near military bases. That is one of the reasons why I spoke with you about this subject in November 2007 and met with former Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne over a year ago. I have also enclosed a letter I sent to Secretary Wynne early last year before he retired, explaining some of my suggestions.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) recently signed into law by the President provides companies with incentives for breaking ground on solar power facilities within the next two years. It is important that promising renewable energy projects receive close and expedited attention from Federal agencies that play a role in the permitting of such facilities so that they are able to utilize these incentives to create thousands of jobs and clean power in the near future. Further, I would note that ARRA provides ample funds, should any be needed, for quickly developing or deploying any necessary mitigation strategies.

OSD 03683-09

I urge you to expeditiously review the proposed solar plant near Tonopah, and to begin working to establish a standardized procedure for reviewing renewable energy projects near military operations. If I can be of any help in this process, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Bob Herbert (202-228-4578) or Alex McDonough (202-224-1052) of my staff.

Sincerely,

Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader

Encl.

DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII, CHAIRMAN

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CHARLES J. HOUY, STAFF DIRECTOR
BRUCE EVANS, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

April 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am aware that the Department of Defense is analyzing the requirements and future program options for a revised Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH) based on termination of the former ARH-70A program in October of last year. Given the age of the Vietnam-era OH-58 Kiowa Warrior which a new ARH is being designed to replace, I support moving forward with a replacement program. However, the last two Army efforts to replace the Kiowa Warrior fleet, the RAH-66 Comanche program and the ARH-70A program, resulted in program terminations due to requirements growth, cost overruns and schedule delays after significant taxpayer investment.

After two failed attempts, my greatest concern is that we attempt yet another new costly development program to meet ARH mission requirements. Therefore, I encourage the Department to consider modifying an existing modern platform to provide capabilities which exceed the current OH-58 fleet which is based on 40-50 year technology and is no longer in production.

In order to accomplish this and mitigate program risk, the Department should begin ARH risk reduction efforts in fiscal year 2010 and not wait until fiscal year 2012. A risk reduction effort to build ARH capabilities on an existing and in-service aircraft offers a substantial advantage in terms of cost, risk and schedule versus another attempt at a new development program.

I look forward to working with you to get this much needed capability to the force at the earliest opportunity. With best wishes,

Cordially,

THAD COCHRAN
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

OSD 03741-09

DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII, CHAIRMAN

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
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CHARLES J. HOUY, STAFF DIRECTOR
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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

April 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

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I look forward to working with you to get this much needed capability to the force at the earliest opportunity. With best wishes,

Cordially,

THAD COCHRAN
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

OSD 03741-09

cc:
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics
Secretary of the Army
Chief of Staff of the Army

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6250

March 27, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am writing to request that the Department of Defense sponsor a visit by Committee Staff to U.S. Northern Command Headquarters in April 2009. The purpose of the visit would be to examine NORTHCOM's capabilities for CBRNE consequence management and support to civil authorities, its role in and preparations for border security operations, and preparedness for pandemic influenza, as part of my Committee's homeland security oversight responsibilities.

I would very much appreciate if U.S. Northern Command could accommodate such a visit on April 6-8, 2009. It is requested that the Department of the Navy be assigned the action agent for the trip. Committee staff members planning to attend are as follows:

Eric Andersen, Majority Professional Staff Member
Aaron Firoved, Majority Professional Staff Member
Blas Nuñez-Neto, Majority Professional Staff Member
Thomas Richards, Majority Professional Staff Member, OGM Subcommittee

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses, and such transportation as may be required, is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108 (g).

Thank you in advance for your assistance in coordinating this visit. Please contact Eric Andersen at (202) 224-2627 to coordinate the details of the trip.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman

OSD 03753-09

MIKE JOHANNS
NEBRASKA

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(202) 224-4224
(202) 228-0436 FAX

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY
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VETERANS' AFFAIRS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

April 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am deeply disappointed in the way the Air Force has handled the recommendation process for the location of Global Strike Command.

It has come to my attention that a scoring process was employed to evaluate the prospective sites. This process was thoughtfully created and carefully executed during the evaluation. It resulted in Offutt Air Force Base (AFB) being awarded a score of 89 out of 100 points. The nearest competitor received only 81 points. Based on the outcome of this analysis, Offutt AFB is the proper location for Global Strike Command.

I therefore call on you to reject the Air Force's site recommendation, which ignored the Air Force's own evaluation process, and to select the highest scoring site – Offutt AFB – as the new location of Global Strike Command.

I understand that the next step in this process is to conduct environmental assessments on all three of the top scoring sites. You therefore have every opportunity to correct the Air Force's poor judgment in its recommendation without causing any delay in the process.

I look forward to your prompt response, and request a direct conversation or meeting with you at your earliest convenience. I am deeply disappointed in the Air Force's handling of this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Johanns

Mike Johanns
United States Senator

cc: Michael Donley, Secretary of the Air Force
Ben Nelson, United States Senator
Lee Terry, United States Congressman

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115 RAILWAY STREET
SUITE C102
SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69361
(308) 632-6032
FAX: (308) 632-6795

OSD 03759-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 2, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn, III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Lynn:

The tragedy of September 11, 2001, is something Americans will never forget. Neither should we ever forget the first heroes who fought and died for us in our global struggle against Islamic extremism. The first American to die in this struggle was John Michael Spann, a CIA operative who was killed while collecting battlefield intelligence near Mazar-i-Sharif at the infamous Qala Jangi fortress. The information surrounding the event at Qala Jangi has been well-documented in the Western media, including a two-and-one-half hour videotape, shot by a Northern Alliance intelligence official, which recorded events in the Qala Jangi fortress up to the moment when the uprising began, as well as a subsequent video of the event filmed by an on-scene foreign news crew that has aired on the Discovery Channel and the History Channel. In these videos, Spann is shown interviewing the first-known American Taliban/al Qaeda terrorist, John Walker Lindh, just moments before Spann's murder. Then-Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director George Tenet considered Spann's death monumental enough to publicly disclose his name and CIA affiliation at the time, an unprecedented act for the CIA.

At that time of Spann's death, an American Navy Sea, Air, Land (SEAL) team member embedded in a British Special Boat Squadron team responded to the scene and attempted to rescue Spann. By the time he reached him, however, Spann had passed away. This heroic act by one American risking his life to save another at the earliest stages of our ongoing national struggle deserves broader dissemination among the American people. Recently, a Hollywood film producer, Mr. Brandon Hogan, made known his intention to factually depict the events that took place at the time of Spann's death. Mr. Hogan has been seeking factual information about this incident for the past five years. To date, he has conducted

OSD 03763-09

multiple interviews with current and former U.S. officials to make certain that the stories of this event are not only accurate, but that the stories of the men who sacrificed their lives are not forgotten.

We see no damage to national security in further disclosing more details concerning the events of November 25, 2001, and we ask that you extend Mr. Hogan the opportunity to review documents and video footage of the Qala Jangi event. In addition, we request that information surrounding the events of "Operation Redwing" be made available to Mr. Hogan under the same conditions and circumstances the Department crafted for another Hollywood producer. As you will recall, Operation Redwing was an operation that took place in Afghanistan during June 2005 that ultimately led to the largest loss of life in Navy SEAL history.

We believe it is time to tell the stories of these heroic men involved with these incidents. Your accommodation to Mr. Hogan would assist in honoring the men who have lost their lives in Afghanistan while defending this nation. If you have any questions about our request, please contact Louis Tucker, the Minority Staff Director of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Mr. Tucker can be reached at (202)224-1700.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Bond
United States Senator

Richard C. Shelby
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Leon Panetta, Director, Central Intelligence Agency
The Honorable Dennis C. Blair, Director of National Intelligence
The Honorable Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense

E. BENJAMIN NELSON
NEBRASKA

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www.bennelson.senate.gov

United States Senate

April 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On April 2, 2009, the U.S. Air Force announced that it had chosen Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana as the location of the new Global Strike Command to oversee the Air Force's nuclear operations. In press reports announcing this decision, I was greatly concerned to see allegations by a member of the Nebraska Congressional delegation that military commanders have asserted that politics play a role in the decision of the location of major new commands.

Yet the *Omaha World-Herald* reported on April 3, 2009, that "Rep. Lee Terry said that while military commanders maintain publicly that politics are not involved in such decisions, they concede in private that politics do play a role. Terry said those politics occur primarily at the Senate level." This is a very serious allegation which I believe merits serious consideration and a response by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). I am greatly concerned by any accusation that DoD chose Barksdale Air Force Base as the location of the Global Strike Command based on political considerations, particularly those in the Senate, rather than an objective evaluation of the qualifications of the bases. Such allegations, if left unaddressed, seriously undermine the credibility and integrity of our armed services and the men and women who serve to keep our nation secure.

I ask you to immediately investigate and report on the allegations by Congressman Terry as reported in the *Omaha World-Herald* that military commanders are basing their decisions on politics, in part in or in whole, rather than the interests of DoD and the security of our nation.

Since Congressman Terry provided no specifics to back up his allegations, some could choose to discount them as baseless. However, since Offutt Air Force Base scored highest overall of all the bases under consideration in the criteria used, and rated the highest or tied for the highest in all six individual subcategories, it is difficult to explain why Offutt was not selected and to argue that politics was not the basis for this decision.

The longer such an allegation goes unaddressed, the greater the appearance of plausibility becomes. Therefore, I am requesting an immediate and thorough investigation of this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

EBN:ceg

cc: The Honorable Barack Obama

OSD 03788-09

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SUITE 205
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FAX: (402) 391-4725

PATRICK LEAHY
VERMONT

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4502

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A recent report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) describes the use of U.S.-manufactured white phosphorus (WP) artillery shells during Operation Cast Lead in Gaza (December 27, 2008 – January 18, 2009). According to HRW's field investigation, all of the WP shells that HRW found in Gaza are from the same lot, manufactured in the United States and marked: THS89D112-003 155MM M825E1. It is my understanding that THS89 is the manufacturer identification code denoting that the shells were produced in April, 1989 by Thiokol Aerospace, which operated the Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant at the time; 112-003 are the interfix and sequence numbers, which denote that several lots of the same ammunition were being produced simultaneously; 155MM stands for the caliber of the artillery shell. M825E1 is the U.S. military designation for an older remanufactured M825 white phosphorous shell that has been brought up to the current M825A1 standard.

Additionally, Reuters news agency photographed Israeli Defense Force (IDF) M109 artillery units near the Gaza strip handling M825A1 projectiles on January 4, 2009 with the lot number PB-91J011-002A, indicating these were produced in the United States at the Pine Bluff Arsenal in September 1991.

There are also reports that WP was air-burst over densely populated urban areas during the military campaign. In order to better understand how American manufactured WP got to the IDF's arsenal and also how U.S. tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) may differ from IDF TTPs, we would appreciate your answers to the following questions:

- Under what mechanism was the white phosphorus from the two lots noted above transferred/sold to Israel?
- Are there any transfer or use restrictions placed upon Israel by the United States?
- Does the U.S. still provide Israel with WP munitions? If so what type? When was the most recent transfer/sale of WP to Israel?
- How much WP has the U.S. sent to Israel in the last 10 years?
- Who produces and where is WP currently produced in the United States?
- Where does the U.S. Army get WP munitions from?

VERMONT OFFICES: COURT HOUSE PLAZA, 199 MAIN STREET, BURLINGTON 802/863-2525
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OSD 03800-09

- What are the U.S. Army's TTPs for employment of 155MM WP?
    - Does the U.S. Army air burst WP? For what reason? What are the restrictions?
    - Does the U.S. Army allow WP to be fired over urban areas? What if any restrictions are placed on such actions?
    - Why does the U.S. Army employ WP, beyond the creation of smokescreens?
    - In what manner does the U.S. Army employ WP?
    - At what level is the employment of WP authorized?
    - Does the U.S. Army still use WP as a weapon as it did in the Second Battle of Fallujah in 2004? If so, what restrictions are placed on the use of WP as a weapon?
- What alternatives to WP does the US Army have available to it? Under what conditions would it employ an alternative to WP?

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

April 1, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Jack Reed plans to travel to Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq during the period April 13-20, 2009. Senator Reed will be accompanied by Ms. Elizabeth King, his personal staffer who has been designated to the Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Army could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03837-09

STAFFOL BARKER

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
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LINDSEY GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN THUNE, SOUTH DAKOTA
MEL MARTINEZ, FLORIDA
ROGER F. WICKER, MISSISSIPPI
RICHARD BURR, NORTH CAROLINA
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA
SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE

RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

April 1, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Mr. Adam J. Barker, Research Assistant, on the Senate Armed Services Committee, to travel by commercial transportation to California and Illinois, during the period April 5-10, 2009.

The purpose of his trip is to visit facilities at Camp Pendleton, Naval Special Warfare Command, MCAS Miramar, and Third Fleet HQ in California; and Navy Recruit Training Command (Battle Station 21) in Illinois to receive briefings on issues pertinent to current operations and needs for the upcoming fiscal year, as well as meetings with officers and enlisted personnel on issues of concern. It is requested that the Department of the Navy be assigned the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03838-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 26, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge you to retain adequate funding for the Next Generation Bomber in the Fiscal Year 2010 defense budget. A recent media report suggests that termination of the Next Generation Bomber is being proposed by your administration as the Pentagon finalizes its FY2010 budget request. We believe termination of the Next Generation Bomber would do tremendous damage to our nation's future ability to project power abroad, and runs counter to what senior defense officials in your Administration have stated about the need for a Next Generation Bomber.

As you know, the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review directed the Air Force to "develop a new land-based, penetrating long range strike capability to be fielded by 2018." The need for this new long range strike capability is urgent because, while our current wars are being fought in undefended airspace, the conflicts of the near-term future will likely feature heavily defended airspace, due in large part to the proliferation of relatively inexpensive, but extremely sophisticated and deadly air defense systems. As General Michael Maples, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, noted during a March 10, 2009 Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on worldwide threats, "Russia, quite frankly, is the developer of most of those [advanced air defense] systems and is exporting those systems both to China and to other countries in the world."

Nearly half of our bomber inventory pre-dates the Cuban Missile Crisis. The B-52 is a robust aircraft, but it is no longer survivable in defended airspace. While the B-1 can be upgraded, it still lacks the vital stealth technology that affords a greater level of protection in defended airspace. With only sixteen combat ready B-2 bombers currently available with vital stealth technology to hold targets deep in heavily defended airspace at risk, a decision to terminate the Next Generation Bomber would severely diminish our ability to project power on a global scale in the future. Should you decide to terminate this important program, the consequences to our national security would be grave.

Aside from our view about the urgent need for development of the Next Generation Bomber, senior officials you have selected to lead the Department of Defense have stated the need for a Next Generation Bomber. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates discussed the need for a new bomber as recently as January of this year, in an article for *Foreign Affairs* entitled "A Balanced Strategy," writing that the United States' ability to strike from over the horizon will be at a premium in future conflicts and "will require shifts from short-range to longer-range systems, such as the next-generation bomber." Michele Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense

OSD 03867-09

for Policy, stated at her nomination hearing on January 15, 2009 that "I think the need for long-range precision strikes that can penetrate the most sophisticated enemy air defenses is absolutely critical."

With an aging bomber fleet that is highly vulnerable to inexpensive yet sophisticated air defense systems rapidly being acquired by potential adversaries of the United States, continued development of the Next Generation Bomber is vital to our nation's future security. As senior defense officials within your Administration have stated, the need for a Next Generation Bomber is absolutely critical. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to continue development of the Next Generation Bomber.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

TIM JOHNSON
United States Senator

DAVID VITTER
United States Senator

MARY LANDRIEU
United States Senator

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
United States Senator

cc: Honorable Peter R. Orszag, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Honorable Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense
Honorable Michele Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense, Policy

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND
MISSOURI

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
SMALL BUSINESS
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2503

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Michele Flournoy
Undersecretary of Defense for Policy
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Secretary Flournoy,

What I have heard about the President's initial approach to formulating and executing a comprehensive strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan is encouraging. This week I spoke at the National Press Club and the United States Institute of Peace, offering my opinions on the regional situation and discussing my thoughts on the President's strategy. I am attaching a copy of my USIP speech for your consideration.

While I still have some reservations about specific details of the strategy that I have not yet seen, I am cautiously optimistic that a well-resourced COIN Strategy, fully synchronized with development and governance assistance, will prevail. I believe that we can defeat al Qa'ida and the Taliban, and establish a stable Afghanistan. I also believe that there is still time to turn Pakistan back from the brink of radicalization and internal destruction.

As the Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and as an active member of the Defense Subcommittee and the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I expect to play a central role in the Senate in working with you and other policy makers to address and resource appropriately our nation's strategy to succeed in this region.

I am dedicated to working with you, other administration officials, and with my colleagues in the Congress to ensure that we win this war. When we do, our nation will emerge safer, stronger, and better protected from the forces of terrorism. We have no other option than to face this challenge head on

I look forward to continued dialogue on this matter.

Sincerely,

Kit Bond

Christopher S. Bond
United States Senator

Enclosure

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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

March 30, 2009

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are concerned that veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan may be ill, and some may have actually died, as a result of exposure to dangerous toxins produced by burn pits used to destroy waste. The *Military Times* reports that scores of returning veterans who were exposed to burn pits display similar symptoms: chronic bronchitis, asthma, sleep apnea, chronic coughs, and allergy-like symptoms. Several also have cited heart problems, lymphoma, and leukemia. We write to request that you direct relevant DoD personnel to fully comply with the VA's requests for information needed to study the impact of these potential environmental exposures.

Our experience with treating illnesses caused by Agent Orange and Gulf War Illness taught us that we must be vigilant in monitoring and treating our veterans long after they have returned from the battlefield. Although the Department of Defense currently maintains that there are no health dangers to troops from exposure to burn pits, we believe it is premature to dismiss concerns raised about burn pits after only a few years.

As you know, a joint study of the burn pit at Balad Air Base found that toxins were present, including carcinogens such as dioxin, but that they did not exceed military exposure guidelines for those exposed to the fumes for one year. The Defense Health Board reviewed the study last year. While the Board found that the study was generally adequate, it identified several weaknesses in the study, including the lack of a comprehensive analysis of the interaction of various toxins and the failure to conduct a valid study of relevant health records. It identified several ways in which the Army could improve its examination of dioxin serum sampling and analysis of respiratory illnesses.

Independent scientists who have reviewed the joint study of the Balad Air Base have informed us that there is a significant danger that veterans may become ill as a result of exposure to fumes emanating from such burn pits. They also noted that the underlying data supporting the study was not included and that it will be difficult to ascertain the potential health care implications of exposure to the fumes without this data.

For this reason, we request that you make this underlying data available to our staff and to the Government Accountability Office for its review, in a classified setting if required.

Meanwhile, the real indicators of the dangers to veterans are the long-term health measures of those exposed rather than less reliable environmental reports. Therefore, the study of those known to be exposed by burn pits should be the primary focus.

OSD 03888-09

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Responding to a recent Congressional request along these lines, Veterans Affairs Secretary Shinseki gave assurance that he is taking seriously our concerns about the dangers of burn pits. In the enclosed message, Secretary Shinseki committed to take the following actions which relate to the Department of Defense:

1. VA scientists have begun health studies on veterans of the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, including requesting assistance from the Department of Defense (DoD) for troop exposure and location data.
2. VA is working with DoD to obtain all relevant exposure data with the goal of establishing potential correlations with health problems among affected veterans. To this end, VA has established a data sharing agreement with DoD that grants access to this data for separated veterans. VA scientists will also review data gathered from DoD's Post Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA) surveys, which ask about exposures to smoke from burn pits, subsequent symptoms, and a variety of other health related questions.

Since time is of the essence and the lives of our troops and veterans are at stake, we are requesting your expressed commitment that the Pentagon will fully cooperate with the VA in this matter so that these analyses can be completed as quickly and accurately as possible. We also request that you direct the relevant Department of Defense offices to fully cooperate with the VA's studies.

Thank you for your attention and assistance in this matter.

Senator Russ Feingold

Senator Evan Bayh

Senator Ron Wyden

Representative Tim Bishop

Representative Steve Cohen

Representative John Hall

Representative Maurice Hinchey

Representative Carol Shea-Porter

EVAN BAYH
INDIANA

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510–1404
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http://bayh.senate.gov

1650 MARKET TOWER
10 WEST MARKET STREET
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(317) 554–0750

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–1404

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
ENERGY

March 20, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write today about a pending regulation regarding the use of specialty metals melted in the United States for defense items. As I understand, this and many other regulations have been put on hold pending a review by your Administration.

I believe that it is important to maintain a strong defense industrial base, and that a domestic supply of strategic materials is vital to our national security. As such, I have supported Congressional efforts to ensure that the Department of Defense (DOD) purchases domestic specialty metals. However, I am aware that there are outstanding questions regarding how the DOD should interpret the Specialty Metals Amendment (10 U.S.C. 2533b).

I have written letters to senior DOD officials in recent months regarding the interpretation of recent statutory changes to the provision, which were enacted in the FY 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. I am not alone in my questions on this issue. The House Armed Services Committee also included language in its Report on the FY 2009 National Defense Authorization Act expressing its concern regarding DOD's preliminary interpretation of the statutory changes with respect to two points: (1) the definition of "commercial-off-the-shelf-items (COTS) for purposes of the Specialty Metals Amendment; and (2) the definition of the term "produced," and whether the proposed definition would change the melting requirement of the law.

The DOD issued a proposed rule in July 2008 that was not in concurrence with what was in the report for the FY 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. The proposed rule allowed components to be COTS items if the component is modified for military applications. However, as I understand, current law requires that a COTS item to be "offered to the Government, without modification, in the same form in which it is sold in the commercial marketplace."

I am also concerned the proposed rule may create a precedent by permitting the use of imported specialty metals – such as armor plate – which are subjected to minimal processing operations following importation. While I remain adamantly in favor of any actions necessary to provide force protection equipment to our military, I ask that your staff consider whether the waivers and exceptions in the existing statutory framework may make this expansion of the definition unnecessary.

OSD 03889-09

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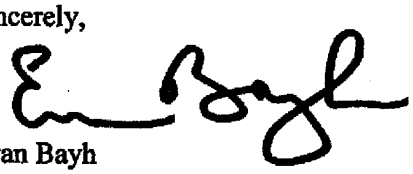
Further, as I understand, the DOD's proposed rule was never issued as a final regulation. However, the General Services Administration (GSA) recently incorporated it into a final rule (48 CFR Parts 2, 3, 12, 23, 25, and 52) in an effort by GSA to be consistent with the definition that was provided in draft form by the DOD. In order to fix this problem, I ask that these GSA provisions be part of your regulatory review and subject to revision accordingly.

The proposed DOD rule implementing changes in the Specialty Metals Amendment, and the regulatory changes adopted by the GSA, warrant full consideration. I am concerned how they will impact the ability of domestic specialty metals manufacturers to produce and supply these materials, and how they may create a dependency on offshore sources for these critical materials.

Our military cannot permit supply disruptions in a time of war. I believe that the Specialty Metals Amendment provides the incentive our metals suppliers need to invest in the technologically advanced materials that remain vital to our defense industrial base. We ask that your Administration consider these matters in the course of its regulatory review.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or your staff have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued service and leadership.

Sincerely,



Evan Bayh
United States Senator

cc: Director Peter Orszag
Secretary Robert Gates

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–2101

February 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I'm writing to request your support for funding of the Center for Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology (CIMIT) in the President's Fiscal Year 2010 Department of Defense budget in the amount of $25 million.

CIMIT, a research consortium in Massachusetts consisting of 12 member institutions, was founded 10 years ago by a medical innovator and Vietnam veteran to improve combat casualty and soldier/civilian care by bringing together clinicians and engineers to encourage more rapid and effective development of innovative medical technology, procedures and processes. The consortium consists of Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Partners HealthCare, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston Medical Center, Boston University, Children's Hospital Boston, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, and the VA Boston Healthcare System. The Center itself is located at Harvard Medical School.

CIMIT investigators have developed innovative technologies and new treatments in a timely fashion in major areas of need: Trauma and Casualty Care, Infection Control and Sepsis, Spinal Cord Injury, Enhancing Performance, and Skin and Muscle Innervation. They have established new programs on Traumatic Brain Injury, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and these programs are led by nationally recognized research clinicians who address these serious and growing challenges.

The consortium has already established links with the Department to translate its innovational research to prototype/testing and commercialization, and the Department has expressed interest in using the CIMIT model to facilitate translational research supported or conducted by its own personnel.

CIMIT has the potential to be a major assistant to the Department in protecting and treating our soldiers, and I hope very much that you will support this funding.

With great respect and my warmest wishes,

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy

OSD 03892-09

SHERROD BROWN
OHIO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As the Department of Defense evaluates candidates for positions at the Pentagon, I hope you will consider Dr. Mark Wayda, of Columbus, Ohio. I have every confidence that Dr. Wayda would be an invaluable addition to the Administration. Dr. Wayda has an outstanding career with a diverse background in joint operations, legislative relations, public affairs, and political communication.

In his current role at the Adjutant General's Department of the Ohio National Guard, Dr. Wayda concurrently manages the Department's Government Relations and Public Affairs programs. In these roles, he has built lasting relationships with political advisors, policymakers, and Defense Department leaders, on the local, state, and federal levels, as well as managed all internal and external communications for the Ohio National Guard. Dr. Wayda has been instrumental in leading one of our nation's largest National Guard forces, and has received the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal, the highest award a civilian may receive.

During Dr. Wayda's time as the Chief of Executive Staff at the State Medical Board of Ohio, he successfully served as a liaison between the Medical Board and outside organizations, oversaw its budget, and supervised multiple departments.

I am confident that Dr. Wayda has the knowledge and experience necessary to succeed at the Department of Defense. He would serve our nation well at the national level as a valuable and trusted professional. Thank you for considering Dr. Wayda.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

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OSD 03984-09

MARK UDALL
COLORADO

SUITE SD-840E
DIRKSEN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5941

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2009

The Honorable William Lynn
Deputy Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1010

Dear Mr. Lynn:

I am pleased to strongly support the application of (b)(6) (USA Ret.) to serve in the Department of Defense in the capacity of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations Capabilities, Prisoners of War/Missing Personnel or Homeland Defense. His experience also makes him an excellent candidate for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment.

(b)(6) brings to the table a proven record of tough but smart leadership that is both principled and pragmatic. In addition to his long and distinguished military career, (b)(6) has extensive experience dealing with public-private sector partnerships and media relations regarding United States military engagements. For example, he has led Colorado's efforts to respond to the effects of the growth at Fort Carson from 2005 to the present. Fort Carson will grow from 12,500 troops in 2005 to 28,200 troops in 2013. (b)(6) has helped prepare the Colorado Springs community and the state for this growth. He also understands how to clearly communicate the overall significance and day-to-day realities of our military engagements to the American people. He served as the military analyst/consultant for several Dateline NBC specials, including one on the war on terror and another on Afghanistan.

I hand-delivered a similar letter to Secretary Gates some weeks ago urging him to give (b)(6) every consideration for one of these positions in the Department. I urge you to do the same. I am proud to support (b)(6) application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 224-5941.

Sincerely,

Mark Udall
U.S. Senator

Cc: Mr. Don Gips, Director, Office of Presidential Personnel

OSD 03985-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA
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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

April 7, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Personnel, we are concerned about suicides by military members.

On March 18, 2009 the Subcommittee held a hearing to examine the recent increase in military suicides and efforts by the services to prevent suicide. On March 25, 2009, the Subcommittee held a hearing on reserve component issues which also included a discussion of suicides of members of the National Guard and Reserve.

We are concerned that the Reserve Components are not consistently reporting suicides by all service members, particularly those who are not in an active duty status. We believe that to accurately understand both the extent of military suicides and the entire population at risk, the Department must require reporting of all suicides within the total force. This data also should be provided to researchers who are assisting the Department in the design of effective prevention strategies.

We request that you review the procedures of each of the reserve components for collecting and reporting suicide data, and institute uniform policies and procedures to ensure that suicides by members of the reserve components are reported as part of the total force of the Department of Defense.

We request that you report to the Subcommittee within 90 days on the results of your review and actions taken to address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Personnel

E. Benjamin Nelson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Personnel

OSD 03986-09

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA, CHAIRMAN

DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN
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JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE
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SAM BROWNBACK, KANSAS
WAYNE ALLARD, COLORADO
LAMAR ALEXANDER, TENNESSEE

CHARLES KIEFFER, STAFF DIRECTOR
BRUCE EVANS, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 31, 2009

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Wilkie:

I have received the enclosed proposal from officials at Momentive Performance Materials in Sistersville, West Virginia, regarding the company's "Green Silanes" Process Development and Manufacturing project.

I would appreciate your reviewing the enclosed proposal, and providing me with your comments about it.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Byrd

RCB:bwb
Enclosure

OSD 04066-09

JACK REED
RHODE ISLAND

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS
ARMED SERVICES
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3903

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Rhode Island:

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Providence, RI 02903-1773
(401) 528-5200

1 (800) 284-4200

TDD Relay Rhode Island
1 (800) 745-5555

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March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to strongly recommend (b)(6) to serve on the Defense Policy Board.

(b)(6) is a woman of remarkable talent and intellect who possesses extensive subject matter expertise and sound foreign policy judgment.

Currently, (b)(6) is a visiting professor at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy where she lectures on international security and nuclear regulation and proliferation matters. Prior to her tenure as visiting professor, (b)(6) taught at the Kennedy School of Government and served as Vice Chair and Senior Consultant of the Conflict Management Group, a non-profit international dispute resolution organization.

Recognizing her talents and abilities, in 1977, President Carter appointed (b)(6) as Assistant Secretary, and later Under Secretary, of the Air Force. (b)(6) was charged with a wide range of responsibilities, including oversight of weapon systems, implementation of the department budget, and man-power issues. Indeed, (b)(6) was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for her remarkable service to our nation. She has a strong professional record, and I have attached her resume for your review.

Throughout her career, (b)(6) commitment to academia and public service has remained steadfast. She serves as Chairwoman of the Project on International Institutions and Conflict Management at Harvard Law School. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has authored numerous publications on defense and national security policy including, most recently, *How American Threat Behavior Threatens National Security.*

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OSD 04110-09

I believe (b)(6) is uniquely qualified and would make a strong addition to the Defense Policy Board.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Enclosure

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD
WISCONSIN

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

April 13, 2009

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am very pleased by the safe rescue of Captain Richard Phillips and the crew of the Maersk Alabama, and applaud your excellent handling of this crisis. I am also pleased by your administration's expressed commitment to bolster the international naval presence and capabilities in the waters off the Horn of Africa to deter attacks, as well to strengthen the international legal framework to bring these pirates to justice. I look forward to working with you, Secretary Clinton and Secretary Gates in this regard.

As you know, piracy off the coast of Somalia is a symptom of the state collapse and instability on land; thus, any military actions we take will only be stopgap measures. In recent Congressional testimony, Director of National Intelligence Blair and Defense Intelligence Agency Director Army Lt. General Michael Maples cited lawlessness and economic problems on land for the rise in piracy at sea. The ultimate solution to the problem of piracy, then, is the establishment of a functional government that can enforce the rule of law. During the rule of the Council of Islamic Courts in 2006, there was a notable decline in piracy that can be attributed, in large part, to the rise of a central authority in southern Somalia. Without replicating the repressive rule of the Courts, we must keep in mind that establishing a central governing structure in Somalia is critical to resolving, not just stopping, the problem of piracy.

In February 2009, I sent you a letter, which I have attached, that outlines the essential need to develop a comprehensive interagency strategy to stabilize Somalia and support effective governance. With the strategic review now underway, I reiterate my belief that expanded U.S. support for the new unity government must be a central component of that strategy. Furthermore, we must seize the opening that lies before us by publicly declaring our commitment to high-level, sustained engagement that could help Somalia overcome the many challenges to peace and stability.

1500 ASPEN COMMONS
ROOM 100
MIDDLETON, WI 53562
(608) 828-1200
(608) 828-1215 (TDD)

517 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE
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MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
(414) 276-7282

401 5TH STREET
ROOM 410
WAUSAU, WI 54403
(715) 848-5660

425 STATE STREET
ROOM 225
LA CROSSE, WI 54601
(608) 782-5585

1640 MAIN STREET
GREEN BAY, WI 54302
(920) 465-7508

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OSD 04127-09

I met with President Sheik Sharif during a trip to the region this past December, just before his election, and met last month with the new government's Foreign Minister here in Washington D.C. In both meetings we discussed the importance of an inclusive process to unite Somalia and the importance of U.S. support to achieve that goal.

Just as you have personally become engaged in the problem of piracy off Somalia's coast, it is essential that you personally engage in U.S. efforts to address its origins on land. As a first step, I urge you to call President Sheik Sharif and indicate a clear commitment to work with his government not only on maritime insecurity issues, but also to help establish security and functional, inclusive governance within the country. This should be coordinated with other levels of engagement and complemented by ongoing discussions with our regional and international partners on a comprehensive plan to support this transitional government and stabilize Somalia.

We have a unique opportunity with the current level of attention to Somalia's waters to focus on developing a strategic approach that incorporates the broader problems facing Somalia. I urge you to seize this opportunity, and stand ready to support and work with you on a comprehensive strategy that can help bring stability to this region. If we do not take this critical step, we will continue to see Somalia's historic instability manifest itself in piracy and growing extremism, both of which pose serious security threats in the region and around the globe.

Sincerely,

Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Dennis Blair
Director of National Intelligence

LISA MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

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April 14, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Those who serve in the National Guard are being asked to do more in the service of our Nation than they have ever done before and I applaud your efforts to seamlessly integrate our Guardsmen into the total force. Among those Guardsmen currently serving abroad are the members of the Alaska National Guard's 207th Aviation Regiment, who were deployed to Kosovo in November 2008 for a one year peacekeeping mission.

Service members serving in Kosovo are entitled to participate in the Kosovo R&R leave program. This program provides up to 15 days of R&R leave at government expense. However, I have come to learn that the program guidelines cap airfare reimbursement at the cost to travel from Kosovo to Frankfurt, Germany or Baltimore, Maryland. In recent weeks I have heard from the spouses of members of the 207th Aviation Regiment that this cap is insufficient to cover the cost of travel from Kosovo to the Alaska homes of our deployed Guardsmen. The Guardsmen have been required to cover the difference in cost out of their own pockets. Some of the Guardsmen have served in the Persian Gulf and wonder why their R&R trip to Alaska was fully paid in that instance but only partially paid in this one.

I understand that it is possible for your office to grant a waiver on this cap which would enable the Alaska Guardsmen to travel home for R&R entirely at government expense. I also understand that the chain of command has initiated the process of granting a waiver. I would encourage you to grant the waiver when it comes before you.

One or more Alaska Guardsmen may currently be in transit on their R&R trips. I would hope that the waiver, if granted, would enable these Guardsmen to seek reimbursement for the difference between the capped R&R reimbursement amount when they began their trip and the maximum amount allowable under the waiver, if granted.

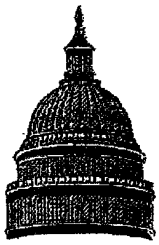
OSD 04160-09

While it may cost a bit more to return an Alaska Guardsman home for R&R than some of his comrades in arms, the incremental investment is returned in dedication to service and family stability. Thank you for all that you and your team do to protect our Nation's security.

Sincerely,

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

JAMES M. INHOFE
OKLAHOMA



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 5, 2009

Honorable William Lynn
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1010

Dear Mr. Lynn,

I would like to invite you to join the civic leaders of Lawton Oklahoma and the members of the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce to the Annual Capitol Hill Breakfast on Thursday, April 30, 2009.

The breakfast will commence at 8:00 am in the Senate Caucus Room (#325), Russell Senate Office Building. We will enjoy a delicious meal, as well as enjoy the company of friends.

Kindly RSVP to Joslyn Wood at 580-354-0021 or e-mail her at jwood@lawtonfortsillchamber.com. We look forward to seeing you at the breakfast.

Sincerely,

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator

OSD 04161-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 27, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I recently met with Secretary Schlesinger on the findings of the Task Force you established to examine the management of the Department's nuclear weapons and to continue an on-going dialogue I have with him on security issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

He brought to my attention the fact that the United States participates in formal meetings on nuclear posture with NATO member countries through the Nuclear Planning Group; however, there is nothing equivalent to the NATO model in the Pacific region. As you know, the U.S. nuclear presence provides a credible deterrent to a large nuclear build-up in that part of the world. I am aware the government of Japan, in particular, is worried that the U.S. will make a unilateral decision to downgrade or withdraw its nuclear capabilities from the Pacific.

It is my understanding that the Japanese government would like to establish a more formal relationship with the United States to discuss nuclear matters and gain assurance that the U.S. nuclear umbrella remains strong in the region. I believe it may be worthwhile to consider a similar arrangement to NATO's Nuclear Planning Group for our allies in the Pacific such as Australia, Japan, and Korea. I would appreciate your thoughts and insights on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman

OSD 04259-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon, Room 3E718
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to request that you include $25 million in funding for the Gulf War Illness Research Program (GWIRP) of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) of the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command in the Department of Defense's complete budget submission expected in the weeks ahead.

This request follows the November release of the Congressionally-mandated Research Advisory Committee (RAC) on Gulf War Illnesses 454-page report, which concludes that "[t]he extensive body of scientific research now available consistently indicates that Gulf War illness is real, that it is the result of neurotoxic exposures during Gulf War deployment, and that few veterans have recovered or substantially improved with time."[1] At least 175,000 veterans, one in four of those who deployed, are affected. The Committee called for a "renewed federal research commitment ... to identify effective treatments ... to achieve the critical objectives of improving the health of Gulf War veterans and preventing similar problems in future deployments."[2]

As you may know, over the last four years, Congress has provided $23 million for the CDMRP to fund peer-reviewed and merit-based research into treatments for this complex multi-symptom disorder (including widespread pain, cognitive impairment, and persistent fatigue, in conjunction with other abnormalities) known as Gulf War Illnesses. This research is not only important to Gulf War veterans, but to current and future force health protection; not to mention public health generally. Unfortunately, exposures to toxins, chemical weapons, and other hazardous substances are a permanent reality for our service members. We need to make sure we have the effective defensive measures and treatments in place for service members that are exposed. Since no substantial treatments

[1] U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, *Gulf War Illness and the Health of Gulf War Veterans: Scientific Findings and Recommendations* by Binns et al. (Washington, D.C., November 2008), p.17.
[2] Ibid., p.2.

OSD 04425-09

are currently available for Gulf War veterans 18 years after the end of the war, clearly, our work is not yet complete.

After years of the government wasting significant resources on studies focused on trying to explain why these veterans of the first Gulf War were not sick, the research funded and managed by CDMRP is focusing on exactly what is most important: treatments. In Fiscal Year 2006 CDMRP received 80 pre-proposals for research, 31 full research submissions and awarded 9 research grants. In Fiscal Year 2008 CDMRP received 113 pre-proposals, 48 full submissions, and awarded 12. In Fiscal Year 2009 it is expected that this growing trend of scientific interest in conducting this research will continue. However, with the current level of resources allotted to the research, the effort to find treatments is expanding in a far too incremental fashion. Funding at the $25 million level will provide the program with approximately $13 million for pilot studies to identify effective treatments and diagnostic tests, $8 million for clinical trials of treatments identified as effective in previous pilot studies, and $4 million for a center of excellence to identify promising candidates for treatments and diagnostic tests.

As the Research Advisory Committee report indicates, the DoD CDMRP research program complements the Gulf War illness research program at the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA program is focused on understanding biological mechanisms underlying Gulf War illness, which can ultimately lead to the development of treatments to address these mechanisms. However, the CDMRP program is focused on pilot studies of promising treatments already approved for other conditions, so it offers the possibility of early answers. The CDMRP program is also open to all researchers world-wide on a peer-reviewed competitive basis, while VA programs limit the universe of eligible researchers.

The Department of Defense historically funded two-thirds of GWI research, reflecting the need to prevent similar problems in future deployments, but funding for new Gulf War illnesses research was eliminated from the DoD budget after the onset of the current wars. Clearly we can all agree that both DoD and VA have a moral responsibility and vested interest in providing funding to advance research into treatments.

With our request of $25 million for the CDMRP Gulf War Illness Research Program we are taking the first step to implement the RAC report's recommendation that "the Administration request and Congress appropriate a minimum of $40 million annually to the Department of Defense for the Gulf War Illness Research Program managed by DOD's Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs."[3] With its independent, merit-based, and peer-reviewed process we are confident that these

[3] Ibid. p.309.

resources are and will continue to be used in the best interest of our service members and veterans.

Finally, we note that President Obama was a strong supporter of the CDMRP's Gulf War Illness Research Program during his time in the Senate.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that $25 million in funding for CDMRP's Gulf War Illness Research Program is contained in the final FY10 DoD budget submission.

Sincerely,

BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator

ROBERT C. BYRD
United States Senator

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD
United States Senator

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV
United States Senator

SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
The Honorable, Peter R. Orzag, Director of the Office of Management and Budget

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 6, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write to urge you not to allow deep cuts in U.S. missile defense programs that are critically important to protecting our homeland and our allies against the growing threat of ballistic missiles.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates today announced plans to cancel or reduce such major programs as the Airborne Laser, Multiple Kill Vehicle, and the installation of additional Ground-Based Interceptor missiles in Alaska, and to cut the MDA's budget for Fiscal Year 2010 by $1.4 billion. Although we applaud Secretary Gates' commitment to such capabilities as THAAD and SM-3, these proposals would amount to almost a fifteen percent cut in the MDA budget and a major reduction in our missile defense portfolio—actions that we fear could undermine our emerging missile defense capabilities to protect the United States against a growing threat.

As you know, the threat from ballistic missiles is significant and on the rise. Lieutenant General Daniel Maples, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, recently testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee that "the threat posed by ballistic missile delivery systems is likely to increase while growing more complex over the next decade." General Maples further warned that "adversary nations are increasingly adopting technical and operational countermeasures to defeat missile defenses." Ballistic missile technology has already proliferated worldwide and is a direct threat to both our allies and our homeland.

The threat posed by rogue states with ballistic missiles has been underscored by Iran and North Korea's recent missile tests. In early February, Iran launched a satellite atop a rocket that could be used as an intercontinental ballistic missile. Last weekend, North Korea tested the Taepo Dong-2, a long range missile that if successful, could have the range to strike Hawaii, Alaska, and possibly the West Coast of the United States.

Although these developments highlight the danger we face, they have also revealed the progress our national missile defense system has made. When recently asked before the Senate Armed Services Committee whether the United States could intercept a Taepo Dong-2 missile that targeted the American homeland, Admiral Timothy Keating, Commander of U.S. Pacific Command, and General Patrick Chilton, Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, assured that we can do so with high probability. This would not have been the case just a few years ago, and is only the case today because we have invested in a diverse set of missile defense capabilities.

OSD 04622-09

Cooperation on ballistic missile defense is also essential to our most important alliances. In the Asia-Pacific region, Japan became the first among our allies to successfully intercept a ballistic missile with the Aegis defense system. In response to North Korea's growing arsenal of missiles, the Government of Japan decided six years ago to deploy a joint Aegis and Patriot PAC-3 missile defense and has already invested $7.9 billion of its own funds to build a new pillar of our alliance. India has likewise expressed strong interest in closer cooperation on missile defense systems, which promises to become an area of cooperation in our growing strategic partnership.

In the Middle East, we continue to develop missile defense technology in close partnership with Israel. As you know, the State of Israel faces a uniquely pressing threat due to Iran's ballistic missile program and pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. In response, we have long cooperated with Israel to develop the Arrow family of missile interceptors and are now working together on the David's Sling missile defense system to defeat medium range rockets. These are critical programs that should not be abandoned.

In Europe, NATO has also endorsed the importance of missile defense as a collaborative venture among its member states. At the Bucharest summit in April 2008, NATO formally declared that "ballistic missile proliferation poses an increasing threat to Allies' forces, territory, and populations. Missile defense forms part of a broader response to counter this threat." NATO further expressed "deep concern" over the proliferation activities of both Iran and North Korea, and urged the examination of a "comprehensive missile defense architecture to extend coverage to all Allied territory and populations."

In sum, cooperation on missile defense is now a critical component of many of our closest security partnerships around the world. We fear that cuts to the budget for missile defense could inadvertently undermine these relationships and foster the impression that the United States is an unreliable ally. Moreover, sharp cuts would leave us and our friends around the world less capable of responding to the growing ballistic missile threat.

The fact remains that our adversaries continue to invest large sums in the development of these weapons. The question is whether we respond by developing appropriate defenses against them. We therefore urge you to sustain the ability of the Missile Defense Agency and the military services to develop an integrated, layered defense against the threat of ballistic missiles to the United States, our deployed forces, and our allies.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

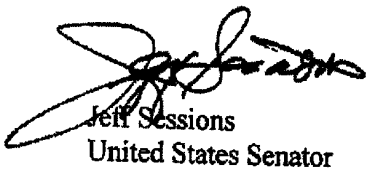
Sincerely,

Jon Kyl
United States Senator

Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Mark Begich
United States Senator



Jeff Sessions
United States Senator

James Inhofe
United States Senator

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

April 28, 2008

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am profoundly disturbed by yesterday's low-altitude flight of Air Force One and F-16 fighters over lower Manhattan. From press reports, I understand that Air Force One's flight mission here, carried out by the Department of Defense, was to fly that aircraft—a Boeing 747, equipped with state-of-the-art command, control and communications equipment—at about 1,500 feet above lower Manhattan to provide a "photo opportunity" for the jet.

Against the backdrop of September 11, the disruption and foreseeable injury to persons and property arising from any ensuing panic and confusion caused (or that could have been caused) by the supposed mission is absolutely unacceptable. In that context, the recent apology of White House Military Office (WHMO) Director and his assumption of responsibility rings hollow. The supposed mission represents a fundamentally unsound exercise in military judgment and may have constituted an inappropriate use of Department of Defense resources.

In furtherance of the Committee's oversight of Department of Defense resources and operations, I respectfully ask that you provide the following information:

1) A description of exactly what the mission of the flyover was and who ultimately approved that mission.

2) An estimate of the total cost associated with planning and executing that mission.

Please provide this information by Monday, May 4, 2009. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Bowab, at (202) 224-4928.

Sincerely,

John McCain

OSD 04682-09

KENT CONRAD
NORTH DAKOTA

website: http://conrad.senate.gov

COMMITTEES:
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United States Senate

April 16, 2009

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(701) 775-9601

100 1ST STREET, S.W., ROOM 106
MINOT, ND 58701-3846
(701) 852-0703

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I wanted to commend you for your strong support for aggressively expanding the development and use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) so that our military can reap the benefits of their unique capabilities.

As you continue to push this issue, integrating UAS training and other operations into the national airspace system is a key challenge that will need to be resolved. The need for UAS-capable airspace is only going to increase as our nation draws down forces in Iraq, because redeploying UAS units will have to conduct training here at home in the national airspace system. North Dakota, with some of the most unconstrained airspace in the nation, offers an ideal location to test the concepts and rules that will be needed to make this integration successful, and I am pleased that your Department and the Air Force have been working to take advantage of this potential resource.

Interagency cooperation and action are keys to developing and implementing a solution which is agreeable to all concerned parties – FAA, DOD, DHS, civilian airspace users, and others. Mr. Hank Krakowski, FAA Air Traffic Organization Chief Operating Officer, pledged on February 16 in Grand Forks to adopt a very aggressive timeline for fully integrating UAS operations in North Dakota into the national airspace, ultimately aiming to resolve this issue by the summer of 2010. The Red River Operations Working Group was created as a result of the meeting, and all indications at this time are that the group is making great strides toward achieving his vision. Colonel Ed Chupein, Air Force chief of airspace and ranges, is to be commended for his co-leadership of this interagency group and the group's successes to date.

Resolving this challenge is critical, and I thank you for your Department's continued support in this important national and homeland security matter.

Sincerely,

KENT CONRAD
United States Senate

OSD 04865-09

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

United States Senate

Senator Tom Coburn, MD
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 172
Washington, DC 20510-3604
Phone: 202-224-5754
Fax: 202-224-6008

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE LAW

April 22, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As part of the Fiscal Year 2010 budget resolution, the Senate unanimously adopted an amendment on April 2 prohibiting the payment of bonus awards to contractors whose projects went over budget or failed to meet basic performance requirements. While bonuses and award fees may have merit when they provide incentives to complete projects ahead of schedule and under budget, it is concerning that billions of dollars in bonuses have been paid out to contractors who have failed to meet the very basic requirements of contracts or have suffered major cost over runs.

In addition to the 2010 Senate budget resolution, Congress enacted legislation in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2009 to require that the Department of Defense amend its regulations to "ensure that no award fee may be paid for contractor performance that is judged to be below satisfactory performance or performance that does not meet the basic requirements of the contract."

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 also required the Department to issue guidance and implementation instructions to this effect. In a report to Congress from October 2008 in response to this legislation, the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics stated that none of the contract awards they examined "were subject to the provisions of Section 814 of Public Law 109-364."

I am extremely interested to see if the changes implemented have had an effect on properly linking award fees to acquisition outcomes at the Department of Defense. Could you please provide the following information about this issuance of bonuses and award fees to contractors by the Department of Defense.

1. What is your assessment of various mechanisms that could be used to ensure an independent evaluation of contractor performance for the purpose of making determinations applicable to the judging and payment of award fees?

2. How are bonuses and award fees for contractors determined? For example, is there a review board or are the criteria for such awards explicitly outlined in contracts?

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PHONE: 918-581-7651

100 NORTH BROADWAY
SUITE 1820
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102
PHONE: 405-231-4941

www.coburn.senate.gov

OSD 04866-09

711 SW D AVENUE
SUITE 202
LAWTON, OK 73501
PHONE: 580-357-9878

3. How many bonuses and award fees did the Department grant to contractors each year for calendar year 2008? What was the total dollar amount of such bonuses and award fees in 2008?

4. In 2008 were bonuses and award fees been paid to contractors whose programs or projects reported cost overruns or exceeded their budget? If so, how many and what was the total cost? Please provide the names of any such contractors.

5. In 2008 were bonuses and award fees been paid to contractors whose programs or projects did not meet the basic requirements of the contract? If so, how many and what was the total cost? Please provide the names of any such contractors.

6. In 2008 were bonuses and award fees been paid to contractors judged to have below satisfactory performance? If so, how many and what was the total cost per year? Please provide the names of any such contractors.

7. In 2008 were bonuses and award fees been paid to contractors that were recently cited for regulatory violations? If so, how many and what was the total cost per year? Please provide the names of any such contractors.

I would appreciate a response no later than June 22, 2009.

Thank you for your assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Jeremy Hayes of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tom A. Coburn, M.D.
U.S. Senator

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We commend you for prioritizing the development and purchase of new airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) assets and light attack aircraft. We agree with you that our warfighters in Afghanistan and Iraq require a robust mix of manned and unmanned platforms to accomplish their counterinsurgency and counterterrorism missions. Given the relevance these capabilities have across the services – as well as the continued development of your Project Liberty initiative – we hope you will organize and resource additional airborne ISR and light attack aircraft programs on a joint basis.

The urgent need to provide these capabilities to our warfighters has spawned a number of separate development efforts inside the Department of Defense. For example, for more than a year, the Navy has been assessing the capabilities of small light attack aircraft with significant ISR capabilities. The Air Force recently studied the need for a similar capability. Based on input from our commanders in the field, that study may grow into stated requirements for new assets.

Moreover, the Air National Guard (ANG) is preparing to demonstrate the capabilities of the AT-6B later this year. We have strongly supported the AT-6B research and development effort inside the ANG for the past few years, and we hope that the Navy and Air Force will reap some of the benefits of a project that appears to be maturing just at the moment such capabilities are most needed.

Based on conversations with the Navy, Air Force and Air National Guard, however, we remain concerned that efforts to develop a light attack and ISR platform remain uncoordinated. We believe DoD should develop light attack aircraft capabilities on a joint basis. Only when the services are working in a coordinated fashion can we expect to get this important capability to our warfighters efficiently and expeditiously.

We hope you agree with our recommendation, and we stand ready to work with you to fund a joint light attack aircraft program that draws together DoD's multiple and ongoing programs.

Sincerely,

Sam Brownback

Todd Tiahrt

OSD 04870-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As the Department of Defense evaluates candidates to fill key positions, (b)(6) of Dayton, Ohio, would be an invaluable addition to the senior leadership at Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

DARPA's goal of maintaining military technological superiority by sponsoring revolutionary, high-yield research will face unprecedented challenges in the near future. Technology is rapidly expanding and spreading around the globe while our nation's defense budget capacity will remain under enormous pressure. DARPA leadership will require proven management, budgetary, and scientific success. The agency will also need individuals who can work with all interested parties inside and outside of DARPA in shaping its future.

(b)(6) exemplary career has been dedicated to developing novel innovations using infrared sensors and electro-optics. (b)(6) is the former Chief Scientist for the Sensors Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory. He has led many substantial DARPA efforts including the Medusa project, which is now a DARPA program at the Air Force Research Laboratory.

As a highly decorated scientist with real world management success, (b)(6) has been recognized on numerous occasions for his exceptional work. He received the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' WRG Baker Award for his work in electron devices. The Air Force Secretary recognized (b)(6) in 2006 for his dynamic and visionary leadership in developing sensor and countermeasure technology by presenting him with the Meritorious Presidential Rank Award.

As the Defense Department seeks to bolster its intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance as a national priority, I have no doubt that (b)(6) knowledge and experience would help ensure DARPA continues to play an integral role in that effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

OSD 04873-09

JEFF BINGAMAN
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United States Senate

April 28, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
The U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing you concerning the February 6, 2009 memorandum from the United States Army Test and Evaluation Command to the Chief, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Army, concerning the initial results from the cost-benefit study requested by the Defense Test Resource Management Center, TRMC, as part of the FY2008 provisional certification of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Budget.

In this document there are significant shortfalls over the FYDP in maintaining adequate investment capability in the joint test ranges managed by Army, which are classified as Major Range Test Base Facilities, or MRTBF. Public Law 107-314, section 231, requires that -

> " '(2)(A) The Director of the Center shall review each proposed budget transmitted under paragraph (1) and shall, not later than January 31 of the year preceding the fiscal year for which such budgets are proposed, submit to the Secretary of Defense a report containing the comments of the Director with respect to all such proposed budgets, together with the certification of the Director as to whether such proposed budgets are adequate.
> '(B) The Director shall also submit, together with such report and such certification, an additional certification as to whether such proposed budgets provide balanced support for such strategic plan.' "

I believe that the initial results of the cost – benefit study will lead to a decertification by the Director of the TRMC with respect to sustaining the Army's MRTBFs. In particular, finding 7 of the report indicates that -

> "The current FY10 funded program in 0605601A will not allow us to execute 23% of the projected workload, putting all major systems at risk. Additionally, 34% of the FY10 annual facilities and operations sustainment requirements are unaffordable, meaning critical annual maintenance efforts to operate and sustain critical test capabilities will not be done."

OSD 04885-09

More importantly, the enclosures to the cost-benefit study indicate serious underlying deficiencies in core sustainment, for instance Program Element 0606502A/D628 shows that in FY10 and FY11, the unfunded requirement for equipment sustainment is 62%. The report notes that –

> "The cumulative effect of this practice is aging test instrumentation infrastructure, wherein over 50% of the existing equipment has exceeded it's projected useful life, creating a "bow wave" of investment requirements that continues into the POM years."

The revised cover of transmittal states –

> "The Army acknowledges the potential for reduced test support of non-major programs and other developmental test but will manage risk to acquisition efforts."

As you are aware, the Army's MRTBI's are ranges which they sustain for the Department of Defense as a whole. The creation of the TRMC in P.L. 107-314 was to ensure that the sustainment of this joint capability was maintained through annual budget certification. The statement in the revised cover memo does not reflect the joint nature of the MRTBFs or even how the Army will correct the underlying deficiencies noted in the enclosure of detailed data.

I ask that you work to address these deficiencies as required under P.L. 107-314 so that the joint ranges managed by the Army can meet the important developmental testing challenges to ensure that the war fighter has the best fielded equipment possible.

My point of contact for this matter is Dr. Jonathan S. Epstein. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

May 1, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As part of the Subcommittee's ongoing oversight of Defense Department contracting, I am writing regarding the Army's continued use of KBR's monopoly LOGCAP contract. I am concerned and need to understand why the Army is not moving quickly enough to transition to the new set of LOGCAP contracts, which were awarded nearly two years ago to reduce costs and improve contract oversight through competition among multiple contractors. The Army's continued reliance on KBR's monopoly contract is particularly disturbing in light of new information obtained by the Subcommittee regarding the Department's failure to recover overcharges and excess profits on KBR subcontracts.

Background

The third Logistics Civil Augmentation Program contract (LOGCAP III) was awarded to KBR, then a subsidiary of Halliburton, in 2001. The previous LOGCAP contracts were awarded to KBR in 1992 and Dyncorp in 1997.

Under LOGCAP III, KBR has been the sole provider of meals, laundry, housing and other support services to the troops in Iraq and around the world. As of February 2009, the value of KBR's work under the LOGCAP III contract was $31.3 billion.[1]

Problems with the LOGCAP III contract have been described in detail by company whistleblowers, government auditors, and congressional investigators. These problems include a lack of meaningful competition; the failure to heed government auditors' recommendations to withhold payments; and KBR's failure to adequately oversee subcontractors.

In 2006, the Army announced its intention to award a new set of contracts for LOGCAP execution through full and open competition. Instead of a single contractor receiving all the work, three contractors would compete to perform task orders. An additional "planning and

[1] Army Sustainment Command, *LOGCAP Financial Management Update* (Feb. 13, 2009).

OSD 04958-09

support" contract would be awarded to another firm, which would help the Army oversee the three execution contractors.

In June 2007, the Army awarded the LOGCAP IV execution contracts to KBR, Fluor, and Dyncorp. Serco, Inc. received the separate planning and support contract. Two unsuccessful offerors subsequently challenged the award, and in October 2007, GAO sustained their protests.[2] In April 2008, the Army announced that the contracts had again been awarded to KBR, Fluor, and Dyncorp.

Failure to Award Competitive Contracts under LOGCAP IV

On April 19, 2007, the Senate Armed Services Committee, of which I am a member, held a hearing on the Defense Department's management of costs under the LOGCAP contract. At the hearing, Members of the Armed Services Committee asked about the Department's planned response to the reported waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement under LOGCAP III. Major General Jerome Johnson, Commanding General of the Army Sustainment Command, told the Committee that LOGCAP IV would eliminate many of the structural problems associated with LOGCAP III.[3] According to Gen. Johnson:

> LOGCAP III grew so rapidly that it nearly exceeded a single contractor's capacity. To minimize this risk, LOGCAP IV will use multiple contractors. This will increase government contract oversight and reduce program risk, while reducing costs through competitive, continuous task order competition.[4]

At the hearing, Senator Levin asked why the Army had waited so long to split the LOGCAP contract among multiple contractors. Claude M. Bolton, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, responded: "I don't have a good answer for you."[5]

The Armed Services Committee later referenced this exchange in recommending the enactment of section 843 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which established enhanced competition requirements for Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contracts in excess of $100 million.[6] According to the Committee, the provision would ensure that future LOGCAP-type contracts would provide for the competition of task and delivery

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[2] *See* Government Accountability Office, *Matter of Contingency Management Group, LLC; IAP Worldwide Services, Inc.* (Oct. 5, 2007).

[3] Senate Armed Services Committee, *Hearings on Department of Defense's Management of Costs Under the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) Contract in Iraq.* 110th Cong. (April 19, 2007).

[4] *Id.*

[5] *Id.*

[6] S. Report 110-077.

orders unless there was "a compelling reason not to do so."[7] A similar provision was previously included in S. 680, which was prepared by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to ensure that there are more than one contract holders that are eligible to compete for task and delivery orders.

Despite the benefits to the taxpayer, the support of the Army Sustainment Command, and the plain language and stated intent of the law, the Army has failed to transition the support of its mission in Iraq from LOGCAP III to LOGCAP IV. As of February 2009, the latest date for which the Subcommittee has received information, the Army has not awarded a single task order for work in Iraq under LOGCAP IV.[8]

The Army has also been slow to transition work in Kuwait and Afghanistan to LOGCAP IV. Only $172 million has been funded under LOGCAP IV in the last year, of which $4 million was awarded for planning and support services. Implementation of LOGCAP IV task orders has also been delayed by protests. All three task orders for work in Kuwait, which were competed and awarded under LOGCAP IV to Fluor and Dyncorp, were subsequently protested by KBR. One protest was resolved against KBR; the other two protests continue. While the protests are underway, KBR continues to perform this work under LOGCAP III.[9]

New Information Regarding Waste, Fraud, and Abuse Under LOGCAP III

Documents obtained by the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight raise concerns about whether the Department has taken adequate steps to identify and recover overcharges and excessive profits paid under contracts associated with KBR employees known or suspected to have committed fraud. These documents indicate that the Defense Department has failed to recover more than $100 million paid out under these fraudulent LOGCAP subcontracts.

Since the beginning of the war in Iraq, multiple KBR officials have been indicted or convicted of corruption-related charges involving LOGCAP subcontracts. These include Stephen Seamans, who was convicted of fraud relating to a subcontract with a Kuwaiti cleaning company; Jeff Mazon, who was indicted for fraud for a subcontract awarded to La Nouvelle; (b)(6) who admitted to accepting $110,000 in kickbacks from an Iraqi subcontractor; (b)(6) who was fired by KBR after awarding a gravel delivery contract to a vendor whose price was five times higher than that of a competitor; and (b)(6) who admitted to accepting kickbacks from First Kuwaiti General Trading & Contracting Company in exchange

[7] *Id.*

[8] Army Sustainment Command, *LOGCAP Financial Management Update* (Feb. 13, 2009).

[9] *Id.*

for the award of subcontracts.[10] These men were responsible for awarding or administering at least $306 million in LOGCAP subcontracts.[11]

Although the Defense Department knew or should have known about the fraudulent activities of Mr. Seamans, Mr. Mazon, (b)(6) and (b)(6) since 2005, when the relevant indictments and convictions became public, the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) failed to take adequate steps to review the other contracts these men had awarded or administered. In fact, DCAA waited until February 2007 to send a preliminary letter to KBR asking for information on the other contracts that had been administered by Mr. Seamans, Mr. Mazon, (b)(6) (b)(6) and (b)(6).[12]

DCAA also failed to perform timely audits of these high-risk subcontracts. DCAA told KBR that it was "confident" that KBR had "proactively" examined the subcontracts administered by the four men. DCAA did request the results of any reviews undertaken by the KBR, but indicated that it would not perform its own audits of these contracts if it KBR had performed adequate investigations.[13] According to DCAA:

> If KBRSI's reviews satisfy our audit needs, we will rely on its work and subsequently curtail our own examination of these subcontracts. However, if we find KBRSI has not performed any reviews or disclosed cost impacts on Government contracts (where appropriate), this will be considered in our overall opinion on KBRSI's accounting control environment and purchasing system internal controls.[14]

Four months later, in June 2007, DCAA reported that KBR had failed to account for millions of dollars in excess profits on contracts awarded by Mr. Seamans. According to DCAA, the subcontractor, Tamimi Global Performance, had potentially realized excess profits of $49.8 million, or 76%, as a result of Mr. Seamans' fraudulent activities.[15] KBR had proposed to return to the government only $525,202 – a small

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[10] *See* Indictment, *United States v. Mazon* (Mar. 16, 2005); *Former KBR Worker Admits to Fraud in Iraq*, Washington Post (Aug. 23, 2005); *Former Kuwait Manager Indicted for Million Dollar Payoff*, CorpWatch (Mar. 25, 2005); *Ex-KBR Worker Pleads Guilty to Bribes*, MarketWatch (Mar. 24, 2006); Letter from Chairman Henry Waxman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (Oct. 9, 2007).

[11] Defense Contract Audit Agency, *DCAA Sampled High Risk Subcontracts on KBR LOGCAP III Contract* (undated).

[12] Letter from Defense Contract Audit Agency to Todd Bishop, Kellogg Brown & Root Services, Inc. (Feb. 28, 2007).

[13] *Id.*

[14] *Id.*

[15] Defense Contract Audit Agency, *Memorandum: Reasonableness of KBRSI Settlement Offer on Tamimi Subcontract Nos. GU49-KU-S00001 and GU68-KU-S000018* (June 7, 2007).

fraction of that amount.[16] DCAA recommended that the Army "rigorously pursue recovery" of these excessive profits.[17] The Subcommittee is not aware of actions taken by the Army to recover these excess profits.

DCAA has also recommended that the Army recover millions of dollars in costs associated with the subcontracts awarded to First Kuwaiti by Mr. Martin. In March 2006, DCAA disapproved $51.3 million in costs relating to First Kuwaiti's subcontracts for the delivery of trailer living containers.[18] In January 2007, the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) determined that $25.6 million of the $51.3 million in costs were allowable. DCAA then reduced the disapproved costs to $25.7 million.[19] In May 2008 – eight months after the public disclosure of Mr. Martin's guilty plea – DCMA reversed its earlier determination and disallowed the remaining $25.6 million.[20] The Subcommittee is not aware of actions taken by the army to recover the $51.3 million in costs from KBR.

Finally, the Department has failed to ensure that these individuals and companies will not receive more government contracts. According to the Excluded Parties List System, the database that contains information regarding individuals and companies who have been suspended or debarred, (b)(6) La Nouvelle, and First Kuwaiti are still eligible to receive federal funds in the future.

Conclusion

Based on the information the Subcommittee has received, I do not understand why the Army continues to rely on the LOGCAP III contract. I also do not understand why the Army, DCAA, and DCMA have not done more to recover these costs. Finally, I do not understand why the Defense Department has failed to take steps to debar all of the individuals and companies involved in defrauding the government and the taxpayer.

Please notify me as to whether you intend to take immediate steps to increase competition, oversight, and accountability under the LOGCAP contracts. I also request that you provide a briefing for Subcommittee staff on these topics by **Friday, June 12.**

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight is set forth in Senate Rule XXV clause 1(k); Senate Resolution 445 section 101 (108th Congress); and Senate Resolution 73 (111th Congress). An attachment to this letter provides additional information on how to respond to the Subcommittee's request.

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[16] *Id.*

[17] *Id.*

[18] Defense Contract Audit Agency, *Living Container Cost Issues Time Line* (undated).

[19] *Id.*

[20] *Id.*; Letter from Defense Contract Management Agency to Todd Bishop, Kellogg Brown & Root (May 19, 2008).

Please contact Margaret Daum with the Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-8316 with any questions and to schedule the requested briefing.

Sincerely,

Senator Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

Senator Susan Collins
Acting Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

Enclosure

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 4, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
The Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to you concerning the House and Senate versions of the Free Flow of Information Act of 2009 (H.R. 985/S. 448), both of which are scheduled for consideration at the Senate Judiciary Committee's executive business meeting on Thursday, May 7.

As you may remember, you were actively involved in the Senate's debate on media shield legislation during the 110th Congress, having provided Congress with the Defense Department's views on the matter in letters dated March 31, 2008 and September 9, 2008.

In the letter dated March 31, 2008, you expressed "strong opposition" to the committee-reported version of the Senate's media shield bill (S. 2035)—the same language placed on the Committee's agenda for consideration this week. In that letter, you suggested that "this bill will undermine our ability to protect national security information and intelligence sources and methods and could seriously impede investigations of unauthorized disclosure." You also stated that "[d]isclosures of classified information about military operations directly threaten the lives of military members and the success of current and future military operations. Such disclosures also threaten the lives and safety of American citizens and the welfare of the Nation."

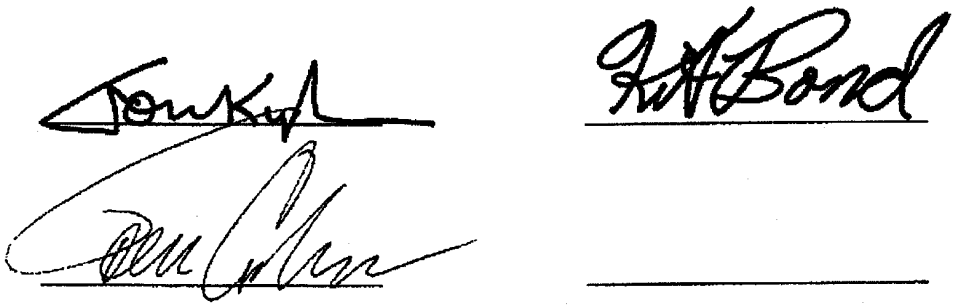
On September 9, 2008, you sent a second letter to Congress concerning substitute language put forth by Senator Specter before consideration of S. 2035 on the Senate floor. In that letter, you stated that "the Department remains opposed to the amended legislation," which you suggested "will still adversely affect our ability to protect national security." You further stated that "[t]he amended legislation will undermine the investigation and deterrence of unauthorized leaks of national security information to the media, gravely damaging the Department's ability to protect national security."

Given your record of "strong opposition" to media shield legislation, we would respectfully request that you provide members of the Committee with an update of the Defense Department's views on H.R. 985 and S. 448 before Thursday's executive business meeting. We would also request that, should Senator Specter or any other member of the Committee put forth a substitute amendment to either bill, you provide the Committee with your thoughts on those amendments prior to their scheduled consideration.

We would appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

OSD 04966-09

Sincerely,



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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

April 28, 2009

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to you to report on our recent trip to Russia, Poland, and the Czech Republic, where we met with senior government officials, parliamentarians, and representatives of NGOs, as well as the U.S. country teams. The focus of our trip was missile defense against the potential threat from Iran, and the U.S. and allied relationship with Russia. In each country, we found a high degree of optimism about an improved and more productive relationship with the United States, in part because of your trip to Europe and meetings with the leaders of those countries.

We believe there may be an opportunity for missile defense to serve as a uniting rather than a divisive issue, as it is now. As one of our Russian interlocutors put it, "a joint missile defense system could be an engine to pull U.S. – Russian relations out of the ditch."

A number of factors lead us to this conclusion. First of all, the Russians do not want a nuclear-armed Iran or an Iran with the missile ability to deliver a nuclear warhead. As President Medvedev reportedly told you in London, the Russians have come to realize that Iran's programs are more advanced than they previously thought. We were told by a number of Russians that a nuclear-armed Iran would be a greater threat to Russia than to the United States. Russia appears to be interested in exploring the possibility of cooperating with the United States on a missile defense system, including by sharing information from its radar installation at Gabala in Azerbaijan and the radar it is constructing in Armavir in southern Russia. However, the Russians maintain their view that the proposed "third site" missile defense deployment in Poland and the Czech Republic is aimed at Russia, rather than Iran. We were also told that Russia is probably more concerned with the deployment of an X-band radar in the Czech Republic than 10 interceptors in Poland, because the radar would look deeply into Russian territory.

The Poles want to be treated as full partners by the United States and NATO, as they deserve to be after 10 years as a member of the Alliance. They point to the lack of a U.S. or NATO military installation of any kind on their territory. They agreed to the proposed deployment of interceptor missiles as a fulfillment of their commitment and obligation to be a good partner to the United States and a contributor to European air defense. They are very concerned that the United States will reach a deal with Russia without real consultations with them in advance. Poland's main goal is not so much the establishment of a missile defense facility as part of the "third site," as it is the deployment of a Patriot battery on their soil. They prefer, of course, that the battery be operational – not just a training battery – and they want it to be "NATO-ized," (a term we heard repeatedly in both Warsaw and Prague). The Poles understand the need for our new Administration to review the "third site" issue and would prefer that any decision be made by the end of the year. The Poles would very much welcome the presence of U.S. troops on the ground in Poland in any form.

The Czechs are currently in the process of transitioning to a caretaker government, and the two main political parties agree that the "third site" issue should be held in abeyance. They prefer that a decision by your Administration come after their elections in October. Unlike the Poles, they are wary of American or any other foreign troops on their territory (although a small number of U.S. technicians and perhaps Russian Embassy civilian observers might be acceptable). Finally, it appears that, if the Czechs elect a social democratic government (which is very possible), they would not be unhappy if the radar were not on their soil.

Taking into consideration these and other factors, we believe that Russia might be willing to participate in a European missile defense system, with information from their radar sites being part of the system. From their perspective, the missile defense system would not be directed specifically at an Iranian threat – it would be a general defense. For us, of course, it would be directed at the Iranian threat militarily. The political message would be greater probably than the military impact because Iran would see Russia and the United States working together. That cooperation would send a powerful signal to Iran that the course they are on is unifying the United States, Russia, Europe and the world against their nuclear program and bringing together the United States and Russia in a way that is unprecedented. Such a move might have an impact on Iran's decision on whether to seek a nuclear weapon capability.

Delaying a decision on the "third site" until late this year would give the United States the chance, after careful consultation with allies, to sit down with the Russians and seriously discuss a missile defense system that could unify us and make a powerful statement to Iran. As part of an overall resolution, Poland could host a Patriot battery (perhaps a training battery). The decision relative to a radar in the Czech Republic will be affected more than anything else by the outcome of the October elections there.

In the meantime, we have an adequate missile defense capability (Patriot PAC-3, Aegis ships with Standard Missile-3 interceptors, and the upcoming THAAD system) against the current Iranian threat. The Aegis system is being upgraded so that it would keep up with a future Iranian threat – potentially even if Iran obtains a long-range ICBM. So all these enhanced systems, including a possible land-based version of the Standard Missile-3, would be able to protect Europe from a potential future Iranian missile threat. Furthermore, if Iran does obtain a long-range ICBM in the future capable of reaching the United States, the missile defense system deployed in Alaska could, if it becomes operationally effective, also address that potential threat.

In summary, with proper consultations with our NATO allies, the prospect of a European missile defense system, which involves the Russians and is not threatening to them, and which could have a major positive impact on Iranian behavior, would seem to be within reach if negotiated very carefully. We would be happy to discuss this matter with you and will be in touch with your staff relative to that possibility.

Sincerely,

Susan Collins Bill Nelson Carl Levin

Susan Collins Bill Nelson Carl Levin

JEFF BINGAMAN
NEW MEXICO

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United States Senate

April 28, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
The U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing with respect to a $10,000,000 congressionally directed project in Public Law 110-329, "The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009". This directed project is found on page 546 of explanatory statement (attached), which is incorporated into the statutory bill text under section 8006 and listed as "New Mexico State University Institute for Defense and Public Policy".

As stated in the bill's explanatory statement, this project is

1. A directed Congressional appropriations for the New Mexico State University National Security program; and
2. it provides sufficient Congressional intent that this earmark be provided to New Mexico State University.

I would very much appreciate if you could expedite the awarding of these funds to New Mexico State University, the bill became law in October of 2008 and it has now been delayed over 5 months.

My point of contact for this matter is Dr. Jonathan S. Epstein. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator

OSD 05022-09

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

May 5, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
United States Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation is investigating allegations that New Era Technology, Inc. (NETECH), a small business in Florida, fraudulently obtained contracts totaling nearly $3 million from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In the course of its investigation, the Committee has learned that the Department of Defense also awarded at least four contracts to NETECH. I am writing to request your assistance as my Committee investigates this alleged fraud against the federal government.

According to NETECH's website, the company "was established in 1988 as a research and development company specializing in high technology engineering research, design, and simulation, data communications and management, and graphical user interfaces and simulation."[1] NETECH's founder and senior scientist is (b)(6) a professor of Nuclear and Radiological Engineering and director of the Innovative Nuclear Space Power and Propulsion Institute, at the University of Florida. His wife, Sousan Anghaie, is the president of NETECH and their two sons, (b)(6) and (b)(6) have received payments from the company.

Since 1999, NETECH has received eight contracts through NASA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. The SBIR and STTR programs, "seek to increase opportunities for small businesses to participate in government research & development, to improve overall United States competitiveness, and to

[1] New Era Technology, Inc., Home Page, (online at www.confman.com) (accessed April 8, 2009).

OSD 05087-09

increase national employment. The STTR program has the additional intent of developing collaboration between small businesses and non-profit research institutions."[2]

On February 19, 2009, the U.S. Attorney of the Northern District of Florida filed an "In Rem" complaint against various pieces of property owned by (b)(6) and (b)(6) including a BMW automobile, a condominium in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and a Scottrade stock trading account.[3] In an attached affidavit, the government alleged that this property was purchased with funds the Anghaies fraudulently diverted from payments they received through NASA's SBIR and STTR programs. According to the affidavit, this alleged scheme to defraud the government went on for at least eight years and involved multiple contract awards.

I am very concerned about these allegations. On March 6, 2009, I wrote to the Acting Administrator of NASA requesting information and documents concerning all contracts and grants NASA had awarded to NETECH. To date, NASA has produced more than 1,500 pages of documents in response to this request. In reviewing these documents, the Committee has learned that, in addition to eight SBIR and STTR contracts, NETECH received four research grants from NASA totaling $400,000. The Committee has also learned that NETECH was awarded contracts by other federal agencies, including at least one contract with the Department of the Navy (contract # N61339-95-C-0099) and three contracts with the Department of the Air Force (contract #s F49620-03-C-0029, F49620-01-C-0046, and FA9550-06-C-0099).

I am concerned that this new evidence suggests that the alleged NETECH fraud may have been more extensive than was originally believed. I am also concerned that the evidence the Committee has reviewed so far suggests that federal grant funds devoted to basic scientific research may be vulnerable to fraud.

In order to further investigate the extent of NETECH's business with federal government agencies, I request that you provide the following information to the Committee:

1. A list of all grants, contracts, and other awards the Department of Defense (DOD), or any of its agencies or departments, has made to New Era Technology Inc., the Innovative Nuclear Space Power and Propulsion Institute at the University of Florida, (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6), or (b)(6) This list should include grants, contracts, or other awards DOD has made to any corporate entity controlled or operated by any of the four persons named above. The list should include the date, the value, and a short description of each grant, contract, or award. The list should also include the office, program, or person within DOD who authorized the

[2] National Aeronautical and Space Administration, *SBIR and STTR Participation Guide* (April 9, 2009) (online at www. sbir.gsfc.nasa.gov/SBIR/partintro.htm).

[3] Verified Complaint for Forfeiture in Rem, *U.S. v. Real Property Located at 501 South Moody Ave., Unit 117, Tampa, FL* (Feb. 19, 2009) N.D. Fla. (No. 1:09 cv 41-MP/AK).

making of each contract, grant, or award, and should include unique identifying numbers, such as Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) numbers, contract numbers, and grant numbers, that will assist the Committee in precisely identifying each grant, contract, or award; and

2. Copies of all documents related to the grants, contracts, and awards listed in response to question (1) above, including but not limited to, all requests for proposal, applications, proposals, evaluations, correspondence, contracts and subsequent modifications, grant announcements, interim reports, final reports, external reviews, and e-mails and other communications related to each contract, grant or award.

Please provide these documents to the Committee by June 1, 2009.

The Committee is conducting this investigation under the authority of Senate Rules XXV and XXVI. Enclosed with this letter is a document providing additional information about how to respond to this document request. If you have any questions about this request, please contact John Williams or Jeffrey Zubricki of the Committee staff at 202-224-1300.

Sincerely,

John D. Rockefeller IV
Chairman

Enclosure

Cc: Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 5, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
The Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

One of the greatest responsibilities entrusted to the Congress is to ensure the security of the American people by providing for a strong national defense. With that responsibility in mind, we question the analytical basis for the decision by the Department of Defense to terminate the procurement of the F-22 Raptor and C-17 Globemaster III. Accordingly, to ensure the military equipment requirements of the nation are identified through a complete and cogent process, we respectfully request you recommend to the President that production of the F-22 and the C-17 continue until the final publication of the next Mobility Capability Study and the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review.

As you well know, in order to maximize the probability of success in military operations the development and execution of strategies must be comprehensive and well thought out. However, recent history has shown major threats to our national security can arise suddenly and in unexpected regions of the world. Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait and the events of September 11, 2001 prove this hypothesis. In addition, the difficulty in determining when and where a threat may arise is also compounded by the uncertainty as to what tactics and strategies our enemies may employ. Accordingly, we fully support and encourage your initiative to re-establish counterinsurgency warfare as a fundamental and widespread capability in our nation's Armed Forces.

However, just as our nation made a strategic error in permitting our ability to successfully prosecute counterinsurgency campaigns to wither and atrophy after the Vietnam War, we must not make a similar mistake and undermine two of the unique foundations of our nation's military strength: hegemony of the air and our unprecedented airlift capability. As you correctly stated this January, "our military must be prepared for a 'full spectrum' of operations, including the type of combat we're facing in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as large scale threats that we face from places like North Korea and Iran." Therefore, we are concerned the termination of production of the F-22 does not appear to be supported by any analytical study commissioned by the Department of Defense or the Air Force. In addition, though the decision to end production of the C-17 was supported by the 2005 Mobility Capability Study, this Study was criticized by the Government Accountability Office for underestimating our nation's future airlift requirements. We are also unaware of any risk assessment that has been performed

OSD 05148-09

based on the Combatant Commanders' requirements as to the decision to cease procurement of the F-22 and C-17.

Regarding the F-22, unclassified extracts of the Air Force's Sustaining Air Dominance Study state "180 F-22s was not enough" and the Department of Defense's TACAIR Optimization Study concluded the procurement of additional Raptors "was the best option." On April 16th, these conclusions were reinforced by the comments made by General Norton A. Schwartz *after* the F-22 procurement termination was announced. General Schwartz stated that "243 [Raptors] is the military requirement." This appears to conflict with earlier views expressed by the Department of Defense.

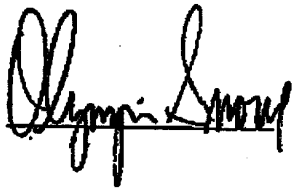
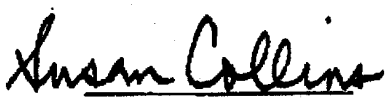
We have similar trepidations regarding the cessation of production of the C-17. In early 2002, even before the true scope and requirements of the Global War on Terrorism became known, the then commander of U.S. Transportation Command argued for the procurement of 222 Globemaster IIIs. Today, as the bulk of our deployed forces will be sent to the land-locked nation of Afghanistan, we are mindful of the critical need for airlift to supply our forces and our allies' operations in that nation. This point is emphasized by the recent Taliban attacks on our supply routes through the Kyber Pass region and NATO supply depots in Peshawar. Therefore, we are puzzled as to why C-17 production would be ended even though a new Mobility Capability Study was scheduled to be published next month.

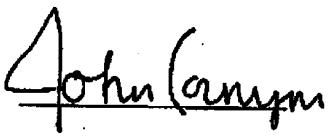
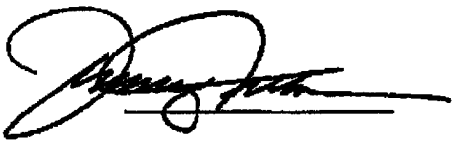
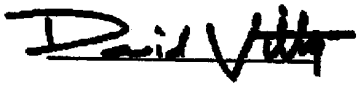
Just as our recent military history points to the need to maintain a "full spectrum" military force to confront a myriad of very different threats, we are also mindful of a point recently made by Michael Korda in his book on the Battle of Britain. He observed that even though the two British Prime Ministers before Winston Churchill adopted a policy of appeasement, they also committed their government to develop and procure the three pieces of equipment: the Spitfire fighter, Hurricane fighter and radar, which were to ensure that nation's survival during the Battle of Britain.

Accordingly, we respectfully request you recommend to the President that production of the F-22 Raptor and the C-17 Globemaster III continue until the final publication of the next Mobility Capabilities Study and the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review can be reviewed and studied.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG
NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 6, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to respectfully urge you to reevaluate the Department of Defense's policy on the availability of Plan B, a form of Emergency Contraception (EC), in military facilities in the U.S. and abroad, including combat zones. The current Department of Defense policy does not require all military treatment facilities to carry this form of EC, and I am concerned that servicewomen may be unable to access this time-sensitive, emergency medication.

Plan B is a safe, effective, and FDA-approved form of emergency contraception that helps prevent unintended pregnancy. If taken within 72 hours after intercourse, it can lower the risk of pregnancy by up to 89 percent. Although Plan B is available to women 18 and older at many pharmacies in the U.S., a majority of servicewomen rely exclusively on military facilities for their health care needs. This is especially true for those serving overseas who may not have access to an alternative facility.

Furthermore, a recent Department of Defense report found that more than 2,900 sexual assaults were reported in the military in Fiscal Year 2008. Access to Plan B is especially important for women who have survived a sexual assault, for whom an unintended pregnancy can contribute to the emotional and psychological effects victims may experience. This demonstrates the urgency of ensuring that all servicewomen have the option to utilize emergency contraception.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to reevaluate the Department of Defense's policy concerning Plan B to ensure that it is available to servicewomen at all military treatment facilities both here and abroad. I am also requesting specific information on which U.S. military treatment facilities do not currently carry this form of EC.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Lautenberg

OSD 05158-09

ONE GATEWAY CENTER, 23RD FLOOR
NEWARK, NJ 07102
(973) 639-8700 FAX: (973) 639-8723

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, SUITE 324
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2 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
ONE PORT CENTER, SUITE 505
CAMDEN, NJ 08101
(856) 338-8922 FAX: (856) 338-8936

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 6, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As Congress awaits the submission of the President's Fiscal Year 2010 budget request for the Department of Defense, we write to share our strong and unwavering support for the Air National Guard (ANG) units in our states that lost their flying missions through BRAC 2005.

As you know, the last BRAC round made significant changes to the lay down of aircraft within the ANG. In our six states, many units lost their flying missions – ranging from A-10s, C-130Js, and F-16s – with some losing the only flying mission stationed permanently in their state. The loss of a flying mission is a direct threat to the manpower, readiness and relevance of our ANG units and their continued ability to meet their state and federal duties.

The ANG not only serves our nation as we ask them to support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and around the world, but they also serve the local state missions. Without a permanent flying mission within the state, the ANG may lose the valuable expertise and experience our airmen provide. With the immense capability the ANG provides to our nation, we must not jeopardize the investment we've made in the ANG personnel forces.

According to the 2008 Air Force Weapon Systems Roadmap, as well as subsequent planning by the Air Force and National Guard Bureau, our six states are each expected to receive the C-27J Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA). While we welcome the assignment of a permanent flying mission to our states, we are concerned that continued debate about the organization and control of the JCA program could place the future of our ANG units at risk. We believe it is important to firmly resolve the "roles and missions" debate with regards to intra-theater lift, and move forward with a program that meets the needs of ANG states impacted in BRAC while also addressing the capability gap faced by our warfighters.

This is a pivotal year for our Air National Guard. **To this end, we look forward to the Department's strong support for the allocation of permanent flying missions to our states as part of the upcoming submission of the 2010 defense budget.**

As always, we thank you for your service to our nation and look forward to continuing to work with you to support our men and women in uniform.

OSD 05298-09

Sincerely,

Christopher Dodd
United States Senator

Joseph Lieberman
United States Senator

John Larson
United States Representative

Joseph Courtney
United States Representative

Barbara Mikulski
United States Senator

Benjamin Cardin
United States Senator

Steny Hoyer
United States Representative

Roscoe Bartlett
United States Representative

Elijah Cummings
United States Representative

Dutch Ruppersberger
United States Representative

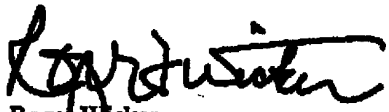
Donna Edwards
United States Representative

Frank Kratovil
United States Representative

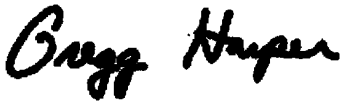
Carl Levin
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Mark Schauer
United States Representative



Roger Wicker
United States Senator



Gregg Harper
United States Representative

Kent Conrad
United States Senator

Byron Dorgan
United States Senator

Earl Pomeroy
United States Representative

George Voinovich
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Marcy Kaptur
United States Representative

Tim Ryan
United States Representative

Jim Jordan
United States Representative

John Sarbanes
United States Representative

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MICHAEL B. ENZI, WYOMING
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
RUSSELL SULLIVAN, STAFF DIRECTOR
KOLAN DAVIS, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

April 29, 2009

Via Electronic Transmission

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am concerned about reports of security breaches of F-35 technology and request an independent assessment of this matter.

This issue first came to my attention during my ongoing oversight of the financial and audit systems of the Department of Defense (DOD).

On March 6, 2008, The DOD Office of the Inspector General (OIG) issued an audit report entitled "Security Controls Over Joint Strike Fighter Classified Technology," Report No. D-2008-058. This report concluded: "The advanced aviation and weapons technology for the JSF program may have been compromised by unauthorized access at facilities and in computers at BAE Systems, and incomplete contractor oversight may have increased the risk of unintended or deliberate release of information to foreign competitors." It raised the possibility of "unauthorized access to classified U.S. technology." Following publication of this report, questions were raised as to whether the DOD OIG's conclusions were consistent with supporting documentation contained in audit work papers.

After Mr. Gordon Heddell became Acting DOD IG in July 2008, this matter was brought to his attention. In response, he took aggressive corrective action. First, on October 23, 2008, he approved the decision to officially withdraw this audit report from public circulation - an unprecedented move. Second, in December 2008, he requested the IG at the Department of Agriculture to conduct a "peer review" audit of the DOD OIG report in question. And third, I understand he is holding responsible persons accountable for shoddy audit work.

The Agriculture IG's peer review report was completed on March 6, 2009. It appears to have substantiated the allegations regarding the flaws in the DOD OIG's audit work product.

OSD 05314-09

To briefly summarize, the original audit, which was withdrawn, and the follow-up peer review both appear to indicate that there are unresolved issues regarding the security of F-35 technology - particularly with respect to the Defense Security Service. These issues were simply not adequately documented in the original report. Despite the disputed assertions made by DOD OIG auditors with respect to BEA Systems, I am worried that there are continuing problems with the Defense Security Service and its role in safeguarding our nation's top secret or sensitive weapons design information and making sure that kind of information doesn't fall into the wrong hands.

A Wall Street Journal (WSJ) article on April 20, 2009, entitled "Computer Spies Breach Fighter-Jet Project," reinforces my concerns. The WSJ piece states: "Six current and former officials familiar with the matter confirmed that the fighter program [F-35 Joint Strike Fighter] had been repeatedly broken into..... Computer systems involved with the program appear to have been infiltrated at least as far back as 2007, according to people familiar with the matter. Evidence of penetrations continued to be discovered at least into 2008." Other recent news reports clearly indicate that potential F-35 technology security breaches are a continuing issue today.

If this technology has indeed been compromised as reported, this information could help potential adversaries to defend against or to defeat one of our most advanced and expensive weapons systems, undermining significant investments of ingenuity, manpower, and money by the United States and nearly a dozen allies. Business or trade secrets and proprietary information could also be needlessly compromised through foreign contractual arrangements.

For these reasons, I would like to urge you to consider initiating an external assessment of the scope and potential impact of the alleged compromise of F-35 technology. This assessment should examine the effectiveness of Defense Security Service's oversight of such matters as well as enhanced safeguards to effectively counter and block future such intrusions.

Your careful consideration of this matter would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chuck Grassley

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

Copy to: Acting IG Heddell

PAT ROBERTS
KANSAS

109 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605
202-224-4774

http://roberts.senate.gov

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605

May 6, 2009

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE

FINANCE

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

ETHICS

RULES

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson and Members of the Governor's Military Council (GMC), representing the major military installations and activities in the state of Kansas, will be in Washington June 11-12, 2009. I am requesting the Department's assistance in securing senior Defense, Military Service and Guard Bureau officials to meet with the Kansas group, as well as to secure the use of a conference room at the Pentagon for meetings on the morning of Friday, June 12, 2009. Should your schedule permit, I would also be grateful if you would meet with the governor and the GMC during their Pentagon visit.

The purpose of their trip is to meet with federal officials to discuss defense funding, policy, force structure and mission-related issues at military installations in the state of Kansas. In addition to the governor, Mr. Robin Spurrier (Chief of Staff of the Air Force's Civic Leaders Group Alumnus), as well as Messrs. John Montgomery and Mark Edwards (both are Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army) will be among the Council's participants during the GMC trip to Washington. Staff members of the Kansas Congressional Delegation will also accompany the group to the Pentagon.

The group will consist of approximately 15-20 members, including the Kansas Delegation staff members. Names of the attendees will be provided to your staff as we near the June 12th visit date. The issues concerning this group relate to the various initiatives that affect the Kansas bases (including US Army Grow the Force initiatives, options for Military Education streamlining and consolidation, overseas contingency operations, USAF's Future Tanker program, as well as Guard and Reserve Component equipment and infrastructure modernization).

The group would like to arrive at the Pentagon at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, June 12, 2009, for badging and entrance to the building. I would greatly appreciate the assistance of your staff in reserving a conference room from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., as well as arranging for discussions with senior officials on a range of topics.

As a guide for your staff's preparations, I have included a list of individuals (or their designees if the requested person is not available) with whom the GMC has asked to meet in addition to you; along with potential topics for discussion.

OSD 05373-09

On behalf of the Governor's Military Council, I would respectfully request that they have the opportunity to discuss these issues with the following individuals (or appropriate senior level alternates):

- Honorable Wayne Arny, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Installations & Environment
  - Joint Land Use Studies
  - State interest in DOD Alternative Energy initiatives to create Net-Zero Energy installations in Kansas

- Honorable Michael Donley or General Norton Schwartz (US Air Force)
  - Out year budget tradeoffs (personnel & infrastructure vs. modernization)
  - Options for increased quantities of the C-130J in the Program of Record
  - McConnell AFB's role in Future Tanker program & UAS refueling developments
  - Expansion of Air Guard C4ISR ops at McConnell AFB

- General George W. Casey, Jr. (US Army)
  - Maneuver space at Fort Riley & other Maneuver posts
  - BAH calculation metrics to include both rental and purchase units
  - GMC support for Leadership Training and Professional Military Education at Fort Leavenworth

- Lieutenant General McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau
  - Certification and planning for use of Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center as a site for Joint/Total Force training
  - Quadrennial Defense Review anticipated impacts on the National Guard (nationally and in Kansas)
  - Current and future role of Forbes Military Airfield in Homeland Defense, Civil Response Center of Excellence and Counter-insurgency operations

- Joint Forces Command (J-8, Joint National Training Center Program Office)
  - Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center opportunities for Joint/Total Force training curriculum
  - Range utilization by Active & Reserve Component units as well as funding for infrastructure/equipment requirements and training operations.

- Mr. Patrick O'Brian, Director of the Office of Economic Adjustment
  - BRAC funding, or other Federal funding sources for growth communities
  - Joint Land Use Studies

Ms. Libby Quint of my staff will serve as the point of contact in my office (202-224-4774) to coordinate with your staff on the details of this request. I greatly appreciate your support and would be grateful if your staff would communicate with my office as soon as possible regarding this matter.

With every best wish,

Sincerely,

Pat Roberts

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

May 7, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE & FIRST-CLASS MAIL

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

RE: Department of Defense's Implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing in reference to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and the Department of Defense's efforts to quickly utilize and obligate ARRA funds to best meet the DOD's goals and those of the recovery effort. As the Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I would specifically like to highlight an option available to the DOD to use research and development funds from ARRA to directly fund projects derived from the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs as they enter "Phase III." In addition to bringing attention to this important option, I have several questions regarding ARRA funds that I would like to submit for a response.

Small businesses have long been the engine of U.S. economic growth, generating 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs annually over the last decade. The SBIR and STTR programs allow small R&D firms – America's innovation lifeline – to create high-quality jobs and cutting-edge products. Consequently, we believe the SBIR and STTR programs are fundamental to our nation's economic recovery.

As you may know, currently 2.8 percent of the total extramural R&D budget at DOD, including funds from ARRA, must be allocated for competitive grants to small businesses through Phase I and II of the SBIR and STTR programs. An additional option to fund SBIR and STTR Phase III contracts does not come out of the SBIR/STTR allocation. Rather, the funds would come out of the larger R&D budget, the other 97 percent, and include work that derives from, extends, or logically concludes efforts performed under prior SBIR funding agreements.

There are a number of advantages to using this SBIR/STTR Phase III mechanism to help distribute the ARRA funds and further technology to reach our nation's energy goals. SBIR/STTR Phase III contracts can be awarded quickly, fairly, and transparently, in keeping with the spirit and the letter of the ARRA. Furthermore, the competition for SBIR/STTR Phase I and Phase II awards satisfies all statutory competition requirements.

OSD 05383-09

Therefore, a department that wishes to fund a SBIR/STTR Phase III project is not required to conduct another competition, or process a Justification and Approval (J&A) pursuant to FAR 6.302-5, in order to satisfy those statutory provisions. For these reasons, I encourage you to take advantage of it as often as possible in distributing the ARRA funds.

I would also like to respectfully request an accounting of how much of the R&D money DOD received from ARRA has been classified as extramural R&D. In addition, I would like to request information about how the DOD is implementing the SBIR and STTR programs under ARRA.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Thad Inge at the Committee. I would appreciate a response to these questions by May 22, 2009. The response may be faxed to (202) 224-5619.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Mary L. Landrieu
Chair

MLL:twi

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 7, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to request that you review the Department of Defense's continued application of congressionally authorized exceptions to the Berry Amendment relating to the procurement of para-aramid fibers and yarns, as well the procurement of fire-resistant rayon fiber, from foreign sources. The materials are used in the manufacture of body armor and fire-resistant uniforms, respectively.

The Berry Amendment requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to give preference in procurements to domestically produced, manufactured, or home-grown products—notably food, clothing, fabrics, and specialty metals. We believe that exceptions to this amendment allowing DOD purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns, as well the procurement of fire-resistant rayon fiber, from foreign sources are no longer warranted owing to the availability of suitable materials in today's U.S. marketplace. The recent use of these exceptions is having an adverse impact on U.S. manufacturers and has undercut our policy of maintaining a strong and viable defense industrial base.

In 1998, partially due to limited domestic competition and a reliance on sole-source contracts, a statutory exception was created to the Berry Amendment to allow for purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns from foreign sources. The statutory exception is only applicable when the Department makes a determination that procurement of para-aramid fibers and yarns from domestic sources will result in sole-source contracts or subcontracts. As a result of the exemption, the Department's purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns have become increasingly dependent on foreign suppliers over the last decade. The marketplace has changed significantly in the last decade, however, and a variety of suitable materials now exist domestically.

Similarly, in 2008 a statutory exception was created for fire-resistant rayon fiber for the production of uniforms. This exception allowed the Department to procure fire-resistant rayon fiber for uniforms from foreign suppliers if a determination was made that either fire-resistant rayon fiber was not available domestically, or procuring such fiber domestically would result in sole-source contracts.

OSD 05413-09

In the short period during which this provision has been in effect, foreign suppliers have dramatically increased their market share. Currently, 90 percent of the fielded Flame Resistant Army Combat Uniforms are constructed of imported fiber. While environmental and other concerns have caused domestic sources to forego production of fire-resistant rayon fiber for uniforms, there are a variety of other fire-resistant fibers in today's domestic marketplace—some of which have out-performed rayon in evaluations for Army uniforms. As a result, the "rayon" exception is not relevant and should not apply to future procurements.

Congress has given the Secretary of Defense discretion to determine whether either exception should be used. However, current law mandates an annual review by the Secretary of Defense. We believe that a departmental review will clearly document why these exceptions to the Berry amendment should no longer be applied for defense-related procurements. It is our strongly held view that the para-aramid fibers and yarns exception is no longer valid, and that the fire-resistant rayon fiber exception is no longer useful. For the reasons noted above, we urge you not to apply either Berry amendment exception to future procurements involving these items.

We look forward to working with you to advance a more balanced policy that both promotes competition and preserves our ability to maintain and grow our domestic defense capabilities. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Graham
United States Senator

Jim Webb
United States Senator

PATRICK LEAHY
VERMONT

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4502

May 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I deeply appreciate your attention to ensuring that our troops on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan have adequate protection, whether from small arms ambushes or roadside bomb attacks. There is no more important priority than the safety of our deployed personnel, and I would very much like to work with you on a vital initiative in this realm: the speedy development and fielding of the MRAP All Terrain Vehicle (MRAP ATV).

As you know, Afghanistan is a particularly difficult environment for large armored vehicles like the MRAP, because of that country's mountainous terrain and lack of paved roads. There is a strong need for a smaller, off-road armored vehicle that provides the same level of protection as an MRAP. The addition of U.S. forces in Afghanistan to help provide security and create an environment more conducive for political reconciliation makes the need for a smaller, well-armored vehicle that much greater. The 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain) from the Vermont National Guard will arrive in Afghanistan early next year, and it would be helpful if this unit and all U.S. forces were to begin receiving the MRAP ATV as soon as possible.

The Department of Defense has an aggressive development schedule with a production decision in late June of this year. I would like to work with you to ensure this acquisition program remains on track. I would also like to work with the Department to find ways to accelerate the production program to ensuring that all units who may need this equipment in the Afghanistan theater have these assets as soon as possible.

I look forward to discussing this crucial program with you in the very near future. Thank you again for your intelligent, energetic, and far-reaching leadership of the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

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ORRIN G. HATCH
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February 26, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary
The Department of Defense
1100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1100

Dear Deputy Secretary Lynn:

Congratulations on your confirmation!

I appreciate the time you took out of your confirmation schedule to meet with me and look forward to working with you on the challenging issues that face our nation. In addition, I have taken the liberty of attaching a copy of my remarks supporting your confirmation. However, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate and expand upon the points that I made during our meeting and ask additional questions as to the Administration's position on a number of pressing issues.

The F-22 Raptor

As you know, one of the major decisions that soon will confront the Administration is whether to continue the production of the F-22. The strong bi-partisan support for the F-22 is merited by the unique and exceptional capabilities of this aircraft. This aircraft will ensure our nation's air dominance for the next forty years as well as guaranteeing our ability to defeat one of the major threats of the future: the advanced anti-access air defense system. It is my profound hope that the Department will allocate funding to procure a sufficient number of F-22s to equip each Air Expeditionary Force with a full strength squadron of Raptors.

Therefore, will the President authorize the continued production of the F-22 and what number of aircraft does the Department hope to procure?

Our Depot Maintenance System

Our nation's depot maintenance system has made remarkable progress over the last few years. From Fiscal Year 2004 to Fiscal Year 2008, our Air Force Depots maintained a 96 percent on time or ahead of schedule delivery rate. For example, at Hill Air Force Base's Ogden Air Logistics Center, the A-10 Precision Engagement Program has reduced labor costs by 38 percent and the time allocated to repair F-16 wings has been reduced by 49 percent.

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The foundation for these depot maintenance achievements are the laws 10 USC §2460 and 10 USC §2464, commonly known, respectfully, as 50/50 and Core. As you know, these laws state that 50 percent of all depot maintenance must be performed by government workers at a government-owned facility. Core requires that the Department to maintain a core organic depot maintenance capability.

Therefore, will the Department continue to support the 50/50 and Core laws as currently written and interpreted?

Maintaining Our Strategic Deterrent Industrial Base

For a generation, the Minuteman Intercontinental Ballistic Missile ("ICBM") has served as the backbone of the nation's strategic deterrent force. Unfortunately, under the current plan of record, our nation, for the first time in over 40 years, will cease production of land-based ICBMs. Clearly, this raises fears as to the ability of the United States to maintain a land-based solid rocket motor industrial base.

The Congress has sought a legislative remedy to this issue. A Senate amendment, that I wrote, authorizing the Air Force to create a solid rocket motor life extension program was cleared by the majority and minority of the Senate Armed Services Committee for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act's "manager's package." Unfortunately, due to the lack of a unanimous consent agreement on a procedural issue, the entire "manager's package" was not included in the bill before final passage. However, the defense appropriations conferees did include report language in its legislation that stated "...the Air Force is encouraged, at a minimum, to continue a warm line status for Minuteman III propulsion systems and to use funds provided for Fiscal Year 2009 to initiate a Minuteman III motor life extension program." In addition, Chairman Inouye and Vice Chairman Cochran of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee wrote to the Air Force on September 26, 2008 urging "the Air Force to provide funding in order to maintain a land-based solid rocket motor industrial base." Accordingly, I have been informed, that the Air Force is constructing a proposal to procure additional solid rocket motors this fiscal year and six sets of motors a year for the next five years.

Does the Department support a plan for maintaining our land-based ICBM solid rocket industrial base? If not, how does the Department intend to sustain this vital national capability? With the existing production lines beginning to close in March, will the Department provide Fiscal Year 2009 funding to maintain our solid rocket motor industrial production capability?

The Tanker Recapitalization

Three years ago, during a trip to each of our nation's three Air Force Depots, I was extremely concerned to find that our KC-135s were literally falling apart due to extensive metal fatigue and corrosion. In particular, I will always remember, during one of the stops at Tinker Air Force Base, how one of the workers was able to peel apart, like tissue paper, critical aluminum KC-135 parts. Accordingly, I founded, with Senator Kent Conrad, the Senate Tanker Caucus. The Caucus is a bipartisan organization whose purpose is to assist the Department and

Air Force in its role of efficiently procuring whichever aircraft best meets the requirements of our National Military Strategy. Obviously, the failure of recent efforts to procure a new tanker has been disconcerting to members of the Caucus, especially as the KC-135 is rapidly approaching its 50th year in service.

What are your plans to restart the tanker procurement competition and what is your timeline for fielding a 21st century tanker?

Missile Defense

With the proliferation of ballistic missile technology and the testing of these systems by Iran and North Korea, the need to protect our nation and our allies from a ballistic missile attack has never been greater. Accordingly, I strongly supported the operational deployment of our current limited missile defense system.

Do you support the current plans to expand the capabilities and size of our missile defense system? What are your thoughts concerning the Ground Based Mid-Course Interceptor and the Kinetic Energy Interceptor concept?

Thank you for your attention to these matters and I look forward to reading your response to my questions.

Sincerely,

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We know that you share our concern that the Air Force tanker fleet is aging and needs to be replaced. Given the current challenges associated with awarding this contract, we plan to carefully review all options to begin replacing the tanker fleet expeditiously.

The competing contractors have provided their cost estimates associated with a dual award of 360-plus aircraft. We do not have equivalent estimates from the Department of Defense. As you can understand, it is critical that we have the best DOD cost information available during the Defense Subcommittee examination of the program in the fiscal year 2010 budget request.

Therefore, within 45-days, we request that you provide the Committee with a Cost Analysis Improvement Group estimate of the life cycle costs associated with the development, procurement, and operation and sustainment of a dual source acquisition of 360 tankers (a combined purchase of KC-X and KC-Y aircraft) with annual competitive awards.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation on this matter and look forward to working together with you as we continue our review.

Sincerely,

Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman

OSD 05532-09

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

May 7, 2009

Mr. Christian P. Marrone
Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Legislative Affairs (Acting)
The Pentagon
Washington DC

Dear Mr. Marrone:

On April 23, 2009, I introduced S. 873, the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Improvement Act of 2009. It has been referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remains the number one national security threat facing the United States and the international community. The Nunn-Lugar Program has become the primary tool through which the United States works to safely destroy nuclear, chemical, and biological warfare capacity. Through Nunn-Lugar, the United States has eliminated more nuclear weapons than the combined arsenals of the United Kingdom, France, and China. I am delighted that President Obama made the Nunn-Lugar Program such a high profile issue during his campaign. In 2005, then-Senator Obama and I traveled to Russia to see the Nunn-Lugar Program in action. We visited the Russian nuclear warhead storage facility at Saratov and the mobile missile dismantlement facility near Perm. This experience gives him a unique vantage point to take important steps to revitalize and expand the program.

In 2008 the National Defense Authorization Act requested that the National Academy of Sciences compile a report on ways to strengthen and expand the Nunn-Lugar Program. The report argues persuasively that the program should be expanded geographically, updated in form and function and supported as an active tool of foreign policy. Nunn-Lugar must become less cumbersome and bureaucratic and more agile, flexible, and responsive to ensure timely contributions across a larger number of countries.

Most of the recommendations do not require legislation but rather simple management improvements. My bill, S. 873, focuses on two recommendations that require Congressional authorization: (1) the provision of limited "notwithstanding authority" to give flexibility for future engagements in unexpected locations and (2) creation of a Cooperative Threat Reduction Partnership Account to permit the Secretary to accept funds from any person, foreign government, or international organization to accomplish nonproliferation and disarmament goals. In addition the bill urges that the program engage the Unified Combatant Commands to ensure full coordination and effective program implementation.

The Nunn-Lugar Program has made critically important contributions to U.S. national security through the elimination of strategic weapons systems and platforms arrayed against us.

OSD 05567-09

Even as the threat changes, I am confident that it can continue to serve U.S. interests with the right leadership and direction. My goal is to provide the program with the tools it needs to continue to be successful.

I ask that the Pentagon review the policy aspects and implications of the legislation and share its views on the impact of my legislation on the Department's non-proliferation and counter-WMD policy priorities. I have attached a copy of the legislation and the statement of introduction that I delivered on April 23.

Thank you for your assistance and I look forward to your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Lugar
Ranking Member

RGL/kmk

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing you in regard to your April 10, 2009, announcement that the decision to establish a second nuclear aircraft carrier homeport at Naval Station Mayport, Florida, would be further reviewed within the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR).

Just four months ago, the Department of the Navy concluded an exhaustive two and a half year study weighing the strategic, operational and environmental consequences of upgrading Naval Station Mayport to homeport a nuclear carrier. This study concluded that indeed Naval Station Mayport should homeport a nuclear carrier, and the upgrades must be done since consolidating ALL nuclear carrier homeporting and maintenance in one East Coast location greatly hampers the Navy's strategic options.

Prior to 2007, the Navy had operational flexibility on the East Coast with carriers stationed both at Naval Station Norfolk and Naval Station Mayport. However the Navy lost this flexibility with the decommissioning of the last East Coast conventional carrier in 2007. In order to reduce risk to the Atlantic Fleet carrier force and restore the proper balance to the Navy, Naval Station Mayport must be upgraded to homeport nuclear aircraft carriers. On the West Coast, nuclear carriers and maintenance facilities are spread among three homeports. In fact, in a December 2008 letter to Senator Jim Webb, you reinforced the concept of strategic dispersal stating, "Having a single CVN homeport has not been considered acceptable on the west coast and should not be considered acceptable on the east coast."

The facts are simple -- the Norfolk area is the only east coast port in which nuclear aircraft carriers are repaired, built and housed. If tragedy, man-made or nature-related....intentional or accidental, rendered Norfolk out of reach the Navy would be forced to journey around the tip of South America to reach another nuclear aircraft carrier maintenance facility in San Diego, CA. While some would like to believe this is an acceptable back-up plan, common sense demands otherwise.

Time and time again, aircraft carriers have proven to be key to the execution of our national security strategy. We believe as access to overseas land bases continues to decrease, the Navy's aircraft carriers will be more and more important. The Navy has alternate homeporting and maintenance options for all ships on the East Coast except aircraft carriers, its most valuable assets. The total costs for permanently homeporting a nuclear aircraft carrier at Mayport is less than 1% of the cost of the nuclear carrier fleet. While the cost is not inconsequential, when weighed against the possible risks to our carrier fleet, upgrading Mayport to homeport nuclear

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carrier is a sound national security expense. The Department MUST make this investment in Naval Station Mayport to provide flexibility to the Combatant Commanders and protection to some of the nation's most valuable assets.

We expect the QDR will reaffirm your decision and honor the considered professional military judgments and recommendations of senior DOD and Navy leadership who all recommend establishment of a nuclear homeport and maintenance facility at Naval Station Mayport. A second such port on the East Coast not only protects our military personnel and naval assets, but also strengthens our national security and the defense of all Americans. In addition, the Navy prides itself in its meticulous approach to nuclear power and to not have an additional nuclear maintenance facility on the East Coast departs from that approach. These points alone make the establishment of a second East Coast nuclear homeport essential for our national security and our sailors' quality of life.

Sincerely,

BILL NELSON
United States Senator

MEL MARTINEZ
United States Senator

ANDER CRENSHAW
Member of Congress

BILL YOUNG
Member of Congress

CORRINE BROWN
Member of Congress

JEFF MILLER
Member of Congress

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KENDRICK MEEK
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Member of Congress

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

ALAN GRAYSON
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable B.J. Penn, Acting Secretary of the Navy
Admiral Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6250

May 12, 2009

The Honorable Peter R. Orszag
Director
Office of Management and Budget
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Orszag:

We write to make you aware of security clearance reform efforts undertaken to date and to urge you to continue those efforts.

As you may be aware, we have long been interested in reforming the security clearance process because the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has documented problems with the Department of Defense's (DoD) personnel security clearance program since the 1990s, going so far as to declare the program a systemic weakness affecting DoD and other federal agencies in 2002. GAO added the DoD personnel security clearance program to its high-risk list in 2005, and the program remains on that list today.

Because of these and other issues, Congress has worked for many years on a bi-partisan basis to address security clearance issues across the federal government. For example, in 2003 Congress transferred DoD's personnel security investigative function to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) as part of the *FY2004 National Defense Authorization Act* in an effort to improve the security clearance investigation process. Additionally, in 2004 Congress called for substantial changes to the security clearance process in the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act* (IRTPA). Among other things, IRTPA required the President to select a single agency or office to oversee the security clearance process across the federal government, implement uniform policies regarding the security clearance process, ensure reciprocal recognition of security clearances among agencies, evaluate the use of technology to expedite security clearance processes, and develop a plan to reduce the length of the security clearance process.

In 2005, President Bush issued Executive Order 13381 in furtherance of IRTPA requirements. That order designated the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as the executive branch agency responsible for setting policy for the security clearance process and required annual reports on implementation of IRTPA and the Executive Order.

OSD 05660-09

Additionally, in 2008 President Bush issued a "Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs regarding Security Clearances" in furtherance of IRTPA. That memorandum directed OMB, the Department of Defense, OPM, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Office of the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (collectively, the Joint Reform Team) to produce a comprehensive security clearance reform proposal by April 30, 2008. Such a proposal was produced and recommended a new Executive Order to ensure fitness reciprocity and reinvestigation; a modified Standard Form 86 application to seek more relevant information and support continuous evaluation of cleared individuals; a new strategy to ensure that standard and criminal record checks are conducted to mitigate gaps in automated searches; a new strategy to improve the accessibility of federal investigative records; standardized training and certification for security professionals; a single-search automated interface for verification of existing investigations, eligibility, and access to classified information; an automated process to validate investigations requested, investigations conducted and costs billed by investigative services; and the deployment of electronic fingerprint stations. The Joint Reform Team also recommended that an Executive Order be issued to establish a new governance structure to coordinate hiring and clearing processes.

As a result of these recommendations, in 2008 President Bush issued Executive Order 13467, which names OPM as the executive agent responsible for overseeing investigations and adjudications for employment suitability and the Director of National Intelligence as the executive agent responsible for overseeing investigations and adjudications for security clearances. Executive Order 13467 also established the Suitability and Security Clearance Performance Accountability Council (PAC), responsible to the President for achieving reform goals, measuring agency performance, holding agencies accountable, and establishing information technology requirements.

We firmly believe that each of the above-referenced Executive Orders and actions were undertaken in furtherance of statutory requirements and are important and valuable efforts to reform the security clearance process across the federal government as mandated by IRTPA. Additionally, we believe these efforts are necessary steps towards removing the DoD personnel security clearance program from GAO's high-risk list. Therefore, we strongly urge you to continue and build upon these efforts, including by approving the modification of Standard Form 86 that was delivered to OMB on December 31, 2008. We would appreciate an update from you on what OMB has done in furtherance of IRTPA to reform the security clearance process since January 20, 2009.

Additionally, our Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee has held five hearings on security clearance reform efforts, with the most recent hearing occurring on May 22, 2008. We plan to hold a sixth hearing on this subject this summer, and we sincerely hope that OMB will be willing to participate in that hearing as it has in years past.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you on this and other important issues.

Sincerely,

George V. Voinovich
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight of
Government Management, the
Federal Workforce, and the
District of Columbia

Daniel K. Akaka
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight of
Government Management, the
the Federal Workforce, and the
District of Columbia

cc: The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

The Honorable Dennis C. Blair
Director
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

The Honorable John Berry
Director
Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20415

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to relay our concerns about the lack of coordinated support for families of deployed National Guard and Reserve servicemembers and the Department of Defense's efforts to implement the National Guard Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

Deployment causes substantial stress and anxiety for families. One-third of the respondents to a recent National Military Family Association survey reported problems with both the availability of community support and the lack of information available to them about the Department's services and benefits. A recent Defense Department report to Congress acknowledged these problems and noted that they are particularly acute for geographically isolated families of deployed National Guard and Reserve servicemembers.

A recent RAND study found similar problems--lack of efficient delivery of information about available services, shortage of staff, and poorly coordinated programs. RAND recommended concrete steps at all stages of the deployment cycle to address these problems.

The National Guard Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) was created in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act to address these problems like these. But the YRRP Advisory Board of the Department's Office for Reintegration Programs did not hold its first meeting until March 31, 2009, and progress on this front seems slow at best.

We know you share our view that the YRRP is an important initiative. Going forward, the Department can meet the important goals of the YRRP by implementing program elements that:

(1) Integrate, consolidate and proactively provide family-support information to families during all phases of the deployment cycle: pre-deployment, deployment, demobilization, and post-deployment reconstitution.

(2) Ensure that geographically isolated families receive location-specific information about the services available to them and information about the presence of other military families from the same and different services in their area. To do this, the Department might consider the feasibility of creating a cross-service database of families living in a particular locale, which would be available to these geographically isolated families.

(3) Focus at least as much effort on delivery of resources as volume of resources. Deliver tailored information to families at various "milestone" times during the deployment cycle.

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(4) Provide quality family-support services when the servicemember is cross-leveled into a unit that is based far from their family and their home station.

(5) Provide sufficient staffing for the "family readiness" organizations of the Military Services to ensure a more forward-leaning effort to provide family-support information to families during the entire deployment cycle.

(6) Consider the Findings and Recommendations of the referenced RAND study *(Deployment Experiences of Guard and Reserve Families: Implications for Support and Retention, 2008)*, or equivalent sources, that focus on information and resource delivery problems.

After eight years of continuing conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan, we all agree on the need for a robust family-support program worthy of the sacrifices made by deploying servicemembers and their families.

Thank you for your attention and dedication to this effort to date. Please let us know if there are any legal obstacles or resource constraints that prevent full implementation of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Christopher S. Bond
United States Senator

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Ben Nelson
United States Senator

Evan Bayh
United States Senator

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May 22, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you are aware, the Government of Japan has been interested in purchasing F-22 aircraft for several years. At the request of the Committees on Appropriations, the Air Force has examined what it would cost to design and manufacture an export version of the F-22.

Using the information which was provided by the Air Force, I prepared the attached letter to the Japanese ambassador. I believe the Government of Japan is likely to be interested in purchasing the aircraft even at the relatively high price which has been estimated. I wanted you to know of my actions in this matter and therefore, am forwarding the letter for your review.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

OSD 05793-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 19, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to request that you establish a clear policy through which the Department of Defense (DOD) will encourage renewable energy development while maintaining necessary protections for military airspace.

As you know, DOD has an important voice in wind turbine siting decisions because wind turbines can impact DOD radar and airspace requirements. Unfortunately, to date the interaction between wind developers and the DOD has lacked consistency. For instance, in 2007 Travis Air Force Base objected to the 80 MW Montezuma Wind Energy Center very late in the permitting process. The proposed wind farm is surrounded by other wind farms, some of which were built after 2007, in Solano County California's Wind Resource Area, more than ten miles from the base. That project, and others nearby, remain in limbo today due to DOD concerns that are likely surmountable.

To facilitate the development of renewable energy projects consistent with national security needs, we encourage you to take the following steps that could improve the prospects for wind development in the United States.

- **Consolidate Decision Making:** Formally consolidate decision making regarding wind development in a single office, preferably within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. A single decision-maker, who operates under clear timelines and procedures by which he communicates DOD concerns regarding wind projects, would limit unnecessary conflict between DOD and renewable energy development.

- **Participate in FAA Review:** DOD should identify proposed wind farm impacts on airborne operations during the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) existing, formal wind farm screening and approval process, as well as provide initial feedback during any FAA early feasibility review. If DOD

OSD 06069-09

objections are stated in as transparent a manner as national security concerns permit through the FAA process, renewable energy developers will not be surprised by DOD concerns expressed late in the permitting process.

- **Site Specific Evaluations:** The military has produced extremely useful maps of California, Arizona and Nevada that designate areas in which the military effectively opposes wind energy development (red), areas where the DOD might have some concerns (yellow), and areas where DOD has no military concerns (green). DOD's maps were assembled using data and assumptions that allow them to guide development, but they are not detailed enough to be the final decision making tool. I request that you clarify that DOD staff should evaluate site-specific technical analysis before opposing any wind proposal.

- **Airspace Height Restrictions:** Airspace height restrictions vary considerably across the West and limit wind energy development. If DOD evaluated whether it is reasonable and consistent with safety and national security needs to raise 200, 300 and 400 feet restrictions to 500 feet at sites where wind farms are proposed, DOD may be able to open a considerable amount of currently restricted land to wind energy development.

- **Mitigation Research and Development:** Technical mitigation measures may be able to reduce the impacts of wind turbines on radar. In September 2008, representatives from the DOD, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the wind industry agreed to develop a research and development roadmap, mirroring a similar effort between the British military and the British Wind Energy Association. DOD participation in this effort is important, and I encourage you to ensure that it continues.

- **Radar Upgrades:** DOD is in the process of replacing older analog radar systems with state-of-the-art radar through the National Airspace Modernization Program. I encourage you to request that DOD consider the wind energy potential of an area when prioritizing radar replacements. A report by the defense advisory firm JASON recently concluded, "Radars which don't have the capabilities to mitigate wind farm interference could simply be replaced...The new radar would incorporate multidimensional detection, with greatly enhanced processing, with pulse shapes designed to optimally distinguish between aircraft and wind farms."[1]

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[1] *Wind Farms and Radar (JSR-08-125).* JASON. The MITRE Corporation. January 2008.

As you know, both global warming and our reliance on foreign sources of energy present economic and national security challenges to our country. Your Department rightfully focuses on its primary mission of protecting our national security, but we believe DOD could also play a more productive role. We very much look forward to working with you to ensure that renewable energy development proceeds where it is compatible with the military's mission.

We look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Charles Grassley
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Tom Harkin
United States Senator

Max Baucus
United States Senator

Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
NEW YORK
SENATOR

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

May 19, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500-0004

Dear President Obama:

I am very concerned about the expanding humanitarian crisis triggered by the military offensive by the Pakistani government against the extremist Taliban groups in the Swat valley and neighboring areas. We appreciate Pakistan's determination to end the oppressive and dangerous Taliban regime in those regions. We must ensure that we allocate sufficient funding to address the immediate crisis and the rebuilding that will be necessary to allow those people to return home while minimizing the possibility that extremist groups will again take root in those areas.

As you know, the number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) is over one million and growing. Tens of thousands are in desperate need of immediate and urgent relief in terms of shelter, food, clothing and healthcare. Hundreds of thousands more have found shelter with their families, but their needs and the strain they put on those families likewise necessitate a strong response from the international community. Based on the funding required to address the more limited numbers of Pakistani IDPs in the past year, I understand that it may require as much as $300 million to adequately address the relief operations for the current number of IDPs in the affected areas.

In addition to these immediate needs, I am sure you appreciate the need for a consistent and adequate commitment to rebuilding the affected regions of Swat, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and neighboring regions, as well as other areas of Pakistan. The Taliban and attendant groups in Pakistan are losing their public appeal, while the latest actions of the Pakistani government have gained support of all major political parties in Pakistan as well as the majority of the people of Pakistan. We must capitalize on this shift in opinion to work with the Pakistani government and civil society in helping to rebuild and stabilize the north-west region and address issues such as supporting free media, encouraging the growth of women's rights, expanding educational opportunities, and other democracy and stability building programs throughout the country.

OSD 06092-09

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As you have stated on several occasions, the United States is locked in a battle with the extremists for the hearts and minds of Muslims around the world. We showed our strong support for the people of Pakistan after the earthquake in the Northern regions in October 2005. Our assistance yielded positive attitudes toward the United States among the Pakistani people.

The assistance to Pakistan in the Fiscal Year 2009 supplemental appropriation currently before Congress will go a long way in strengthening Pakistan's constitutional democracy and addressing its developmental needs. But the United States must take immediate action to demonstrate to the 170 million people in Pakistan that our goal is to work with them to achieve a peaceful, stable and prosperous Pakistan for all its citizens.

Sincerely yours,

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

CC: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of Defense Robert Gates
General (Ret.) James Jones, National Security Advisor
Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan
General David Petraeus, Commander, U.S. Central Command

MARK BEGICH
ALASKA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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May 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your willingness to meet with several senators Wednesday morning to discuss our concerns regarding proposed reductions in several defense systems, including ground-based interceptor missiles in Alaska. I very much appreciate your time to further explain the administration's thinking on modernizing our nation's defense posture.

I was heartened by your commitment to the ground-based missile defense system, a portion of which is based in my state at Fort Greely. As you know, many members of the Senate believe this system is a proven component of our defense capabilities. Recent missile launches by North Korea and Iran make this system even more vital.

As we discussed, I look forward to your department's further amplification on the role of the system in America's overall defense posture, the robust testing program you have already endorsed and the overall maintenance of the Fort Greely-based missiles to ensure they are capable of addressing threats to our state and nation.

Thank you also for your willingness to travel to Alaska to address in-person Alaska's servicemen and women who are so ably protecting our country.

Sincerely,

Mark Begich
United States Senator

OSD 06093-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 18, 2009

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, the humanitarian crisis in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, which is the result of increased fighting between the Pakistan Army and militants, is reaching historic and catastrophic proportions. Over one million people have already been displaced, in what is believed to be the single largest civilian migration in the region since the 1947 Partition. Worryingly, the numbers of displaced are continuing to grow. We must help the Pakistani government protect the civilian population while fighting continues and provide assistance to the displaced to ensure this crisis does not lead to greater unrest throughout the rest of the country.

United Nations officials have called for a "massive international effort" to address the crisis, warning that absent such an effort, it will be "absolutely impossible" to provide assistance. Reports indicate that there are significant gaps in the basic assistance currently being provided, including food, water, shelter, and sanitation. In addition, some 80 to 90 percent of those displaced are relying on the hospitality of family and friends already under strain from the global economic crisis.

We are deeply concerned that if not adequately addressed, the crisis could undermine the Pakistani government and compromise our ability to help stabilize the country. We note with concern that the media is reporting the charity wings of designated terrorist organizations such as Lashkar-e-Taiba are already rushing to provide assistance in the absence of a sufficient government response.

For this reason, we are writing to urge you to work in full partnership with the Government of Pakistan to mount an immediate U.S. response that addresses both the short-term and long-term needs of the displaced. We believe that nothing less than an immediate, large-scale response that mobilizes the resources of the entire U.S. government, as well as the private sector, is required to ensure the Pakistani people receive the help they need.

As we saw in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia and the 2005 earthquake in northern Pakistan, the United States possesses unique capabilities to provide swift and effective aid for civilian populations suffering from unprecedented

OSD 06103-09

humanitarian crises. We believe that we have both a moral and strategic imperative to help provide an immediate response to the crisis unfolding in Pakistan.

We thank you for your attention to this urgent and critical matter.

Sincerely,

Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator

Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator

Lindsey Graham
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey Jr.
United States Senator

Jon Kyl
United States Senator

CC: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of Defense Robert Gates
General (Ret.) James Jones, National Security Advisor
Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan
General David Petraeus, Commander, U.S. Central Command

MICHAEL F. BENNET
COLORADO

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May 23, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates:

On behalf of the 4,500 employees at Memorial Health System and the 140,119 TRICARE beneficiaries who live in Colorado Springs, Colorado, I write to ask your assistance in Memorial Health System's efforts to obtain approval for a three-year Temporary Military Contingency Payment Adjustment (TMCPA). A TMCPA would allow the system to continue to provide quality care to the TRICARE population of Colorado Springs.

Memorial Health System is a 600 plus bed acute care health and hospital system that serves an area in which there are five military installations: The United States Air Force Academy, Peterson Air Force Base, Shriever Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, and Fort Carson. Due to a severe shortage of TRICARE providers in Memorial Health System's service area, Memorial is the largest nonmilitary provider for the TRICARE population in the western region, as well as the largest provider of Emergency Department and Urgent Care services in the Colorado Springs area. In 2008, Memorial Health System provided over 45,000 patient visits to the TRICARE population and provided care for 149 babies.

Additionally, with this an arrival of an additional 7,000 troops and their families from the 4th Infantry Division moving from Fort Hood, Texas to Fort Carson this summer, demand for these military families at Memorial Health System is only going to increase.

While I understand the Department of Defense's desire to adopt a TRICARE outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS) that is more in line with Medicare rules, I am concerned that imminent implementation of this adjustment will be financially crippling for Memorial Health System. Without a TMCPA, Memorial Health System's TRICARE reimbursement will be reduced by over $10 million, and the facility will have to consider limiting both access to the types of care it delivers to its TRICARE population, and potentially the amount of healthcare workforce available to serve these military families.

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Granting Memorial Health System a TMCPA is essential to making sure our military families receive the high-quality care they need and deserve. With a gradual transition to the TRICARE outpatient prospective payment system, Memorial could continue its mission of helping to keep our military ready and prepared for future challenges. On behalf of these families, I thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to grant this adjustment.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our nation's men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 2, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Gates,

We are writing on behalf of the 94th Infantry Division, which valiantly fought during the European campaign of World War II. In April 1945, the Division came across a concentration camp near Velbert, Germany containing hundreds of dying prisoners, and was relieved by a medical unit that cared for the prisoners who were in dire need of medical attention.

Despite the fact that the 94th Infantry Division was the first Allied unit to enter the camp, it has not yet been recognized as an official liberating unit of World War II. The Division hopes very much to be approved for liberation status, so that its flag can be flown at the Holocaust Museum. We understand that the Division has complied with all of the necessary guidelines established for such status by the United States Center for Military History, and have the personal accounts of two soldiers who served in the unit at that time - Edward Cowley and Thomas Manthey.

We respectfully request that the 94th Infantry Division be considered by the Department for liberation status, and any appropriate assistance or consideration that you can provide would be greatly appreciated. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please have your staff contact Tristan Takos in Senator Kennedy's office at (617) 565-4471, or Brady Van Engelen in Senator Kerry's office at (202) 224-2742.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

With respect and appreciation,

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senator

John F. Kerry
United States Senator

OSD 06356-09

ORRIN G. HATCH
UTAH

JACE JOHNSON
CHIEF OF STAFF

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June 8, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary
The Department of Defense
1100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1100

Dear Secretary Lynn:

Thank you for your May 28th letter. I appreciate learning the Department of Defense's ("Department") views on the subjects covered in the letter. In addition, I look forward to continuing to work with you on enhancing our nation's security.

I was delighted to learn of the Department's commitment to our depot maintenance system by "compl[ying] with the 50/50 and Core laws as currently written and interpreted." As you know, the Congress, on a bipartisan basis, has worked with the Department over the past several years to recapitalize our depot maintenance system. The warfighter has greatly benefited from this renewed investment through sustained on-time delivery rates of vital equipment.

Regarding the land-based solid rocket motor intercontinental ballistic missile industrial base, I deeply appreciate the Department and the Air Force's recognition of the merits of sustaining this vital national infrastructure. The Air Force's Fiscal Year 2010 budget request of $43 million is an important first step. However, your letter does not address if the Department will accede to the Secretary of the Air Force's request to reprogram sufficient Fiscal Year 2009 funds to maintain solid rocket production this fiscal year. Only a prompt transfer of these funds will prevent further interruptions in production, resulting in millions of dollars in unnecessary costs, and the stabilization of employment for the highly sought after engineers and technicians that manufacture solid rocket motors.

Therefore, I respectfully request the Department agree to Secretary Donley's request and reprogram, on an expedited basis, Fiscal Year 2009 funds to maintain our nation's land-based solid rocket motor intercontinental ballistic missile industrial base.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

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JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
CONNECTICUT

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http://lieberman.senate.gov

June 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I read with great interest your speech to the Association of American Universities on April 14, 2008. On that occasion you noted the potential of the records of Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist regime, captured by American forces in 2003, to provide us "unprecedented insights" into the workings of dictatorial third-world regimes. You rightly compared this collection of materials to the Smolensk archives, upon which scholars of the Soviet Union like Merle Fainsod based much of their research. You also announced that the Defense Department was funding an effort to open a Conflict Records Research Center at the National Defense University.

I strongly support your goal of making the records of Saddam Hussein's regime available to the broad scholarly community for research and study. However, I am concerned by the apparent slow pace of this valuable project. I note that the Defense Department has yet to establish a Conflict Records Research Center in the 15 months that have passed since your announcement, nor does the opening of such a center appear to be on the horizon.

I would therefore be grateful for a progress report on your efforts to establish a Conflict Records Research Center at the National Defense University, a timeline for its creation, as well as an estimate of the resources that the Defense Department will devote to the center over the long term.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to this worthy and important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Lieberman
UNITED STATES SENATOR

OSD 06538-09

~~SECDEF~~	~~DEPSECDEF~~	~~ASST~~	~~EXECSEC~~	~~USDP~~
~~USDI~~	~~ESD~~	~~CSD~~	CBLCH	FILE

1 A /

PATTY MURRAY
WASHINGTON

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4704

June 4, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to urge you to act immediately to protect the jobs of people with severe disabilities working on the Department of Defense (DoD) service contracts under the AbilityOne Program. Specifically, I ask that you;

1. Reaffirm the moratorium on conversions set forth in the December 29, 2004, Memorandum wherein Under Secretary of Defense Chu states, *DoD NAFIs shall not enter into contracts or agreements with DoD elements or other Federal Departments, Agencies, or instrumentalities for the provision of goods and services that will result in the loss of jobs created pursuant to the Randolph Sheppard Act, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, or small business programs* until a policy solution can be reached that encourages job creation;
2. Request that the AbilityOne Program be part of the Air Force solution; and,
3. Provide notification that responses to date from Arthur Meyers, principal Director, Military Community and Family Policy, do not fully address the above two issues.

I support the DoD Food Transformation effort where it results in higher quality and efficiency to service members and lower costs. However, given the potential impact this challenge could have on the employment of thousands of people with severe disabilities in the AbilityOne Program, I strongly urge the DoD to coordinate with AbilityOne representatives to develop a policy solution that encourages job creation through both the MWR and the AbilityOne Programs. This is a crucial step to incorporate the best thinking to resolve this issue, particularly when jobs for people with severe disabilities are so rare, reflecting an unemployment rate unparalleled by any other demographic sector of our society.

Thank you for your early consideration of this urgent request. If you have any questions on this issue, please contact Crystal Bridgeman at (202) 224-2621 in my office.

Sincerely,

Patty Murray

U.S. Senator Patty Murray

OSD 06541-09

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JIM WEBB
VIRGINIA

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FOREIGN RELATIONS
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VETERANS' AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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(202) 224-4024

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4605

June 11, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Lynn,

During your confirmation hearing in January, you agreed to review the Navy's proposal to homeport a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Mayport, Florida, as part of the Quadrennial Defense Review. I appreciate your making this commitment. My purpose in writing is to request that this review consider new information regarding the Department of the Navy's fiscal year 2010 budget request revealed by Admiral Roughead, the chief of naval operations, during a hearing last week before the Senate Committee on Armed Services. This input updates the comprehensive critical assessment of the Navy's plan that I forwarded to you and Under Secretary Flournoy in January.

I was struck by the growing level of risk that Admiral Roughead identifies in several Navy warfighting and shore readiness areas. In his prepared statement, a copy of which I have enclosed for your information, he states:

- The Navy is "stretched in our ability to meet additional operational demands."
- The risk in the areas of warfighting, personnel, and force structure is "moderate today trending toward significant in the future."
- "Future shore readiness ... is at risk."
- The continued decrease in the number of strike-fighter tactical aircraft "will affect the capacity and effectiveness of our air wings." (One estimate places this shortfall at 125 aircraft by 2015. Other estimates range as high as 220 aircraft in successive years.)

I do not recall a starker assessment of the operational risks facing the Navy since then-CNO Admiral Thomas Hayward testified in 1979 that the Navy possessed a one-and-a-half-ocean Navy for a three-ocean requirement.

The Navy has justified relocating an aircraft carrier to Mayport as "a hedge against a catastrophic event in Hampton Roads." Contrary to Admiral Roughead's assessment of the real risk facing the Navy at sea and ashore, however, the Navy has described the risk of a future catastrophic event in Hampton Roads as "small." Moreover, the Navy has stated, "No clear, credible threat distinguishes one homeport from the other." In short, a risk-based resource allocation methodology will document that the Navy's homeporting proposal for Mayport, Florida, is not a sound investment.

OSD 06636-09

Regarding shore readiness, Admiral Roughead testified, "... Maintenance and recapitalization requirements have grown, and the cost of ownership for our shore infrastructure has increased. At current investment levels, our *future shore readiness*, particularly recapitalization of our facilities infrastructure, *is at risk*."

The Navy documented the full dimension of this growing problem to my staff earlier this year. In January, the Navy acknowledged it has a $28 *billion* backlog in shore facility restoration and modernization—documented projects to repair or modernize taxiways, high-explosive magazines, hangar roofs, piers, waterfront-support buildings, galleys, and other facilities.

In particular, the growing funding backlog for necessary sustainment, restoration, and modernization projects at the Navy's four naval shipyards is cause for alarm in light of their work on nuclear-powered ships. Last November, the Navy said the backlog was $791 million. Last month, I was informed that the shortfall had grown to $1.3 billion, broken out as follows:

- Puget Sound Naval Shipyard: $327.2 million
- Norfolk Naval Shipyard: $450.6 million
- Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard: $312.6 million
- Portsmouth Naval Shipyard: $206.4 million

At the same time that the Navy is not properly maintaining its existing shipyard infrastructure, workers from these yards are periodically rotated to Guam and Diego Garcia to conduct depot-level maintenance on forward-deployed ships. In Guam, this entails a high level of work on homeported nuclear-powered attack submarines and a submarine tender. In Diego Garcia, shipyard fly-away teams perform similar work on nuclear-powered guided-missile submarines. Adequate shore facilities do not exist at either location. Unavoidably, the workers' efficiency in performing complex repairs and maintenance is degraded.

These worrisome trends—a failure to sustain past investments in shore infrastructure or to address emergent requirements—should be reversed before the Navy builds redundant nuclear-support infrastructure in Mayport that will only be fully manned when a carrier is in port. Rather than investing in expensive new facilities in Mayport, which is contrary to the Navy's Shore Investment Strategy's goal of consolidating its shore footprint, the Navy should first remedy its current shore-installation backlog.

There are more fiscally responsible and strategically sound options to sustain Naval Station Mayport as a viable Navy homeport on the East Coast. The assignment of new construction surface combatants or in-service amphibious force ships better suited to the operational requirements of the commander, U.S. Southern Command is a preferable and more affordable approach.

Alternatively, funding could be applied for the construction of an additional Wasp-class amphibious assault ship (LHD). The required funding is estimated by industry to be $2.7 billion in constant-year 2010 dollars. This assumes repeating the LHD-8 design with funding for hull, mechanical, and electrical systems only.

The Navy could fund roughly a third of the construction cost for a ninth LHD with the funding that will likely be required (up to $1 billion) for its carrier homeporting scheme in Mayport. This option has other attractive advantages. Namely, it will:

- Help address today's shortfall in providing sufficient amphibious lift for the Marine Corps' two Marine Expeditionary Brigades. Admiral Roughead and General Conway, the commandant of the Marine Corps, agree that 38 amphibious warfare ships are needed for this mission. We will have 31 (not including two command ships) when LHD-8 is commissioned later this year;
- Provide a more operationally relevant platform for the U.S. Southern. Command's area of geographic responsibility in the Central American region;
- Be homeported closer to Morehead City, North Carolina, for embarkation of Marine units; and
- Provide more opportunities for maintenance work to local ship-repair companies in Jacksonville than a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

Speaking as both a member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and a former secretary of the Navy, I remain convinced that there is no reasonable justification for the relocation of an aircraft carrier to Mayport when the Navy has identified growing readiness risks in its warfighting and shore-installation programs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

J. Webb

Jim Webb
United States Senator

Copy to: Under Secretary of Defense Flournoy

Enclosure: As stated

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

June 9, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

At recent hearings before various Committees of Congress, Defense Department representatives have attested to the need for acquisition reform. It is clear from this testimony that competition is the single most effective means to infuse cost, schedule, quality, performance, and technology development discipline into the procurement process.

For several years, Congress has supported the competitive procurement of the propulsion system for the Joint Strike Fighter aircraft. However, while we recognize that the Administration supports competition, the fiscal year 2010 defense budget maintains a sole source acquisition strategy for the JSF engine.

Recent testimony from Defense Department witnesses asserted that the business case does not support a competitive procurement strategy for the JSF engine. The Department has provided estimates ranging from $2-5 billion to establish a competitive source for annual procurements that will total nearly $100 billion for JSF engines over the life of the program. We are advised that the cost to maintain a sole source procurement may be three times that estimate.

To inform our proceedings on your FY 2010 budget request, I would appreciate the Department's estimate of the comparative cost to procure engines from a sole source provider and from two sources. This analysis should include the cost to develop the current sole source engine as well as the cost to finance the announced upgrade of the engine to meet program

OSD 06652-09

performance requirements. Please conclude the analysis with a comparison of the elements of expense and expected unit cost for sole source versus competitive procurement over the JSF production cycle.

I would appreciate a response within 30 days following receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

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COMMITTEES:
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INDIAN AFFAIRS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

June 2, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

As you are well aware, making certain that soldiers recently separated from the military are fully knowledgeable of the benefits due them as a veteran has been a difficult process. I applaud your efforts as Secretary of Defense to ease the transition and working with Secretary Shinseki at the Department of Veterans Affairs in this effort. To build on these ongoing efforts, I respectfully suggest a modification to the DD 214 form and ask that you consider adding a new contact, the email address, to the form as a way to increase communication to these new veterans.

Earlier this year, I was visited by the New Mexico Secretary of the Department of Veterans Services who reported to me that nearly 60 percent of welcoming mail sent by the Department to new veterans in New Mexico, which makes them aware of their education, health, and home ownership benefits, is returned. Oftentimes the return is due to an incorrect mailing address, which is usually taken from the DD 214 and is the only manner in which the Department is able to contact the veteran. The Secretary stated that by adding a requirement that the soldier filling out the DD 214 include an email address, it would make it easier, timelier, and more cost effective to reach the veteran with information he or she can use.

I fully support this idea and I would ask that you look into having the DD 214 form altered to include an email address. The vast majority of Americans use email daily, including our men and women serving in uniform abroad, and it only makes sense that we would try to continue to connect with them after they have left the service by utilizing all forms of communication, including email. This would benefit not only the soldiers, but veterans departments and organizations across the country.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing back from and continuing to work together to serve our soldiers and our veterans.

Sincerely,

Tom Udall
United States Senator

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June 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
The Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I was grateful for the opportunity to discuss with you the U.S. nuclear deterrent in the context of the Administration's arms control agenda during a recent meeting in Senator Lieberman's office. I appreciated hearing you say that you share my concerns about reducing our nuclear forces, including our operationally deployed strategic nuclear warheads (ODSNW), before a modernization program is in place to address the neglect to both our nuclear weapons and the complex of infrastructure that supports them. I have further articulated my concerns in a recent speech on the Senate floor, and I have enclosed a copy of those remarks for your consideration.

I believe you made a critical point at the Carnegie Endowment last October when you characterized the "long term prognosis" of our nuclear deterrent as "bleak." That assessment was one of the reasons I urged the Bush administration at about the same time to seek funding – even on an emergency basis – to begin the process of arresting the downward spiral and why I believe it is imperative that we move forward on a comprehensive modernization plan now.

As you know, the President stated that he intends to seek bilateral reductions with the Russians below the lower limit (2,200 to 1,700) of the Moscow Treaty of 2002. Some in the press have reported that the Administration may attempt to go to as low as 1,500 ODSNW, which would constitute an approximately 30 percent reduction in our deployed strategic nuclear forces – a very significant reduction. I believe you noted in a recent interview that you begin to get nervous at this low level.

Importantly, consideration of reductions of this magnitude would be occurring well before the Administration has completed the congressionally directed Nuclear Posture Review, Quadrennial Defense Review and Missile Defense Policy Review. Given the timing of these reviews and the impending expiration of the 1991 START agreement, there is the danger that the START process will inform the NPR as opposed to the NPR informing the START process, as Congress intended. This would be dangerous and wrong.

My greatest concern, however, is that we are again talking about reductions to our nuclear forces before the U.S. begins, much less completes, a long overdue and desperately

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needed modernization of our nuclear weapons stockpile and complex of support infrastructure. The FY10 budget compounds what I believe is a pattern of neglect of the U.S. nuclear enterprise, and even accelerates it in the five year projections. Though this is chiefly a Department of Energy/NNSA budget issue, the strategic military requirements are appropriately set by the Department of Defense. Based on your comments, I know you are well aware of, and troubled by, the outcomes that have been produced by this system of organization.

For almost two decades, administrations and Congress have underfunded the requests from the weapons labs (e.g., Los Alamos and Sandia) and the weapons facilities (e.g., Pantex and Y-12). Neither branch of government has taken seriously the significant problems affecting the U.S. nuclear enterprise.

The best illustration of this failure is seen in the case of the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program. Two House members who served on an appropriations subcommittee with no real national security role were permitted to reject the request for the RRW without serious explanation or justification, and Congress accepted their rejection.

So, how do we implement a plan for modernization along the same timeline as the START negotiations?

The first option would be to seek a reprogramming of FY09 appropriated funds by submitting a request to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and to the Energy and Water Subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. If any one of those committees disagreed, the reprogramming request would die. In fact, unless the Chairmen and Ranking Members of all four of those committees agree, the reprogramming request would die.

One clear problem would emerge with the Appropriations Committees, which would likely have to absorb a significant share of a reprogramming request -- one that might affect their programs on the nuclear weapons enterprise, but would also likely impact their water infrastructure, energy development, or nonproliferation programs.

Second, a request for supplemental appropriations could also be submitted at the same time as the treaty documents. This option would require a formal vetting of the request by both the House and Senate, beginning with the Appropriations Committees, which could be undertaken, with significant Administration commitment, while the Senate is considering the possible ratification of the expected START follow-on treaty.

Another option would be for the Office Management and Budget to submit an amendment to the FY10 budget request. As of this writing, the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and the House - and shortly the Senate - Appropriations Committees have begun to mark up their annual authorization and appropriations bills, meaning this would be an uphill climb.

Lastly, there is the FY11 budget. As you know, the President ordinarily submits his budget in February. Consequently, START would be expected to precede by several months an official modernization request. Even then, its fate in Congress is uncertain.

Because of these timing issues, I urge you to make clear, in detail, what you believe must be included in a modernization program. One place to start would be the package of supplemental appropriations and reprogramming requests developed by the Departments of Energy and Defense last year at the instruction of Vice President Cheney. I understood you were in support of this concept during meetings on Capitol Hill and in the interagency review process. Since this was never designed to be a comprehensive modernization plan, it is only a starting point.

I understand it is unusual for the head of one federal department to go into detail about how the programs in another federal department should be funded in the federal budget. I would only note that the nuclear weapons enterprise is one of the few programs, if not the only program that crosses so many executive and legislative lines of authority. This could even take the form of a public statement from you and Secretary Chu detailing exactly what is needed to modernize our strategic and tactical warheads and the complex of support infrastructure. Such an action would be most helpful to those in Congress and the Administration who are willing to work to promote the safety, security, reliability and credibility of the U.S. nuclear deterrent.

As we discussed in our recent meeting in Senator Lieberman's office, the Perry-Schlesinger Commission has identified correctly the problems confronting the U.S. nuclear deterrent and what we need to do about it. Following its recommendations, I hope we can work together to ensure this basic building block of U.S. national security is given the attention and resources it needs.

Finally, I understand that the last Administration prepared, but never released, an unclassified version of the 2001 Nuclear Posture Review. I urge you to make it a priority to have the Pentagon release this document. I believe that doing so would serve a valuable purpose of making sure members of the public, their representatives in Congress, and the allied and friendly nations that rely on our nuclear deterrent are fully informed about America's strategy for providing deterrence and assurance over the coming years.

Thank you for your concern about these matters.

Sincerely,

JON KYL
United States Senator

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

June 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On December 19, 2008, I sent you a letter expressing concern about a *Washington Post* article reporting that the Army was seeking bids for an American firm "to manage oversight of private security companies in Afghanistan."

In your February 17, 2009 response, you stated that the solicitation at issue was for a contract to provide administrative support to Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Enduring Freedom's (CJTF-101) Armed Contractor Oversight Directorate (ACOD), which oversees private security contractors (PSC) in Afghanistan. Your letter also said that the ACOD "has four Field Grade Officers assigned, including an 0-6 director. Contractor personnel will have no direct input into daily operations, force protection, or combat operations. Only government personnel will perform oversight duties with respect to private security contractors."

Earlier this week, the Commission on Wartime Contracting issued an interim report to Congress on contingency contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan. I was troubled to read in that report that, since it was established, the ACOD in Afghanistan "has primarily been run by contractor personnel from Aegis." The report said that CJTF-101 submitted an expedited request for four field grade officers for the ACOD, but that "as of mid-May the request had yet to be approved and there were no senior U.S. military officials assigned full-time to the directorate." The Commission concluded that, without those military officers in place at the ACOD, "Aegis is in a role of significant official responsibility in reviewing activities of other private security contractors."

Please advise me as to:

1. The number and rank of military officers currently assigned to the ACOD in Afghanistan and the dates of their assignments.

OSD 06705-09

2. The current responsibilities of Aegis personnel as they relate to the oversight of PSC activities, including their role in investigating escalation of force incidents involving contractors.

I share the view articulated in your February 17, 2009 letter that the Department must continually demonstrate that the use of contractors on the battlefield is governed by proper policies, practices, and oversight. It is my hope that our efforts in Afghanistan meet that standard. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

cc: Senator John McCain
Ranking Member

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AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT

June 12, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Lynn:

In light of new information received by my office and my continued disagreement with a BRAC related determination by the Department of Defense, I ask for your review of the impending relocation of the Technology Services Organization (TSO) in Kansas City, Missouri to Indianapolis, Indiana. In particular, I ask that you review whether DoD officials implementing the move are circumventing law and regulation by understating rental costs and space requirements related to the move. Further, I urge a fresh review of the Department's determination that the TSO is a related activity to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) – Kansas City. Under BRAC 2005, DFAS-Kansas City was required to realign to Indianapolis. Since that time, the Department has inappropriately sought to move the TSO to Indianapolis on the erroneous basis that the TSO is a related activity to DFAS.

As stated in a November 2008 letter signed by myself, Senator Bond, and Congressmen Skelton, Graves and Cleaver, it is inappropriate for the TSO function in Kansas City to be realigned away from the city pursuant to the BRAC 2005 process. This conclusion is buttressed by findings of the Director, DFAS and the Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, both of whom concluded that the TSO had been realigned from DFAS-Kansas City function *prior to* the BRAC determinations and thus constituted both a separate and unrelated activity from DFAS at the time of passage of the BRAC law. Corroborating this finding is the fact that the Department did not budget for the relocation of the TSO, a move with estimated costs approaching $200M. There is also no federal space planned for or allocated to the TSO in Indianapolis.

I have also been informed that the Department has requested approximately 76,000 square feet of rental space in Indianapolis for the TSO. This represents less than half the space the TSO currently occupies in Kansas City. It has been alleged that this under-requesting of office space has the purpose of circumventing expanded Congressional review of the lease. Further, it has been alleged that at some point in the future Department officials will seek to acquire an additional 120,000 square feet of space to house the remainder of the government and contract personnel that currently occupy space in GSA facilities in Kansas City. Such an action, if accurate, appears dubious and may be unnecessarily expensive and inefficient. More importantly, it may represent an impermissible splitting of procurements for the purpose of circumventing the "prospectus level" Congressional approval process. I seek your review of these allegations and would like a detailed explanation of how the Department is acquiring space for the TSO in Indianapolis, as well as how it is compliant with law and regulation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

CLAIRE MCCASKILL
United States Senator

OSD 06715-09

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ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 22, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Deputy Secretary Lynn,

As you know, over the past year I have closely followed the Pentagon's multiple investigations into the electrocutions of U.S. soldiers while serving in Iraq. My interest in this issue was sparked by the courage and perseverance of a constituent of mine, (b)(6) who lost her son, Staff Sergeant Ryan Maseth, on January 2, 2008 when he was electrocuted while taking a shower at the Radwaniyah Palace Complex in Iraq.

(b)(6) has been driven by an unyielding pursuit of the truth about her son's death. Since Ryan died at the beginning of 2008, she has received three separate accounts of her son's death, each successive account changing in key details. The U.S. Army Criminal Investigative Division (CID) and the Department of Defense Inspector General both have ongoing investigations into the circumstances of Ryan's death. In addition, Ryan's family has filed a civil lawsuit against KBR, Inc.

The U.S. Army CID closed an initial investigation into Ryan's death on June 11, 2008, without filing any charges. However, it reopened the investigation on August 29, 2008. On December 16, 2008 a U.S. Army CID investigator emailed (b)(6) to convey the news that the CID's official classification of Ryan's death had been changed from accidental homicide to negligent homicide.

OSD 06876-09

Since that exchange, (b)(6) has been told repeatedly that her son's case would be closed soon. In an email exchange with General Rodney Johnson, the CID Commanding General, (b)(6) was told she would receive an update on June 8, 2009. On this day, she received a phone call from (b)(6) a CID Group Commander in Atlanta. He informed her that the investigation is complete but that the Judge Advocates General are still reviewing the investigation for thoroughness, a claim that has been made to her before.

(b)(6) was also informed that her efforts to reach out for additional information were slowing down the process because Army investigators would have to stop and respond to those requests. Finally, (b)(6) told her that he could not provide a timeline for the release of final findings for this investigation. (b)(6) is concerned that her family's ongoing lawsuit against KBR may be influencing the lack of Pentagon communications with her on the status of Ryan's investigation.

I understand the need for thoroughness and allowing justice to fully work without undue haste. But I am concerned that (b)(6) now believes that the U.S. Army and the Pentagon as a whole are ignoring her legitimate concerns and requests for information. (b)(6) has been a dogged advocate for all soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, to ensure that no other mother be forced to endure what she has over the past eighteen months.

During our phone conversation in March, you agreed to provide me updates and milestones in multiple Department of Defense investigations. I also asked to receive a timeline for completion of these various ongoing DOD investigations. Finally, I insisted that the Pentagon adopt complete transparency and forthrightness with the families of those fallen by electrocutions. These mothers and fathers, husbands and wives are entitled to receive continuous updates and full inclusion in the investigative process as it unfolds. They deserve nothing less.

Accordingly, I now request that you provide a response on the status of Staff Sergeant Ryan Maseth's case, both in the context of the U.S. Army CID investigation and DOD Inspector General investigation, and the expected timelines for their conclusion. Ryan Maseth was tragically killed almost 18 months ago, and the investigations have dragged on for almost that entire period of time. We as a nation owe his family an answer on what happened. (b)(6) remarkable dedication has inspired me to remain involved on this issue to demand justice and accountability for all of the families who have lost loved ones to electrocutions in Iraq.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Bob Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

June 5, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Washington DC

Dear Secretary Gates:

Last week I traveled to Russia to celebrate the opening of the Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility at Shchuchye in the Kurgan Oblast. The facility was constructed by the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program to eliminate the threats posed by a stockpile of nearly 2 million chemical weapons stored there. The munitions were considered a severe threat given their lethality and portability. In 1999, a Russian major at the facility took my picture holding a briefcase containing a single 85mm shell of VX nerve gas. The gas in the shell would have been enough to kill tens of thousands of Americans.

The ceremony symbolized U.S.-Russian nonproliferation cooperation and the success we have achieved in responding to common threats. The facility is testament to the progress possible in areas essential to our common interests. I am hopeful that it represents an encouraging sign for future nonproliferation endeavors and progress on finding agreement to extend the START Treaty and other arms control endeavors.

I have assembled a few papers and articles which provide a good summary of the project and its place in our overall effort to destroy weapons of mass destruction through the Nunn-Lugar and related programs.

If the Administration is to succeed in reaching the nonproliferation goals President Obama set in his speech at Prague, Nunn-Lugar must be expanded geographically, updated in form and function and supported as an active tool of foreign policy. The program must be less cumbersome and bureaucratic and more agile, flexible, and responsive to ensure timely contributions across a larger number of countries. I look forward to working with you as we move forward in these important areas.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Lugar
Ranking Member

RGL/kmk

Cc: The Honorable William J. Lynn, Deputy Secretary of Defense

OSD 06968-09

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June 17, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As the Nuclear Posture Review process gears up and begins to inform negotiations for a new arms control treaty, I wanted to raise several points regarding our strategic nuclear deterrent force.

First, you should know that I share the President's view that we need to increase our attention to arms control and cooperative threat reduction efforts. However, I also believe that we must make absolutely certain that we do not make any destabilizing choices as we move down that road. As the Strategic Posture Commission noted, preserving the nuclear triad becomes increasingly important as our nuclear force is reduced. Given that, we must be certain that any force reductions do not threaten the balance or long-term vitality of the triad.

For maximum flexibility and to preserve the option of recallability, we must maintain both the B-52 and the B-2 as dual-mission, nuclear-capable weapons systems and invest in a next-generation cruise missile. Major General Donald Alston, the Air Force's point person on all things nuclear, puts it very well when he points out that the bomber force "speaks with exquisite diction" in a crisis environment. The very fact that B-52 deployments and operational flights are so visible allows the President the flexibility to send precise messages to potential adversaries in times of tension.

For maximum stability and responsiveness, we also must preserve the ICBM force at 450 missiles, preferably downloaded to a single warhead each. As General Larry Welch and others have argued, our land-based nuclear force is the most stabilizing portion of our nuclear arsenal, and it becomes even more so as total warhead numbers shrink. The dispersion and low warhead loading of the ICBM force make a successful disarming attack nearly impossible. That deters attack from near-peer competitors and dissuades future adversaries from building their nuclear forces. It also eliminates the pressure to maintain a launch-on-warning posture.

You have rightfully made restoring discipline and confidence in nuclear surety a top priority. I fear that cutting the ICBM force below 450 missiles would undermine that goal by making it difficult to recruit and retain talented nuclear personnel, a top priority for the Air Force as it works to prevent future mishaps.

OSD 07035-09

Considering that ICBMs can be downloaded to a single warhead and that the Russian force is disproportionately land based, maintaining 450 missiles should not impossible to do, even under relatively strict treaty obligations. Furthermore, given your commitment to keep defense costs under control, I want to note that ICBMs come in at about one-third to one-fifth the annual operating cost of the submarine-launched leg of the triad. What's more, ICBM costs will be stable for many years to come, while an extremely expensive replacement program for the Ohio-class submarine is just about to begin.

As you and the President work to reduce our nuclear force to the smallest size possible consistent with security needs, I feel very strongly that we must ensure that we do not take any steps that would threaten the future of the triad or reduce overall stability. I appreciate you taking these issues under careful consideration and would be grateful if you could keep me informed of the Department and the Administration's continued deliberations on these matters.

Sincerely,

KENT CONRAD
United States Senate

cc: Gen James Jones (USMC, ret.)

HARRY REID
NEVADA

MAJORITY LEADER

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

June 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write today to bring to your attention again a transmission corridor in Nevada proposed by the Department of Defense that could potentially benefit nearby renewable energy projects, as well as the local community, and possibly decrease the Department's costs of adding new transmission capacity. I request that the DOD consider taking this opportunity to utilize the proposed Military Powerline Corridor on the eastern side of the Nellis Test and Training Range for the desired Military purposes as well as to facilitate the development of renewable energy resources.

The DOD has asked the Lincoln County Power District for 10 MW of new service, which would require the current transmission to be upgraded with a 1-circuit 138 kV line. This upgrade would be adequate to serve only Defense purposes. However, further expanding the capacity of the line, at the cost of the non-military users, could benefit the Military, help the local power district with its long term planning, and facilitate the development of hundreds – potentially thousands – of megawatts of clean solar energy.

To serve demand in southern Nevada and California, any renewable energy project will require access to adequate transmission capacity to deliver power to the market. By cooperating with the local stakeholders, DOD's proposed corridor could be utilized for both military and non-military energy transmission capacity, thereby enjoying both cost benefits and environmental benefits from avoiding the almost certain need to build additional structures in the future to serve the same general area.

I strongly urge that the advantages to the local community and other potential consumers of clean energy from nearby projects be carefully considered in making your decision, which I hope will come soon.

I greatly appreciate your attention to this matter. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me, or have your staff contact Bob Herbert, Chris Miller or Alex McDonough of my staff at (202) 224-3542.

Sincerely,

Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader

OSD 07062-09

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United States Senate

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

June 22, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing you to express serious concern over the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facilities at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. While these resources are designed to allow service members to communicate with their families, my constituents stationed at the base routinely experience difficulties.

According to their accounts, the U.S. tax payer-funded resources and computers are occupied for lengthy periods of time by non-military personnel. The presence of these individuals monopolizing these limited resources results in soldiers avoiding the computer stations altogether.

With the pending activation of the 41st Brigade Combat Team, Oregon is facing its largest deployment since World War II. I am extremely concerned at the obstacles our soldiers face in staying in contact with their families on lengthy deployments far from home, in Balad and throughout the region. To impede communication between service members and families is an injustice to those who serve and also negatively affects morale. I urge you to ensure that MWR facilities are used for their intended purposes and that our brave men and women are able to communicate with their families.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your concern for the health of the brave men and women that serve our country. I look forward to working with you to resolve this matter in the future.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

OSD 07066-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

June 26, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Last May after discussing this matter with you, I forwarded a request for the Defense Department to evaluate the cost of proceeding with a competitive split buy on the tanker program. Yesterday I received a response from Undersecretary of Defense, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Mr. Ashton Carter, which failed to respond to the fundamental question posed in my inquiry.

Secretary Carter's response indicated that the Defense Department is unable to assess a competitive split buy in which the Air Force would compete the award of tankers annually. While this dual source approach has been used successfully in the past by the Defense Department in the acquisition of many systems in which there are two competing manufacturers, the response in this case has been that DoD is unable to. evaluate this proposal.

This response is completely unacceptable to me as it should be to you. If the Defense Department is unable to evaluate the cost and/or benefit of this approach then how can you or the Congress be confident that the award to one manufacturer represents the best value to the taxpayer?

OSD 07111-09

I remain concerned that the current plan by the Defense Department will purchase tankers too slowly. Under this plan the nation will be relying on tankers that are more than 50 years old for far too long. Moreover, recognizing the past failures of the current acquisition strategy many believe that continuing down this path sets us on a course of a near guarantee of litigation and continued delay. You and I agree that it is critical that we get on with the tanker replacement program.

Mr. Secretary, I am not convinced that the current acquisition strategy is the best one. Nor am I convinced that an annual competition will generate sufficient savings to merit its selection. However, if the Department is unable to provide a useful cost comparison I am not sure how any of us can be sure we are on the right track.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman

JIM DEMINT
SOUTH CAROLINA

CHAIRMAN
SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE

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United States Senate

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COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

FOREIGN RELATIONS

JOINT ECONOMIC

June 17, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your continued service to our country and your tireless support to national defense during this time of war. I share your desire to make certain that our troops are equipped with protective gear that provides whatever margins of safety possible.

I am writing to request information involving your annual review of the Sections 807 and 829 Exceptions to the Berry Amendment with regards to para-amarid fibers and fire resistant rayon fibers. Specifically I am looking for the rationale and underlying data that the DOD used to determine that domestic manufacturers could not produce these materials at a competitive cost compared to foreign sources.

Further, has the department ever issued a determination or finding that the domestic market lacks sufficient products that could perform the functions desired by DOD or that a lack of competition from alternative domestic products exists in the domestic market such that DOD is disadvantaged through adherence to the Berry Amendment?

I appreciate you and your staff for looking into this issue for me and I look forward to continued work towards national defense and taking care of our troops.

Sincerely,

Jim DeMint
U.S. Senator

OSD 07123-09

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200 EAST BAY STREET
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COLUMBIA
1901 MAIN STREET
SUITE 1475
COLUMBIA, SC 29201
(803) 771-6112

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 29, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing in regard to your upcoming visit to the Russian Federation and your meeting with President Medvedev.

As you attempt to set a new tone with the Russians, we believe there are issues of common interest, but we also believe it is crucial that you vigorously defend the values that have been the cornerstone of free markets and free societies. At a minimum, below are three key issues we believe you must raise.

First, with the coming expiration of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, there is little time to complete negotiations. However, the United States must not concede key issues in exchange for expediency. One specific point is the linkage Russian leaders have made between the United States abandoning missile defense and reducing nuclear weapons.

There should be no quid pro quo between deploying defensive capabilities like missile defense and the reduction of offensive nuclear weapons either in a treaty or through separate agreements. This is essential to our close Czech and Polish allies and a key factor in the placement of the "third site."

Second, during her confirmation process before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary Clinton said that the United States "cannot accept the notion that Russia has a special say over the future of its independent neighbors." Whether it is Georgia, Ukraine, Estonia, or other neighbors, Russia aggressively exerts a "special say" over its neighbors. However, undermining UN peacekeeping operations or the European Union's Monitoring Mission in Georgia, waging economic warfare with energy during the winter, and conducting cyberattacks are not the actions of a proud and constructive nation.

It is important President Medvedev understands that the United States strongly supports the independence and self determination of all the former Soviet Republics. As a Senator, you cosponsored a number of resolutions on the ascension of Ukraine and Georgia into NATO, and we hope you will specifically reaffirm this support with President Medvedev.

Finally, as you know, the interests of the Russian people and the Russian elites are not always the same. It is important that you seriously address issues like corruption and the rule of law,

OSD 07187-09

and also take time to visit with members of the opposition and civil society, especially those leaders who are not closely associated with the Kremlin.

There are many tough, but important issues in the relationship between the United States and Russia. It is imperative that the words you deliver in Moscow are well received in the capitals of our close friends and allies in Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

We wish you the best of luck on your upcoming trip, and look forward to working together to ensure success in U.S.-Russia relations upon your return.

Sincerely,

Jim DeMint

Jon Kyl

Roger Wicker

CC: The Honorable Hilary R. Clinton
Secretary of State
The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense

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United States Senate

July 2, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500-0005

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to report on my trip these past few days to Warsaw, Poland, where I met with senior government officials, parliamentarians, and representatives of non-governmental organizations, as well as officials from the U.S. Department of State assigned to Poland and servicemembers from the U.S. Department of Defense assigned to the European Command (EUCOM). The impetus of the trip was missile defense against the potential threat from Iran and the role of the United States, Russia, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) with regard to missile defense.

I understand that you will be in Moscow on July 6-8, 2009, to meet with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and that your talks will focus on working toward an agreement to replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) before it expires on December 5. Both the Russian President and Prime Minister have linked the relationship between offensive and defensive weapons, suggesting interrelated negotiations with respect to START and missile defense.

The Polish officials with whom I spoke repeatedly expressed concerns to me that the European site for missile defense, ten interceptors in Poland and an X-band radar in the Czech Republic, would be abandoned in bilateral negotiations with the Russians. As you have noted, the planned European missile defense system is limited in scope to defend the United States and our allies against the rising and continuing threat posed by Iran, and poses no threat to Russia's strategic missiles.

In addition, these Polish officials consistently impressed upon me their desire to be treated as full partners and equals by the United States and NATO. They stated that agreeing to the proposed placement of missile interceptors in Poland was a weighty decision and that they ultimately would agree to the placement in order to be an active partner in providing for the security of the U.S. and Europe. They further discussed the matter of the deployment of a Patriot battery in Poland, noting that their understanding was that the Patriot would be an operational battery and not just a training battery. With regard to the Patriot, it is my belief the Poles would be amenable to having a Patriot in any form from the onset of deployment, but would also seek to – after training – having multiple operational batteries on their soil. These officials were clear that they would welcome the presence of U.S. troops in Poland, regardless of form.

OSD 07502-09

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FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
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SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69363
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(402) 209-3595

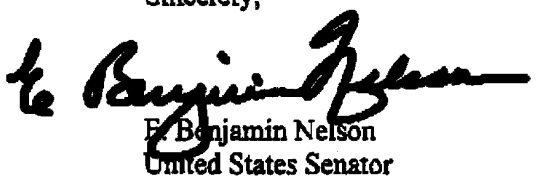
7602 PACIFIC STREET
SUITE 205
OMAHA, NE 68114
(402) 391-3411
FAX: (402) 391-4725

Finally, the Poles impressed upon me the importance of the United States fulfilling what they believe to be our nation's prior commitments to their country. Should the U.S. fail to follow through on what they believe to be America's commitments, it will cut against our standing as a faithful and reliable ally. Although the details of the European site are under review, it is my belief that whatever determination is ultimately made as to the best strategic defense system, the United States should engage the Poles and Czechs regarding such decisions.

In closing, Mr. President, I am optimistic that through your leadership, the multilateral negotiations regarding the European missile defense system will move forward. It is my belief that an effective missile defense system in Europe could unite the United States, our NATO allies, and Russia in cooperative strategic defense against threats from rogue nations.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these matters with you. I wish you a safe journey and look forward to what I know will be positive negotiations for the United States and our allies.

Sincerely,



E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

EBN:ajp

cc: The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State
The Honorable Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense

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United States Senate
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6475

July 6, 2009

SSCI# 2009-2703

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I was concerned to read the enclosed op-ed by defense attorney Barry Wingard in the *Washington Post* ("No Justice Today at Guantanamo," July 1, 2009). I request that you look into the allegations of how detainees are treated by prison guards at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Mr. Wingard, who represents Kuwaiti detainee Fayiz Mohammed Ahmed al-Kandari, alleges that military guards have created an "Immediate Reaction Force" to punish even minor infractions by conducting unnecessary "bruising cell extractions." He also writes that slurs and "petty persecutions" by guards are on the rise since President Obama pledged to close the prison. Furthermore, Mr. Wingard says his client has told him that guards who have typically shown respect for the prisoners have been warned to stop their interactions with detainees. On the other hand, according to Mr. Kandari, a few guards who have been more aggressive toward the prisoners have been promising detainees "a farewell to remember."

Given the history of abuse of detainees at Guantanamo in the past, the allegations raised by Mr. Wingard are especially concerning. I ask that you investigate these claims and provide the Intelligence Committee with your findings before August 7, 2009. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
Chairman

OSD 07567-09

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

July 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security ("the Subcommittee") of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is investigating how the Department of Defense (DoD) awards congressionally directed earmarks, and the value of the resulting projects. In furtherance of the Subcommittee's investigation, no later than July 31, 2009, please have DoD provide the information requested in Attachment A for the FY2008 Department of Defense Appropriations Act earmarks identified in Attachment B.

Upon completion of the document production, DoD should submit a written certification, signed by the appropriate officer, stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in DoD's possession, custody, or control which reasonably could contain responsive documents; and (2) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced or identified in a privilege log.

If you have any questions, please let us know or have your staff immediately call both Velvet Johnson of the majority staff at (202) 224-6579 and Bryan Parker of the minority staff at (202) 224-8265.

Sincerely,

Thomas R Carper John McCain

Thomas Carper
Chairman

John S. McCain
Ranking Member

OSD 07868-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

July 15, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am concerned about the ability of the Air National Guard (ANG) to perform its critical domestic Incident Awareness and Assessment (IAA)/Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) mission as a result of the transfer of six of its eleven ANG RC-26 aircraft to support Overseas Contingency Operations. These transfers, combined with routine maintenance and upgrade requirements, have reduced the number of available aircraft in the continental United States to as few as one operational aircraft at times. Additionally, the high operations tempo of overseas deployments has adversely affected crew availability.

It is distressing to learn that the capacity of the ANG to support its law enforcement, counter narcotics, weapons of mass destruction response, search and rescue, border and maritime security and National Security Special Events missions has been degraded, in some cases by as much as ninety-five percent, due to these transfers. These missions are no less important to the continuing safety and well being of the U.S. population than are the overseas military missions to defeat terrorist threats.

I understand that the transfer of the ANG aircraft has been classified as an enduring requirement in support of the battlefield IAA/ISR mission. This suggests that the population of the United States will remain at risk until the ANG IAA/ISR capability is restored.

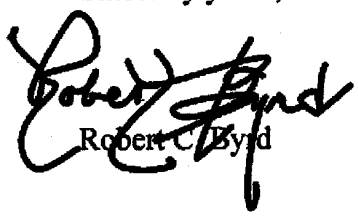
In order to address this vulnerability, I am requesting that your office, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, develop a formal plan to restore the aircraft and equipment necessary to fully meet the Air National Guard's domestic IAA/ISR mission. This program plan, when executed, should enable support to a wide range of domestic missions and this capability should remain available for the numerous missions defined in the Air Force Irregular Warfare CONOPS and other manned IAA/ISR taskings in the event of an unforeseen emergency.

OSD 08213-09

Until this need is met, I remain concerned that in supporting the transfers, you have removed assets vital to our domestic security. I hope that you will share in my concern and act promptly to address this situation.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Robert C. Byrd

RCB:mgm

CC: The Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 3, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to authorize Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) to lead the Congressional fact-finding CODEL to India during the time period of Friday, February 13 through Sunday, February 22. The House is not scheduled to be in the session at this time.

The purpose of this fact-finding trip is to join the U.S. Embassy and a variety of Indian officials in commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Corretta Scott King's visit to study the roots of non-violent philosophy and 20th Century freedom movements.

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

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 01251-09

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 3, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to authorize Congressmen Pete Stark (D-CA) and Jim McDermott to participate in the Congressional fact-finding CODEL to India during the time period of Friday, February 13 through Sunday, February 22. The House is not scheduled to be in the session at this time.

The purpose of this fact-finding trip is to join the U.S. Embassy and a variety of Indian officials in commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Corretta Scott King's visit to study the roots of non-violent philosophy and 20th Century freedom movements.

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

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 01252-09

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ASSISTANT WHIP

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

JERROLD NADLER
9TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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February 10, 2009

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates
Department of Defense
The Pentagon

Dear Secretary Gates,

Please review the attached letter dated February 5, 2009 from Panmedix, a business in my district.

Panmedix specializes in telemedicine screening applications for disorders of the central nervous system, an important medical capability for our modern military. As you can see, their letter details a list of questions they have regarding their work with the Department of Defense dating back to 2001.

The letter raises concerns regarding the work of the Department and its dealings with Panmedix. Please review their letter and provide a response. I would appreciate answers to their questions in the attached letter to the greatest extent possible. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

OSD 01402-09

HARRY TEAGUE
2D DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

1007 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-2365

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3102

February 9, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I would like to call to your direct attention that William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas recently announced that Army personnel had used an improper procedure to administer insulin shots from August 2007 to January of this year. This has resulted in over 2,000 persons potentially exposed to blood-borne disease, such as Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B and HIV. As the Congressman from Southern New Mexico, many of whose veterans and military personnel are served by William Beaumont, and as a Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I was very concerned about this incident. According to the hospital, 31 percent of those exposed were veterans who received the shots on an inpatient basis. The Veterans' Clinic in El Paso routinely works with William Beaumont to help treat veterans.

Last week I sent the enclosed letter to William Beaumont Commander Colonel James Baunchalk regarding this incident and requested a response by this Friday, February 13. Commander Baunchalk did quickly acknowledge receipt of my inquiry and I await his response. The purpose of my inquiry is to get to the root of what went wrong at William Beaumont so that we can take appropriate steps to prevent this from ever happening again.

As we learn more about what exactly transpired at the hospital, I look forward to working with you to ensure accountability for the errors made at William Beaumont and to ensure high levels of medical care for our veterans and military personnel.

Additionally, I know you are aware that my district includes several military facilities, including White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, that are of the utmost importance to both our national defense and Southern New Mexico communities. I would very much like to have you visit us in Southern New Mexico to see these installations and the great work in which our service members are engaged.

Sincerely,

Harry Teague
Member of Congress

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OSD 01403-09

7. Can you positively identify all patients who may have received insulin shots through the incorrect procedure?

8. It is my understanding that this incorrect procedure began in August of 2007. What happens in the event that you do not have up-to-date contact information for patients who may be at risk?

9. If an individual believes he or she may be at risk due to an insulin shot he or she received at WBAMC, what steps should an individual take to determine whether or not they may need medical testing or treatment?

10. I have been informed that roughly 9% of those affected are residents of New Mexico and may live a great distance from WBAMC. What steps are you taking to facilitate testing and further treatment for patients who live far away from WBAMC?

11. What specific step s is WBAMC taking to ensure that this does not happen again?

I would also like to thank you in advance for your responses to my questions. I look forward to working with you to ensure our veterans receive only the highest level of medical care.

Sincerely,

Harry Teague

Harry Teague
Member of Congress

GARY G. MILLER
42ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

ASSISTANT WHIP AT LARGE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA CAUCUS, CHAIRMAN

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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200 CIVIC CENTER
MISSION VIEJO, CA 92691
TEL: (949) 470-8494

February 5, 2009

Congressional Liaison
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

RE: Coastal Defense Products, Inc.
TIN:

Dear Congressional Liaison:

This letter is on behalf of my constituent, Donald Clark, concerning his business, Coastal Defense Products, Inc, which has a government contract with the United States Air Force. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have not received their progress payments and are therefore unable to make payroll. Mr. Clark also noted that the DCAA has not released the audit to the DCMA to be able to make the payment and they are very concerned about this. What is the status of this situation? Any information or assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

I would be appreciative if you or a member of your staff would review the enclosed documents pertaining to my constituent's case and provide assistance in resolving this situation. Please direct your correspondence to the attention of my staff member, **Lisa King**, in my Brea office. My fax number is **(714) 257-9242.**

Thank you in advance for your assistance. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

GARY G. MILLER
Member of Congress

OSD 01404-09

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GENE TAYLOR
4TH DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

http://www.house.gov/genetaylor

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2404

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OCEAN SPRINGS, MS 39564
(228) 872-7950

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LAUREL, MS 39440
(601) 425-3905

412 HWY 90, SUITE 8
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520
(228) 469-9235

February 3, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write to express my concerns about the acquisition and subsequent sale of real property of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) at Gulfport, Mississippi, occurring in 2003.

I have recently received copies of letters sent by former Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Charles S. Abell to the chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees (dated August 6, 2003) notifying them that the AFRH intended to sell "two beachfront properties" located at 1804 and 1814 Beach Drive, Gulfport, Mississippi. For your review, I have attached copies of the aforementioned letters.

Mr. Abell's letters state that the properties "were acquired earlier this year as part of a larger property acquisition." The letters explain that the "original acquisition was for 10.02 acres of land on the eastern border of the Gulfport facility" and that the purchase price for this acreage was "$5.692 million."

According to Mr. Abell's letters, the "AFRH is currently in receipt of two offers to purchase the property from Messers. Brent Warr and Gene Warr" and he had "decided to accept these offers" which would "result in $1 million, which will be deposited into the AFRH Trust Fund." The letter, however, distinguishes that the two properties being resold to the Warrs'are "smaller" than the original 10.02 acre parcels.

As I review this transaction, the following questions come to mind:

1. At the time that AFRH purchased the original 10.02 acres, what was the property's total appraised value, including acreage and all structures on the property?
2. What was the size of the "smaller" parcels sold to the Warrs? What, if any, portions were retained by AFRH after the sale?
3. What was the appraised value of the property that the AFRH sold to the Warrs?
4. What was the sale price of the property that the AFRH sold to the Warrs?
5. According to the 2003 letters, "$1 million was to be deposited into the AFRH Trust Fund." If there was a discrepancy between the sale price and the sum deposited in the AFRH Trust Fund for these properties, what became of the balance?

OSD 01429-09

6. Mr. Abell's letter described the parcels that the AFRH sold to the Warrs as beachfront properties. Where are these properties located with respect to the rest of the original purchase? Are these parcels within the boundaries of the 10.02 acres in the original purchase?

I would greatly appreciate if you could furnish answers to the questions posed above and any relevant documents on which they are based including but not limited to appraisals, deeds, financial transactions, property descriptions, sale papers, etc.

I request that you furnish the information within two weeks of receipt of this letter. If you need additional time to provide answers to these questions or have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gene Taylor

GENE TAYLOR
Member of Congress

GT:sp
Enclosures (2)

CC: Hon. Ike Skelton, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
Timothy Cox, Chief Operating Officer, AFRH

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We write in support of Dr. Solomon Passy's nomination for the position of Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). We respectfully request that the United States lend its support to Dr. Passy during the diplomatic discussions to select NATO's next Secretary General as the current term of Secretary General Japp de Hoop Scheffer expires later this year.

We are informed that Prime Minister Sergey Stanishev of Bulgaria proposed Dr. Passy as a candidate for the Secretary General position during a meeting with President Bush on June 18, 2008.

For nearly two decades, Dr. Passy has demonstrated a clear vision and solid leadership in international relations, particularly in regard to NATO. As a member of Bulgaria's parliament he authored legislation in 1990 to withdraw Bulgaria from the Warsaw Pact and to join NATO and the European Union. That year, Dr. Passy also founded the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria, an NGO in Bulgaria to strongly support NATO membership. Years later, Dr. Passy's vision was achieved when, while serving as Bulgaria's Foreign Minister, he negotiated and signed the two accession treaties that made Bulgaria a full Member of NATO in 2004 and the EU in 2005.

International circumstances present a window of opportunity for advances in both intra-European and transatlantic relations. We believe that the selection of a Secretary General from Bulgaria who is as superbly qualified as Dr. Passy, would strengthen ties between NATO and the United States as well as serve the important cause of continued European integration.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OSD 01430-09

Signed by:

Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL)

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)

Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC)

Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

February 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As part of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs responsibilities, I authorize Geoffrey Bestor and Arthur Wu, staff on the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, to travel on official government business to Albuquerque, NM during the period of February 17-18, 2009.

The primary purpose of their visit is to observe the joint venture between VA and the Air Force at Kirtland Air Force Base; and to review the Research and Development Cooperative Studies Program operations in Albuquerque.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in New Mexico. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Bernie Dotson of the Committee staff at 202-226-3653.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/tc

OSD 01439-09

DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

DPC

BYRON L. DORGAN
CHAIRMAN

February 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

It is my pleasure to invite you to speak to the Senate Democratic Caucus at our annual weekend issues conference, which will be held the weekend of May 1, 2009 in Bedford Springs, Pennsylvania.

This is the one time each year that Senate Democrats meet outside of Washington to brainstorm and strategize on the most pressing challenges facing our nation. Our Caucus is very interested to hear your strategies for addressing the multiple national security challenges facing the United States.

My staff will work with your office to schedule a time for you to speak, either on Friday afternoon, May 1 or Saturday morning, May 2. President Obama has confirmed his attendance at the conference.

I know my colleagues will be thrilled if you are able to join us. Please let me know whether you will be able to attend, or have your staff contact Chuck Cooper at the Democratic Policy Committee at (202) 224-4637.

Sincerely,

Byron L. Dorgan
Chairman

~~SECDEF~~	~~DEPSECDEF~~	SPLASST	~~EXECSEC~~	~~USDP~~
~~USDI~~	~~DSD~~	CCD	CBLCH	FILE

LA

OSD 01526-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 5, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Ms. Jennifer Miller, Mr. Jeff Shockey and Mr. Tom McLemore, professional staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on official business to Vienna, Austria and Paris, France during the approximate time period of February 15–21, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to review matters relating to the CIA, NSA and counter-terrorism operations and activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial transportation.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01529-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225–2771

February 3, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable John T. Salazar, a Member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Mexico, Nicaragua and Jamaica during the approximate time period of February 16 – 22, 2009. He will be joining a delegation led by the Honorable Eliot Engel, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government and non government officials regarding political and economic developments, and general bilateral relations with each country.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01533-09

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-3771

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

February 13, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Adam Harris, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of February 19 – 23, 2009, to Israel. The purpose of this trip is to meet with Intelligence Community personnel to discuss conditions in Israel.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 01612-09

LINCOLN DAVIS
4TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

SENIOR WHIP

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4204

February 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

First, let me congratulate you on the continuation of your service under the new administration. I believe it to be a testament to your exceptional competence, common-sense approach, and devotion to protecting and preserving the United States of America. At a time when we face a variety of foreign and domestic challenges and threats, we are fortunate to have someone of your skill at the helm of the Department of Defense.

I write today to respectfully request an update on implementation of funds already authorized under H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, which was passed in the 110th Congress. Specifically, Section 8116 appropriates funds for the use of special pay for members of the armed forces whose period of obligated service is extended, or whose eligibility for retirement is suspended, due to the President's authority to extend such service or suspend such retirement. This is commonly referred to as stop-loss authority and the increase is capped at five-hundred dollars per month. Under H.R. 2638, no funds are to be allocated until the Secretary of Defense submits a provisional plan for the distribution of such payments to the Committee on Appropriations. It has recently been called to my attention by a constituent that these funds have not yet been allocated to this group of soldiers.

As you know better than most, our soldiers and their families are making enormous sacrifices as they continue to perform admirably. The toll of service is particularly difficult on the families of those whose service is extended. I feel that the modest increase in pay for this group of dedicated service men and women is just and equitable. Fully understanding the enormity of your responsibilities, I respectfully urge your attention to this matter. Thank you for any updates you may provide and for your commitment to this great nation.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress

LD:TG

OSD 01636-09

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FAX: (931) 473-7259

1064 NORTH GATEWAY AVENUE
ROCKWOOD, TN 37854
(865) 354-3323
FAX: (865) 354-3316

1804 CARMACK BOULEVARD
SUITE A
COLUMBIA, TN 38401
(931) 490-8699
FAX: (931) 490-8675

www.house.gov/lincolndavis

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2009

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

Dear Dr. Gates:

We are writing to express our strong support for the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program and request your consideration of a reprogramming of funds for Fiscal Year 2009. We are aware of significant undesired consequences for the E-2D program as a result of the enacted funding levels for Fiscal Year 2009, and we urge your personal attention to this issue.

As you know, the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program continues to perform satisfactorily on both cost and schedule. Since enactment of the appropriations bill, an Operational Assessment has been completed and the program remains on track to receive Milestone C approval in Spring 2009. After reviewing the final appropriated levels for this program in Fiscal Year 2009, however, we are concerned that current funding will be inadequate to sustain this program in transition from development to low rate production. We believe there are negative impacts to both the cost and delivery schedule of these aircraft.

Therefore, we request that you reprogram funds in Fiscal Year 2009 to support the procurement of the third Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) Lot I aircraft in Fiscal Year 2009, and provide advance procurement for the third Lot II aircraft in Fiscal Year 2010. Furthermore, we urge you to ensure that the Fiscal Year 2010 request includes procurement funding for all three LRIP Lot II aircraft.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to your strong support for prioritizing reprogramming of Fiscal Year 2009 funding for the E-2D program.

Sincerely,

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress

OSD 01644-09

CAROLYN McCARTHY
Member of Congress

GARY L. ACKERMAN
Member of Congress

TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
Member of Congress

MICHAEL A. ARCURI
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Donald Winter, Secretary of the Navy
ADM Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

BRETT GUTHRIE
SECOND DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
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HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your ongoing service and commitment to the defense of our country. I am extremely proud that my Congressional District is home to the Fort Knox military installation.

Located at Fort Knox is Ireland Army Community Hospital. The hospital provides a vital service to the entire community. Built in 1957, Ireland Army Community Hospital (IACH) provides top quality health care to Fort Knox and six surrounding states. IACH serves the Fort Knox community with primary and specialty care providers. In addition to Kentucky, IACH's area of responsibility also includes Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin. The hospital is also home to Camp Memorial Blood Center and an Optical Fabrication Laboratory.

As you know, included in *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (H.R. 1) are substantial funds for infrastructure improvements at Department of Defense facilities. I urge you to give Ireland Army Community Hospital full consideration when deciding how to allocate these infrastructure investment funds.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. Should your staff have any questions or need more information please contact John Connell in my Washington office at (202) 225-3501 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

BRETT GUTHRIE
Member of Congress

OSD 01659-09

1001 CENTER STREET, SUITE 300
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101
270-842-6690

www.guthrie.house.gov

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-3501

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

February 6, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable John P. Murtha and the Honorable Norman Dicks, member of the Committee on Appropriations, and Paul Juola and Timothy Prince, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of February 15 – 18, 2009, to Seattle, Washington and Colorado Springs, Colorado. The purpose of this trip is to visit Madigan Army Hospital to obtain briefs on military health care and visit wounded Servicemen; to visit and tour Department of Defense and contractor installations in preparation for the fiscal year 2010 budget markup. Authorization is also granted for Mr. Murtha to be returned to Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 01714-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 9, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Sarah Young, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of February 16 – 18, 2009, to Colorado Springs, Colorado. The purpose of this trip is to join CODEL Murtha for his visit to Fort Carson, and to receive briefings on fiscal year 2010 budget and current status of the Missile Defense Agency .

Per diem expenses of not to exceed $109 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01716-09

KEVIN BRADY
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
8TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

DEPUTY WHIP

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
SOCIAL SECURITY
TRADE

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

February 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert Michael Gates
Secretary of Defense
Office of the Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to you again to urge the Department of Defense (DoD) to produce a full accounting for each facility in Iraq that was involved or associated with an electrocution death or injury of any U.S. personnel or contractor. Since Congressional attention was focused on this issue, the response from DoD and related departments such as the DoD Office of Inspector General (DoD IG) have been less than satisfactory.

As you know, last year in the 110th Congress, government representatives from DoD, DoD IG, and the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) testified before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee regarding deficient electrical systems in Iraq. During that hearing, I directly asked each agency to identify who was responsible for the installation and maintenance of electrical generator that caused accidental electrocutions of U.S. personnel. One of the deceased was a twenty-three year old Army National Guard soldier, Staff Sgt. Chris Everett of Huntsville, Texas. Staff Sgt. Everett was my constituent, and his untimely death occurred, not because of enemy fire, but because the power-washer that he was using to wash a Humvee was improperly grounded. These are not isolated incidents, as the Army has acknowledged at least 16 possible cases of electrocution.

Moreover, recently I was extremely dismayed to learn that there has been yet another report of an American soldier receiving shocks from facilities installed and maintained by U.S. contractors in Iraq. The Associated Press (AP) reports that Pfc. Justin Shults was rendered unconscious and suffered severe burns while showering in Tarmiyah, Iraq. That these incidents continue to threaten the lives and safety of our fighting men and women are unacceptable.

Mr. Secretary, I believe you are as outraged as I am by these incidents, and I strongly urge that the Department of Defense and its related agencies provide me a detailed

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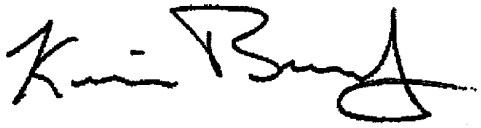
http://www.house.gov/brady

OSD 01740-09

accounting regarding the chain of custody for the operation and maintenance of electrical equipment and facilities that are connected to electrocutions. Also, please provide an estimate as to when this report will be available.

Thank you for your leadership and service to our country, and your prompt attention to this important and tragic issue.

Sincerely,



Kevin Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
Eighth District of Texas

Cc: The Honorable Gordon S. Heddell, Acting Inspector General Department of Defense

JOHN R. CARTER
31ST DISTRICT, TEXAS

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE SECRETARY

REPUBLICAN STEERING COMMITTEE

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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4331

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6544-B SOUTH GENERAL BRUCE DRIVE
TEMPLE, TX 76502
(254) 933-1392

February 9, 2009

Hon. Robert Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Hon. Wilkie:

Mr. John Rockey, President of Rockey Enterprises regarding requests a copy of the lease criteria bid for GSA Lease, Solicitation Order 8TX2425A, has recently contacted me. GSA desires to lease approximately 50,000 square feet of office space in San Antonio to accommodate DOD Tricare Management Activity Center. He is concerns why his viable Class B property offering is not considered.

I have enclosed, for your review, copies of the correspondence I received. I would appreciate any information you can provide so that I may pass it along to my constituent. I trust that this case will receive your full consideration.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cheryl, Bell County Office, 6544 B South General Bruce Drive, Temple, TX. 76502, phone 254-933-1392. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John Carter
Member of Congress

JC:ch

OSD 01760-09

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Committee on Appropriations
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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 17, 2009

Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 12, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Rush Holt, Chairman of the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, and Mr. Adam Harris, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Israel on February 20-23, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with Intelligence Community personnel to discuss conditions in Israel.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to change the dates of travel for the Honorable Rush Holt to February 19-23, 2003, and to February 18-23, 2009 for Mr. Adam Harris.

It will be appreciated if officials of the Department would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 01803-09

STEVE KAGEN, M.D.
WISCONSIN
8TH DISTRICT

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U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
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TOLL FREE IN WISCONSIN
800-773-8579

February 16, 2009

Department of Defense
Attn: Congressional Liaison
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

RE: Dale Lautenbach – Visions Upholstery and Canvas

Dear Congressional Liaison,

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Mr. Dale Lautenbach, owner of Visions Upholstery and Canvas, a contractor for the Department of Defense. Mr. Lautenbach contacted my office for assistance with correcting what he believes to be an injustice regarding the acceptance of a recent bid to produce gloves for the DOD.

Mr. Lautenbach sent a bid to the DOD on January 12, 2009, which was the deadline to bid on the project. Unfortunately, the fax was not received and/or processed by the DOD. A hard copy of the proposal was also submitted via U.S. Mail. Mr. Lautenbach has already furnished a copy of his fax history that proves that he sent the proposal on time, however this bid is still being held up by the legal department.

I respectfully request that you look into this matter to determine if the proposal submitted by Visions Upholstery and Canvas can be accepted by the DOD. Mr. Lautenbach wishes to continue his good working relationship with the DOD and also put people back to work here in northeast Wisconsin. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Steve Kagen, MD

Steve Kagen, MD
Member of Congress

SK/rl

OSD 01849-09

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Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 9, 2009

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 7, 2009, regarding Codel Tanner. Please note that the following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable John Tanner (D-TN) and Mrs. Betty Ann Tanner
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and Mr. Ron Gladney
The Honorable Bart Gordon (D-TN) and Mrs. Leslie Gordon
The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)
The Honorable Dennis Moore (D-KS) and Mrs. Stephene Moore
The Honorable John Boozman (R-AR) and Mrs. Cathy Boozman
The Honorable Jeff Miller (R-FL) and Mrs. Vicki Miller
The Honorable Mike Ross (D-AR) and Mrs. Holly Ross
The Honorable David Scott (D-GA) and Mrs. Alfredia Scott
The Honorable Charlie Melancon (D-LA) and Mrs. Peachy Melancon
The Honorable Baron Hill (D-IN)

Ms. Melissa Adamson, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Kathy Becker, Office of Rep. Tanner
Mr. Paul Belkin, CRS Detailee to House Committee on Foreign Affairs

(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6), Office of the Attending Physician

OSD 01863-09

Please note that Mr. David Hobbs, NATO PA Secretary General, has been invited to travel with the delegation from Paris to Vienna.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 9, 2009

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 15, 2009, regarding Codel John Lewis. Please note that Turkey, Greece, and the United Arab Emirates have been added to the itinerary. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable John Lewis (D-GA)
The Honorable Spencer Bachus (R-AL) and Mr. Stuart Bachus
The Honorable Jim McDermott (D-WA) and Mrs. Therese Hansen
The Honorable Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX)
The Honorable Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)
The Honorable Al Green (D-TX)
The Honorable Andre Carson (D-IN) and Mrs. Miriama Carson

Mr. Michael Collins, Floor Asst. to the Chief Deputy Democratic Whip
Mr. Michael Staley, Chief of Staff to Rep. Bachus
Ms. Jamila Thompson, Senior Policy Advisor to Rep. Lewis
Ms. Brenda Jones, Communications Director to Rep. Lewis

Please note that Mr. Stuart Bachus will be traveling with the delegation on a reimbursable basis per DOD directive.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 01865-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

February 10, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representatives C.W. Bill Young, Rodney Frelinghuysen, Mike Simpson, and Ken Calvert, members of the Committee on Appropriations and Tom McLemore, professional staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on a CODEL led by Representative Carolyn Maloney to Naples, Rome, and Venice, Italy and Dublin, Ireland during the approximate time period of April 14–20, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with Defense officials at Aviano Air Force Base and Vicenza Army Base to view operations and discuss resource requirements. In addition, we will meet with US Ambassadors to Italy and Ireland, as well as senior Italian officials for political/operational updates. Spouses are authorized to accompany the Member for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01867-09

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

February 23, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As the new Administration prepares its fiscal year 2010 budget request for missile defense, I hope you will make providing our combatant commanders sufficient theater missile defense capability your highest priority within the existing missile defense budget.

The threat from short- and medium-range missiles represents the overwhelming ballistic missile threat to United States interests, its deployed forces, and friends and allies around the world. Our military commanders recognize this point. The Joint Capability Mix Study II (JCM II), conducted by the Joint Staff in 2007 to examine theater upper-tier missile defense requirements, concluded that to meet their minimum warfighing requirements, combatant commanders require nearly twice as many interceptors as the 96 Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptors and 133 Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) interceptors currently planned.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee in 2007, General James Cartwright stated that his priority with regard to missile defense was to expand, "beyond long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles to start to address those that hold at threat our forward deployed forces, or allies and our friends. Those are more in the short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, things that Patriot, Standard Missile-2 and [Standard Missile]-3 will be able to address, and THAAD as it comes on."

Over the past several years, Congress has consistently directed the Department of Defense to devote greater priority within the existing missile defense program toward countering the short- and medium-range ballistic missile threat. Commenting on the JCM II recommendations in the Joint Explanatory Statement that accompanied the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 [Public Law 110-417], the bill's managers stated they were, "deeply disappointed that the Department of Defense has not planned or budgeted for even this minimum requirement, and we believe that achieving this minimum inventory should be the highest priority for the Missile Defense Agency. We expect the Department of Defense to budget accordingly starting with the budget submission for fiscal year 2010."

I fully agree with President Obama's position that we should only deploy missile defenses that have been sufficiently tested and proven to work. Theater missile defense systems, such as Patriot PAC-3,

OSD 01929-09

THAAD, and Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (Aegis BMD) meet the President's criteria. The Director of Operational Test and Evaluation's (DOT&E) Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report stated that "the inherent BMDS defensive capability against theater threats increased during the last fiscal year and DOT&E expects this trend to continue." Furthermore, in 2008, the commander of the Navy's operational test and evaluation force declared the Aegis BMD 3.6 system to be operationally effective and suitable.

In addition to the JCM II recommendations, there are other ways to focus our limited investments in mature systems that address near term threats. The Department should examine the feasibility of upgrading additional Aegis cruisers and destroyers to be able to conduct ballistic missile defense operations. Under the current program of record, only 22 Aegis cruisers and destroyers are planned to be upgraded by the Missile Defense Agency. Given the existing operational demands on these vessels, and growing requirement by combatant commanders around the world for ballistic missile defense-capable ships, this assessment should be a priority. I would also encourage you to explore the options for deploying a land-based version of the SM-3 missile. Such a capability has the potential to expand missile defense coverage for U.S. deployed forces and our friends and allies around the world

I recognize that the Administration will likely be forced to make tradeoffs as it develops the fiscal year 2010 defense budget. Given the need to fund other high priority defense programs, reductions to the missile defense program may be required. However, due to the existing threat from short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, the requirements of our regional combatant commanders, and the strong testing record of theater missile defense systems, I believe that addressing the recommendations outlined in the JCM II study (*i.e.*, doubling the number of THAAD and SM-3 interceptors) should be the Department's highest priority within the missile defense budget. I ask that you take this into account as you develop the fiscal year 2010 budget request.

Thank you for your consideration and attention. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ellen O. Tauscher
Chairman
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Committee on Armed Services

cc: Honorable Peter R. Orszag, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Honorable John Young, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
Honorable Michelle Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
Admiral Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations
General James Cartwright, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
General Kevin Chilton, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command
Lieutenant General Patrick O'Reilly, Director, Missile Defense Agency

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 4, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Ed Pastor, a Member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Australia and New Zealand, during the approximate time period of February 13–22, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government officials, to review intelligence and energy programs.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01934-09

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Sarah Young, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 4 – 6, 2009, to San Jose, California. The purpose of this trip is to receive an overview of the plan that authorizes the creation of a new Enterprise Architecture (EA) to comprehensively resolve persistent electronic health record issues.

Per diem expenses of not to exceed $109 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01935-09

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 23, 2009

Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 10, 2009, granting authorization for members and staff to travel on a CODEL led by Carolyn Maloney, to travel to Naples, Rome, and Venice, Italy and Dublin, Ireland during the approximate period of April 14 – 20, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to additionally authorize Representative Steven LaTourette to travel on this CODEL.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01936-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Last October the United States Congress passed, and President Bush signed into law, the Code Talkers Recognition Act, Public Law 110-420. Senator Inhofe and I were the lead sponsors of this bill in our respective legislative bodies. The purpose of this act is to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to a select group of Native Americans for their heroic service in World War I or World War II.

Found within the legislation is a directive asking the Defense Department, along with the Treasury Department, to help fully indentify all individuals who are deserving of this award.

Section 5, subparagraph (b) states:

The Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the tribes, shall:

(1) Determine the identity, to the maximum extent practicable, of each Native American Tribe that had a member of that tribe serve as a Native American Code Talker, with the exception of the Navajo Tribe.
(2) Include the name of each Native American tribe identified under subparagraph (a) on a list
(3) Provide the list, and any updates to the list to the Smithsonian Institution for maintenance

Over the last few months our offices have held meetings with officials from the Department of Defense and the Department of the Treasury in an attempt to move this process forward. After speaking with all the parties involved, it is our understanding that the Office of the Army Historian or some other archival department within the Department of Defense has a tentative list of individuals who would be deemed "Code Talkers" within the definitions of the recently passed legislation.

I am writing to ask you to expedite this identification process so that the United States Congress can move forward in honoring these brave soldiers. I will enclose a copy of the public law pertinent to this request for your review. If you have any questions about our expedited request, feel free to contact Tom Wharton (226-2275/Boren) or Clark Peterson (224-4721/Inhofe).

Sincerely,

James Inhofe
United States Senator

Sincerely,

Dan Boren
Member of the House of Representatives

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OSD 01986-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Earl Pomeroy, a member of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Macedonia on official business during the approximate time period of April 4-10, 2009.

The main purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the Kosovo Assembly and the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. In Bosnia, the delegation will meet with members of the national parliament, the national executive, and other leaders to better understand the constitutional reform process and to discuss HDAC efforts within the region. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 01987-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 5, 2009

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 22, 2009, regarding Codel Boehner. Please note that the delegation will no longer be traveling to Turkey, but has added Belgium to the itinerary.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 01994-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 2, 2009

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 22, 2009, regarding Codel Hoyer. Please note that (b)(6) has been requested as escort.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02074-09

CAROL SHEA-PORTER
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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104 WASHINGTON STREET
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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www.shea-porter.house.gov

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express our concern about recent reports that the Department of Defense has awarded KBR a $35.4 million contract that includes major electrical projects and request that you review the contract award and report to us explaining why the contract award was made to KBR, given its long record of deficient electrical work in Iraq.

As you are aware, KBR has held a contract for building maintenance for U.S. military facilities in Iraq since 2003. During this time, there have been numerous investigations into the dangers KBR's faulty electrical work is creating for our military personnel. The Department of Defense Inspector General is currently investigating the electrocution deaths of 18 Americans (16 soldiers and 2 contractors) in KBR-maintained facilities. KBR is under criminal investigation for the electrocution deaths of several U.S. soldiers in Iraq. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform conducted an in-depth investigation into the problem of electrocutions in U.S. facilities in Iraq and the death of Staff Sgt. Ryan Maseth, 24, a decorated Green Beret electrocuted in his shower on January 2, 2008. The Committee's investigation showed that KBR was alerted to the deficiencies in this and other cases, but failed to take corrective action. In 2008, the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) issued a "Level III Corrective Action Request" to KBR, indicating that the contractor was in "serious non-compliance." This action request, the final warning before a contract is terminated, points to KBR's continuing failure to ensure electrical safety for our troops. With this history, it is not surprising that Capt. David J. Graff, commander of the DCMA's International Division, was quoted in an Associated Press article, stating that "many within DOD have lost or are losing all remaining confidence in KBR's ability to successfully and repeatedly perform the required electrical support services mission in Iraq."

Despite these serious, ongoing concerns, the Department of Defense has awarded KBR a new contract that includes the type of work that KBR failed to perform adequately for years. Threats to the safety and lives of soldiers or others because of known hazards and negligent performance of work are not acceptable.

OSD 02173-09

We would therefore appreciate a thorough review of the recent contract award to KBR. At the very least, when our soldiers put their lives on the line for us in a war zone, we not only owe them the assurance that they will not be electrocuted in the shower on their return from a mission, but also that those who provide them with services put our soldiers' safety ahead of their profits.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jan Schakowsky

Eric Tarsa

Betty McCollum

Charlie Wilson

John B Larson

HARRY TEAGUE
2ND DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1007 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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http://teague.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3102

COMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
WATER, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
HEALTH

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to update you on the situation regarding the improper administration of insulin at William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC) in El Paso, Texas.

On February 5, 2009, I wrote to WBAMC Commander, Colonel James Baunchalk, requesting answers to questions I had about the incident. Last Friday, February 13, 2009, Colonel Baunchalk responded in writing to my list of questions. Those responses are attached for your information. Colonel Baunchalk's staff has also been in contact with my office and has provided me with the following pieces of information:

- Of the 2,114 persons that may have received an insulin injection with the "pen device", 1,188 persons have been contacted.
- 144 persons have died due to conditions unrelated to this incident.
- 630 persons have had blood drawn for testing.
- 33.4% (or 658 of the 1,970 living persons) are veterans.
- 782 (or 39.69%) have yet to be contacted.

In addition, this Saturday, February 13, 2009, I visited WBAMC and viewed the insulin injection device that was improperly used. I received a briefing on the proper procedure for the insulin pen, as well as a tour of the hospital.

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FAX: (575) 393-0026

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LAS CRUCES, NM 88001
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OSD 02175-09

11 SCHOOL OF MINES ROAD
SOCORRO, NM 87801
PHONE: (575) 835-8719
FAX: (575) 835-8931

The events that have transpired at William Beaumont are unacceptable. Although I have been informed that investigations are planned, we still do not now have an understanding of how the mistake could have occurred. I believe that WBAMC patients who received the shots face serious health risks, and I have made it clear that I view this situation with the utmost seriousness.

I ask you to closely monitor the situation at WBAMC to make sure affected patients are contacted, tested, and, if necessary, expeditiously treated. Your oversight of the investigations is also important to ensure they are exhaustive and impartial.

I look forward to working with your office on a solution that prevents this from happening again.

If you have any other questions in regards to this matter, please feel free to contact me at 202-225-2365.

Sincerely,

Harry Teague

Harry Teague
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

Congratulations on your reappointment as our nation's Secretary of Defense. I am extremely appreciative and grateful to you for your outstanding service to our nation as an Air Force officer, senior intelligence official and unyielding advocate for the men and women serving in our nation's Armed Services. In the coming years, I am confident that your leadership will guide the Department of Defense to more actively promote the health and wellbeing of our men and women in uniform.

Recently, the United States Army announced that suicide rates among Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard troops reached a record high in 2008, surpassing nationwide civilian rates. While the cause for this dramatic increase is still being investigated, it is evident that greater emphasis needs to be put on the mental health of our men and women in uniform and those retired veterans who preceded them.

Today, we know more about post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and depression than we have at any point in our history. Medical professionals now have the ability to treat or even prevent these disorders if they are addressed quickly. Unfortunately, many sufferers are uninformed of their options, unable to access them or are too embarrassed to seek help.

In light of these rising suicides, Congress and the current Administration have a responsibility to promote and fund initiatives that make mental health care an ongoing process for all military personnel, beginning at enlistment and continuing long after returning from combat. Our troops and veterans should never be made to feel weak or abandoned when seeking professional help. By fully funding and properly prioritizing military and Veterans Administration mental health initiatives, we can counteract the pervasive culture of denial and push a new culture of acceptance and treatment.

In the coming months, I look forward to working with you and your staff in redoubling our efforts to provide quality mental health services to all service members, past and present. Thank you again for all of your efforts and I look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

André Carson
Member of Congress

OSD 02178-09

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

February 9, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to authorize Juan Lara, Majority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Mike Brinck, Minority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity to travel on official committee oversight business to Sites in Florida from February 16 to February 19, 2009. The purpose of the travel is to visit various Transition Assistance Program Workshops in Jacksonville, MacDill, and Key West.

The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation 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.

If there are any questions, please have your staff coordinate with Mr. Juan Lara at (202) 226-5491 or Mike Brinck at (202) 226-3668. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

BF/ jl

OSD 02181-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 11, 2009

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 8, 2009, regarding my codel to Italy and Southwest Asia. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Speaker of the House, and Mr. Paul Pelosi
The Honorable John Larson (D-CT) and Mrs. Leslie Larson
The Honorable George Miller (D-CA) and Mrs. Cynthia Miller
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
The Honorable William Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ)
The Honorable Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
The Honorable Edward Markey (D-MA) and Dr. Susan Blumenthal
The Honorable Michael Capuano (D-MA) and Mrs. Barbara Capuano

The Honorable Wilson Livingood, Sergeant at Arms
The Honorable Brian Monaghan, Attending Physician
Mr. Michael Sheehy, Senior Policy Advisor to the Speaker
Mr. Nadeam Elshami, Deputy Communications Director to the Speaker
Ms. Stacy Kerr, Special Assistant to the Speaker
Ms. Kate Knudson, Personal Assistant to the Speaker
Ms. Bridget Fallon, Director of Protocol to the Speaker
Mr. Philip DeAndrade, Senior Advisor to the Speaker
Mr. Steve Rusnak, Office of Photography
(b)(6) DSS Agent

(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF

OSD 02183-09

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 13, 2009

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 11, 2009, regarding my codel to Italy and Southwest Asia.

Please note that Mr. Liam Wasley, US Department of State, has been invited to travel with the delegation in Italy.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02207-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Ms. Janice McKinney, Assistant Director of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, to join the Committee on Foreign Affairs Codel Engel to Mexico, Nicaragua, and Jamaica during the approximate period of February 16-22, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to meet with government and non-government leaders in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Jamaica to discuss relations with the U.S., regional security and narco-trafficking, and balateral trade

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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02208-09

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DAVID PRICE
FOURTH DISTRICT
NORTH CAROLINA

March 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I want to flag a matter now before you, the construction of the North Carolina National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters in Raleigh, NC. This facility will not only serve as the nerve center for our state Guard operations; it will also house our State Emergency Operations Center. This project and several million dollars in state funding have been on hold awaiting federal funding.

I understand that a decision to provide funding for the project is now pending in your office; I strongly encourage you to approve the funding. I would be eager to discuss any questions you may have about the project.

Sincerely,

David Price

DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress

I understand the Natl. Guard Bureau fully supports this project. Thanks for your attention —

OSD 02209-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 13, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Shelley Berkley, Chairwoman of the Transatlantic Legislator's Dialogue (TLD), to lead a delegation of Members and staff to the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Estonia during the approximate period of April 13-20, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to attend the 66th meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) and to meeting with government officials in each country to discuss bilateral relations, engagement with Russia, Jewish issues, and to observe the implementation of the Visa Waiver Program. 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 (b)(6) and (b)(6) 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02211-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Lois Capps, a member of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Haiti on official business during the approximate time period of May 7-12, 2009.

The main purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the Haitian Parliament in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. Meetings with executive branch officials and site visits to USAID/Haiti projects are also envisioned. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02212-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to request that you promptly and fully distribute authorized compensation to members of our Armed Forces whose service has been extended by the Department of Defense's stop loss policy.

Over the past seven years, over 160,000 military personnel have had their service duty contracts extended due to stop loss orders. Today, there are over 12,000 soldiers in the active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard who remain on active duty beyond their scheduled separation date as a result of stop loss. This policy especially impacts the National Guard and Reservists, many of whom have already been deployed much longer than they expected. This is why we introduced legislation in the 110th Congress to provide payments to service members for each month they are extended as a result of stop loss.

On September 30, 2008, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 was signed into law (P.L. 110-329). The bill provided that all military personnel that have had their service duty contracts involuntarily extended due to stop loss orders, during Fiscal Year 2009 will receive compensation. The bill also allocated $72 million for the compensation, thus providing enough to compensate each soldier with the full $500 amount.

It has been nearly five months since the bill was signed into law and stop loss compensation payments have yet to be distributed. We urge you to work with the House and Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittees to develop a thorough and appropriate disbursement plan as quickly as possible to fulfill the Department's obligations under P.L. 110-329. Our soldiers are heroically and bravely defending our country abroad, and they are awaiting the much-deserved recognition and compensation for the unforeseen sacrifice so many have been called on to perform.

Thank you for your prompt attention and your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Betty Sutton

Betty Sutton

Frank R. Lautenberg

Frank Lautenberg

OSD 02261-09

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Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 23, 2009

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, Majority Leader, to lead a delegation to Denmark, France, Iraq and Afghanistan on official business during the approximate time period of May 29 – June 5, 2009. The purpose of this trip will be to conduct bilateral discussions on national security and energy issues in Denmark; to meet with government officials regarding national security and human rights challenges in France; and to meet with government officials and US military commanders and troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. A list of authorized Members (approximately 8) and staff will follow at a later date. For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members will travel at no cost to the government.

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 (b)(6) 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02262-09

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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 4, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

If reports are accurate, it is our understanding that you sent a letter to Russian President Medvedev last month suggesting your Administration would halt the development of a European missile defense system in exchange for Russian assistance to stop Iran from developing nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles. We are concerned that the Administration may be undertaking a surprisingly unilateral action. Though we share your strong devotion to our national security and the security of our allies, we believe it is unwise and premature to offer such a concession. We urge you to clarify your Administration's position and respectfully caution against a policy that relies too heavily on Russian cooperation.

Reports of the letter are disconcerting for a number of reasons. Foremost, the policy does not adequately recognize the threat posed by Iran. Moreover, it rests on a questionable assumption that Russia can effectively curb Iran's nuclear ambitions and weakens our position in future bilateral negotiations. Lastly, it undermines NATO's endorsement of the European missile defense proposal. In particular, it undercuts our allies—the Czech Republic and Poland—who received bipartisan assurances that once they approved the missile defense agreements, the U.S. would provide support and funding.

Russia's actions, particularly in Eastern Europe, give us little confidence that they can be relied upon to follow through with such a commitment. Over the last year, as you know, Russia has pursued a divisive policy to re-exert its Soviet-era sphere of influence. During this time, Russia invaded Georgia, intimidated other nations from joining NATO, and threatened to target Eastern Europe with nuclear missiles should the proposed European missile defense sites be built. Further, amidst a global economic crisis, Russia has disrupted shipments of natural gas to Europe for the second time in three years. Most recently, Russia used financial incentives to persuade Kyrgyzstan to deny the U.S. access to its Manas military base in order to support coalition operations in Afghanistan. Given these events, we seriously question reliance upon Russia's support for a common approach on Iran or missile defense.

Iran has clearly indicated they have no intention of halting their nuclear or ballistic missile programs, and their recent actions substantiate this point. Last month, they launched a satellite into orbit using dual-use, long-range ballistic missile technology. Last weekend, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced that Iran has enough enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon. Two weeks ago, the International Atomic Energy Agency found that Iran underestimated by a third how much uranium it has enriched and noted that Iran has a total of 5,600 centrifuges—an increase from the 3,800 listed in a

SECDEF	DEPSECDEF	SPLASST	EXECSEC	USDP
USDI	ESD	CCD	CBLCH	FILE

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OSD 02301-09

November 2008 report—despite three rounds of United Nations Security Council sanctions.

Despite these developments, Russian leaders have indicated a fundamental disagreement with the West's views on the threat posed by Iran. Simply put, they apparently do not see a threat. Furthermore, Moscow continues to benefit economically from its support of Iran's nuclear program, specifically through the Bushehr nuclear reactor it has helped Iran build. For all these reasons, we remain skeptical that Russia would be in a position to halt Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile ambitions, and cautious of a strategy that relies on that nation's action vis-à-vis Iran to protect us and our allies.

Furthermore, we anticipate bilateral arms control negations with Russia this year and are concerned that any concessions promised in this regard may prejudice favorable outcomes. As Robert Kagan recently noted, "If Russian leaders believe that the United States is looking for a way out... they will negotiate accordingly. They might ask why they should make a deal at all." If Russia perceives it can gain U.S. concessions on missile defense now, will it be more likely to demand greater concessions later in negotiations on arms control, nonproliferation, and counter-terrorism?

Lastly, as you know, the European missile defense proposal is a NATO policy. During last year's Bucharest Summit, its leaders endorsed the proposal to place 10 interceptors in Poland and a radar in the Czech Republic, citing its "substantial contribution to the protection of Allies." According to the studies we've seen, this proposal is cost-effective and the technology, which is largely based on systems fielded today in Alaska and California, works. Should the United States jettison this proposal, we risk losing our credibility both in the alliance and as a global leader in building collective security. In today's complex geopolitical environment, our relationship with our allies and friends is paramount to addressing our mutual security concerns. What message does it send to our allies—specifically the Czech Republic and Poland—that the United States may not carry out its security commitments?

We strongly support the goal of preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, and believe it is in Russia's interests to work with the international community to achieve this goal. However, we do not believe that terminating the European missile defense proposal in exchange for Russian assistance with Iran is the best course of action to meet our national security objectives.

Mr. President, in the future, we hope you will choose consultation with the Congress and our allies instead of unilateral action when crafting such important policy proposals. There is bipartisan support in Congress for European missile defense and we look forward to the clarification of your position on this vital issue. As you discuss our collective security challenges with the international community, we encourage you to send a clear, transparent, and consistent message to our allies that we will honor our collective security commitments.

Sincerely,

John M. McHugh
Ranking Member

Michael Turner
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Cc: The Honorable Robert Gates

John Barker

Eric Cantor

Phil Singerly

W. Cole Alvin

Rob Bishop

Joe Wilson

Bill Shuster

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Trent Franks

Dan Burton

Doug Lamborn

John Shadegg

Joseph Pitts

Kay Granger

Mike Rogers - AL

Glenn Thompson

[illegible]

Jim Hensarling

Mike Rogers (MI)

Gardner Blanch

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Steve King

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Pete Olson

Jim Sensenbrenner

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

February 18, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to authorize Juan Lara, Majority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Mike Brinck, Minority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity to travel on official committee oversight business to sites in Washington from April 6 to April 10, 2009. The purpose of travel is to attend various Transition Assistance Program Workshops in Ft. Lewis AFB, Bremerton AFB, McChord AFB, and Fairchild AFB, Washington.

The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation 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.

If there are any questions, please have your staff coordinate with Juan Lara at (202) 226-5491 and Mike Brinck at (202) 226-3668. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

JL/ot

OSD 02328-09

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
Washington, DC 20515

February 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to serve as an amendment to the authorization letter for an Agriculture Committee fact-finding Congressional Delegation to be lead by the Tim Holden of Pennsylvania, a member of this Committee, to Senegal, Mali, and Ghana during the period April 3 to April 17, 2009, (reference authorization letter dated December 31, 2008, changing countries from Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and airdrop in Sudan).

I request the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation and military escort, as may be required to facilitate this trip. For purposes of protocol, Members' spouses may attend at no additional cost to the U.S. government. It is anticipated that a minimum of five (5) Members, plus spouses and staff, are expected to join the CODEL. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and of such transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to Title 31, U.S.C. 1108(g).

It would be appreciated if officials of the Department would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel, including transportation. Furthermore, it is requested that the Army Liaison staff be authorized to accompany this CODEL. Thank you very much for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Wynn J Bott in the Committee's office at (202) 225-2171.

Sincerely,

Collin C. Peterson
Chairman

CCP:wb

OSD 02329-09

JOE DONNELLY
2ND DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEES:
FINANCIAL SERVICES
AGRICULTURE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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

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SOUTH BEND, IN 46601
(574) 288-2780
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809 STATE STREET, ROOM 501B
LAPORTE, IN 46350
(219) 326-6808 EXT. 414
FAX: (574) 288-2825

300 EAST BROADWAY, SUITE #102
LOGANSPORT, IN 46947
(574) 753-2671
FAX: (574) 753-7615

VIA FAX

March 2, 2009

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Honorable Wilkie:

I am writing on behalf of my constituent Mrs. Kathe Kain. Kathe runs a business, Sports-O-Zone, that manufactures a Decon-Zone machine that reduces the odors, bacteria, viruses, and mold on gear after just one use. It is already in use by the U.S. Marine Corps Bases in Okanawa and Camp LeJeune, by the United States Air Force at Elmendorf Air Force Base and Peterson Air Force Base, by the Asymmetric Warfare Group at Fort Meade and the Total Force Maneuver Support Center at Fort Leonard Wood. With this proven track record, they feel that they have a valuable product for many other bases and units.

I write you to ask that you please grant every consideration consistent with U.S. law and applicable regulation in order to help in this case. If you have any further questions, you can contact my case manager Peter Gehred at peter.gehred@mail.house.gov or call him at (574) 288-2780.

Regards,

Joe Donnelly
Member of Congress

JD:pg

OSD 02379-09

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MAJORITY MEMBERS:

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2181 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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February 19, 2009

Mr. Christian P. Marrone
Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense – Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Marrone:

I would like to extend an invitation to you to testify before the Committee on Education and Labor at the hearing entitled "*Renewing America Through National Service and Volunteerism*" to be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 10 a.m. in 2175 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

You will be given 5 minutes to testify. The lighting system located at the witness table will indicate when you can begin your testimony and how much time you have left. The light will turn yellow when you have 1 minute left and red when your time has expired. Once all witnesses have finished their testimony, the Members will have 5 minutes each to comment and ask questions of witnesses.

Also, pursuant to House Rule XI, Clause 2(g), witnesses testifying before the Committee must meet witness disclosure requirements. Please complete the attached "Truth in Testimony" form and return to Tylease Alli of the Committee staff via fax at 202-225-2350. Please provide the following 48 hours prior to the date of the hearing: a brief summary of your testimony, a brief biography, the "Truth in Testimony" form, and 50 copies of your testimony. **Please be advised that this 48 hour deadline for testimony is the absolute deadline. Testimony should be submitted earlier to Alejandra Ceja of the Committee staff if she advises you to do so. If you have any questions regarding deadlines for the submission of testimony please contact Ms. Ceja.** In addition, the Committee would like to make your written testimony available on our webpage, at http://edlabor.house.gov/. To do this, we ask that you send an electronic version of your statement in Microsoft Word format as an attachment to an e-mail to Tylease Alli (tylease.alli@mail.house.gov). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Alli at 202-226-1848.

I would like to thank you in advance for your time and interest in this matter. I look forward to hearing your testimony.

Sincerely,

George Miller

GEORGE MILLER
Chairman

OSD 02434-09

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

March 9, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On Tuesday, March 17, 2009, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs will conduct a hearing on *The Vision Center for Excellence: What Has Been Accomplished in Thirteen Months.* This hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. in room 334 of the Cannon House Office Building.

The Subcommittee invites Ward Cascells, MD, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense, and Colonel Donald A. Gagliano, USA, MD, Director, Military Eye Trauma Vision Center of Excellence, U.S. Department of Defense. Dr. Cascells and Colonel Gagliano will be recognized for five minutes each, and their complete written statement will be made part of the hearing record. Please confirm Dr. Cascell's and Colonel Gagliano's attendance by having staff contact Mr. Todd Chambers at (202) 225-3569.

Please submit 75 copies of written testimony, and a biography, to Mr. Todd Chambers at 337A Cannon House Office Building by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009. To reduce costs and facilitate the inclusion of the written testimony in the printed record of the hearing, please provide one copy of the testimony prepared in accordance with the enclosed formatting requirements.

OSD 02495-09

Due to heightened security precautions, please note that all Congressional mail delivery is delayed and commercial delivery services are prohibited. Therefore, you must contact our staff at (202) 225-3569 to make arrangements for a representative from your organization to hand deliver your testimony.

The Committee provides public access to its hearing statements on the Internet through the World Wide Web at the House of Representatives (http://veterans.house.gov) and the Library of Congress (http://thomas.loc.gov).

To facilitate this public access, please send an electronic copy of your testimony to Mr. Todd Chambers at Todd.Chambers@mail.house.gov. Ideally, the electronic copy should be in Microsoft Word format. Additionally, the hearings are now broadcast live, in real time, over the Internet, and are archived on our Web site so they may be accessed following each hearing.

We look forward to hearing the views of the organization on this matter. Please contact Geoffrey Bestor, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, at (202) 225-3569 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Harry E. Mitchell

HARRY E. MITCHELL
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

GB/tc

MELVIN L. WATT
12TH DISTRICT
NORTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEES
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3312

February 24, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-0001

Dear Secretary Gates:

My office is hosting the 12th Congressional District Annual Grants Conference on Monday, June 15, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC. This Conference will provide my constituents throughout the 12th Congressional District an opportunity to meet with representatives from federal agencies and learn about the federal grant application process.

I am writing to request your assistance by providing a representative from your agency to serve as a Conference presenter. Each presenter is asked to provide an overview of your agency's application process and funding programs.

Please confirm your agency's participation by contacting my Grant Conference Coordinator, Tamara Stinson, at (704) 344-9950 or Tamara.Stinson@mail.house.gov by Friday, April 3, 2009. I look forward to your agency's involvement. Thank you for your support of this effort.

Sincerely,

Melvin L. Watt
MLW/ts

OSD 02566-09

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DANIEL B. MAFFEI
25TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

1630 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-3701

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–3225

February 25, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to express my strong support for the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program and request your consideration of a reprogramming of funds for Fiscal Year 2009. I am aware of significant undesired consequences for the E-2D program as a result of the enacted funding levels for Fiscal Year 2009, and I urge your personal attention to this issue.

As you know, the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program continues to perform satisfactorily on both cost and schedule. Since enactment of the appropriations bill, an Operational Assessment has been completed and the program remains on track to receive Milestone C approval in Spring 2009. After reviewing the final appropriated levels for this program in Fiscal Year 2009, however, I am concerned that current funding will be inadequate to sustain this program in transition from development to low rate production. I believe there are negative impacts to both the cost and delivery schedule of these aircraft.

Therefore, I request that you reprogram funds in Fiscal Year 2009 to support the procurement of the third Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) Lot I aircraft in Fiscal Year 2009, and provide advance procurement for the third Lot II aircraft in Fiscal Year 2010. Furthermore, I urge you to ensure that the Fiscal Year 2010 request includes procurement funding for all three LRIP Lot II aircraft.

I thank you for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to your strong support for prioritizing reprogramming of Fiscal Year 2009 funding for the E-2D program.

Sincerely,

Daniel B. Maffei M.C.

cc: The Honorable Donald Winter, Secretary of the Navy
ADM Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

OSD 02569-09

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FIRST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
February 26, 2009

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www.shea-porter.house.gov

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to correct a sentence contained in my letter, co-signed by 18 of my colleagues, which I sent to you on February 17, 2009.

While the letter accurately stated that the Department of Defense Inspector General is currently investigating the electrocution deaths of 18 Americans (16 soldiers and 2 contractors), my office inaccurately stated that all of the electrocutions were "in KBR-maintained facilities." It has come to my attention that some of these incidents did not occur in KBR-maintained facilities. This misstatement does not diminish my concern about a contract involving major electrical work being awarded to a company under investigation for the electrocution deaths of American soldiers.

I hope this clarification resolves any confusion.

Sincerely,

Carol Shea-Porter

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

OSD 02581-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable David Price, Chairman of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Mongolia, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste on official business during the approximate time period of May 22-31, 2009.

The main purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the Great State Hural of Mongolia, the House of Representatives in Indonesia, and the National Parliament of Timor-Leste in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02582-09

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(954) 450-6767
FAX: (954) 450-6768

February 25, 2009

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates,

In October of 2008, President Bush signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009. An essential part of that Act was the establishment of the Military Leadership Diversity Commission. Creation of this commission is the fruit of numerous meetings between senior members of the Pentagon, including former Undersecretary Gordon England and each of the Service Chiefs, former General Officers, and members of the Congressional Black Caucus dating back to October of 2007.

We share the goal of making sure that our military and its senior leadership reflects our larger American society, and to that end I have been looking forward to the Commission beginning its task : "conducting a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of policies that provide opportunities for the promotion and advancement of minority members of the Armed Forces, including minority members who are senior officers."

The work of this Commission will give Congress a better idea of how to address the continuing issues hampering our senior military service members. The simple fact is that minorities are overrepresented at the enlisted level and underrepresented at the officer level. This discrepancy becomes more acute at the General and Flag Officer level. We all understand that given the nature of longevity and time in grade requirements that rectifying this discrepancy will be by definition a slow process. It will take time to grow today's junior officers into tomorrow's senior leaders. That is all the more incentive to act now and to act rapidly to ensure that military leadership 30 years from now more accurately reflects our society.

The NDAA set a deadline for appointment the Commission's members of not later than 60 days after the date of enactment for the Commission's establishment; it is my understanding that only very recently did you receive nominations from all relevant services and that now the Commission awaits your approval of these nominees. To me,

OSD 02584-09

the issue of diversity is also an issue of national security as we are better served by the wide range of talents, experiences and capabilities that each group can bring to the table. The U.S. military has long been at the forefront of maximizing diversity in our nation, but we must continue to build on past successes. I know that the effort to build upon that diversity is a goal that you and I share, and I look forward to your response and to the timely forming of the Military Leadership Diversity Commission.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my staff for support, advice or recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kendrick B. Meek
Member of Congress

ROBERT E. ANDREWS
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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BUDGET COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3001

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WEBSITE:
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February 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are contacting you today in support of a public-private partnership being developed between Stevens Institute of Technology and McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey that is successfully working to ensure our military becomes independent of foreign oil and fossil fuels. In addition, this work will foster new technologies, create jobs and spur economic development throughout Southern New Jersey, and we urge you to consider committing $3.5 million worth of defense funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to this important initiative.

As alternative energy technology matures, it is imperative that new concepts of renewable energy production are tested and proven in the field. Military bases are ideally suited to serve as national test beds for the development of affordable alternative energy. Stevens Institute of Technology, in collaboration with the private sector, has developed innovative carbon neutral technologies that can be implemented now in the field to validate the concept of operations for distributed alternative energy systems that can meet a major portion of the demand of military bases. McGuire Air Force Base is committed to becoming a model base where alternative energy technology is tested at full scale and its efficacy is proven. The funding we are requesting would be used to install, operate and test proven biofuel alternative energy technology at McGuire Air Force Base.

This program will demonstrate the efficiency and affordability of biofuel technology to our Nation's military bases, create hundreds of jobs in Southern New Jersey over the next two years, foster a new industry that creates thousands of jobs nationwide, and become the kernel of innovation that can transfer best practices to the rest of our military establishments for years to come. We have attached additional information regarding this project to this letter for your consideration.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Our offices are prepared to provide you with any additional information you may require or answer any questions you may have about this initiative.

Cc: Wayne Arny, Undersecretary for Defense Installations and Environment

Sincerely,

Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress

John Adler
Member of Congress

OSD 02588-09

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

February 27, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to authorize Juan Lara, Majority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Mike Brinck, Minority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity to travel on official committee oversight business to sites in Washington from April 6 to April 10, 2009. The purpose of travel is to attend various Transition Assistance Program Workshops in Bremerton Naval Base, Ft. Lewis AFB, McChord AFB, and Fairchild AFB, Washington.

The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation 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.

If there are any questions, please have your staff coordinate with Juan Lara at (202) 226-5491 and Mike Brinck at (202) 226-3668. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bob

BOB FILNER
Chairman

JL/ot

OSD 02637-09

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 10, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to call your attention to the requirement that the Department of Defense (DoD) conduct a space-based interceptor study as mandated by the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 110-329).

After the Appropriations bill became law, there appeared to be disagreement as to whether or not the DoD has the legal authority to obligate and expend funds for a space-based interceptor study. The Congressional Research Service (CRS) delivered a memorandum to Senator Kyl on October 31, 2008, which concluded, "The Department of Defense appears legally required to obligate and expend $5 million for this space-based interceptor study because section 8006 of the full-year Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2009, which was enacted as Division C of P.L. 110-329, states that the obligation and expenditure of funds for projects for which amounts appropriated exceed amounts requested in the budget are required by law to be carried out in the manner provided in the tables to the same extent as if the tables were included in the text of the Act."

In addition to the clarification provided by the CRS, we learned that in December of 2008, the Director of the Missile Defense Agency, Lieutenant General Patrick O'Reilly, in a letter to Chairman Skelton, then Ranking Member Hunter, Chairman Murtha, Ranking Member Young, Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran, affirmed that the DoD must, upon the advice of the DoD General Counsel, conduct the study. MDA proposed to award a contract to a Federally Funded Research and Development Center in the near future and anticipated the study would be completed as early as summer 2009. We have also learned that Undersecretary of Defense John Young assured Senator John Kyl in a December 2008 letter, "the Department will comply with the statutory requirement and proceed with the study." Finally, the DoD General Counsel issued his opinion that the Department is legally required to conduct the study in a letter to Chairman Skelton dated February 10, 2009.

OSD 02641-09

Despite the legal requirement to conduct the study and the aforementioned correspondence from Department officials that they plans to proceed with the study and award a contract, we have been recently informed that due to political pressure, the DoD has postponed proceeding with the study. We will not debate the merits of space-based interceptors in this letter because our political opinions on the matter are irrelevant at this juncture. The purpose of the study is to explore the feasibility and advisability of the concept. The Congress has already debated the issue and the bill appropriating funds for the study has been voted on by both chambers of Congress and enacted into law. The Department should not stall its plans for conducting the study due to political pressures and any such action would be perceived as such.

This study was important to former Ranking Member Hunter and Strategic Forces subcommittee Ranking Member Everett, and this request continues their work. With a solid legal foundation, we see no reason to delay proceeding with the study in accordance with the Department's original plans and intent. We request that you provide us with the timeline for which the Department plans to obligate and expend the $5 million to conduct the study and the intended recipient of the study contract.

We are happy to discuss any questions related to this matter.

Sincerely,

John M. McHugh
Ranking Member

Michael Turner
Member of Congress

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

DEAN HELLER
2ND DISTRICT, NEVADA

1023 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
202-225-6155

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2802

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I appreciate the work the Department of Defense does in providing employment to people with severe disabilities though service contracts under the AbilityOne Program. I have the pleasure of working with Opportunity Village, a community rehabilitation program in southern Nevada that has been providing job training and employment services in southern Nevada.

For more than 35 years, Opportunity Village has supported the airmen and women at Nellis Air Force Base. Currently, Opportunity Village has a food service attendant contract and postal service center contract with Nellis. As a result, 43 people with severe disabilities are employed under these contracts.

This partnership has provided valuable services at Nellis AFB, and has assisted people with disabilities. Given this information, I ask that the Department of Defense reaffirm its commitment to not enter into contracts or agreements that will result in the loss of jobs created by the Randolph Sheppard Act, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, or small business programs. The AbilityOne Program should be part of the Air Force job creation efforts, and I urge the Department of Defense to coordinate with AbilityOne representatives to develop a policy solution that encourages job creation through both the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program and the AbilityOne Program.

Thank you for your prompt attention to my concerns and please feel free to contact me for further information. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dean Heller

DEAN HELLER
Member of Congress

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OSD 02653-09

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

March 3, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman Michael H. Michaud to lead a delegation of Members and staff from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs on a fact-finding visit to Afghanistan and Germany from April 13 to April 18, 2009. The delegation will include, in addition to Congressman Michaud, Congresswoman Deborah L. Halvorson of Illinois; Congressman Glenn C. Nye of Virginia; Congressman Thomas S. P. Perriello of Virginia, and Congressman David P. Roe of Tennessee; Cathy Wiblemo, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Health; and Dolores Dunn, Republican Staff Director for the Subcommittee. In addition, Vice Admiral Adam Robinson, Surgeon General of the Navy, and Lieutenant General Eric Schoomaker, Army Surgeon General, will be in attendance.

The Delegation is currently planning to travel to visit medical facilities in the chain of care of OEF service members and see first-hand the level and quality of health care being provided to active duty service members in Afghanistan. Participants will also speak directly with key medical personnel at these facilities in order to better understand the challenges of combat health care in Afghanistan. They request briefings and updates from Defense officials knowledgeable on medical evacuation procedures and policy.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in the countries to be visited. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be

OSD 02657-09

required, including transportation, to facilitate this fact-finding visit. The expenditure of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to Title 31, U.S.C., Section 1108 (g).

I would also like to request military escorts from the Army Legislative Liaison Office be authorized to accompany the delegation for administrative and logistical support.

The CODEL will be authorized to travel on foreign commercial airline carriers when there has been a determination that a U.S. flag carrier not available to meet the scheduling requirements of the traveler consistent with the "Fly America Act."

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jian Zapata of the Committee staff at 225-9756.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

CHARLES A. GONZALEZ
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
20TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4320

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

CHAIR OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC
CAUCUS CIVIL RIGHTS TASK FORCE

1ST VICE CHAIR
CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

SENIOR WHIP

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20302-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write with respect to the recent Federal Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling in the case of *Rothe Development Corp. v. Department of Defense and Department of the Air Force*. I am concerned how the Department of Defense (DOD) will now conduct its contracting processes and how this determination will affect small businesses in the 20th Congressional District of Texas.

In 1998, Rothe Development Inc., a woman owned small business, filed a lawsuit against DOD claiming it had lost a contract, for which it submitted the lowest bid, because of the racial set-aside program. The case called into question the DOD's entire minority-owned small business set-aside contracting program. On November 4, 2008, the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that this contracting program, which sets aside 5 percent of DOD contracts, is unconstitutional because of a lack of evidence that minority companies had ever suffered from racial discrimination in the DOD contracting process.

Small businesses in my district have been asking what this decision will mean for the DOD minority-owned small business set aside contracting program. I represent a community with a strong military presence and with a great number of minority-owned small businesses that hold contracts with all the service branches. Therefore, DOD's contracting process has a huge impact on business owners I represent. My constituents need guidance now on how DOD intends to move forward in light of this ruling.

I respectfully request a meeting with senior officials to discuss how DOD intends to address this matter and when new guidance can be expected from the agency. To arrange for the meeting, please contact Jayne Ann Wolsey, my scheduler, at 202-225-3236. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress

CAG: am

OSD 02660-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 5, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee, Committee on Appropriations, and The Honorable Kay Granger, The Honorable Jesse Jackson, Jr., The Honorable Adam Schiff, and The Honorable Ben Chandler, Members of the Committee, to travel during the approximate time period of April 13th-19th, 2009, to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Ireland. The purpose of this trip is to review U.S. policies and programs in the region, and to meet with government officials.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial and military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 02662-09

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress
Third District, New York

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3203

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
RANKING MEMBER

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING

March 11, 2009

The Honorable BJ Penn
Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment)
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1000

Dear Mr. Penn:

I am writing to you regarding the recent environmental investigation in and around the Naval Weapons Reserve Plant (NWIRP) in Bethpage, NY. As you know, this investigation has identified the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in several homes. While I applaud the Navy's pro-active efforts in sampling certain homes and educating the community by holding public meetings, I believe more needs to be done. That is why I am joining with Nassau County Legislator Edward Mangano in requesting the Navy take the following actions:

1. Provide immediate, free testing to all homeowners residing south of NWIRP
2. Expedite in-home remediation
3. Expedite an on-site remediation system
4. Designate funding to compensate affected homeowners
5. Expand the radius of neighborhood street testing and continue testing until redundant non-detected results are confirmed

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I would appreciate the Navy keeping me regularly informed of new developments regarding Bethpage.

Sincerely,

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

Cc: Dr. Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense
Mr. Donald Winter, Secretary of the Navy

OSD 02673-09

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BILL SHUSTER
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

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TERRORISM AND UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE:
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

RURAL HEALTH CARE COALITION

CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3809

March 5, 2009

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

Secretary Gates:

As you know, on September 9th, 2004 President Bush took an unprecedented step when he recognized that the atrocities occurring in Darfur constituted genocide. More than four years later, the genocide continues. In 2008 alone at least 300,000 people were displaced and there have been 43 reported aerial attacks by the Government of Sudan.

The United States should work with our allies to ensure that the United Nations mission in Darfur has the critical resources it requires. I urge you to renew efforts to secure the helicopters which the UN mission needs if it is to save lives, create an environment amenable to the peace negotiations, and ensure uninterrupted humanitarian operations.

Without helicopters, the current UN peacekeeping force's ability to respond quickly to events and fulfill its mandate to protect civilians is severely compromised. More than 20 countries have surplus aircraft that could be made available for the mission. It is my understanding that the six countries best placed to provide transport helicopters, Italy, Ukraine, India, Spain, Romania and the Czech Republic, between them have an estimated 71 helicopters available, four times the requirement.

Thank you for your leadership and your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Bill Shuster

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

cc: General Jim Jones, National Security Advisor
Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

OSD 02735-09

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ANDRÉ CARSON
7TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS, INSURANCE AND GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY, TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1407

March 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to express my strong support for the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program, and request your consideration of a reprogramming of funds for Fiscal Year 2009. I am aware of significant undesired consequences for the E-2D program, as a result of the enacted funding levels for Fiscal Year 2009, and I urge your personal attention to this issue.

As you know, the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program is the cornerstone of the Navy's Net-Centric Warfare concept, and is imperative for protection against theater air and missile threats. Unfortunately, since the Defense Appropriations Bill was not considered in regular order, there was little time to address misunderstandings and major issues before the final conference report was complete. This produced an appropriations mark that left the program at a level inadequate to sustain it in transition from development to low rate production. In addition, the current FY09 funding level might produce a delay in Initial Operating Capability (IOC) by two or more years. This is especially disappointing when the Advanced Hawkeye program continues to meet and exceed both cost and schedule goals, and is needed to address urgent threats.

Therefore, I request that you reprogram funds in Fiscal Year 2009 to support the procurement of the third Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) Lot I aircraft in the Fiscal Year 2009, and provide advance procurement for the third Lot II aircraft in Fiscal Year 2010. Furthermore, I urge you to ensure that the Fiscal Year 2010 request includes procurement funding for all three LRIP Lot II aircraft.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your strong support for prioritizing reprogramming of Fiscal Year 2009 funding for the E-2D program.

Sincerely,

André Carson
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Donald Winter, Secretary of the Navy
ADM Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

OSD 02738-09

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LEONARD L. BOSWELL
3rd District, Iowa

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http://boswell.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1503

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
Chairman, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Subcommittee on Aviation
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence

March 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to urge you to act immediately to protect the jobs of people with severe disabilities working on Department of Defense (DoD) service contracts under the AbilityOne Program. Specifically, I ask that you:

1. Reaffirm the moratorium on conversions set forth in the December 29, 2004, Memorandum wherein Under Secretary of Defense Chu states, *DoD NAFIs shall not enter into contracts or agreements with DoD elements or other Federal Departments, Agencies or instrumentalities for the provision of goods and services that will result in the loss of jobs created pursuant to the Randolph Sheppard Act, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, or small business programs* until a policy solution can be reached that encourages job creation;
2. Request that the AbilityOne Program be part of the Air Force solution; and,
3. Provide notification that responses to date from Arthur Myers, Principal Director, Military Community and Family Policy, do not fully address the above two issues.

I support the DoD Food Transformation effort where it results in higher quality and efficiency to service members and lower costs. However, given the potential impact this challenge could have on the employment of thousands of people with severe disabilities in the AbilityOne Program, I strongly urge the DoD to coordinate with AbilityOne representatives to develop a policy solution that encourages job creation through both the MWR and the AbilityOne Programs. This is a crucial step to incorporate the best thinking to resolve this issue, particularly when jobs for people with severe disabilities are so rare, reflecting an unemployment rate unparalleled by any other demographic sector of our society.

Thank you for your early consideration of this urgent request. If you have any questions on this issue, please feel free to contact me or my staff, Katy Siddall, at 202-225-3806.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

LB:ks

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DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
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TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to evaluate current policies regarding trade and commerce with Cuba, and to examine and promote proposals to initiate cultural, academic, and health exchanges with the U.S.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority of 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

The travel will be conducted via military aircraft. It would be appreciated if officials of the Department would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 02742-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
March 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable John Tanner, Chairman of the House NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) group, to lead a delegation to Germany, France, Lithuania, Ukraine, Georgia, and Belgium during the approximate period of April 2-9, 2009. The purpose of this trip will be to attend meetings with government officials in each country in conjunction with the mission of the Assembly. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable John Tanner (D-TN)
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)

Ms. Melissa Adamson, 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 (b)(6) and military air transportation in-theatre. 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 Mr. David Hobbs, Secretary General of the NATO PA, has been invited to travel with the delegation in-theatre.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02743-09

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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby given to Representative Kay Granger, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 27-28, 2009, to Leon, Mexico. The purpose of this trip is to participate in the US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce "A Vision for North America" Conference.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02744-09

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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby given to Representative Kay Granger, member of the Committee on Appropriations and Anne Marie Chotvacs, professional staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on a CODEL led by Representative Nita Lowey during the approximate time period of April 13 – 19, 2009, to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Ireland. The purpose of this trip is to review U.S. policies and programs in the region, and to meet with government officials.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02745-09

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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Celes Hughes, Matthew Washington, and B.G. Wright, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 27 – April 3, 2009, to Qatar, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The purpose of this trip is to review programs supporting the announced U.S. troop build-up in Afghanistan.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial and military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02746-09

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(202) 225-2771

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Celes Hughes, Matthew Washington, and B.G. Wright, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 27 – April 3, 2009, to Qatar, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The purpose of this trip is to review programs supporting the announced U.S. troop build-up in Afghanistan.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial and military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02746-09

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(202) 225-2771

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Ed Pastor, the Honorable Maurice Hinchey, the Honorable Tim Ryan, the Honorable Ciro Rodriguez, the Honorable John R. Carter, the Honorable Rodney Alexander, and the Honorable John T. Salazar members of the Committee on Appropriations, and Taunja Berquam and Terry Tyborowski, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on official business to Puerto Rico, and Brazil, during the time period of April 3 – April 10, 2009. The Honorable James Clyburn will travel under separate authorization. The purpose of the trip is to inspect sustainable biomass plantations, renewable energy laboratories, hydropower production, flex-fuel, and hybrid vehicle manufacturing processes, and water infrastructure. They will also be meeting with officials and the Brazilian government to discuss national energy strategies and other issues of mutual interest.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It would be appreciated in the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation, to facilitate this trip. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Army (SAFM-BUL) could be assigned to escort the delegation.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02747-09

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(202) 225-2771

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 20, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize spouses to accompany Members for reasons of protocol at no additional expense to the government.

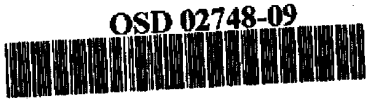
Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 02748-09



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Adrienne Ramsay, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 27, 2009, to Rochester, New York. The purpose of this trip is to visit facilities to review the design and production capabilities and receive briefings on subsystems and payloads for national security space systems.

Per diem expenses of not to exceed $109 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 02749-09

WALTER B. JONES
3D DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

ROOM 2333
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3303

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to request that the Department of Defense (DoD) finalize the inclusion of TRICARE Retail Pharmacy Program in federal procurement of pharmaceuticals proposed rule (73 Fed. Reg. 43394 (July 25, 2008)); 32 CFR Part 199 [DoD-2008-HA-0029; 0720-AB22) as soon as possible. According to the proposed rule, making this regulation final will save DoD $2.4 billion in Fiscal Years 2009-2011. In addition to providing badly needed savings to the DoD, the finalization of this rule ends the need for current or future TRICARE policies that favor the TRICARE Mail Order Program (TMOP) over the TRICARE retail pharmacy network.

In Fiscal Year 2006, America's retail pharmacies dispensed over 55 million TRICARE prescriptions, more than any other pharmacy practice setting. TRICARE beneficiaries, particularly retirees, have demonstrated a clear preference to obtain their prescription drugs and pharmacy services from retail pharmacies, despite the fact that there are already incentives in the TRICARE program to encourage beneficiaries to use mail order. They are our nation's current and retired armed services personnel and their families, and we need to honor them by providing them with quality, accessible health care. I believe the choice of where to obtain prescription mediations is best left to them.

Implementing the proposed rule would bring to fruition the sensible policy that the DoD, with the support of the Government Services Administration, has pursued for years. A final rule will give full effect to the intent and plain language of Section 703 of NDAA-2008[1][1] by placing retail pharmacies on an equal footing with other TRICARE pharmacy programs. Section 703 was signed into law one year ago, and as we await issuance of the final rule, DoD loses hundreds of millions of dollars of savings because manufacturers are not paying required statutory discounts on TRICARE prescriptions dispensed by retail pharmacies. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimated savings of $3.2 billion over the five-year period, including $719 million in FY 2009.

OSD 02751-09

I respectfully request that you quickly promulgate and implement a revised final rule that reflects the intent of Congress and DoD to achieve significant savings and enable TRICARE beneficiaries to choose where to obtain their prescription medications. This result will best honor TRICARE beneficiaries, promote quality health care, and preserve scarce government resources. Thank you for your continued service to our country, and for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Walter B. Jones

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

GREG WALDEN
SECOND DISTRICT, OREGON
DEPUTY WHIP

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Congress of the United States
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March 13, 2009

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

Lieutenant General Clyde A. Vaughn
Director, Army National Guard
NGB-ARNG
111 South George Mason Drive
Arlington, VA 22204

Dear Secretary Gates and Lieutenant General Vaughn:

I write today to urge you to direct money from the $50,000,000 allocated for Army National Guard Military Construction in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (PL 111-5) towards construction of The Dalles Armory located in The Dalles, Oregon. According to their FY2010 appropriations request, the Oregon Military Department indicated that their federal request for this project is $17,023,000. It is my hope that this project can be funded through the money available in PL 111-5 to allow construction to begin immediately.

The Oregon Military Department has indicated that this project is ready to execute now and will help the local and state economy by providing jobs in construction and maintenance during the period of construction and supporting the local economy after construction. They estimate that construction projects of this scope average a total of 62 sub-contracts with an average of 12 employees per contract. The total number of construction related jobs is estimated to be between 750 and 1,000.

This project is vital to the community in The Dalles because it is a unique partnership between the Oregon Military Department and Columbia Gorge Community College and will provide prolonged benefit to the local economy as part of the community college campus with classrooms available to the college during the week.

It is important that this project is completed as expeditiously as possible. I can think of no better way to create jobs, stimulate the state and local economy, and also advance the mission of the men and women who have dedicated themselves to protecting our country. Thank you for your time and full and fair consideration consistent with applicable law, rules, and regulations. I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Greg Walden
Member of Congress

OSD 02768-09

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2181 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

March 18, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE – 703-695-1219
The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Marcia L. Fudge to travel on a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) led by the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to evaluate current policies regarding trade and commerce with Cuba, and to examine and promote proposals to initiate cultural, academic, and health exchanges with the United States.

It is requested that the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation is authorized pursuant to 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. The CODEL requests the U.S. Air Force liaison support to this Delegation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Clifton Ronald St. Clair Williams III at 202-225-7032. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE MILLER
Chairman

GM:ejh

OSD 02984-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0308

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense, Pentagon - Room 3E970
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

Dear Sect. Gates:

I write regarding two studies mandated by the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (NDAA), PL-110.417, which were recently due to be submitted to Congress but have not yet been received. These studies of the Department of Defense's renewable energy pursuits, such as the use of solar power, are vital to progress on developing a comprehensive strategy on reducing the Department's operational energy consumption.

Section 333 of the 2009 NDAA requires your office to conduct a study examining the feasibility of using solar and wind energy to provide electricity for expeditionary forces. In particular, the study must examine the potential for solar and wind energy to reduce the fuel supply; the extent to which such reduction will decrease the risk of casualties associated with convoy operations; the overall costs and benefits of using these technologies; the sustainability and operating requirements of solar and wind energy systems; and potential opportunities for experimentation within current training environments. The report was due on 11 February, 2009, 120 days after enactment of the 2009 NDAA, however the report has not yet been submitted to Congress.

The second report, due 1 March, 2009, was required by the House Report accompanying the 2009 NDAA. It directed your office to report on technologies that are suitably mature to be integrated into reset and recapitalization programs that, if deployed, could reduce energy consumption. Likewise, this report has not yet been received.

I respectfully request that copies of these studies are immediately furnished to the Congress as they are likely to provide important insights for potential action during this year's defense authorization cycle. I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress

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OSD 02986-09

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March 11, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to express my outrage at the Army's use of funds to purchase land to expand the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site in direct violation of clearly stated Congressional intent.

In 2008, Congress passed the Military Construction Appropriations Act with an amendment stating *"None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used for any action that is related to or promotes the expansion of the boundaries or size of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado."* The clear intent of this measure was to prevent the appropriation of funds for the proposed expansion of the Pinon Canyon site used by the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado.

It has come to my attention that the Army has recently completed a deal with a Colorado landowner for the acquisition of approximately 70,000 acres of land near the existing Pinon Canyon facility. This acquisition comes less than six months after members of Congress expressed their intent to impose a ban on expansion.

The expansion of the Pinon Canyon site has been adamantly opposed by Colorado Members of Congress as well as the farmers and ranchers in Southern Colorado because a larger training facility will result in the condemnation of private property, decreased land values, a devastating impact on the local economy, and on the environment.

The Pinon Canyon site has always been a bane for the local communities. When the initial land was purchased, some landowners complained of strong-arm tactics and fears of condemnation. When the site was to open, the Army heralded construction jobs and long-term employment, but after twenty years the site has not helped the local economies. Additionally, many were led to believe that the site would not allow live-fire exercises, but that promise was also broken.

Today, I am troubled that the Army has decided to not only violate the trust of the local community but has also decided to skirt clearly defined Congressional intent that this facility not be enlarged. In January 2009, the Government Accountability Office released a report on the Department of Defense justifications for the expansion of Pinon Canyon. This report recommended that the Army provide more information to Congress before further action be

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taken. Not only was no further information provided, it now appears that the Army has decided to disregard Congress' intentions altogether. Please advise me on why the Army is progressing forward on the purchase. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Betsy Markey
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are acutely aware that the US Transportation Command and the US Air Force place a very high priority on recapitalizing the fleet of KC-135 Refueling Tankers. We agree with this priority. Unfortunately, as the Government Accountability Office concluded last year, the previous source selection process for the KC-X Tanker was deeply flawed. We write to you today to highlight several key points that we believe must guide a future source selection process if it is to be successful.

First and foremost a future competitive source selection must be fair to all parties while delivering the best value solution for the warfighter at a reasonable cost for the taxpayer. In the previous source selection, the competition was not conducted fairly on several levels. The Department of Defense (DOD) must not repeat past mistakes:

- Do not allow "competition at all costs" to distort the KC-X solicitation and source selection process. In the months leading up to the release of the final Request for Proposals (RFP) for the previous KC-X solicitation, the Air Force bent to the combination of external pressure for "competition at all costs" coupled with refusal by one potential offeror to compete unless the RFP was changed to its satisfaction. This led to last minute changes in key elements of the Combined Mating and Ranging Planning System (CMARPS) evaluation tool for the sole purpose of qualifying one offeror's proposal.

- Conduct the competition on a level playing field for all parties. In the previous KC-X competition, the Northrop Grumman/EADS team benefited from unfair advantages that derive from illegal government subsidies and waivers of regulations that apply to products produced in the United States. Specifically, the United States government has a complaint pending before the World Trade Organization (WTO) stating that the A-330 aircraft produced by EADS/Airbus benefitted from $5 billion in illegal government subsidies. Note that Section 886 of the FY2009 National Defense Authorization Act requires DOD to conduct a review of the impacts of subsidies on the aerial refueling tanker competition upon completion of the proceedings of the WTO. The KC-X competition also has highlighted the unequal treatment that American producers face when competing with products from several allied nations. Our American producers must abide by many regulations (Berry Amendment, Buy America Act, International Traffic in Arms Regulations, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and cost accounting

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standards) that add cost for domestic products but are waived for items produced in other countries.

➢ Take into account full and accurate life-cycle costs for proposals. According to Defense Acquisition University studies, Operation and Support (O&S) costs constitute approximately 72 percent of total weapon system costs. It is imperative that these costs be a significant factor in source selection decisions, and that they be estimated properly. DOD made a serious error in the previous KC-X Tanker source selection analysis when it based estimates of Most Probable Life-Cycle Cost (MPLCC) on a 25-year interval rather than the 40-year interval that was stipulated (and approved by the JROC) as the required service life of the aircraft. Furthermore, GAO recommended that a future source selection give greater attention to the impact of fuel costs in its life-cycle cost analysis. GAO concluded that "even a small increase in the amount of fuel that is burned per hour by a particular aircraft would have a dramatic impact on the overall fuel costs." Well established commercial data shows that the Airbus A-330 aircraft consumes 24% more fuel per flight hour than does a Boeing 767 aircraft. This would result in very significant differences in operating costs.

➢ Insist that proposals fully comply with all key requirements of the solicitation. In the previous KC-X Tanker source selection evaluation, GAO concluded that in two instances the Air Force disregarded the fact that the Northrop Grumman/EADS proposal failed to comply with requirements of the solicitation. Specifically, GAO found that the Air Force "improperly made award" when it "unreasonably determined that the awardee's refusal to agree to the specific solicitation requirement that it plan and support the agency to achieve organic depot-level maintenance." GAO also concluded that "the record does not demonstrate the reasonableness of the agency's determination that the awardee's proposed aerial refueling tanker could refuel all current Air Force fixed-wing tanker-compatible receiver aircraft in accordance with current Air Force procedures, as required by the solicitation."

➢ Insist that source selection evaluation be accomplished in accordance with the evaluation plan that is established for the solicitation. GAO found that the Air Force "did not assess the relative merits of the proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria identified in the solicitation, which provided for a relative order of importance for the various technical requirements, and where the agency did not take into account the fact that one of the proposals offered to satisfy more "trade space" technical requirements than the other proposal, even though the solicitation expressly requested offerors to satisfy as many of these technical requirements as possible." Furthermore, GAO concluded that the Air Force "violated the solicitation's evaluation provision that "no consideration will be provided for exceeding [key performance parameter] KPP objectives" when it recognized as a key discriminator the fact that the awardee proposed to exceed a KPP objective relating to aerial refueling to a greater degree than the protester."

➢ Carefully consider national security impacts and industrial base impacts. Given the crucial role that air refueling plays in providing global reach for our military, DOD must carefully weigh the importance of preserving domestic design knowledge and production expertise. Furthermore, industrial base impacts must be assessed given the fragile economic conditions and weak domestic employment environment. Federal code

(10 U.S.C. 2440) requires evaluation of technology and industrial base impacts in conjunction with major defense acquisitions.

We also think that it is important to the successful progress of the KC-X Tanker acquisition that DOD commence discussions with the potential offerors. Our understanding is that for the last several months DOD has resisted discussions that would help the government and industry exchange information, ideas and perspectives. If this program is to move forward and yield a positive outcome, we recommend that DOD engage with industry.

Finally, we urge you to take the necessary time to allow the new Administration team to thoroughly consider the framework for the next source selection process. As much as the Air Force needs to begin recapitalizing the KC-135 fleet, we think it is essential that the solicitation requirements and acquisition strategy have the input and support of the new DOD leadership team that will be responsible for conducting the source selection and getting the program under way.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

NORM DICKS
Member of Congress

TODD TIAHRT
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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(202) 225-2771

March 16, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated March 9, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Kay Granger, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, to travel to Leon, Mexico during the approximate period of March 27-28, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize travel during the approximate time period of March 27-29, 2009.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03053-09

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman Michael H. Michaud to lead a delegation of Members and staff from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs on a fact-finding visit to Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Germany from April 13 to April 18, 2009. The delegation will include, in addition to Congressman Michaud, Congresswoman Deborah L. Halvorson of Illinois; Congressman Glenn C. Nye of Virginia; Congressman Thomas S. P. Perriello of Virginia, and Congressman David P. Roe of Tennessee; Cathy Wiblemo, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Health; and Dolores Dunn, Republican Staff Director for the Subcommittee. In addition, Vice Admiral Adam Robinson, Surgeon General of the Navy, and Lieutenant General Eric Schoomaker, Army Surgeon General, will be in attendance.

The Delegation is currently planning to travel to visit medical facilities in the chain of care of OEF service members and see first-hand the level and quality of health care being provided to active duty service members in the countries to be visited. Participants will also speak directly with key medical personnel at these facilities in order to better understand the challenges of combat health care.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in the countries to be visited. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be

OSD 03054-09

required, including transportation, to facilitate this fact-finding visit. The expenditure of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to Title 31, U.S.C., Section 1108 (g).

I would also like to request military escorts from the Army Legislative Liaison Office be authorized to accompany the delegation for administrative and logistical support.

The CODEL will be authorized to travel on foreign commercial airline carriers when there has been a determination that a U.S. flag carrier not available to meet the scheduling requirements of the traveler consistent with the "Fly America Act."

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jian Zapata of the Committee staff at 225-9756.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As a member of the United States House of Representatives, it is an honor to recommend Dr. Solomon Passy for the position of the next Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). We ask that you give this request your full consideration.

NATO as an institution is an important vehicle for keeping peace and stability in the region. With the expected return of France to the military organization will open a window of opportunity for major and profound reforms in the Alliance and a new NATO-EU, Euro-American cohesion. Therefore, we trust that a person like Dr. Passy, bringing the inspiration of New Europe, may synergize best with this momentum.

Dr. Passy's credentials are very impressive. In 1990, as a member of parliament, he launched his idea for Bulgaria to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact to join NATO. At the time this goal was only supported by 15% of the population. The network he created, the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria, succeeded in its goal to reverse popular opinion: in 2004 when Foreign Minister Passy raised the Bulgarian flag at NATO Headquarters, he gained the support of 80% of the Bulgarian people. Also, he successfully negotiated and signed the Accession Treaty of Bulgaria with the European Union in 2005. Both ventures have made him one of the most popular ministers in Bulgarian history.

Another highlight of Dr. Passy's distinguished career was his leadership during Bulgaria's term on the United Nation's Security Council, which lasted from 2002 to 2003. During his tenure, he was able to demonstrate a remarkable ability to develop relationships in a way that permitted the passage of numerous resolutions and other important acts highlighting Bulgaria's successful term on the Council.

Also worth mentioning is his extensive experience in Afghanistan working closely with President Hamid Karzai on election and economic issues that impact the nation as a whole. As Chairman-in-Office for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), he directed the first exporting of an election observation team to Afghanistan to monitor the 2004 presidential election. Given the growing

OSD 03084-09

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narcotics concern that has developed out of Afghanistan, he has worked diligently on assisting the people of Afghanistan to replace poppy crops with that of roses—A Bulgarian treasure.

Dr. Passy has a proven track record in foreign relations. He has been one of the main instruments of his country's successes and there is no one better with his knowledge and experience to work in this capacity.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact either of our offices.

Sincerely,

Joe Wilson

JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

Madeleine F. Bordallo

MADELEINE BORDALLO
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 202(b), Public Law 601, 79th Congress (codified at 2 U.S.C. §72 a (b)), this Staff has been directed by the Committee on Appropriations to make an inquiry of the affect of stop loss on servicemembers.

Please designate an appropriate point of contact to arrange for obtaining the data pertinent to this inquiry and notify my office by telephone within five business days of the receipt of this letter. If there are any questions regarding this matter, I can be contacted on (202) 225-3881.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Pomerantz

David M. Pomerantz
Director
Surveys and Investigations Staff
House Committee on Appropriations

cc - Comptroller of the Department of Defense
cc - Secretary of the Army

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JON TRAUB,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 18, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI) to participate in the CODEL being led by Senator Robert Casey (D-PA), to Brussels and Belgium. This travel will take place during the period of Thursday, March 19, through Monday, March 23, 2009; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The purpose of this trip is to attend the 2009 Brussels Forum on transatlantic economies. Rep. Kind will also speak at the Forum and will meet with officials from European Parliament and the European Commission.

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

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 03130-09

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

March 23, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to call to your attention the need to revise your Department's policy on outsourcing. Over the past eight years the Administration has misused the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, the policy which governs public-private competitions to potentially outsource work to the private sector. A-76 became a mandate for pushing more and more work into the private sector, even work that is closely associated with inherently governmental functions, in order to meet arbitrary competition goals.

The last Administration's push to outsource resulted in hundreds of billions of expenditures with little to no oversight from the Department of Defense (DoD). In fiscal year 2008, DoD obligated about $200 billion for contractor-provided services, more than doubling the amount it spent a decade ago when measured in real terms. Yet the Defense Department is unable answer basic questions such as: how many contractors and subcontractors there are, what is their average salary, and precisely what work are they doing? The responsibility for acquiring services within DoD is spread among individual military commands, weapon system program offices, or functional units on military bases with no central oversight. The DoD Inspector General (IG) recently reported that your office pressured the Military Services to conduct outsourcing studies, and recently revealed to my subcommittee that contractors grant civilians access to military bases, including in highly sensitive areas like Iraq and Afghanistan, without evidence of appropriate background checks.

OSD 03190-09

The House Appropriations Committee has attempted for years to impose oversight of contract services and shift away from what has become an over reliance on contractors. The Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes a one year government-wide moratorium (section 737) on beginning or announcing any A-76 studies. I was heartened by President Obama's recent Memorandum on government contracting in which he states "Government outsourcing for services also raises special concerns." OMB must "... clarify when governmental outsourcing for services is and is not appropriate..." However, I found it disappointing when I learned of a response from your office to twenty members of Congress who had expressed concern about a particular A-76 study; the response suggests that the concerns about outsourcing expressed by this subcommittee and by the President have not been understood by your office. The same official who had advocated outsourcing during the Bush administration stated in a letter (attached) dated March 9, 2009, that "Public Private competition under OMB Circular-76 is a proven management tool that improves business efficiencies while generating significant savings to the taxpayer."

In light of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, I advise you to cease to initiate or announce new A-76 studies. I also suggest that you halt A-76 studies pending OMB review of the A-76 program.

I request a prompt response to this letter.

Respectfully,

John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

Attachment
As stated

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http://markey.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2107

March 23, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to urge you to appoint former U.S. Representative (b)(6) to serve on the Defense Policy Board.

I have known (b)(6) since I first arrived in Congress in 1976, and I worked closely with him during the 1980s and early 1990s on numerous arms control and defense policy legislative initiatives. During his service in the House, Les was widely regarded as one of the most thoughtful and effective national leaders on arms control issues. He used his position on the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee to advance several successful arms control initiatives, including authoring a successful effort to ban the testing of anti-satellite weapons in space. In addition, (b)(6) was one of the key House leaders of the effort to cut funding ill-advised "Star Wars" strategic ballistic missile defense programs, and a strong proponent of efforts to secure a strategic nuclear arms reduction treaty with the Soviet Union. In addition to these initiatives, Les was also a longstanding advocate for smart defense procurement and realistic testing of new conventional weapons systems.

In his post-Congressional career, (b)(6) has continued to be active in Democratic politics and in policy discussions on arms control and national security issues. As our nation moves forward to grapple with issues relating to recent Chinese tests of anti-satellite weapons, what to do about proposed missile defenses in Europe, and how to restart the arms control process with the Russians, I believe that (b)(6) would provide the Defense Department with frank and insightful advice and counsel. I believe that Les AuCoin would be an invaluable addition to the Defense Policy Board, and I strongly urge you to consider naming him to this important position.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

SECDEF	DEPSECDEF	SPLASST	EXECSEC	USDP
USDI	ESD	CSD	CBLCH	FILE

Cc: Don Gips LA

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OSD 03222-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Dr. Kay King, Director of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, to join the Committee on Foreign Affairs Codel Carnahan to Egypt, Ethiopia, Cyprus, and Lebanon during the approximate period of April 3-11, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to attend the 120th meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and to meet with government officials 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03243-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Ms. Catlin O'Neill, Floor Assistant to the Speaker, to accompany Codel Tauscher (authorized by the House Armed Services Committee) to Israel and Egypt during the approximate period of April 5-10, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to review Israeli Missile Defense Operations and participate in bilateral discussions with key allies in the Middle East.

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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03245-09

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

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6143

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

March 19, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We would like to ensure that the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is included in the Administration's Congressional briefings related to the results of the strategic review of U.S. efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan you have commissioned.

As you are well aware, 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. Pursuant to Committee Rule 8(a)(5), the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs has jurisdiction encompassing oversight of national security, homeland security, and foreign affairs. Our Committee has the significant role of oversight of interagency activities in the national security arena.

Beyond manifest jurisdictional oversight interests, our Subcommittee has devoted significant time and energy on the oversight of U.S. policy, programs, and resources related to our efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Over the past two years, our Chairman has personally led three Congressional delegations to Afghanistan and Pakistan. During that same period, the Subcommittee has held eight related hearings.[1]

Last month, we held a hearing on the U.S. mission to train and equip the Afghan police and army with a focus on the accountability of arms and other sensitive military equipment. Over the last two weeks, we have held a public hearing and hosted a classified briefing on the nature of the complex threat environment within Afghanistan and Pakistan. We are currently planning oversight hearings on the proposed troop

[1] For more information on these activities, please go to: http://nationalsecurity.oversight.house.gov.

OSD 03246-09

buildup and civilian surge in Afghanistan, as well as on regional players and considerations that are fundamental to U.S. efforts in South Asia.

Our work on this subject, both in the hearing room and on the ground, has allowed the Members of this Subcommittee the opportunity to acquire a depth of understanding on the nature of the security threat in Afghanistan and Pakistan. We stand committed to continue constructive oversight of U.S. plans and activities in this strategically important, and troubled, region.

We appreciate your timely attention to this matter and look forward to working with you as we move forward in creating more effective foreign policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan, while making sure that every dollar entrusted to us by the American taxpayers is wisely spent.

Sincerely,

John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

Jeff Flake
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

cc: Vice President Joseph R. Biden
Secretary Hillary Clinton
Secretary Robert Gates
National Security Advisor James L. Jones
Special Envoy Richard Holbrooke
Under Secretary Michele Flournoy
Mr. Bruce Riedel, Brookings Institution

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
ROB NABORS

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 20, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize the Honorable Michael Honda, also a member of the committee, to participate in this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03247-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to voice our support for the VH-71 presidential helicopter replacement program.

The Marine One presidential helicopter is more than just a symbol of the office or a simple means of transport; it is integral to the safety and security of our president and thus our nation. That is why we urge you to resist any attempt to politicize the VH-71 presidential helicopter program by singling it out among the large number of major programs that have exceeded their original budgets. This program is too important to be derailed by politics.

We share your strong commitment to increasing accountability in the use of tax dollars and applaud your promise to reform the broken defense acquisition system. In recent years, too little attention has been paid to ensuring the wise management of major defense priorities. In many cases, excessive requirements are packed into programs at enormous expense and with little ultimate value to the warfighter.

However, we are alarmed by the political controversy surrounding the VH-71 program and fear it could lead to a decision that jeopardizes the security of our Commander in Chief and wastes valuable taxpayer money. There is little doubt that the need to replace the aging legacy fleet of presidential helicopters is real, urgent, and thoroughly documented. The current fleet has been in service more than 35 years and it is time for an upgrade to best protect the President and his family. This country cannot afford its President to be vulnerable or cut off from communications in a time of emergency.

VH-71 was initiated by the White House in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks and was awarded to the current industry team in 2005 after one of the most rigorous and scrutinized competitions in history, which was not protested by the losing contractor. Congress has repeatedly noted that excessive requirements coupled with unrealistic price and schedule estimates have driven current cost projections for the program's second phase beyond what is reasonable. Nevertheless, we believe canceling the program entirely would be irresponsible and self-defeating.

To date, $3 billion has been invested in the VH-71 program and yielded notable results. Eight of the nine aircraft comprising the first phase of the program, Increment 1, have achieved flight and are meeting or exceeding all performance parameters. The fiscal year 2009 House Defense Appropriations bill noted that Increment 1 is a "marked improvement" that "exceeds the

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OSD 03248-09

performance of the current fleet in virtually every respect." Based on the outstanding performance of this aircraft, we urge you to consider expanding the Increment 1 fleet to make it the long-term solution if the more advanced Increment 2 aircraft cannot be procured in a cost-effective manner.

Furthermore, we believe the Navy could purchase a full fleet of 23 Increment 1 helicopters within the original budget profile. Doing so would send an important message that security and fiscal responsibility are compatible when it comes to our national defense. Without question, simply canceling VH-71 at this advanced stage would be the least responsible alternative both for the safety of your office and the investment of the American taxpayer.

Marine One is an important national security asset serving the Office of the President and is directly linked to the security of our nation. The VH-71 Marine One program was initiated by a previous administration, will enter service during your administration, and will serve future presidents for decades to come. You will have our complete support – and the support of the American people – as you move forward with this critical program.

Sincerely,

Rep. Patrick J. Murphy

Rep. Maurice Hinchey

Rep. Bill Shuster

Rep. Jo Bonner

Rep. Robert Brady

Rep. Roscoe Bartlett

Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger

Rep. Michael Arcuri

Rep. Jeff Miller

Rep. Doug Lamborn

Rep. Ander Crenshaw

Rep. Chris Carney

Rep. Dan Maffei

Cc: [redacted]

The Honorable John J. Young
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

The Honorable BJ Penn
Acting Secretary of the Navy

The Honorable Rahm Emanuel
White House Chief of Staff

Gregory B. Craig
White House Counsel

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Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225–2771

March 19, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representative Ken Calvert and Ms. Jennifer Miller, and Mr. Jeff Shockey, professional staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on official business to Stuttgart, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt, Germany and Vienna, Austria during the approximate time period of April 4-10, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to review matters relating to the CIA, NSA and counter-terrorism operations and activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial transportation.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03249-09

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ROB NABORS

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Sam Farr, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to join a CODEL led by the Honorable Eliot Engel, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, to Trinidad and St. Vincent on April 17-21, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to attend the Fifth Summit of the Americas and meet with government and non-government officials regarding political and economic developments, and general bilateral relations with each country.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority of 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

The travel will be conducted via military aircraft. It would be appreciated if officials of the Department would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03250-09

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We urge you to cancel the OMB Circular A-76 privatization review of public works at the United States Army Garrison, West Point.

The A-76 program was shut down by Congress in the Omnibus Appropriations Act that the president signed into law earlier this month because of longstanding concerns. Two Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports issued last year detail how poor guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) had resulted in systematically overstated savings and understated costs as well as a disproportionately adverse impact on older, female and African-American civil servants. As GAO noted, even after eight years, A-76 proponents are still unable to "reliably assess whether competitive sourcing truly provides the best deal for the taxpayer."

Moreover, the A-76 program raises concerns about compliance with the law. The Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2009 limits multifunction OMB Circular A-76 privatization reviews, like the one of public works at West Point, to no longer than 30 months. The West Point A-76 privatization review was formally announced in September 2006, 30 months ago. However, an A-76 privatization review starts not at formal announcement -- but when preliminary planning begins, when money is first spent on hiring consultants and reassigning civil servants from their usual jobs. Indeed, this preliminary planning is actually required by the OMB Circular A-76. We understand that preliminary planning for the West Point public works privatization review actually began over seven years ago in 2002 and included at least five full-time civil servants.

We are also concerned about compliance with the provision in the fiscal year 2008 Defense Authorization bill, which forbids the Department of Defense from carrying out competitive sourcing-related direction from OMB. Less than two months after enactment, West Point tried to utilize the prohibition by petitioning the Army for relief from carrying out the public works privatization review. In its March 19, 2008 letter, the installation discussed a detailed plan for internal reengineering of its public works functions that would be "less disruptive" than the A-76 privatization review, but yet "yield efficiency and real savings," and thus be "a win-win for West Point and the West Point community." Nevertheless, this petition was rejected. Even OMB during

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the previous administration acknowledged that the A-76 process should not be considered the exclusive process for generating efficiencies when officials in July 2008 renamed competitive sourcing, calling it "commercial management," and emphasized business process reengineering instead of contracting out.

This privatization review is already well past the 30 month limitation imposed in law, which means that the actual costs likely exceed any savings. In addition, West Point is prepared to achieve a satisfactory resolution that benefits taxpayers and the West Point community. We in Congress have already recognized the failure of OMB Circular A-76 privatization reviews by eliminating them. Today, we strongly urge you to cancel the West Point public works OMB Circular A-76 privatization review.

Sincerely,

MAURICE HINCHEY
Member of Congress

JOHN HALL
Member of Congress

CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 3, 2009

Mr. Christian Marrone
Acting Assistant Secretary / Legislative Affairs
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Marrone:

To carry out my Congressional duties in the area of national defense, I am seeking your assistance in receiving information regarding the stationing of U.S. troops at U.S. military installations overseas.

In view of plans for changes in troop deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan announced by President Obama, this information would be helpful to me in understanding the President's plans in the larger worldwide context.

Therefore, I would appreciate a comprehensive report from DoD listing all military bases abroad where U.S. troops are stationed, the number of troops at each installation, and the cost of maintaining each of these bases.

In view of the urgency of this request, I would appreciate a personal response as soon as possible. If the information cannot be made public, I would be willing to schedule a personal classified briefing in an appropriate venue on Capitol Hill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

CBR/em

OSD 03255-09

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JEFF MILLER
1ST DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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Toll Free: 1-866-367-1614

March 17, 2009

The Honorable William Lynn
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Lynn,

I am writing to you regarding the need for an overpass on State Road (SR) 85 at Eglin Air Force Base, near the 7th Special Forces Group (SFG) cantonment area. SR 85 is the only highway connecting southern Okaloosa County with northern Okaloosa County. Today's daily commute traffic is already at the top end of capacity. The Air Force decision for beddown of the BRAC-mandated move of the 7th SFG results in unacceptable degradation of traffic flow.

I have been advised that the Army, Air Force, SOCOM, and the 7th Special Forces Group all have identified the need for this overpass. In addition, I am told that no Service has programmed for this overpass in the Future Year's Defense Plan (FYDP). This is especially disappointing given that it will take emergency programming action if we are to have any hope of completing this BRAC related requirement by the fall of 2011.

I've written the relevant officials in the Army, Air Force and SOCOM and I hope that you are able to direct these officials to coordinate so that emergency programming action for the SR 85 overpass is generated as soon as possible. As of now, the Services cannot agree on a plan, and your involvement in this issue is necessary and would be much appreciated.

With warm personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Jeff Miller
Member of Congress

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CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

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DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

230 Non-Career

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to offer my highest possible recommendation of (b)(6) (b)(6) for a political appointment in your Department. She has a wealth of experience in the Department of Defense. (b)(6) is most interested in, and has a background that qualifies her highly for positions in the areas of personnel policy, small business utilization, diversity management and equal opportunity. (b)(6) combined Federal government and Political Appointee career spans more than 20 years in the Department of Defense (DoD), serving in Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Department of the Air Force (resume enclosed).

I have known (b)(6) since 1998 when she joined my Washington Congressional office as a Brookings Institution Legislative Fellow through a highly competitive program while employed in DoD, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness). At that time she served as Equal Employment Manager, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Equal Opportunity). Upon leaving my office she returned to the Department as a political appointee, serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Civilian and Military Equal Opportunity.

As you can see, (b)(6) has had a long and distinguished career. Her professional credentials and experience in the Department of Defense, specifically, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, supports and ensures that she could hit the ground running, immediately assuming important and critical duties within the Department.

(13 March 09)

OSD 03333-09

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FAX: (212) 663-4277

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I cannot speak highly enough of (b)(6) She has been at times advisor and coordinator of The Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program, now institutionalized in the State Department. As a result of her work currently 30 Fellows are now assigned as Foreign Service Officers to U.S. Embassies around the world, and will soon be joined by another 30 Fellows who are completing their graduate school studies, and in the pipeline for service in the diplomatic corps.

It is (b)(6) record that makes me so confident of the great job she has done for your Department and would do again, upon returning to the Department of Defense. I've personally seen her in action. Nothing would make me more proud than to see her serve again as a contributing member of your DoD team.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

Enclosure:
Resume

cc: Mr. Don Gips
Assistant to the President
& Director of Presidential Personnel

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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 202(b), Public Law 601, 79th Congress (codified at 2 U.S.C. §72 a (b)), this Staff has been directed by the Committee on Appropriations to make an inquiry of the Department of Defense to determine if the Antideficiency Act was violated when it requested funds within the Army.

Please designate an appropriate point of contact to arrange for obtaining the data pertinent to this inquiry and notify my office by telephone within five business days of the receipt of this letter. If there are any questions regarding this matter, I can be contacted on (202) 225-3881.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Pomerantz

David M. Pomerantz
Director
Surveys and Investigations Staff
House Committee on Appropriations

cc - Comptroller of the Department of Defense
cc - Secretary of the Army

OSD 03334-09

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U.S. House of Representatives

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

You are invited to designate a witness or witnesses to testify before the House Armed Services Committee on Measuring Value and Efficiency: How to Assess the Performance of the Defense Acquisition System on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 7:30 AM in room 2212 Rayburn House Office Building.

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 120 copies of your prepared statement be delivered to room 2120 Rayburn House Office Building by the morning of Monday, March 30, 2009. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. This request may be satisfied by a transmittal via e-mail to Alicia Haley at alicia.haley@mail.house.gov.

I appreciate your willingness to designate a witness or witnesses to appear before the committee and look forward to your department's testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Andrew Hunter on the committee staff at (202) 225-6703 or at Andrew.Hunter@mail.house.gov.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT ANDREWS
Chairman

IS:cd

OSD 03490-09

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 26, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Since the Eisenhower Administration, it has been the policy of the government that it should not compete with its citizens. That policy is outlined in the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, which governs all public-private competitions to potentially outsource work to the private sector. Originally, the A-76 process was intended to be used as a tool to determine the most competitive and efficient source for performing "commercial" work – either in the public or private sector. However, it became almost a mandate in recent years for pushing more and more work into the private sector, even work that is closely associated with inherently governmental functions, in order to meet arbitrary competition goals.

The House Armed Services Committee has taken several steps to mitigate the undue burdens on the Department of Defense. In response to a congressional mandate, the Department of Defense Inspector General reviewed the military services' A-76 programs. In its interim report (April 22, 2008) the DOD Inspector General noted that:

- *The Army is undergoing many efforts that impact competitive sourcing planning, such as Base Realignment and closure, growing the Army, and the war.*
- *The Air Force feels "pressure in the budget to conduct" privatization studies.*

These findings were reaffirmed in the final report of December 15, 2008.

Furthermore, The Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes a one year government-wide moratorium (section 737) on beginning or announcing any A-76 studies.

Many of the Department's A-76 studies have dragged on far beyond the time limits authorized in the 2003 revised Circular A-76, as well as those imposed by statute. This creates an unfair strain on the federal employees whose jobs are being competed, as well as the contractors who have submitted bids for the work. In many cases, an individual service has requested a cancellation – either because the installation is seeking an alternative approach or because the original study was not appropriate – only to be denied by the Department.

OSD 03502-09

We are aware that the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Installations and Environment) in a letter to many members of Congress, reaffirmed the competitive sourcing policy that was set in place by the 2001 President's Management Agenda; this is the same official who advocated so strongly for competitive sourcing within the Department during the Bush Administration.

In light of the President's memo (dated March 4, 2009), as well as concerns raised by the military services, we urge you to immediately halt any pending A-76 studies as well as the initiation or announcement of any A-76 study, and to rescind the 2008 competitive sourcing policy memo. This will allow the Administration and Congress time to conduct a comprehensive review of the Department's A-76 program and to determine the best course for moving forward with a sound competitive sourcing policy.

We request a prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely,

IKE SKELTON
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee

SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
Chairman
Readiness Subcommittee

IS: cg

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Ms. Jennifer Stewart, Senior Policy Advisor to the Republican Leader, to travel with Senate Codel Kyl to Israel, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkey during the approximate period of April 4-13, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to address issues of terrorism, defense, and national security.

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 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03520-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 19, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representative Ken Calvert and Ms. Jennifer Miller, Mr. Jeff Shockey and Mr. Tom McLemore, professional staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on official business to Stuttgart, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt, Germany and Vienna, Austria during the approximate time period of April 4-10, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to review matters relating to classified programs and counter-terrorism operations and activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial transportation.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03522-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Dr. Kay King, Director of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, to join the Committee on Foreign Affairs Codel Berman to India, Pakistan, Cyprus, and Italy during the approximate period of April 13-21, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to engage dialogue with Pakistani and Indian officials regarding counter-terrorism, foreign assistance, and nuclear cooperation.

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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03551-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Christopher White and Linda Pagelsen, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 31 – April 1, 2009, to Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. The purpose of this trip is to conduct intelligence oversight on classified programs.

Per diem expenses of not to exceed $109 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via automobile.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03553-09

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2009

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

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Gates and Secretary Shinseki:

The establishment of a Vision Center of Excellence (VCE) for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of military eye injuries was authorized by the FY2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) (PL100-181 Section 1623). This legislation established the VCE as a joint Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program to improve the care of American military personnel and veterans affected by combat eye trauma and to aid those suffering from vision loss and vision anomalies.

Despite the legislative mandate, bureaucratic problems have hindered any significant progress toward the establishment of the VCE. A Director for the VCE, Colonel Donald Gagliano, and a VA Deputy Director of VCE, Dr. Claude Cowan, were belatedly appointed as recently as November 2008. Currently, these two officials are working with virtually no office space, few resources, limited staffing, no organizational charter, and inadequate funding.

According to the initial DoD/VA estimates, approximately $5 million is needed to establish the VCE. According to March 17, 2009 testimony to the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, only $3 million had been identified by DoD for the VCE in FY2009. To date, only $7,000 has been spent on the VCE by DoD since November 2008.

There is an ever increasing prevalence of combat eye trauma and TBI visual dysfunction among service members, as well as increasing numbers of battle wounded who have penetrating direct eye trauma and/or TBI-related visual complications. Review of DoD medical diagnostic reports demonstrates that approximately 4,970 Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom servicemembers were diagnosed with direct eye injuries between September 2001 and October 2008. Data from the Defense

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OSD 03557-09

Veterans Brain Injury Center estimates that 70% of all TBI wounded servicemembers screened at Walter Reed Army Medical Center reported visual complaints.

The prompt implementation of the VCE would allow our visually impaired wounded warriors to receive coordinated specialized treatment and rehabilitation specifically tailored to traumatic injury to the eye and visual nervous system. We therefore respectfully request that both DoD and VA address this as a priority issue as soon as possible.

This requires a concentrated effort by the DoD and VA to get the VCE on track. Most immediately, the DoD and VA must provide the $5 million in funding for the remainder of FY2009. Furthermore, the DoD and VA must oversee approval of the organizational structure and charter for the VCE and provide the appropriate staffing, joint office space, and resources to begin full implementation of VCE operations.

The establishment of the VCE is an unparalleled opportunity to dramatically improve eye care services for our nation's servicemembers and veterans. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you in the future in support of our wounded servicemembers and veterans.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

John Boozman
Member of Congress

Harry Mitchell
Member of Congress

Harry Teague
Member of Congress

Zack Space
Member of Congress

Tim Walz
Member of Congress

Glenn Nye
Member of Congress

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Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representative Steve Israel, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of April 6, 2009 to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The purpose of this trip is to meet with Fort Bragg leadership to discuss wounded warrior care, suicide prevention, and mental health care.

Per diem expenses of not to exceed $109.00 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of appropriations estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial and/or military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

Dave Obey
Chairman

OSD 03566-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated March 11, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Ed Pastor and other Members of the Committee on Appropriations to travel to Brazil on April 3-10, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize spouses to accompany Members for reasons of protocol at no additional expense to the government.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03568-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 26, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I make reference to my letter dated March 5, 2009, authorizing a delegation led by the Honorable Nita Lowey, to travel to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Ireland during the approximate time period of April 13-19th, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize the Honorable Steven Rothman, a Member of the Committee, as well as Nisha Desai-Biswal, Anne Marie Chotvacs, Kirstin Brost, and Alex Gillen, staff on the Committee, to travel with the delegation.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making necessary arrangements for this travel. The travel may be conducted via commercial and military aircraft.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03572-09

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March 31, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE – 703-695-1219
The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Mazie K. Hirono to travel on a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) issued by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, led by Congressman Russ Carnahan to Egypt, Ethiopia, Cyprus and Lebanon on April 2-11, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to participate in the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) 120th session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The IPU's work focusing on human rights including ILO labor rights for organizing and collective bargaining and women's issues including non-discrimination in employment and equal work. And the IPU mobilizes parliamentary action on a wide range of global issues, including HIV/AIDS, migration, and development cooperation.

It is requested that the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation is authorized pursuant to 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. The CODEL requests the U.S. Air Force liaison support to this Delegation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact David Beraka, Foreign Affairs Committee, at 202-226-3328. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE MILLER
Chairman

GM:ejh

OSD 03575-09

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-4000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We strongly support moving forward with a pending rule addressing TRICARE reimbursement rates to hospitals serving military servicemen and women in rural areas, and we encourage the Department of Defense to once again take up consideration of this matter as soon as possible.

We have a strong interest in maintaining access to the highest quality health care for active military personnel, veterans, and their dependants. This is especially important for those who require access to care in rural areas. While TRICARE payment policies generally follow Medicare payment formulas, TRICARE reimbursements to Medicare Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) have been historically lower than those of Medicare and Medicaid, in some cases nearly 20 percent lower. Critical Access Hospitals serve rural areas across the country, and this payment disparity is hindering their ability to continue providing care to their patients.

A 2008 draft rule promulgated by the Department of Defense would increase TRICARE reimbursements to CAHs so that they are on par with current Medicare reimbursement rates. This change would bring relief to all Critical Access Hospitals, and particularly those that serve a large number of military personnel, veterans and their dependents. Maintaining access to care in rural areas is of critical importance at a time when our servicemembers are returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. We also note, however, that the rule omits several critical aspects of Medicare's reimbursement policy for CAHs. We urge the Department of Defense to adopt Medicare's exact methodology for determining CAH reimbursement for inpatient and outpatient care, including an exemption from the "lesser of costs or charges" principle and mechanisms to provide interim payments and cost settlement.

The Critical Access Hospitals Proposed Rule on Reimbursement was published in the Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 87) on May 5, 2008, and the public comment period closed on June 4, 2008. It is our understanding that the Department of Defense finalized the rule and sent it to Office of Management and Budget in October, but that no further action has been taken. In a memorandum issued by White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel on January 20, 2009, the heads of Executive departments and agencies were instructed that:

> "no proposed or final regulation should be sent to the Office of the Federal Register (the "OFR") for publication unless and until it has been reviewed and approved by a department

OSD 03602-09

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or agency head appointed or designated by the President after noon on January 20, 2009, or in the case of the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Defense."

We recognize that the new Administration has an interest in reviewing those proposed regulations currently under consideration. However, we believe publishing the final Critical Access Hospitals Rule on Reimbursement, with the critical modifications described above, is important to ensuring the health of rural Americans. We ask the Department of Defense to act expeditiously to move this rule forward.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Charlie Wilson
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

Rich Boucher
Member of Congress

Jerry Costello
Member of Congress

Wally Herger
Member of Congress

John Salazar
Member of Congress

Marion Berry
Member of Congress

Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

Zack Space
Member of Congress

Jerry Moran
Member of Congress

Walt Minnick
Member of Congress

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress

Norm Dicks
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable S. Ward Casscells, M.D., Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs

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

March 23, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are greatly concerned by reports that the Airborne Laser (ABL) program is facing severe budget cuts or even termination in the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget proposal. The ABL is America's premier directed energy effort and represents not only a tremendous potential for our nation's warfighters, but also for maintaining America's technological edge. It is critical to the future of our national security capabilities. For these reasons, we urgently request the ABL remain a robustly funded program.

According to the Missile Defense Agency, the ABL provides a unique capability *"to detect, track, target, and destroy ballistic missiles shortly after launch during the boost-phase. Its revolutionary use of directed energy makes it unique among the United States' airborne weapon systems, with a potential to attack multiple targets at the speed of light with a range of hundreds of kilometers."*

Our military warfighters agree that the ABL is essential for addressing many of the challenges facing our nation. General B.B. Bell, the former Commander of the United States Forces Korea, wrote in 2007, *"...from a warfighter's perspective, the ABL will be an important ingredient in our much needed and required layered missile defense capability for the Korean Peninsula."* This is a legitimate capability our nation needs.

As you know, the Airborne Laser began during the Clinton administration in the face of an increasing ballistic missile threat. Since that time, the proliferation of ballistic missiles has only grown. Today, outside of Russia, China and our Western allies, there are 3,000 ballistic missiles around the world. That number is continuing to grow every year. As threats proliferate around the globe, the relevance and importance of the ABL as the nation's only fully designed boost-phase missile defense system will continue to increase.

OSD 03624-09

The ABL is performing well and is scheduled to shoot down a boosting ballistic missile by the end of the year. Should the ABL be severely under-funded or canceled, the promise of speed-of-light and extreme precision in the hands of the warfighter will disappear, as will the fragile industrial base that supports it. In short, we will have wasted the resources that have been well invested since the Clinton administration.

Again, we respectfully request your support for the Airborne Laser program.

Sincerely,

Norm Dicks
Member of Congress

Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress

Todd Akin
Member of Congress

Buck McKeon
Member of Congress

Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 31, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

As you are aware, recent news reports suggest that North Korea is imminently close to launching a long-range Taepodong ballistic missile that could reach the United States. The commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific recently testified before our committee, "We're ready to defend U.S. territory, our allies and our national interests if the president so directs." However, it remains unclear whether the administration has made any decision, based upon comments made by your Secretary of Defense this weekend where he said the administration is, "not prepared to do anything about it." We respectfully encourage you to authorize our military commanders to employ our nation's missile defense system, should the United States or our allies be put at risk.

These reports suggest, and senior officials within your administration have confirmed, that North Korea is loading a Taepodong rocket on its east coast launch pad. However, there is a great deal of uncertainty as to the purpose of this launch. Last week, the Director of National Intelligence said, "they're trying to use the rationale of a legitimate space launch for a missile, which is in its foundation a military missile." Adding to this uncertainty, three of our nation's top military commanders recently testified before our colleagues in the Senate that they couldn't be sure whether North Korea plans to launch a communications satellite or test an offensive missile.

The uncertainty surrounding this imminent launch is deeply disturbing considering the Taepodong missile has the potential range to strike Okinawa, Guam, Alaska, and Hawaii. Equally disturbing are reports that North Korea's progress in ballistic missile technology is benefiting Iran, as demonstrated in Tehran's recent satellite launch last month. The only certain issue is that North Korea continues to engage in missile proliferation. Furthermore, any such launch would explicitly violate United Nations sanctions and pose a provocative and destabilizing threat to the region and the American people.

While we support diplomatic efforts by your administration to prevent such a launch from occurring, we also believe prudent steps can be taken to make use of our missile defense capabilities should the United States or our allies be put at risk. Our nation's top military generals recently testified before Congress that they believe our missile defense system is "effective" and has a "high probability" of intercepting an incoming missile if they were commanded to do so.

OSD 03626-09

At present, our global, integrated missile defense system consists of satellites, radar tracking sensors, ground-based interceptors in Alaska and California, Aegis missile defense ships, and Patriot batteries. We have worked closely with our Japanese and South Korean allies to leverage our respective missile defense capabilities for the joint protection of our countries and deployed forces. The military commander responsible for the defense of our homeland recently said, "If we felt the North Koreans were going to shoot a ballistic missile at us today, I am comfortable that we would have an effective system that would meet that need." The military commander responsible for defending our forward-deployed forces and allies in the Pacific said we have an "effective ballistic missile-defense system."

Recent reports suggest that Japan has authorized its military to shoot down any debris from the North Korean rocket that might fall toward its territory. Given the confidence our military commanders have expressed in our missile defense system, we respectfully encourage you to make a similar decision. We also ask for your response as to what plans and preparatory measures your administration is taking should the North Korean rocket endanger the United States or our allies.

Mr. President, we appreciate your attention to this serious matter. Our nation is faced with a challenging set of circumstances and we believe that by leveraging all tools of national power we can increase the safety and security of the American people and our allies.

Sincerely,

John M. McHugh
Ranking Member

Michael Turner
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates ✓
Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
Admiral Michael Mullen

Bill Shuster

Doug Lamborn

Robert J. Wittman

Howard P. Buck McKeon

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

April 1, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 20, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize John Blazey, a staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to participate in this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03675-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
ROB NABORS

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 20, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Barbara Lee and other Members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize the use of a commercial chartered plane between Miami, FL and Cuba, if military aircraft is unavailable.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03677-09

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
14TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

2331 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3214
(202) 225-7944

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–3214

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ASTORIA, NY 11102
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WEBSITE: www.house.gov/maloney

April 1, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing to request an update on the current status of the implementation of the Defense Incident-Based Reporting System (DIBRS). Specifically, I am interested in knowing whether the Department of Navy Criminal Justice Information System (DONCJIS) is finally operational and reporting to DIBRS.

I am sure you will agree that the collection of statistics and data is crucial to learning how many sexual assaults and other crimes are occurring in the United States military. Despite the clear need for a well-functioning system for reporting such crimes, implementation of DIBRS is long overdue. As you know, Congress enacted the Uniform Federal Crime Reporting Act (P.L. 100-690) in 1988, which requires federal agencies and departments, including DoD, to report crime data to the Justice Department. The law also created the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). In 1996, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness issued Directive 7730.47, concerning the creation of DIBRS. However, twenty one years have passed since the passage of the Uniform Federal Crime Reporting Act and DIBRS has yet to be completed.

This issue has been a concern of mine for some time, and I am disappointed by the ongoing delay of such an important system. At a meeting on November 19, 2004, with then Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Program Integration Jeanne Fites and John Awtrey, Director of OUSD Law Enforcement Policy and Support, I was told that all the services would be integrated into DIBRS by mid-2005. On August 9, 2005, I received a letter from Under Secretary Fites informing me that because the Navy was transitioning to a new Department of Navy Criminal Justice Information System (DONCJIS), DIBRS would not be fully operational until Fall 2006. That target was then pushed back to June and then October 2007. The last information I received stated that a new date had been set for December 1, 2008, but that date has passed as well.

To date, the transition to DONCJIS by the Navy has seemed to be the main problem slowing the full operation of DIBRS. As the Department of the Navy's budget estimate for FY09 includes requests for funding for a contractor to support, develop, test, train, deploy, and

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OSD 03718-09

implement the system, it seems that these tasks are still in the process of being completed. Therefore, I would like to know when the Navy is now expected to be fully reporting to DIBRS, and what you will do to ensure that the Navy meets this new deadline.

This issue assumes greater urgency in light of the latest statistics on sexual assault from the DoD's annual report for FY08. The analysis documented 2,923 reports of sexual assault in FY08, representing roughly an 8% increase from the previous year. It is extremely vital that the DoD, policymakers, servicemen and women, and all stakeholders know the true story about crime in the military. Only when there is an accurate accounting of the crimes that may be occurring in the U.S. military can the DoD hope to institute effective policies for preventing such increases in the future. I fear that additional delays will hamper the DoD's ability to assemble an accurate accounting of criminal activities, and may in fact prevent the full implementation of DIBRS indefinitely. Such an outcome would be unacceptable to me and many of my colleagues who have long been concerned about the safety of all servicemen and women. I look forward to hearing about your efforts to ensure the completion of DIBRS.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Maloney

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
ROB NABORS

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Linda Pagelsen, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of April 6 – 16, 2009, to Japan and South Korea. The purpose of this trip is to tour facilities and receive briefings on U.S. Forces Korea, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and intelligence activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 03721-09

Congressional Hispanic Caucus

United States Congress

Washington, DC 20515

CHAIRWOMAN
NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ
12TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

March 31, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Congratulations upon being selected by President Obama to continue to serve as our nation's Secretary of Defense. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) applauds your work thus far in leading the Department of Defense. The CHC is identifying individuals who we feel are outstanding candidates for positions in the Administration. In an effort to help bring the diversity to the Executive Branch that President Obama has sought, we are forwarding you the name of one of those candidates.

Today, we write to inform you that the CHC has endorsed Pedro Rustan Jr. to serve as the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). He currently serves as the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office's Ground Enterprise Directorate. Prior to that he was the Director of the Advanced Systems and Technology Director there. He has a strong history as a consultant to NASA, Institute of Defense Analysis, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and many other corporations. Furthermore, he has over 15 years of service to our nation's military, in various capacities, including Research Scientist for the Air Force and Program Manager for the Defense Nuclear Agency. For these reasons, and his desire to serve the Obama Administration, we endorse Pedro Rustan Jr. for this role that is vital to our nation's advancement.

Again, we are eager to work with you to promote our shared goals of diversity. If there is any way we can be of assistance during this critical time, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Nydia M. Velázquez
Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Charles A. Gonzalez
Chair
CHC Nominations Ad Hoc Task Force

CC: Don Gips, Director of White House Personnel
Michael Camuñez, Special Assistant to the President, Presidential Personnel

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APR-01-2009 12:25 FROM:HON. NYDIA VELAZQUEZ 202 226 0327 TO:844 P.2/2

JO ANN EMERSON
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
8TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

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AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

http://www.house.gov/emerson

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2508

April 2, 2009

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FARMINGTON, MO 63640
(573) 756-9756

35 COURT SQUARE
SUITE 300
WEST PLAINS, MO 65775
(417) 255-1515

Secretary Robert Gates
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates:

A matter of great importance has come to my attention. Rare earth minerals and materials play an essential role in highly sophisticated electronic devices used for the defense of our nation. The National Minerals Advisory Board has specifically identified rare earth elements and alloys as "strategic and critical" to the defense of our country.

At the present time, the United States imports 100% of rare earth minerals and alloys; the primary source of rare earth minerals being China. Even if the United States begins mining these minerals, there are no domestic refining facilities to create the alloys used for these sophisticated electronic devices. If the flow of these minerals and alloys were to be interrupted, the nation would face extreme challenges in the development and creation of electronic devices which could be detrimental to the nation's defense.

With the United States dependent upon other nations for these rare earth minerals and alloys, are there any plans within the Department of Defense to develop a strategy to address this disparity? Are you contemplating a comprehensive strategy that would involve the domestic mining, refining, and a stockpile of these elements? If there is not a strategy to address the disparity, what is the present plan of action if the supply of rare earth minerals and alloys is interrupted?

Thank you for examining this matter and I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,

JO ANN EMERSON
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Committee on Appropriations

Washington, DC 20515-6015

March 30, 2009

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BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable James P. Moran, Member of the Committee, to travel during the approximate time period of April 13-April 21, 2009, to Cyprus, India, Pakistan, and Italy. He will be joining the CODEL led by the Honorable Howard Berman. The delegation will meet with government leaders in Cyprus, India, and Pakistan. The purpose of the trip is to discuss issues affecting global commerce, the Middle East, and military security issues.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03765-09

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Committee on Appropriations
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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

Authorization is hereby given to the Honorable Harold Rogers, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel with a Congressional Delegation led by Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This trip is during the approximate time period of April 3 – April 13, 2009, to Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Italy. The purpose of this trip is to review transportation, defense, and homeland security issues with government officials.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the Member for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 03766-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Ben Chandler, a member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of April 2-April 11, 2009, to Egypt, Ethiopia, Cyprus, Lebanon, and Ireland. He will be joining the CODEL led by The Honorable Russ Carnahan. The purpose of this trip is to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Union's 120th meeting being held in Addis Ababa, to assess USAID programs, and to meet with government officials from each country.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03767-09

ERIC J.J. MASSA
29TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3229

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FAX: 607-654-7568

317 NORTH UNION STREET
OLEAN, NY 14760
PHONE: 716-372-2080
FAX: 716-372-2869

11 March 2009

The Honorable William J Lynn
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Secretary Lynn,

We write to express our concern surrounding the Army's impending Single Channel Ground-to-Air Radio systems (SINCGARS) contract. The Army plans to award a total of $636M of FY07-FY09 funds on this contract. It is our understanding that this technology is legacy, will not provide the communications capability needed by the Army in the coming years, and could be replaced by newer and more robust radios. The Army continues to move forward with the Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) program, which will ensure that FCS-equipped, combat, and support units are able to exchange information and network on the battlefield. It is essential that all radios and communication devices are multi-band and JTRS compliant to ensure a seamless transition into this program. It is our feeling that the Army has not only not taken the proper action to ensure procurement of state-of-the art, JTRS compliant radios, but that the further purchase of SINCGARS radios will lessen the planned need for JTRS radios, increasing their unit cost. Congress has been expressing its concerns over this program and procurement for years. Specifically, in FY07 the defense appropriations committee requested the Secretary of the Army provide a report to the congressional defense committees that included an evaluation of the SINCGARS capable commercial off the shelf tactical radios that can meet operational needs. The Secretary of the Army agreed to hold $175M of program funds until the Army was able to conduct a review of the SINCGARS operational requirements document (ORD). This report was never delivered to congress. In the FY2009 Defense Appropriations Bill the entire SINCGARS request was fenced off pending a certification from Secretary of Defense that any such procurement of SINCGARS radios will utilize full and open competition that will provide best value for Army radio requirements including consideration of multi-band, JTRS capable solutions. This certification has not been received by the defense committees.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) that was released by the Army in December of 2008 encourages industry to offer solutions that include JTRS functional capabilities, but did not require them. The ORD, which was originally drafted in 1974, was not, in our opinion, revised or updated appropriately for this solicitation. It doesn't make sense to use a ten year old requirement document for such an important and evolving program, especially considering its connection to the multi-billion dollar JTRS program.

The SINCGARS procurement is just one example of the increasing need for acquisition reform. If the ORD had been revised or re-written it could have created the opportunity for additional contractor bids and more product functionality. The Army could have moved forward with a technology that exists today and would be compliant with future Army programs. We are spending millions of dollars on a product that we know we will have to replace in the near future despite knowledge that a better solution could be engineered to the Army's exact needs. A CBO report dated 11 Feb 2009 states that if the Army decides to replace SINCGARS radios with the more flexible and capable JTRS ground mobile radio

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(GMR) it would increase its current planned purchase by six fold. The Army's current $15B estimate for buying GMR would increase accordingly. If the Army were to re-allocate the $636M set aside for SINCGARS toward a JTRS-compliant radio today, they could save the program future funds. In this instance, the acquisition process is blatantly wasting taxpayer's money while simultaneously outfitting our military with sub-standard equipment. We urge you to look at the long term negative implications of the acquisition process on the capability of our Armed Services. We strongly encourage you, as you carefully review future plans for this program, to ensure that future procurements of radios and communications devices will use an updated set of requirements, tailored for the needs of our future force.

Very Respectfully,

Eric J.J. Massa
Member of Congress

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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 2, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to ask that you provide a witness to testify before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on the overall state of the Department of Defense's acquisition workforce and the Department's implementation of acquisition workforce-related provisions in the annual defense authorization legislation for the past four years, including, in particular, the implementation of the Acquisition Workforce Development Fund, the use of any special hiring authorities, and Section 834 of the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act. This hearing will take place on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at 1:00 PM in room 2212 Rayburn House Office Building. For your information, I am also requesting witnesses from the Services and the Government Accountability Office.

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 50 copies of your prepared statement be delivered to room 2120 Rayburn House Office Building by the morning of Friday, April 24. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. These materials may be transmitted via e-mail to Suzanne.McKenna@mail.house.gov or provided on disk.

I appreciate your willingness to assist the subcommittee and look forward to the Department's testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Suzanne McKenna on the committee staff at (202) 225-5050.

Sincerely,

Vic Snyder
Chairman

VFS:ak

OSD 03798-09

CHARLES B. RANGEL, NEW YORK,
CHAIRMAN

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JANICE MAYS,
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

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JON TRAUB,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Kendrick Meek (D-FL) to participate on the CODEL being led by Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY), to Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This travel will take place during the time period of Friday, April 17 through Tuesday, April 24; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The purpose of this fact-finding trip is to attend the Fifth Summit of the Americas and meet with government and non-government officials regarding our bilateral and plurilateral trade agreements with nations in the region, trade preferences and more generally, how best to shape trade to promote economic development, stability and prosperity.

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

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 03812-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 30, 2009

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 26, 2009 regarding Codel Hoyer. Please note that the Honorable Richard Neal is no longer traveling. The Honorable Aaron Schock (R-IL) is authorized to travel instead.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03813-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 31, 2009

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 13, 2009, regarding Codel Berkley to the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Estonia during the approximate period of April 13-20, 2009. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Shelley Berkley (D-NV) and Dr. Larry Lehrner
The Honorable John R. Carter (R-TX) and Mrs. Erika Carter
The Honorable Steve Cohen (D-TN)
The Honorable Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and Mr. Tom Foxx
The Honorable Phil Gingrey (R-GA) and Mrs. Billie Gingrey
The Honorable Bart Gordon (D-TN)
The Honorable Paul E. Kanjorski (D-PA) and Mrs. Nancy Kanjorski
The Honorable Ron Klein (D-FL) and Mrs. Dori Klein
The Honorable Cliff Stearns (R-FL)
The Honorable Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)

Ms. Amanda Sloat, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. Riley Moore, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Sarah Preisser, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. Richard Urey, Chief of Staff to Representative Berkley

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03882-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 26, 2009

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 22, 2009 regarding Codel Hoyer. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Majority Leader
The Honorable Roy Blunt (R-MO)
The Honorable Joseph Crowley (D-NY) and Mrs. Kasey Crowley
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and Mr. Edward Allard
The Honorable Gregory Meeks (D- NY)
The Honorable Elijah Cummings (D-MD) and Dr. Maya Rockeymoore
The Honorable Adrian Smith (R-NE)
The Honorable Gerry Connolly (D-VA)
The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Mr. Steve Schultz
The Honorable Richard Neal (D-MA)
The Honorable Norman Dicks (D-WA) and Mrs. Suzanne "Suzie" Dicks

Ms. Mariah Sixkiller, Office of the Majority Leader
Mr. Brian Diffell, Office of the Republican Leader
Ms. Katie Grant, Office of the Majority Leader

The delegation will be accompanied by:

(b)(6) USN
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) DSS Agent

OSD 03883-09

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
March 31, 2009

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 5, 2009, regarding Codel Tanner to Germany, France, Lithuania, Ukraine, Georgia, and Belgium during the approximate period of April 2-9, 2009.

Please note that the Lithuanian Minister of Defense, Rasa Jukneviciene, has been invited to travel with the delegation from Strasbourg to Vilnius on Saturday, April 4, 2009.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03884-09

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April 8, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE – 703-695-1219
The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Judy Biggert to travel on a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) led by Congresswoman Susan Davis to Georgia, Afghanistan, and the Czech Republic on May 7-12, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to observe and gain an on-the-ground perspective of President Obama's new strategy in Afghanistan. And while in country, the delegation will meet with a host of U.S. and Afghanistan nationals, including several non-profit organizations that have been establishing and improving schools and educational programs.

It is requested that the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation is authorized pursuant to 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. The CODEL requests the U.S. Marines give support to this Delegation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jackie Abba at 202-225-3515. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George Miller

GEORGE MILLER
Chairman

GM:ejh

OSD 03953-09

ROBERT E. ANDREWS
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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House of Representatives
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WEBSITE:
www.house.gov/andrews

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As a friend of Taiwanese Americans in my New Jersey district, and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I write to you today about an issue of importance to me and ask that you clarify the United States and our position vis-a-vis our high-level military contacts with Taiwan.

Taiwan today is a bastion of democracy in Asia. Its vibrant democracy of 23 million produces an annual GDP of over $320 billion, making it the world's 18th largest economy. Taiwan is the 8th largest trading partner of the United States, and a strong ally, sharing with the United States the ideals of freedom, democracy, and self-determination.

While Taiwan has made a remarkable peaceful transition to democracy over the past decades, I have noticed a discrepancy with the international accolades Taiwan has received (and receives) for these democratic and economic achievements - especially from the United States.

One of the fields we can improve in is in our high-level military contacts with Taiwan. I believe that we place unnecessary restrictions on our military-to-military ties with Taiwan. Indeed, it strikes me as counterproductive that we cling to these self-imposed restrictions on our exchanges with Taiwan of U.S. generals, admirals, and senior defense officials to Taiwan.

In order to develop an appreciation for Taiwan's specific military needs and, in turn, to spell those needs out to American policymakers, U.S. generals and flag officers have to be able to visit Taiwan and see its military in action. Although visits by expert teams of U.S. captains and colonels to Taiwan are helpful, these lower-ranking officers lack the authority and the "joint" command experience of general officers necessary to have an effective exchange with Taiwan's senior military leaders. And anyone familiar with the ways of Washington knows that having a well-informed general or admiral make a case for a new initiative is vital if it is to be given a respectful hearing by senior military and civilian decision-makers.

Similarly, it is difficult for Taipei and Washington to discuss contingency responses to

OSD 03963-09

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possible Chinese aggression when U.S. generals and flag officers are not able to meet regularly with their Taiwanese counterparts.

I look forward to receiving from you a clarification on the status, guidelines, and rules that regulate our interaction with Taiwan and our high-level military contacts with Taiwan.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States

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http://www.house.gov/judiciary

April 8, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to request authorization for Representative Daniel Lungren, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, to lead a delegation of Members to Guantamino Bay, Cuba. Mr Lungren will be accompanied by Representative Tom Rooney, and Committee Counsels Sam Sokol and Sean McLaughlin. The date of travel for this delegation is Friday, May 1, 2009.

It will be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation and escort, to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for payment of actual and necessary expense and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. § 1108.

If you have any questions concerning this travel, please contact Teresa Vest with my Committee staff at 202-225-3951. Your assistance with this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman

OSD 03988-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Ms. Patrice Willoughby, Staff Director of the Congressional Black Caucus, to accompany Codel Lee/Kilpatrick (authorized by the House Appropriations Committee) to Cuba during the approximate period of April 3-8, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to evaluate current policies regarding trade and commerce with Cuba, and to examine and promote proposals to initiate cultural, academic, and health exchanges with the U.S.

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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04003-09

ROBERT E. ANDREWS
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY
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WEBSITE:
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April 7, 2009

William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
United States of America
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1010

Dear Mr. William J. Lynn III,

I would like to request a meeting with (b)(6) CIH, CSP, (b)(6) (b)(6) and other key individuals to discuss the implementation of a program for BreathScan alcohol detection and safety devices. I feel that the implementation and progression of this program would make all of our military personnel safer. I would also like to note how this program aligns with one of the key FY 2010 budget recommendations, "institutionalizing and properly funding the critical and permanent nature of the wounded", that Secretary Gates will be making to President Obama. It is my understanding that various Department of Defense entities have already expressed a strong desire to obtain a significant number of the BreathScan Alcohol and Safety devices. I would like to learn more about the demand for this program as well as obtain recommendations on what can be done to expedite the progress and progression of this program.

BreathScan devices have been used successfully in the past to help prevent drunk driving and alcohol-related incidents. These devices have been successfully used by the military for the past seven years and I strongly believe that they can be used as a means to help soldiers control their alcohol intake and help prevent many of the problems associated with alcohol abuse.

An article in the Journal of the American Medical Association, dated August 13, 2008, highlighted the problems of binge drinking and other types of alcohol abuse experienced by returning combat veterans, especially in Reserve Component units. Extensive documentation in the form of articles and press releases is available to illustrate the success of the BreathScan program in preventing these problems from occurring throughout the military. In fact, it is my understanding that the Army Substance Abuse Program now views BreathScan as part of an extensive and holistic program that

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OSD 04111-09

they wish to deploy. It is also my understanding that Reserve Component units are also extremely interested in this program.

Therefore, I would like to schedule a meeting with the relevant Department of Defense personal that need to be involved to move this request forward. Please contact my scheduler, Kristin Ianco at 856-546-5100 or Kristin.Ianco@mail.house.gov for scheduling information or contact my military legislative assistant, Nathaniel Bell 202-225-6501, Nathaniel.Bell@mail.house.gov for substantive information or background pertaining to this request.

Respectfully,

Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress

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http://veterans.house.gov

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REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

April 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I authorize Congressman John J. Hall to travel on official government business to Iraq and Afghanistan during the period of April 4-11, 2009.

Mr. Hall will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, member of the House Committee on Armed Services. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to gauge troop morale, listen to their concerns, and formulate ideas and remedies to the problems they are facing once they leave military service.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in Iraq and Afghanistan. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Bernie Dotson of the Committee staff at 202-226-3653.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 04180-09

BILL SHUSTER
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

RURAL HEALTH CARE COALITION

CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

April 7, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Obama,

Following the testimony of General Duncan J. McNabb, USAF, Commander of the United States Transportation Command before the Senate Armed Services Committee on March 17, 2009, I urge you to carefully consider the strategic use of Azerbaijan, and specifically the airfield at Baku, as a staging point for United States distribution, cargo handling, and refueling services.

As the Co-Chairman of the Azerbaijan Caucus, my colleagues and I have spent a great deal of time building ties with Azerbaijan, and I believe Azerbaijan offers a safe, secure and strategically valuable alternative to support our movements into Afghanistan. Azerbaijan has been a coalition partner in our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, has supported our requests for assistance, and has been a strong partner in the war on terrorism.

From an ease of operations standpoint, Azerbaijan offers a large state-of-the-art handling facility in Baku with significant available capacity and an air route across the Caspian Sea and Turkmenistan's airspace directly into Afghanistan. Utilizing this corridor avoids Iranian airspace all together and offers a very short flight time into Afghanistan.

Currently, I understand problems have emerged shipping cargo through Dubai and throughout other hubs in the region. With an influx of cargo and personnel needed to support efforts in Afghanistan, I also understand that Azerbaijan may offer better flight times, the Baku airfield may offer greater command and control, is less congested allowing cargo to get into Theatre more quickly, offers competitive pricing, and has a domestic commercial fleet of aircraft to supplement our efforts.

I urge you to work with the Department of Defense and the State Department to fully examine the benefits operations in Azerbaijan would have as we increase our focus on Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

Bill Shuster

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
Secretary of Defense Robert Gates
General Duncan McNabb, USAF, United States Transportation Command

OSD 04292-09

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FAX: (717) 264–0269

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write regarding the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report addressing the listing and oversight of Superfund sites at DOD facilities, Superfund: Greater EPA Enforcement and Reporting are Needed to Enhance Cleanup at DOD Sites (GAO-09-278), urging you to rapidly take all steps necessary to remediate contaminated DOD sites.

The GAO report reached several disturbing conclusions:

- While the number of DOD sites considered for placement into the Superfund program has declined over the past decade, DOD sites still account for 9 percent of all Superfund sites.
- Despite years of negotiations, DOD and EPA have not finalized Interagency Agreements setting out the terms for clean-up of 11 of the 140 DOD Superfund sites, despite the statutory requirement to do so, reportedly because DOD disagreed with the terms contained in the Agreement documents and simply refused to sign the documents. These sites include (1) Air Force Plant 44 (Tucson, AZ) (2) Andrews Air Force Base (MD) (3) Brandywine Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (MD) (4) Fort Meade (MD) (5) Hanscom Field (Bedford, MA) (6) Langley Air Force Base (VA) (7) McGuire Air Force Base (Trenton, NJ) (8) Naval Air Station Whiting Field (Milton, FL) (9) Naval Computer Telecommunication Area Administrative Master Station (Wahiawa, HI) (10) Redstone Arsenal (Huntsville, AL) and (11) Tyndall Air Force Base (Panama City, FL).
- Despite the requirement for Interagency Agreements to be signed at all federal Superfund sites, the Superfund statute (Section 120 of CERCLA) contains no enforcement mechanism that could be used if a federal agency refuses to do so. Although EPA may initiate administrative enforcement actions under other laws (such as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act) to compel DOD to clean up contaminated sites, EPA chose not to pursue enforcement actions until 2007, more than 10 years after these sites were first placed into the Superfund Program. Currently, there are EPA Administrative orders in place at 4 sites: Fort Meade (MD), McGuire Air Force Base (Trenton, NJ), Tyndall Air Force Base (Panama City, FL), and Air Force Plant 44 (Tucson, AZ).

We believe that the Department should immediately enter into the appropriate Interagency Agreements and expedite the cleanup of these sites. We request that you provide us with a detailed description of your plans to do so, including:

OSD 04353-09

- Specific timeframes for when Interagency Agreements will be signed at each of the DOD Superfund sites currently lacking them, and the status of any negotiations regarding their text, including who is participating in these negotiations.
- Milestones agreed to by EPA and DOD that are expected for inclusion in Site Management Plans for the cleanup of each of these sites;
- Any outstanding issues that may impact these schedules and milestones.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter. Please provide your response no later than close of business on Friday May 1, 2009. If you have any questions or concerns, please have your staff contact Michal Freedhoff (Rep. Markey, 52836), or Derrick Ramos (Rep. Green, 51688).

Sincerely,

Rep. Edward J. Markey

Rep. Gene Green

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CIRO RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

April 15, 2009

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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter to you dated March 20, 2009, concerning whether the Army violated the Anti-deficiency Act when funds were transferred from the Defense Working Capital Fund, Army to Military Personnel, Army. This investigation includes a review of all controls Army employs to assure development of information needed to provide accurate and timely adjustments to payroll, bonuses, special and incentive pays, permanent change of station, and other entitlements. This inquiry would benefit from viewing similar controls and underlying systems used by the Navy and Air Force for pay management.

It is requested that the Air Force and the Navy designate an appropriate point of contact to arrange for obtaining the data pertinent to this inquiry and notify my office by telephone within five business days of the receipt of this letter. If there are any questions regarding this matter, I can be contacted on (202) 225-3881.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Pomerantz

David M. Pomerantz
Director
Surveys and Investigations Staff
House Committee on Appropriations

1 – Secretary of the Air Force
1 – Secretary of the Navy

OSD 04359-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 7, 2009

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 30, 2009 regarding Codel Hoyer. Please note that H.E. Maria Carolina Barco Isakson, Ambassador to the United States from Colombia, and Ms. Sylvia Constain Rengifo, Assistant to the Ambassador, are invited to travel with the delegation Cartegena to Medillin, Colombia.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04367-09

JEFF FLAKE
6TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

April 15, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Pursuant to a March 31 meeting with officials from the Department of Defense, I am writing to formally request information regarding specific earmarks outlined in the conference report language of the FY 2008 Defense Appropriations bill.

At the meeting with Defense Department officials, I was informed that all funding for projects managed by the Department is awarded in a manner consistent with the federal regulations for competitive bidding – including all projects earmarked by Members of Congress. As such, please provide relevant information on the competitive bidding process for each of the projects listed on the enclosed spreadsheet, including any relevant Justification and Approvals (J&As). Each of these projects was a congressionally directed earmark in the FY 2008 Defense Appropriations bill (H.R. 3222; P.L. 110-116). The spreadsheet contains all of the relevant information that might be of assistance in locating the J&As.

A timeframe of when I can expect to see this information would be appreciated. In addition, to expedite the delivery, I would appreciate receiving information as it becomes available. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact my Legislative Director, Mr. Chandler Morse, or my Legislative Assistant for defense matters, Ms. Colleen Gilbert, at (202) 225-2635.

Sincerely,

JEFF FLAKE
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Blaine F. Aaron
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Budget and Appropriations Affairs

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OSD 04423-09

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As you know, the United States is currently facing a number of daunting national security challenges. With our ongoing involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as our efforts to combat terrorism, the need to recruit and retain qualified men and women for military service is greater than ever. We are writing to request that the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) be restored as a meaningful advisory body with authority to independently advise the Secretary of Defense on issues concerning military women. Doing so would be a highly effective way to quickly identify and address the obstacles to women choosing long-term careers in the armed forces, and would ensure that the U.S. military is well prepared for today's wartime realities.

DACOWITS was established in 1951 as a civilian board of individuals appointed by the Secretary of Defense for the purpose of providing advice and recommendations on matters affecting women in the armed services. For half a century, the Committee served as a vital link between the Department of Defense and the civilian community and gained a reputation for conducting valuable and highly respected analysis on integrating women into the military, making the armed services more effective overall.

Many in the security community were surprised and dismayed when the Bush administration failed to renew the Committee's charter shortly after taking office. In its place, then Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld introduced a new mandate for DACOWITS which cut members, staff, and funding, revoked the Committee's autonomy, and diluted attention to women's issues. In addition, former Secretary Rumsfeld imposed restrictions which made the Committee's military installation visits less frequent and less effective, and reduced its diversity and transparency in terms of membership selection and policies. The broader effect of these actions has been to sideline serious study of women in the military, and depriving our armed forces of an untold number of skilled and capable leaders.

Former Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Dr. David Chu publicly stated his belief that DACOWITS' work to increase the proportion of women in the

OSD 04513-09

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military had "probably reached its natural limits."[1] This statement does not mesh with the abundance of studies and reports indicating that many women in the armed forces feel they are coming up against a "brass ceiling" as they struggle to rise through the ranks and demonstrate their leadership. Under its original charter, DACOWITS worked to address women's specific needs as they entered the armed forces in increasing numbers. Some of the progressive changes made as a result of DACOWITS' work include coed bootcamps, the gender "norming" of fitness standards, programs to address sexual harassment, and family friendly work policies. These institutional changes benefit both men and women, and help the U.S. military maintain its reputation as the best in the world. Whoever is appointed as the next Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness should have an in depth understanding of the need to consider the differing needs of servicemen and women, and should appreciate the demonstrated benefits of reducing gender based discrimination in the armed forces.

We believe that DACOWITS must be re-established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act with the mission to advise the Secretary of Defense on a broad range of matters relating to women in the military. Additionally, it must be restored to its former status through an increase in its membership to at least 25, to be chosen from diverse backgrounds, and this Committee should be supported with an adequate budget to carry out the analysis and data collection which has proven so valuable in the past. We are confident in your dedication to creating an enabling and supportive environment, so that our servicemen and women can reach their full potential and contribute the best of their skills and abilities to the protection of our country. The revitalization of DACOWITS would greatly facilitate this goal. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

ERIC MASSA
Member of Congress

[1] Stone, Andrea. "Women Warriors Play an Essential Role in Military." *USA TODAY*. 11 January 2002. http://www.usatoday.com/news/sep11/2002/01/10/warriors.htm. (Accessed 31 March 2009).

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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AARON SCHOCK, ILLINOIS

April 15, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and its Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs hereby request your testimony at a joint hearing entitled, **"Afghanistan and Pakistan: Oversight of a New Interagency Strategy."** The hearing is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 29, 2009, at 10:00 AM in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building.**

Please contact Andy Wright or Steve Gale at (202) 225-2548 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Edolphus Towns
Chairman
Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform

John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

cc: Darrell Issa
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Jeff Flake
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs

OSD 04514-09

JIM GERLACH
6TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3806

April 3, 2009

Mr. Robert L. Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Dense for Legislative Affairs
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Wilkie:

Knowing of your interest in veterans issues, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on a letter recently sent to President Obama regarding the status of disabled veterans health care.

As you may know, President Obama recently stated he desired to institute a policy to save the federal government revenue by shifting some of the health care burden from the federal government to private insurance companies related to the care of service-connected and disabled veterans. If this policy were to be instituted, it would have a disastrous set of consequences related to health care for disabled veterans. Not only would this plan absolve the federal government of its responsibility to these veterans by potentially requiring veterans to pay for their own care, this plan would also harm the quality of that care.

In response to this plan, a number of my Republican colleagues and I sent a letter urging President Obama to remove the proposal from the Fiscal Year 2010 budget and continue to provide service-connected and disabled veterans the care they deserve. Instead of looking for ways to save money by burdening our veterans, I believe that the President should ensure the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has the resources it needs to fulfill its mandate to treat service-connected injuries and disabilities. I believe the needs of these servicemembers should take national priority over partisanship and cost reduction initiatives.

As a result of the outcry against this proposal, I am happy to let you know that President Obama has stated that he will no longer seek approval of this plan. This decision ensures that service-connected and disabled veterans will continue to receive the health care they need and deserve. Furthermore, please rest assured that I will continue to urge Congressional leadership to provide increased funding for health care services to treat service-connected injuries and disabilities.

I appreciate your interest in veterans issues and will continue to do what I can to not only protect existing benefits and programs, but also seek ways to improve them. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress

JG: DM

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FAX: (610) 376-7633

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OSD 04535-09

JOHN R. CARTER
31ST DISTRICT, TEXAS

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE SECRETARY

REPUBLICAN STEERING COMMITTEE

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TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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April 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

The people of Central Texas proudly support the Active Duty (AD) and Active Duty Family Members (ADFM) assigned to Fort Hood, Texas. Metroplex Adventist Hospital is located within 1 mile of an entrance to Ft Hood and works very closely with Darnall Army Medical Center in the coordination and support of health care service delivery to our soldiers and their families. Metroplex has become one of the nation's largest community providers to TRICARE beneficiaries and is essential for military readiness and support.

Metroplex is in a unique position relative to its ongoing provision of health care services to the AD and ADFM of Ft. Hood in the following ways:

Ft. Hood has approximately 50,000 soldiers assigned to the post;

Metroplex derives 72% of its patient service revenue from government programs with 29% being from TRICARE specifically;

TRICARE outpatient volume at Metroplex accounts for more than 37% of its total outpatient revenue; and,

In 2008, TRICARE outpatient visits at Metroplex totaled 39,400, of which 10,300 were emergency room visits.

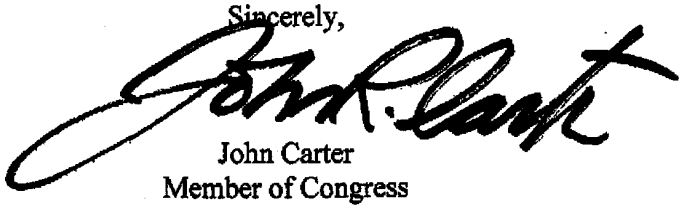
Most hospitals affected by the reimbursement cuts imposed by TRICARE's Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) will be able to recover lost revenue from other payment sources; however, Metroplex will not due to its extraordinary dependence on government payment sources for revenue.

Metroplex is working diligently with the TRICARE Regional Office-South and officials from Humana Military in seeking an exception to the planned reimbursement cuts that will result from OPPS implementation. They have requested this exception in order to remain a vital part of the community network of health care service providers.

OSD 04560-09

For the reasons stated above, I urge you to exempt Metroplex from the OPPS rule, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



John Carter
Member of Congress

CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ
23RD DISTRICT, TEXAS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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HEALTH
DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

April 21st, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to you in reference to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law as Public Law 111-5 on February 17th, 2009. Specifically, I am requesting information on the Department of Defense's implementation plans for Section 1001 of that law.

Section 1001 allows for homeowner assistance to wounded members of the Armed Forces and for assistance to military members permanently reassigned during the specified mortgage crisis, among others. It authorizes the Secretary of Defense "to acquire title to, hold, manage, and dispose of, or, in lieu thereof, to reimburse for certain losses upon private sale of, or foreclosure against, any property improved with a one- or two-family dwelling situated at or near a military base or installation" providing the member meets listed criteria.

Additionally, please provide information on what office at any given base should a service member be referred to for specific information, criteria, and processing procedures with reference to this provision.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. I look forward to hearing the Department's implementation plans on this section. Please contact my Military Legislative Assistant with any concerns or questions at (202) 225-4511 or Norm.Cannon@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress

OSD 04567-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to respectfully request your assistance in reinstating the National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force's *Port and Highway Interdiction* mission. This tasking was terminated nearly 8 years ago and removed from the responsibilities of the National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. We are confident this mission set is both immensely important to the national security of our country and provides outstanding training for our soldiers and airmen.

As you know, the Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO) along the US-Mexico border have become an increased threat to our country. These criminal and terrorist organizations control the avenues of approach to the U.S. and utilize these avenues to smuggle humans and illegal narcotics. These same organizations then use the lack of oversight on southbound cargo to transport money and weapons to the cartels- thus fueling the violence and destruction.

During the period of National Guard support to *Port and Highway Interdiction*, Texas guardsmen were credited with well over $1 billion dollars in drug seizures per year. Texas also laid claim to well over $27 million in cash seizures in one year alone. These statistics prove the viability and importance of having Guard men and women working the secondary search areas along the border- freeing uniformed officers to be out in front of the public.

The threat to Texas and the United States by drug trafficking organizations is clear. A holistic approach must be taken to quell the violence, death and destruction caused by these narco-terrorist organizations. Port and Highway interdiction is a critical aspect of this approach and must be reinstated immediately.

Sincerely,

Rep. John Carter (TX-31)

Rep. Sam Johnson (TX-03)

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OSD 04624-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225–2771

April 3, 2009

Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 10, 2009, granting authorization for members and staff to travel on a CODEL led by Carolyn Maloney, to travel to Naples, Rome, and Venice, Italy and Dublin, Ireland during the approximate period of April 14 – 20, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to additionally authorize Kevin Jones, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations to travel on this CODEL.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 04684-09

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

April 7, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 10, 2009, granting authorization for members and staff of the Committee on Appropriations to travel to Italy and Ireland on April 14-20, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize travel and per diem expenses incurred by post personnel traveling outside of their duty station in support of CODEL travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 04685-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Funding for the Purchase of F-22s in the FY2010 Department of Defense Budget

Dear President Obama:

We are gravely concerned regarding recently announced plans to cap production of the F-22A Raptor at 187 aircraft. Simply put, this number is insufficient to meet potential threats to America and to guarantee our nation's air superiority decades into the future. Over 30 air campaign studies completed over the last 15 years have validated a requirement for far more than 187 F-22 Raptors to replace the original force of 800 F-15 A-D Eagles. The decision announced by Secretary Gates not only ignores these facts, but also the validated requirement of our very own Air Force.

Secretary Gates indicated his commitment to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter as America's 5th generation fighter jet. While the JSF is a very capable platform, it is designed for multi-role strike missions and not optimized for the air dominance missions of the F-22. Moreover, it is several years away from full-scale production.

As discussed in the January 21 letter to you signed by 194 House Members, the F-22 program annually provides over $12 billion of economic activity to the national economy. As we face one of the most trying economic times in recent history it is imperative to preserve existing high paying, specialized jobs that are critical to our nation's defense. Over 25,000 Americans work for the 1,000+ suppliers in 44 states that manufacture this aircraft. Moreover, it is estimated that another 70,000 additional Americans indirectly owe their jobs to this program.

Mr. President, in light of these concerns and in consideration of the importance of the F-22 program to both American national and economic security, we strongly urge you to reconsider this decision and to certify that continued production of this vital asset is indeed in the national interest of the United States.

Sincerely,

David Scott
Member of Congress

Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress

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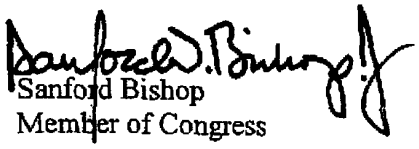
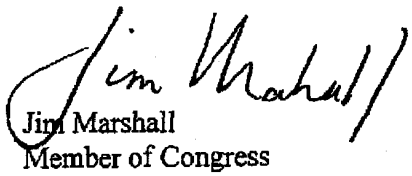
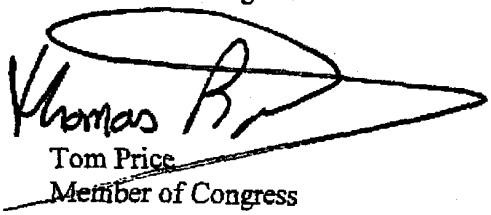
OSD 04710-09

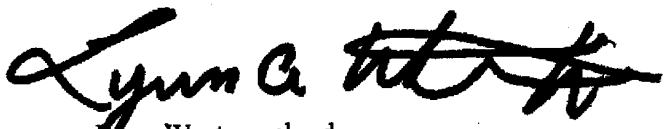

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress


Jim Marshall
Member of Congress

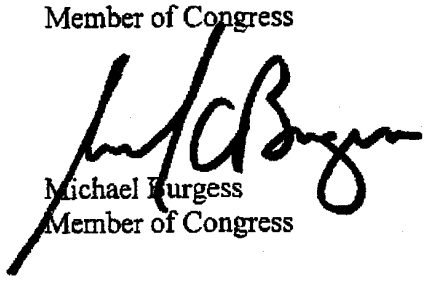

Tom Price
Member of Congress

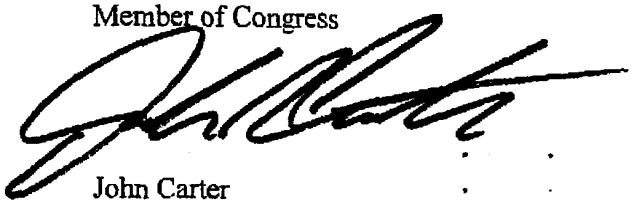

Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress

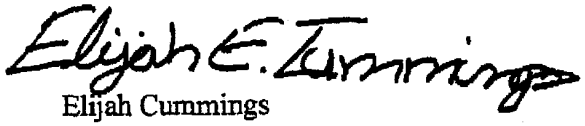
Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Dan Boren
Member of Congress

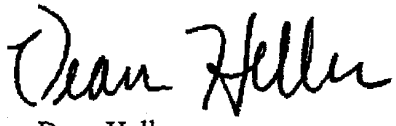
Allen Boyd
Member of Congress


Michael Burgess
Member of Congress


John Carter
Member of Congress


Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress


Dean Heller
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

Re: Funding for the Purchase of F-22s in the FY2010 Department of Defense Budget

Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress

Kendrick Meek
Member of Congress

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

Paul Broun
Member of Congress

Howard "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress

Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress

STEVEN R. ROTHMAN
9TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

2303 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5061
FAX (202) 225-5851

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FAX (201) 646-1944

130 CENTRAL AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306-2118
(201) 798-1365
FAX (201) 798-1725

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

April 13, 2009

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RELATED PROGRAMS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND AERONAUTICS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT

WEBSITE AND E-MAIL ACCESS:
http://www.house.gov/rothman

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As a supporter of the Obama Administration's Iraq withdrawal plan, I would ask that, as practicable, the Department of Defense withdraw National Guard troops prior to any other military personnel.

The National Guard has a well established history of keeping our homeland safe. Their deployment in Iraq places states in difficult situations. States are more likely to be impaired when responding to an emergency because of the small number of personnel available and the absence of essential equipment. The personal and financial strain placed on the National Guard and their families are particularly difficult due to the fact that the majority of National Guard men and women work full-time jobs in addition to their military service.

In my home state of New Jersey, pending before the State Senate is a resolution declaring that the Congressional Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) of October 16, 2002, has expired, and urging the President to return all New Jersey National Guard troops. New Jersey is not alone in this sentiment. States such as Oregon, New Mexico, Maryland, Vermont, and many others have similar measures pending in their state legislatures.

Our soldiers deserve the most thoughtful and sound plan to return home. I respectfully request that, as soon as practicable, the Department of Defense prioritize the withdrawal of National Guard troops from Iraq before other military personnel. I look forward to your kind and prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress

SRR:ag

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OSD 04713-09

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
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ELLEN O. TAUSCHER, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
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JAMES R. LANGEVIN, RHODE ISLAND
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FRANK M. KRATOVIL, JR., MARYLAND
ERIC J.J. MASSA, NEW YORK
BOBBY BRIGHT, ALABAMA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, CALIFORNIA
MAC THORNBERRY, TEXAS
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MICHAEL TURNER, OHIO
JOHN KLINE, MINNESOTA
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TRENT FRANKS, ARIZONA
BILL SHUSTER, PENNSYLVANIA
CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, WASHINGTON
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS
DOUG LAMBORN, COLORADO
ROB WITTMAN, VIRGINIA
MARY FALLIN, OKLAHOMA
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JOHN C. FLEMING, LOUISIANA
MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO
THOMAS J. ROONEY, FLORIDA

ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 17, 2009

Mr. Christian P. Marrone
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs (Acting)
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Marrone:

I am writing to request that Mr. Steven R. Miller, Director of Operations Analysis Procurement Planning Division for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Cost Analysis Improvement Group, and Mr. Joshua T. Hartman, Director of the Space and Intelligence Capabilities Office and Senior Advisor to the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, testify before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces on space system acquisitions and the industrial base on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at 1:00 PM in room 2212 Rayburn House Office Building.

Over the past decade, most national security space acquisition programs have experienced significant cost growth and schedule delays. The subcommittee requests your testimony on the causes of these problems, and on the capacity of the space industrial base to deliver satellites in a timely and cost-effective manner. Specifically, the subcommittee would ask that you address the following questions: What are the root causes of cost growth and schedule delays in the acquisition of national security space systems? Are plans for national security space acquisitions properly balanced with the industry's capacity to deliver? What recommendations should the Congress or the executive branch consider for addressing these problems?

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 35 copies of their prepared statements be delivered to Mr. Zach Steacy in room 2216 Rayburn House Office Building by the morning of Tuesday, April 28, 2009. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. This request may be satisfied by a transmittal via e-mail to zachary.steacy@mail.house.gov or disk.

OSD 04724-09

I appreciate your assistance and look forward to Mr. Miller and Mr. Hartman's testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Bob DeGrasse on the committee staff at (202) 225-2191.

Sincerely,

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER
Chairman
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

EOT:bd

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

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6143

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

April 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee is investigating government-wide vulnerabilities related to information security, particularly in the area of cyber security.

Today, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that computer spies may have infiltrated the Department of Defense's Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program, which is reportedly the most expensive weapons program ever managed by the Department.[1] Citing both current and former government officials as a source, the article reports that cyber attackers were able to copy data related to the design and electronics system of the F-35 Lightning II by infiltrating the computer systems of contractors involved with the JSF Program.[2] Further, the article reports that these attacks may have originated from a foreign source.

If true, these allegations are serious and potentially far-reaching. Given the potential national security implications of this matter, we hereby request that the Department provide Committee staff with a briefing regarding the events alleged in the above article. After receiving this briefing, the Committee may request additional briefings and/or information from the Department.

---

[1] "Computer Spies Breach Fighter-Jet Project," *The Wall Street Journal* (April 21, 2008), p. A1.
[2] See id.

OSD 04830-09

To arrange the briefing, please have your staff contact Christopher Knauer or Kevin Barstow with the Majority staff at (202) 225-5051 and Christopher Bright with the Minority staff at (202) 225-5074. In the meantime, if you have any questions related to this request, please do not hesitate to contact us directly or have your staff contact Committee staff. The allegations raised in this article are serious and we appreciate your understanding of the urgency of this request.

Sincerely,

Edolphus Towns
Chairman

Darrell Issa
Ranking Member

BARNEY FRANK
4TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

2252 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2104
(202) 225-5931

29 CRAFTS STREET
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NEWTON, MA 02458
(617) 332-3920

558 PLEASANT STREET
ROOM 309
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740
(508) 999-6462

THE JONES BUILDING
29 BROADWAY
SUITE 310
TAUNTON, MA 02780
(508) 822-4796

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

April 21, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I have told people that I think it is reasonable to wait on the question of repealing the anti-gay military policy until you have put the Iraq policy in place and some dust has settled with the military. Specifically, I've argued that we should be doing hate crimes and a nondiscrimination bill this year, and deal with the military policies for next year. But the recent statement by Secretary Gates suggesting that it isn't clear that we're ever going to do this is not only very disappointing to me personally, but a source of significant unhappiness among people who supported you very strongly. I realize that this was Secretary Gates' musing and not your position, but given the fact that he is the Secretary of Defense and said it, I think it is important, and I have told this to both Rahm and Greg, that you make it clear that this is not your administration's policy and that you do intend to get to it in this Congress.

Barney Frank

BARNEY FRANK

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OSD 04831-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 22, 2009

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 to Jordan, Qatar, Iraq, and the United Kingdom during the approximate time period of May 6-12, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government officials in each country to discuss issues of mutual concern. For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members may travel 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 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04854-09

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 24, 2009

241 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4610
(202) 225-5136

13873 PARK CENTER ROAD
SUITE 130
HERNDON, VA 20171
(703) 709-5800
(800) 945-9653 (IN STATE)

110 NORTH CAMERON STREET
WINCHESTER, VA 22601
(540) 667-0990
(800) 850-3463 (IN STATE)

wolf.house.gov

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
US Department of Defense
The Pentagon Room 3E 880
Washington DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to strongly recommend that you read Andrew Krepinevich's book, 7 Deadly Scenarios: A Military Futurist Explores War in the 21st Century, which was published by Bantam earlier this year, at your earliest convenience.

Drawing on his extensive research as a consultant to several secretaries of defense, the CIA, the Homeland Security Council, and the Joint Forces Command, Mr. Krepinevich offers a grave assessment of seven critical global trends and their potential to develop into security crises for the United States. He paints a stark picture of the enormous security challenges we will experience should Pakistan collapse, dirty bombs be detonated inside the U.S., or the world experience a global pandemic, to name a few.

7 Deadly Scenarios has received acclaim from Sens. Jack Reed and Joe Lieberman as well as national security journalists, such as Tom Ricks. I have enclosed a summary of the book, key reviews, and his full biography for your reference.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:tc

BEST Leisure

THIS STATIONERY PRINTED ON PAPER MADE OF RECYCLED FIBERS

OSD 04871-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 25, 2009

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 to China during the approximate time period of May 22-31, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government officials in each country to discuss issues of mutual concern. For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members may travel 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 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04882-09

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
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JOHN KLINE, MINNESOTA
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TRENT FRANKS, ARIZONA
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ROB WITTMAN, VIRGINIA
MARY FALLIN, OKLAHOMA
DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
JOHN C. FLEMING, LOUISIANA
MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO
THOMAS J. ROONEY, FLORIDA

ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 28, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

In your April 6, 2009 press conference on fiscal year 2010 major budget issues you announced a series of key defense program equipment decisions that you had recommended to the President.

In support of your view that the American people deserve "to learn of these recommendations fully and in context," we would very much appreciate being provided, by the time the fiscal year 2010 budget is submitted to Congress, the background materials that led to your decisions.

We ask that the materials provided by the services to your office in supporting their recommendations be provided, as well as the analysis completed, the options considered, the supporting rationale for your final decision, and the detailed recommendation you made to the President for the F-22, Combat Search and Rescue-X, F-35, Joint Cargo Aircraft, Future Combat Systems, KC-X, and the Next Generation Bomber. The requested detailed information for each program of interest is provided in attachments.

Sincerely,

Neil Abercrombie
Chairman,
Air and Land Forces
Subcommittee

Roscoe Bartlett
Ranking Member,
Air and Land Forces
Subcommittee

NA/RB: bg
Enc.

OSD 04888-09

KC-X

Written recommendations made and supporting materials provided by the Department of the Air Force for the FY 2010 budget and Future Years Defense Program for the quantity and budget for the KC-X program.

The analysis completed by your office; the options considered; the supporting rationale for your final decision; and the detailed recommendation made to the President.

Subsequent to your April 6 press conference, you were quoted by two news organizations as saying that the program costs of two KC-X variants would be an additional $7-14 billion. Please provide the analysis and data that supports how $14 billion was determined to be the upper limit of the estimate.

Concerning cost and schedule, how did you arrive at your decision to conduct a competition that would result in the down select to only one winner?

Attachment 6

Next Generation Bomber (NGB)

Written recommendations made and supporting materials provided by the Air Force for the FY 2010 budget and Future Years Defense Program for the quantity and budget for the NGB program.

The analysis completed by your office; the options considered; the supporting rationale for your final decision; and the detailed recommendation made to the President.

Given the current phase of the NGB acquisition program, please provide your specific concerns, issues and aspects of the acquisition program that support your statement "we will not pursue a development program...until we have a better understanding of the need, the requirement, and the technology."

Please provide the amount and status of any previous or current fiscal year funds authorized/appropriated, obligated and expended for the NGB program.

Please provide the status of any NGB acquisition program contracts awarded and the estimated termination liability costs associated with each.

Please provide a detailed description of the public and/or private sector workforce impacts and risks involved with preservation of industrial base capabilities associated with termination of the NGB program.

Attachment 7

DUNCAN HUNTER
52D DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR

1429 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0552
(202) 225-5672
FAX: (202) 225-0235

1670 GORDELL COURT, #200
EL CAJON, CA 92020
(619) 448-5720
FAX: (619) 448-2281

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

May 1, 2009

Honorable Roberts M. Gates
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing this letter to respectfully request that you restrict any military personnel from leaving the Unitcd States and crossing into Mexico. I urge that you take immediate action of this important matter.

As you know, the recent spread of the "Swine Flu" has caused many to fall gravely ill in the United States. This morning, officials at Marine Base Camp Pendleton confirmed that two Marines have "Swine Flu" and are currently hospitalized and recovering in quarantine. In addition, a third Marine at Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms has been infected. He is currently in isolation along with 30 of his fellow Marines that he came in contact with.

While there have been limited deaths in the U.S. related to this illness, it is imperative that we are proactive in preventing our men and women in uniform from contracting this deadly virus. In order to maintain combat effectiveness and prevent the spread of this sickness to other members of our military and their families, we must temporarily prohibit the travel of U.S. military personnel into Mexico which is highly infected with the "Swine Flu." Furthermore, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an April 27 notice recommending that American citizens avoid all nonessential travel to Mexico at this time. It would be reckless and irresponsible if we did not heed this warning and continued to allow our service personnel to cross into Mexico.

Sincerely,

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress

OSD 04915-09

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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 30, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Secretary Lynn:

You are invited to testify before the House Armed Services Committee on The Department of Defense at High Risk: The Chief Management Officer's Recommendations for Acquisition Reform and Related High Risk Areas on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 10:00 AM in room 2118 Rayburn House Office Building.

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 120 copies of your prepared statement be delivered to room 2120 Rayburn House Office Building by Monday, May 4, 2009. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. This request may be satisfied by a transmittal via e-mail to Caterina Dutto at caterina.dutto@mail.house.gov.

I appreciate your willingness to appear before the committee and look forward to your testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Andrew Hunter on the committee staff at (202) 225-6703 or at andrew.hunter@mail.house.gov.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON
Chairman

IS:cd

OSD 04947-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Ed Pastor, Chairman of the House delegation to the US-Mexico Interparliamentary Group, to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Seattle, Washington during the approximate period of June 5-7, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to attend the annual meeting of the US-Mexico Interparliamentary Group. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05023-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 30, 2009

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 23, 2009, regarding Codel Hoyer.

Please note the new dates of May 26-29, 2009, and that the delegation will only be traveling to Denmark.

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 (b)(6) 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05024-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Rush Holt, a Member of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Macedonia, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina on official business during the approximate time period of May 25 – June 2, 2009. The main purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the Kosovo Assembly and of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. In Bosnia, the delegation will meet with members of the national parliament, the national executive , and entity leaders regarding the status of Bosnia's governance. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05025-09

MIKE COFFMAN
6TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

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Washington, DC 20515–0606

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LONE TREE, CO 80124
(720) 283-9772

April 15, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

President Obama,

As you are well aware, piracy has become a serious threat to both American and international shipping. The majority of these pirate attacks have taken place along the coastline of Somalia – a coastline the same length as the United States eastern seaboard – and in the Gulf of Aden north of Somalia.

The recent kidnapping of Captain Richard Phillips following a raid on his commercial ship, the Maersk Alabama, by Somali pirates proves more aggressive action is needed to combat piracy. The incident involving the Maersk Alabama was a spectacular show of courage, good luck, the extraordinary military skill of U.S. Special Forces and the smart decision-making by the Captain of the USS Bainbridge, Commander Frank Castellano. Unfortunately, in the future, the pirates may be unwilling to take a ship's Captain hostage to protect the safety of the crew or the crew of a merchant vessel may be unable to fight back. They were very lucky that the U.S. Navy arrived before the pirates were able to make it back to land which would have made it extremely difficult to track them down.

The piracy problem is not a law enforcement challenge because the pirates have unrestricted access to Somali port facilities and land bases that are sanctioned by the governing institutions of Somalia irrespective of how dysfunctional they are. This is a military problem and these attacks on U.S. merchant ships constitute an act of war on the United States.

A new course of action should be reviewed. Sending U.S. Warships to patrol these waters isn't enough to protect U.S. flagged merchant ships. This is an area that is 1.1 million square miles and the U.S. Navy, or any navy, has their hands full trying to protect this vital shipping lane. The placement of small detachments of U.S. Marines or sailors aboard U.S. flagged merchant ships would help bring an end to the piracy problem off of the coast of Somalia for U.S. commercial shipping. This would be a much more cost effective way of ending any advantage that the pirates have. New rules of engagement should give U.S. military personnel, assigned to U.S. merchant ships, the authority to engage any small boat if it demonstrates hostile intent when approaching a U.S. merchant ship.

OSD 05026-09

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There is a precedent for using U.S. military personnel on U.S. flagged merchant vessels. During WWII, U.S. military personnel were deployed on U.S. flagged ships to provide protection. These detachments were called "The Naval Armed Guard," and were established after the 1941 repeal of the "Neutrality Act of 1936," which had outlawed the arming o U.S. merchant vessels.

It isn't necessary to talk about military operations against the pirates along the Somali coastline when we have the option to put small military detachments on board U.S. commercial ships. These raids would not only put members of our military unnecessarily at risk but there would always be the potential for collateral damage causing harm to the innocent hostages and civilians in the target areas.

Mr. President, how many sailors and Marines are available for such actions and are you willing to temporarily station military detachment on U.S. flagged merchant ships?

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Mike Coffman, M.C.

CC: The Honorable Robert Gates

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Your internal budget process consists of serious deliberation on threat analysis, risk assessment and cost benefit tradeoffs in regard to budgetary decisions. This information is critical for Members of Congress and the public to know, and for this reason I am concerned about a disturbing trend of restricting budget and inspection information within the Department of Defense.

I understand that you recently asked senior officials in the Department to sign a Non-disclosure Agreement as it relates to the President's FY10 Budget proposal. While I fully understand that some of these discussions must be kept confidential, I am concerned that 1) this agreement is not strictly limited to predecisional discussions, and 2) that Congress may be excluded from oversight and engagement due to the restrictions put in place by this agreement.

Specifically, the Agreement states that, budget-related information restricted includes "[information,] **predecisional or otherwise,** concerning the Administration's deliberation of the nature and amounts of the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2010, and any supplemental budget request submitted during the current fiscal year." Can I expect a candid answer from a senior military official when I ask them about the process used to establish priorities, either now, or after the President's detailed Budget is released to the public? Members of Congress deserve candid answers from senior military officers that are not suppressed or censored--either directly, or implicitly via a culture of regulations that muzzles their independent professional judgment.

We are well aware that only the President and his staff see the full revenues and resource requirements of the United States Government, and members of his Administration are expected to implement his guidance. However, the Constitution charges Congress, not the Executive, with the mandate to raise and support armies and navies, and it grants authority to Congress to fund the budget for our defense and the other constitutional responsibilities. I am concerned that these restrictions on the deliberation of these tradeoffs are reflected in the President's Budget this year and future years severely and unnecessarily limits the Congress in these constitutional duties.

The Congress, and the Nation as a whole, can ill-afford our Nation's senior military leadership to be forced to equivocate or be pedantic in so far as their professional opinion is concerned, particularly as it relates to risk calculation and threat analysis associated with the priorities of the Department of Defense and the allocation of taxpayer dollars.

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OSD 05129-09

Furthermore, I am concerned to learn that previously unclassified INSURV inspections will now be classified. It is sometimes only through the media and public awareness, as was this case with the inspections of the *USS Stout* and *USS Chosin,* that we learn of the urgent need to address some of the shortfalls the military has, including the $417 million shortfall in ship depot maintenance for this year alone. If these reports are classified, we are unable to communicate these needs to the public.

Lastly, senior Army officials abruptly withdrew from a recent hearing before the House Armed Services Air and Land Forces Subcommittee on Future Combat System. This hearing was to focus on the status of the FCS program in light of a recent GAO report that made recommendations on this system. These actions continue to contribute to the perception that the Department in not interested in engaging with Congress to determine the best possible solution. The classification of inspections and excluding Congress from budgetary discussion serve as an impediment for Congress to fulfill its constitutional responsibility to provide the necessary resources to support our national security strategy and the rest of the federal government.

More than ever, our budget needs a close look. In fact, President Obama indicated in one of his first Executive Orders concerning the Freedom of Information Act, that "A democracy requires accountability, and accountability requires transparency. As Justice Louis Brandeis wrote, 'sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants.'" We understand that most budget documents are not subject to FOIA under 5 USC 552(b)(5), and it may be timely to reconsider this exemption.

There is no more serious responsibility that President Obama, you, or we have than to ensure the security of this great Nation. We remain strong supporters of your efforts and of the candor with which you have testified before Congress. We look forward to working with you to ensure our Nation has the defense it needs. Thanks you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

[illegible]

Howard P. Buckingham

Joe Wilson

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
April 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable John Tanner, Chairman of the House NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) group, to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Norway, Sweden, and Finland during the approximate period of May 22-31, 2009. The purpose of this trip will be to attend the NATO PA's Spring Session and to meet with government officials in each country in conjunction with the mission of the Assembly. For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members may travel 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 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 Mr. David Hobbs, Secretary General of the NATO PA, has been invited to travel with the delegation in-theatre.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05208-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Richard E. Neal, Chairman of the US-Ireland Interparliamentary Group, to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United Kingdom during the approximate period of June 26 – July 5, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to express the United States' strong support for the new power-sharing government in Belfast and to meet with government officials in both countries to discuss issues of mutual concern. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05209-09

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

May 6, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

You are invited to testify before the House Armed Services Committee on the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Budget Request from the Department of Defense on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 10:00 am in room 2118 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 120 copies of your prepared statement be delivered to room 2120 Rayburn House Office Building by the morning of Monday, February 4, 2008. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. This request may be satisfied by a transmittal via e-mail or disk.

I appreciate your willingness to appear before the committee and look forward to your testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Andrew Hunter on the committee staff at (202) 225-6703 or at Andrew.Hunter@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Ike Skelton
Chairman

IS:cd

OSD 05301-09

TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON
15TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

AGRICULTURE
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–1315

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☐ 1001 MARKET STREET
SUITE 102
MOUNT CARMEL, IL 62863
(618) 262-8719

April 23, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am writing you today to lend my support for Cbana Labs, Inc and their STTR Phase II funding for the Micro-burner based flame Ionization Detectors for Micro-scale Gas Chromatographs.

Cbana Labs is a cutting edge company that currently is working on vapor and particle sampling vacuums, handheld explosive detectors in addition to the ionization detectors. Their work will have a wide range of uses and could prove very useful in National Security and for Military personnel.

I ask that Cbana Labs, Inc be given any and all consideration for STTR Phase II funding. If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me at (217) 403-4690.

Sincerely,

Timothy V. Johnson
Member of Congress

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OSD 05307-09

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

ROBERT WEXLER
19TH DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

April 27, 2009

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

Dear Robert:

I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to you as you begin serving as Secretary of Defense. Your appointment to this position is indicative not only of your qualifications to serve, but of your commitment to President Obama's message of change and your desire to lead our nation through the many challenges we face.

At this trying time in our nation's history, I have no doubt that your leadership in the U.S. Department of Defense will be a benefit to all who serve with you, and I look forward to working with you and President Obama as we lead our nation in a new direction. Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime I may be of assistance to you as you work with President Obama, Vice President Biden, and the Executive Cabinet to accomplish these goals.

With warm regards,

Robert

Robert Wexler

OSD 05308-09

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NANCY PELOSI, SPEAKER
JOHN A. BOEHNER, REPUBLICAN LEADER

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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ON INTELLIGENCE

HVC-304, THE CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7690

MICHAEL J. DELANEY
STAFF DIRECTOR

JAMES M. LEWIS
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

May 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will hold an open hearing on the Government Accounting Office's upcoming report on Personnel Security Clearance Reform from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. We invite you or your designee to testify at this open session.

In March of 2008, our Subcommittee requested that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) evaluate the joint ODNI-DOD reform effort, relative to best practice standards that GAO has used to evaluate other government reform efforts. The Committee also asked GAO to review the criteria that the Administration is using to assess the effectiveness of its efforts. The day of the hearing, GAO will release its report on those reform efforts. We request that you be prepared to respond to GAO's findings at the upcoming hearing.

Please provide your statement for the record by May 14, 2009. Please limit oral testimony to ten minutes. Questions regarding this hearing may be directed to Ms. Mieke Eoyang, Subcommittee Staff Director, at 202-225-7690.

Sincerely, and gratefully,

Representative Anna G. Eshoo
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Intelligence Community Management

Representative Sue Myrick
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Intelligence Community Management

OSD 05356-09

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DUNCAN D. HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
DAVID P. ROE, TENNESSEE
GLENN THOMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA

May 6, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE – 703-695-1219
The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan to travel on a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) led by Congressman James Langevin to Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, and Germany on May 24th through June 2nd, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to visit Leadership and service members and to visit the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Also, members will meet with U.S. Agency for International Development and State Department representatives to discuss education programs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is requested that the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation is authorized pursuant to 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. The CODEL requests the U.S. Air Force give support to this Delegation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Becky Cruz Lizama at 202-225-2646 or Mr. Craig Greene at 202-225-4151. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George Miller

GEORGE MILLER
Chairman

GM:ejh

OSD 05386-09

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STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives
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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
http://veterans.house.gov

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

April 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman Timothy J. Walz to travel on official government business to Israel, the West Bank, Egypt, and Turkey during the period of May 24-May 31, 2009.

Mr. Walz will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Senator Robert Casey, Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to meet with regional leaders to discuss the potential progress on the Middle East Peace Process, the regional response to Iran's nuclear program, and Turkey's integration with its neighbors. Mr. Walz will bring to bear in discussions a focus on the quality of life of military personnel and future veterans

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in Israel, the West Bank, Egypt, and Turkey. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Bernie Dotson of the Committee staff at 202-226-3653.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 05449-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 4, 2009

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 22, 2009, regarding the delegation I am leading May 6-12, 2009. Please note that the following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Speaker, and Mr. Paul Pelosi
The Honorable Rush Holt (D-NJ)

The Honorable Wilson Livingood, House Sergeant at Arms
The Honorable Brian Monaghan, Attending Physician
Mr. John Lawrence, Chief of Staff, Speaker Pelosi
Ms. Wyndee Parker, Senior Policy Advisor, Speaker Pelosi
Mr. Drew Hammill, Communications Director
Ms. Bridget Fallon, Chief of Protocol for the Speaker

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05456-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 6, 2009

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 13, 2009, regarding Codel Capps to Haiti. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Lois Capps (D-CA)
The Honorable David Dreier (R-CA)
The Honorable Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
The Honorable Gwen Moore (D-WI) and Mr. Adesolu Omokunde

Mr. John Lis, Staff Director, House Democracy Assistance Commission
Ms. Margarita Seminario, Professional Staff Member, HDAC
Mr. Tommy Ross, Legislative Director, Office of Rep. David Price
Ms. Rachael Leman, Policy Director, House Rules Committee
Ms. Muftiah McCartin, Committee Staff Director, HRC (Majority)
Mr. Brad Smith, Committee Staff Director, HRC (Minority)
Mr. Clay Wellborn, Deputy Assistant Director, CRS (authorized by HCFA)
Ms. Maureen Taft Morales, Senior Analyst, CRS (authorized by HCFA)

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05458-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 6, 2009

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

This letter will authorize the Honorable Charles B. Rangel (D-NY) to lead a delegation of Members and staff to the funeral of the late Honorable Jack F. Kemp.

It is requested that the Department of Defense provide bus transportation and Air Force escort as needed to support the movement of current Members of Congress, former Members of Congress, and Congressional staff between the U.S. Capitol and Washington National Cathedral on Friday, May 8, 2009. Spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government for protocol purposes only. A complete list of Members and staff authorized to travel will follow at a later date.

Authorization for the expenditure of funds should be made pursuant to 31 USC 1108 (g)

Thank you in advance for your prompt assistance with the matter.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05463-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 7, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Mr. John Sullivan, Parliamentarian of the House, to accompany Codel Kosmas (authorized by the House Committee on Science and Technology) to Florida during the appropriate period of May 11, 2009.

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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05465-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 7, 2009

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 6, 2009 regarding Codel Rangel (D-NY) to the funeral of the late Honorable Jack F. Kemp. The following persons are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel (D-NY)
The Honorable Jerry Lewis (R-CA)
The Honorable Dan Lungren (R-CA) and Mrs. Bobbi Lungren
The Honorable James Moran (D-VA)
The Honorable Mike Pence (R-IN) and Mrs. Karen Pence
The Honorable Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ) and Mrs. Marie Smith
The Honorable Frank Wolf (R-VA) and Mrs. Carolyn Wolf

The Honorable Dan Beard, Chief Administrative Officer

The Honorable E. Thomas Coleman (Former Member) and Mrs. Coleman
The Honorable James Courter (Former Member)
The Honorable Gary Franks (Former Member)
The Honorable Robert Livingston (Former Member)
The Honorable Robert Michel (Former Member)
The Honorable Donn Anderson (Former Officer of the House)

Mrs. Cheryl Sensenbrenner
Mrs. Vicky Tiahrt

Thank you in advance for your prompt assistance with the matter.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05466-09

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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

May 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Last Thursday, Congress received the Department of Defense's portion of the President's Fiscal Year 2010 budget submission. I understand that the detailed justification of budget estimates will be provided this week. Concurrent with the submission of the budget details, I had also expected the Department to submit the report required by law regarding F/A-18 procurement and the 30-year aviation force structure report. As you know, section 123 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417) requires you to submit a report comparing costs of F/A-18 multi-year versus annual procurement options, not later than March 1, 2009. Further, section 231a of title 10, United States Code, requires you to submit an annual aircraft plan and certification along with the submission of the President's budget.

Unfortunately, Committee staff has been told by the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) that these reports may not be submitted, or, at best, the F/A-18 multiyear report will be delayed and a "notional" thirty-year aviation plan might be submitted. If this is the case, I respectfully ask that you reconsider and transmit the two reports in a manner that is consistent with both the statute and the spirit of the law. The information requested in the required reports is critical to our Subcommittee's oversight responsibilities and for budget transparency.

I look forward to working closely with you as we move through the authorization and appropriation process this year.

Sincerely,

W. Todd Akin

W. TODD AKIN
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Seapower
and Expeditionary Forces

OSD 05492-09

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"VACANT"

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6216

(202) 225–3951
http://www.house.gov/judiciary

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TED POE, Texas
JASON CHAFFETZ, Utah
THOMAS ROONEY, Florida
GREGG HARPER, Mississippi

May 7, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On April 21, 2009, Ranking Member Lamar Smith and I introduced H.R. 1983, a bill to enact certain laws relating to small business as title 53, United States Code, "Small Business." The bill restates the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, along with related provisions in other Acts, as a new positive law title of the United States Code. The new positive law title replaces the existing provisions, which are repealed by the bill.

I am writing to invite you, as the head of an agency with responsibility for administering laws that will be included in title 53, to review the bill, and to share it with other interested parties as appropriate. I ask that you and others bring any questions or suggestions to the attention of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel and, if you wish, to the attention of the Judiciary Committee as well.

The bill was prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives as part of its ongoing responsibility under 2 U.S.C. §285b to prepare, and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary one title at a time, a complete compilation, restatement, and revision of the general and permanent laws of the United States.

All changes in existing law made by the bill are purely technical in nature. The bill was prepared in accordance with the statutory standard for codification legislation, which is that the restatement of existing law shall conform to the understood policy, intent, and purpose of Congress in the original enactments, with such amendments and corrections as will remove ambiguities, contradictions, and other imperfections.

OSD 05506-09

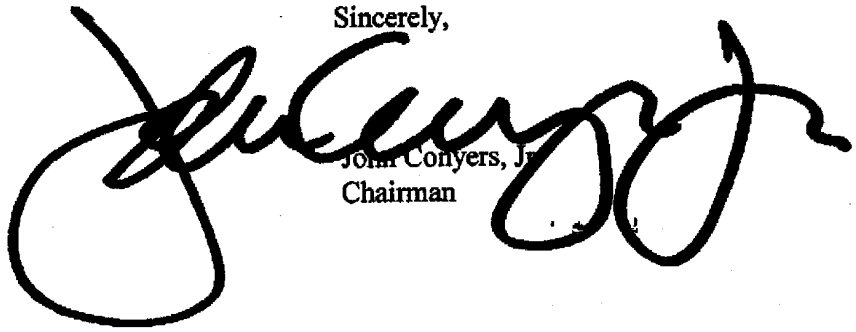
Please note that the bill is not intended to make any substantive changes in the law. As is typical with the codification process, a number of non-substantive revisions are made, including the reorganization of sections into a more coherent overall structure, but these changes are not intended to have any substantive effect. Nor would changes of a substantive nature be within the scope of this bill. Rather, we are asking you and others to review the bill from a technical perspective, to help make sure that the bill does not inadvertently make changes that could be construed to have substantive effect, and that it does not create or maintain any ambiguities that can be clarified or contradictions that can be corrected.

I would appreciate it if all comments could be received no later than November 3, 2009, after which time the Committee will proceed to consider the bill and move it to the floor as expeditiously as possible.

The bill, along with a detailed section-by-section explanation of the bill, can be accessed on the internet site of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel (http://uscode.house.gov/). Persons interested in obtaining a printed copy of the bill and explanation, and persons interested in submitting comments on the bill, should contact Tim Trushel, Senior Counsel, Office of the Law Revision Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2-308 Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515. The telephone number is 202-226-9058, and the email address is Tim.Trushel@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

David Heymsfeld, Chief of Staff
Ward W. McCarragher, Chief Counsel

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

May 18, 2009

Mr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
1300 Defense Pentagon
Wash DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I would like to invite you or your representative to testify before the Committee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation regarding **Piracy Against U.S.-Flagged Vessels: Lessons Learned.** The hearing will take place on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 2167 of the Rayburn House Office Building (HOB).

Witnesses must have 50 copies of written testimony hand-delivered to Room 507 Ford HOB, to the attention of Ianta Summers, by close of business on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. In addition, 50 copies of testimony must be hand-delivered to 2165 Rayburn HOB, to the attention of Jimmy Miller, by close of business on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. Name, mailing address, organization represented, and telephone number must appear on the face of the testimony.

For the purpose of complying with House Rule XI, clause 2(e)(4), requiring each committee to make its publications available in electronic form to the maximum extent practicable, each witness is strongly urged to submit testimony in Microsoft Word format (i.e. copy on disk).

Witnesses are recommended to limit their testimony to a five-minute oral summary of their statements. The full statement will be included in the printed record of the hearing.

If you need special accommodations, please contact Jimmy Miller at (202) 225-4472 at least four days before the hearing.

OSD 05507-09

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact John Cullather, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, at (202) 226-6861. His facsimile number is (202) 226-8068.

I look forward to your testimony.

Sincerely,

Elijah E. Cummings
Chair
Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation

DAVID WU
1ST DISTRICT, OREGON

2338 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3702
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3701

May 18, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon Way
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to invite you to the groundbreaking of the "Remember Me" Rose Garden in Washington, DC in order to honor the spirit of the men and women whose lives were lost on September 11, 2001. This rose garden in Washington, DC will honor the victims of the Pentagon attack, including the crew and passengers of American Airlines Flight 77.

The "Remember Me" Rose Garden will break ground on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 10:00 AM at the LaSalle-Backus Education Campus (501 Riggs Rd. NE, Washington, DC 20011). Backus Middle School, which has since merged with LaSalle Elementary School, was one of three Washington, DC schools that had students and teachers perish on Flight 77. These students and teachers, along with staff members from the National Geographic Society, were on their way to California on a National Geographic Society study program.

"Remember Me" Rose Garden is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Portland, Oregon—the "City of Roses." A rose garden will be created on or near each of the three sites of the September 11 tragedy. The gardens are meant to uplift and renew the spirit of our nation and provide a beautiful sanctuary where the families and friends of all who died can come to seek comfort and peace.

It would be a great privilege and distinct honor if you would be able to attend the "Remember Me" Rose Garden groundbreaking ceremony in Washington, DC. If you are unable to attend, a member of your staff would be most welcome. If you have questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Sue Casey, the founder of the "Remember Me" Rose Garden: 503-453-3352 (o); 503-539-7531 (c); sue@remember-me-rose.org.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

With warm regards,

David Wu
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OSD 05513-09

JAMES P. MORAN
8TH DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
(703) 971-4700
FAX: (703) 922-9436

www.moran.house.gov

May 14, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E718
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I thank you for your continued dedication to the nation's men and women in uniform and for your own service to our nation.

The current prohibition on allowing gay men and lesbians to serve openly in the military, known commonly as "don't ask, don't tell" is a policy that should be rescinded. There continues to be evidence that the discriminatory policy costs the Department of Defense hundreds of millions in wasted expenditures, thousands of men and women are prevented from serving their country in uniform, and hundreds of military specialists are discharged annually, all to the detriment of our national security. Public opinion is shifting as a majority of the American public and growing numbers in the military community support a change in policy. Moreover, during his candidacy, and now reiterated in statements made by his Administration, President Barack Obama has asserted it is his intention to end the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

I understand that during this time the nation, and the Department of Defense in particular, faces many challenges. Nevertheless, I feel that every day that the "don't ask, don't tell" policy remains law our military is disadvantaged and good soldiers are unable to serve. To increase transparency on the effects the "don't ask, don't tell" policy is having on our military, I request that the Office of the Secretary of Defense provide monthly reports on the number of military personnel discharged because of this policy. Since January, I have made similar requests of the Army for discharge data. However, so as not to single out one service branch, disclosure across the entire Department would be a more appropriate way to assess the impact of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The servicemembers and civilians working for the Department of Defense reflect the very best our nation has to offer. I look forward to working with the President and the Department on repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy so that our military can be even stronger. I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Moran

James P. Moran

JPM/hdb

OSD 05551-09

JEFF FLAKE
6TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

240 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE (202) 225-2635
FAX (202) 226-4386

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1640 SOUTH STAPLEY DRIVE
SUITE 215
MESA, AZ 85204
PHONE (480) 833-0082
FAX (480) 833-8314

WESTERN CAUCUS
VICE CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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SUBCOMMITTEES:
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NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

May 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In a letter sent to you on April 15, I requested information related to the competitive bidding process that preceded the awarding of earmarks in the conference report language of the FY 2008 Defense Appropriations bill. Specifically, I asked you to provide me with all relevant information on the competitive bidding process for a selected list of earmarks, including any relevant Justifications and Approvals (J&As).

Since that time my staff has been working productively with the Office of the Comptroller, which is the office initially tasked with completing this request. However, it is my understanding that the assistance and cooperation of the Office of Acquisition, Technology and Logistics is crucial to the collection of this information.

I respectfully request that action be taken at the appropriate level to task the Office of Acquisition, Technology and Logistics jointly with this request. The initial meeting initiating this request took place on March 31. I am very anxious to see this information before the Congress begins work on appropriations for the next fiscal year. Should you need further guidance, please contact my Legislative Director, Mr. Chandler Morse, or my Legislative Assistant for defense matters, Ms. Colleen Gilbert, at (202) 225-2635.

Sincerely,

JEFF FLAKE
Member of Congress

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OSD 05646-09

TED POE
2ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

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House of Representatives
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May 13, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am disturbed to have learned from a recent news report that some of our troops based in Iraq were not adequately provided with enough rations of drinking water nor the use of safe potable water. It is my understanding the Defense Department contracted these services and the processes to provide these basic services did not work; leading to several health problems as a result such as dehydration, dysentary, and kidney infections.

I would like to obtain a prompt response from you on how this problem was addressed once it was learned, what has been done to ensure safe water supplies are never compromised again, and how the Department is treating the affected troops as a result of this failure.

I have visited Iraq many times and understand the extreme conditions our troops operate in. As the hot summer months approach and as we begin to enhance operations in Afghanistan, I'm sure you agree with me that providing our troops in harms way with all they need to keep them safe and focused on their important missions is priority number one. I appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to your timely reply.

God and Texas,

TED POE
Member of Congress
TEXAS

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OSD 05648-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

It has recently come to our attention that service members returning from deployment have indicated they were allocated only two liters of bottled drinking water per day, and were forced to find additional water for themselves. It is our understanding that this was not an isolated event and service members stationed across Iraq during various phases of the war have reported the problems.

The Army minimum to avoid dehydration can reach as high as 15 liters per day to prevent heat casualties in desert climates. As a result of the bottled water drinking shortages, these same service members indicate at other times they were forced to "improvise" to avoid dehydration by drinking potable and nonpotable bulk water. As you know, questions on the quality of bulk water still remain, and it is not authorized for drinking in Iraq. However, the soldiers indicate consumption of this water was necessary to avoid dehydration and are now experiencing short term and long term health effects of illnesses associated with drinking unclean water.

Many of us have visited Iraq and we are all well aware of the extreme conditions our troops stationed there face. We are dismayed to hear these accounts and believe the health and safety of our service members must be a priority and taken seriously. Therefore, we respectfully request that you investigate these water shortage claims immediately and provide the finding to our staff for review.

Sincerely,

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Solomon Ortiz
Member of Congress

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Ron Paul
Member of Congress

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OSD 05657-09

ERIC J.J. MASSA
29TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
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FAX: 716-372-2869

13 May 2009

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

Secretary Gates,

Sir,

Attached please find a Congressional Research Service report that outlines the major contractual and programmatic milestones in the history of the Army's SINCGARS radio program which began with an ORD in December of 1974. It also includes the historical information of the Joint Service's JTRS radio program. I would like to meet with you personally to discuss my concerns with this program. I find it outrageous that DoD is still investing taxpayer dollars into this outdated technology, especially given that newer, more capable radio technology exists. The Army intends to spend in excess of $700Mil this FY on outdated technology. What the attached report does not include is information on the FY09 NDAA which fenced off $87Mil pending SecDef certification. That certification has not been made to my knowledge so I'd like to know how DoD plans to go forward with their planned procurement. There are serious questions surrounding this entire program and the spending of taxpayer money associated with it.

Very Respectfully,

Eric J.J. Massa
Member of Congress

Sir,
I strongly believe that
this $700 million spending plan is in
direct opposition to the goals of FCS.

OSD 05659-09

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REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

May 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman Timothy J. Walz to travel on official government business to Israel, the West Bank, Syria, and Turkey during the period of May 24-May 31, 2009.

Mr. Walz will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Senator Robert Casey, Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to meet with regional leaders to discuss the potential progress on the Middle East Peace Process, the regional response to Iran's nuclear program, and Turkey's integration with its neighbors. Mr. Walz will bring to bear in discussions a focus on the quality of life of military personnel and future veterans

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in Israel, the West Bank, Syria, and Turkey. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jian Zapata of the Committee staff at 202-225-3036.

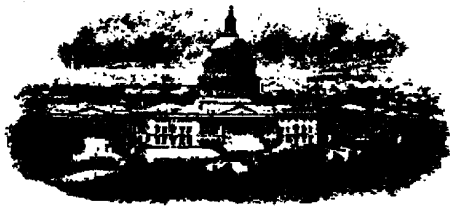
Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 05661-09

DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA
WASHINGTON OFFICE
2111 RAYBURN BUILDING
TELEPHONE 202-225-5765



COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

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

May 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

A recent Federal Circuit Court decision in Rothe Development Corp. v. U.S. Department of Justice held that 10 U.S.C. 2323 is unconstitutional on its face, resulting in a complete injunction of that statute, which provides certain Department of Defense contracting preferences for small disadvantaged businesses. This judicial action is clearly limited to 10 U.S.C. 2323, but some agencies appear to believe that the Rothe case may affect small business programs and activities under other Federal statutes like the Small Business Act.

Thus we are writing to urge that the Department of Defense issue immediate clarifying guidance to all of its agencies involved in contracting with the private sector. While the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense issued an interim guidance memorandum on March 10, 2009 concerning the application of the Rothe case, the memorandum failed to explicitly address the applicability to small business programs and activities that are carried out under Federal statutes other than 10 U.S.C. 2323.

In our view, the guidance should be explicit with respect to these other programs and activities. This approach was taken by the Army Corps of Engineers in a March 9, 2009 communication to contracting personnel, stating that its Rothe guidance to cease contract activities that rely exclusively on the authority of 10 U.S.C. 2323 "DOES NOT apply to small business set-asides, HUBZone small business set-asides, 8a set-asides, service disabled veteran owned small business set-asides or Alaska Native Corporations (ANC) as these categories are governed by separate statutes that were not impacted by the [Rothe] ruling." This is precisely the kind of guidance that should be sent out deparment-wide as soon as possible.

Please let us know as soon as possible if and when the Department of Defense plans on issuing clarifying guidance that expressly addresses the small business programs and activities that are not affected by the ruling. Thank you.

OSD 05662-09

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907-586-7400

CALL TOLL-FREE
1-866-990-5979

Sincerely,

Don Young
Member of Congress

Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress

Dale Kildee
Member of Congress

Tom Cole
Member of Congress

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On Thursday, June 4, 2009, the Subcommittee on Health of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs will conduct a Hearing on *"Meeting the Needs of Family Caregivers of Veterans."* The Subcommittee would like to assess how the VA meets the needs of family caregivers of veterans and to identify any gaps in supportive services for family caregivers. This hearing will be held at 10:00 A.M. in room 334 of the Cannon House Office Building. We request you or your designee to present testimony on behalf of the U.S. Department of Defense

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Jeff Burdette through email at jeff.burdette@mail.house.gov . You will be recognized for five minutes to make an oral statement; however, your complete written statement will be made a part of the hearing record. Please submit 75 copies of written testimony prepared in accordance with the enclosed formatting requirements to the Subcommittee on Health at 338 Cannon House Office Building by 6:00 P.M. on Monday June 1, 2009. Moreover, please include a brief biography with your testimony.

Due to heightened security precautions, please note that all Congressional mail delivery is delayed and commercial delivery services are prohibited. Therefore, you must contact our staff at (202) 225-9154 to make arrangements for a representative from your organization to hand deliver your testimony.

The Committee provides public access to its hearing statements on the Internet through the World Wide Web at the House of Representatives (http://veterans.house.gov) and the Library of Congress (http://thomas.loc.gov). To facilitate this public access, please send an electronic Microsoft Word copy of your statement to Jeff Burdette at jeff.burdette@mail.house.gov. Additionally, the hearings are now broadcast live, in real time, over the Internet, and are archived on our Web site so they may be accessed following each hearing.

OSD 05667-09

Please contact Jeff Burdette, Legislative Assistant to the Subcommittee on Health, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs, at (202) 225-9154 or jeff.burdette@mail.house.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

Enclosure

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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May 14, 2009

The Honorable Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Geren:

I am writing to request that the Army provide a briefing to discuss the circumstances surrounding the award of a sole source contract to acquire 22 Russian Mi-17 helicopters for the Iraq military. It is my understanding that the Army's Threat Systems Management Office (TMSO) is responsible for the award of this contract.

According to information brought to the subcommittee's attention, spanning from July 2008 to as recently as April 2009, this contract was awarded – with no competition – to an American company, ARINC, that has minimal background brokering helicopter sales. It was reported that, through subcontracts, the eventual supplier of the helicopters is a Russian company called Kazan. Kazan is supplying the helicopters as commercial items to another company in the United Arab Emirates called Airfreight Aviation Limited. That company is converting those helicopters for military use before they are delivered to Iraq. Both Kazan and Airfreight Aviation Limited are linked to a Russian agency that is banned from doing business with the U.S. That Russian agency was accused in 2006 of violating the Iran and Syria Nonproliferation Act.[1] Of further interest is the report that the full $322 million of the contract has been paid, but no helicopters have been delivered to date.

If these reports are true, I am concerned that this situation creates the appearance that the Army may have circumvented the law and/or was biased in the award of a contract to one supplier without full consideration of other suppliers through a transparent process. As part of our ongoing oversight responsibilities, I would like to offer the Army the opportunity to address the allegations raised in these reports by means of a thorough

[1] Pub. L. No. 106-178; 50 U.S.C. § 1701 note (2005). The Act was updated in 2006 to include North Korea, as well. (Pub. L. No. 109-353).

OSD 05668-09

written response, official supporting documentation, and related briefing to our Subcommittee. Specifically, I request that the Army provide clarification on the following:

1. Please identify the relevant contract(s), and parties and subcontractors thereto, at issue in the helicopter transaction. Additionally, please provide copies of all documents related to the negotiation, pricing data, and costs of the contract.

2. Is it true that the contract award was made through a U.S. company to a supplier that is owned by a Russian company that is banned from doing business with the U.S. under the Iran-Syria Nuclear Non-proliferation Act? If true, at what point was the Army, the Department of Defense, or any components thereof aware of that fact?

3. Is it true that the contract was awarded with no competition? If so, in an environment in which defense contract cost overruns have reached historic levels, why did the Army decide to award a contract for these helicopters without conducting any competition? Are there any other helicopter suppliers who could have fulfilled this contract? Is it true that other American companies would have been in a position to broker this sale? Please explain the Army's decision and official documentation that supports the rationale for this decision.

4. Is it true that the U.S. company that received the no bid contract has no history of dealing with helicopter sales? What analysis did the Army undertake to determine that this particular company was qualified to receive a no bid contract in an area outside of its specific expertise? Please provide documentation that depicts the rationale for the decision to award the contract to this company.

5. Is it true that the total contract award of $322 million has been paid but no helicopters have been delivered to date? Further, does the Army know how much of the contract funds each entity in the supplier chain has received? If so, please provide this information to the Subcommittee.

6. Is it true that the cost-per-unit of each of the helicopters under this contract (almost $15 million) is significantly higher than the perceived market rate for this model of helicopter, which otherwise currently costs between $6 and $8 million? Please provide an explanation of these costs and rationale for why the per-unit costs are higher in this case.

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. Pursuant to Committee Rule 8(a)(5), the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs has jurisdiction encompassing oversight of national security, homeland security, and foreign affairs. In order for the Subcommittee to conduct appropriate and constructive oversight of these matters, it is important that we

receive appropriate clarification and explanation of the issues noted above, and others as relevant.

Please contact Brendan Culley, Scott Lindsay, or Andy Wright of the Subcommittee staff at (202) 225-2548 to coordinate the briefing and document production. The Subcommittee requests that the document production and briefing occur on or before July 1, 2009. Thank you for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,

John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

cc: Rep. Jeff Flake
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense

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May 15, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We have serious objections to the stop work order issued May 11, 2009 for the Kinetic Energy Interceptors (KEI) program. This decision is without justification.

Overall, we are concerned with the handling of the May 7, 2009 Kinetic Energy Interceptor termination announcement. KEI was noticeably absent in an April press conference that outlined Department of Defense program cancellations and restructures. However, it was rolled out as a cancellation during the May 7, 2009 FY10 President's Budget briefing and quickly followed by a Missile Defense Agency stop work on May 11, 2009, with the goal of de-staffing the program by the end of June. This surprise announcement and immediate stop work notice has precluded any meaningful discussion between the Congress and the Department on the merits of the cancellation and the resulting impacts to the nation.

In partnership with the Department of Defense, Congress has supported the requested budgets for the KEI program. In past years, Congress went beyond what was requested, and provided the Department with additional dollars to accelerate this critical boost phase capability. In total, the Department has expended more than one billion dollars toward this effort to date, in providing the nation with a technically viable solution for boost and ascent engagement of a ballistic missile targeting our nation, deployed forces, and allies. Six years of development and testing, with most of the more than one billion of funding spent to date, was to culminate in the first booster flight in the fall of 2009 – less than five months from now. With the issuance of the stop work, the Department is walking away from this investment without the benefit of knowing what this technology has to offer.

The FY09 appropriated budget and accompanying language for the KEI program not only fully supported the requests but went further to encourage the Department to accelerate the development of this capability for the war fighter. The FY09 appropriations specifically funded continued KEI development, static tests, and the first booster flight in 2009.

OSD 05670-09

We strongly urge you to rescind the KEI stop work order and to continue toward culmination of the 2009 booster flight. We look forward to working with the Department in the FY10 budget cycle to best determine the way ahead for this vital boost and early engagement capability resident in the KEI program.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and we look forward to your prompt response and a positive resolution.

Sincerely,

Congressman Parker Griffith

Congressman Rob Bishop

Congressman Ed Pastor

Congressman Lincoln Davis

Congressman Trent Franks

Congressman Jerry Lewis

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BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

May 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On April 6th you announced your recommendation to terminate the VH-71 Presidential helicopter program. You further stated that the Increment I aircraft would not be suitable to become operational for the long term as the Navy's estimated service life of the airframe is only about ten years. However, the Navy's estimate was based on a test which only concluded that the airframe was suitable to last until the proposed Increment II would have been completed. Further testing would prove that the service life of the Increment I aircraft could well exceed the 10,000 hour mark.

I recommend that you reconsider the recently imposed "stop work" order for Increment I aircraft and determine whether Increment I aircraft would be suitable as a replacement for the entire Presidential rotary wing aircraft fleet. I believe that the cancellation proposal could create serious risks for the fleet, and possibly for Presidential security.

Many aircraft in the current fleet are approaching forty years of service. The Navy has invested $3.2 billion in development costs for the Increment I version and of the five Increment I Pilot Production vehicles, four are completed and require only one additional year of flight testing before entering service.

The Increment I aircraft is far superior to all rotary wing aircraft in the current fleet of Presidential helicopters. It is prudent to make use of the aircraft that have been produced at such a high cost to the taxpayer. A follow-on program

OSD 05679-09

to begin in fiscal year 2011 will only disguise the immediate need, and significantly delay development. The options for potential competitors will remain much the same in 2011.

Additionally, the Administration, in its fiscal year 2010 budget request only asked for $85 million in program termination costs. The Navy, by its own admission has stated that it expects cancellation costs to approach $555 million, and would require an additional $4.4 billion to extend the life of the current aging fleet. Given these estimates, it would appear that poor business decisions are being made regarding this replacement program and that determinations are being made based on public perception.

In light of these concerns, we urge you to reconsider your decision, and commit to a Presidential helicopter fleet consisting of the currently developed Increment I aircraft.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your continued dedicated work for our nation's defense.

Sincerely,

John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK,
CHAIRMAN

PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA
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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

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AARON SCHOCK, ILLINOIS

May 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs hereby request your testimony, or the testimony of one of the following designees at a hearing entitled, "**Afghanistan and Pakistan: Oversight of a New Interagency Strategy**": Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Michele Flournoy, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen or Commander of U.S. Central Command General David H. Petraeus. Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke will also be testifying.

The hearing is scheduled for **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2009, in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building.** This letters revises the invitation designating the hearing as originally scheduled for April 19, 2009.

Please contact Scott Lindsay or Andy Wright at (202) 225-2548 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Edolphus Towns
Chairman
Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform

John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

OSD 05944-09

DEMOCRATS

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MALCOM A. SHORTER
STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

May 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to authorize Juan Lara, Majority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Orfa Torres, Majority Staff Legislative Assistant of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Mike Brinck, Minority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; and; William Gibson Minority Military Fellow, to travel on official committee oversight business to sites in Washington from June 8 to June 12, 2009. The purpose of travel is to attend various Transition Assistance Program Workshops in Ft. Lewis Army Base, McChord AFB, Whidbey Island NAS, and Bangor NAS, Washington.

The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation 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.

If there are any questions, please have your staff coordinate with Juan Lara at (202) 226-5491 and Mike Brinck at (202) 226-3668. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bob

BOB FILNER
Chairman

JL/ot

OSD 05949-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 8, 2009

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 6, 2009, regarding Codel Capps to Haiti. Please note that this is now Codel Hirono as Representative Capps is no longer able to travel. In addition to the previously listed travelers, the Honorable Jim McDermott (D-WA) and the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP) are authorized to travel with the delegation.

Please also note that Mr. Brad Smith is no longer traveling.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05950-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 14, 2009

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 7, 2009 regarding Codel Rangel (D-NY) to the funeral of the late Honorable Jack F. Kemp. The following persons are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Jane Harman (D-CA)
The Honorable Hank Johnson (D-GA)
The Honorable Paul Ryan (R-WI)

The Honorable Robert Garcia (Former Member) and Mrs. Jane Garcia
The Honorable Bill Lowery (Former Member)
The Honorable David Martin (Former Member)
The Honorable Norm Minetta (Former Member)
The Honorable Marty Russo (Former Member)

Mrs. Leisha Pickering
Mrs. Amy Upton

Mr. Ted Daniel, Office of the Sergeant at Arms
Mr. Robert Fitzpatrick, Office of the Sergeant At Arms
Mr. Jack Looney, Office of the Sergeant at Arms
Mr. Jay Pierson, Republican Cloakroom

Thank you in advance for your prompt assistance with the matter.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05951-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 14, 2009

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 23, 2009, regarding Codel Oberstar. Please note that the following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable James L. Oberstar, Chairman (D-MN) and Mrs. Jean Oberstar
The Honorable Cliff Stearns (R-FL)
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
The Honorable Bart Stupak (D-MI)
The Honorable Candice Miller (R-MI)
The Honorable Daniel Lipinski (D-IL) and Mrs. Judy Lipinski

Mr. Peter Quilter, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Robyn Wapner, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Shanna Winters, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Mary McVeigh, Staff Associate, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. Jason Lamote, Professional Staff, Committee on Transportation
Dr. Kay A. King, Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
Mr. Carl Ek, Analyst, CRS, Detailee to Committee on Foreign Affairs

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05952-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 14, 2009

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 25, 2009, regarding my upcoming delegation to China. Please note that the following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Speaker, and Mr. Paul Pelosi
The Honorable James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI) and Mrs. Cheryl Sensenbrenner
The Honorable John B. Larson (D-CT) and Mrs. Leslie Larson
The Honorable Edward J. Markey (D-MA) and Dr. Susan Blumenthal
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Mr. Jonathan Blumenauer
The Honorable Jay Inslee (D-WA) and Mrs. Trudi Inslee
The Honorable Jackie Speier (D-CA)

The Honorable Wilson Livingood, Sergeant at Arms
The Honorable Brian Monaghan, Attending Physician
Ms. Stacy Kerr, Office of the Speaker
Mr. Jonathan Stivers, Office of the Speaker
Mr. Brendan Daly, Office of the Speaker
Ms. Bridget Fallon, Office of the Speaker
Ms. Karen Wayland, Office of the Speaker
Mr. Michael Long, Office of the Speaker
Mr. Steve Rusnak, Office of Photography

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05953-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 18, 2009

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 23, 2009, regarding Codel Tanner. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable John Tanner (D-TN), Chairman, and Mrs. Betty Ann Tanner
The Honorable John Shimkus (R-IL)
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and Mr. Ron Gladney
The Honorable Dennis Moore (D-KS) and Mrs. Stephene Moore
The Honorable John Boozman (R-AR) and Mrs. Cathy Boozman
The Honorable Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Mrs. Cheryl Flake
The Honorable Jeff Miller (R-FL) and Mrs. Vicki Miller
The Honorable Mike Ross (D-AR) and Mrs. Holly Ross
The Honorable Ben Chandler (D-KY) and Mrs. Jennifer Chandler
The Honorable Kendrick Meek (D-FL) and Mrs. Leslie Meek
The Honorable David Scott (D-GA)
The Honorable Mike Turner (D-OH)

Ms. Melissa Adamson, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Kathy Becker, Office of Rep. Tanner
Mr. Vince Morelli, CRS Detailee to Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Marilyn Owen, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs

Please also note that Mr. David Hobbs, Secretary General of the NATO PA, and H.E. Benson Whitney, U.S. Ambassador to Norway, have been invited to travel with the delegation in-theatre.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05954-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Mr. Roland Daigle and Mr. David Adams, staff of the Honorable James R. Langevin (D-RI) to join the Committee on Armed Services Codel Langevin during the approximate period of May 24 – June 2, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to conduct oversight duties in conjunction with Mr. Langevin's position as a member of the Armed Services 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 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.

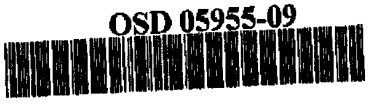
Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05955-09



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 20, 2009

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 14, 2009, regarding my upcoming delegation to China. Please note that in addition to the previously authorized travelers, the following staff members are authorized to travel:

Mr. Gerry Waldron, Professional Staff Member, Select Committee on Energy
Mr. Thomas Schreibel, Office of Rep. Sensenbrenner

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05956-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 21, 2009

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, 2009, regarding my upcoming delegation to China. Please note that in addition to the previously authorized travelers, the following staff member is authorized to travel:

Ms. Wyndee Parker, Office of the Speaker

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05957-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
The Office of Secretary of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon Way
Room 3D921
Washington, DC 20301

We are writing to convey our support for the Army plan to assign an additional Brigade Combat Team (BCT) to the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field, Georgia. We share your expressed concern for the great hardship endured by the soldiers and their families and agree with your guiding principle to prevent the under-manning of units for combat while changing the policy on stop-loss. We believe the plan to bring the 5th BCT to Fort Stewart is in concert with the guiding principle of your statement on April 6th and will continue the progress made in revitalizing our armed forces.

Unquestionably, Fort Stewart is, for numerous strategic reasons, an ideal location for the Army to grow. But just as important it is imperative that the Army and the Department of Defense not lose sight of the issue of reliance—that state and local governments and the civic and business leaders relied on the request of the Army and the Department to be ready to accommodate these soldiers and their families. Accordingly, they have already invested about $450 million dollars in anticipation of the arrival of the BCT.

While we recognize the extensive military analysis and fiscal constraints required in determining the location of a BCT, we firmly believe that it is in the best interest of the Department of Defense to take into full account the investment at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field made by local communities long ago. The communities made these decisions by taking to heart the clear assurance from Department leaders that the BCT was coming. They responded to the Department's requests to provide the essential private sector support in advance of the arrival of the Brigade. In deciding this issue, we believe the Army and the Department must consider the extensive, good faith reliance of its partner community. The Department must live up to its commitments. It must not break its word.

The City of Hinesville, the surrounding communities, and the State of Georgia have demonstrated unwavering support for soldiers and families over many years. The area now is clearly recognized as one of the most Army-friendly installation in the U.S. Community

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OSD 06021-09

leaders have faithfully and diligently worked with the Department and the private sector to ensure that the facilities and infrastructure is ready to receive the additional brigade. To date the community's investment of about $450 million in preparation for the expected growth to include $72 million in public school projects and other public sector infrastructure investment. The State of Georgia has again expanded its acclaimed HOPE Scholarship program to further extend the access to military families for full tuition, room and board to any Georgia public college or university for students who graduate from high school with a B average.

We believe adding the 46th BCT in the Army to Fort Stewart would enhance the immediate operational effectiveness of the 3rd Infantry Division at the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field. When taking into consideration the emerging Center of Maneuver Excellence at Fort Benning and the growing presence of the BCTs at Fort Stewart, the Army has an exceptional home base in the state of Georgia to meet all mission challenges for our nation's defense. Resources are already either in place or pending final construction to swiftly accommodate the arrival of the new Brigade and their families. No other U.S installation can so effectively and quickly meet these needs. Commanders would have an Army unit with maximum adaptability and capability to meet combat requirements. Soldiers would be able to focus on their training, knowing that their families are settling into an installation and community that continues to welcome and accommodate them.

Fort Stewart's strategic location in southeast Georgia makes it easily accessible by road, rail and sea. Hunter Army Air Field provides a strategic Airborne Point of Entry for unit deployment. Movement to ports takes place in hours vice days and weeks. At 280,000 acres, Fort Stewart is the largest military installation east of the Mississippi River. The Army has invested some $670 million at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field in the past three years making it one of the most modern and efficient installations in the nation with additional construction pending for increased capacity. Training is efficient and cost effective due to the installation's digital multipurpose range training complex and other facilities located within minutes of the cantonment areas. Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field also has no significant environmental impact or encroachment issues. Just this month Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field won its fourth Army Community of Excellence installation award.

Accordingly, it is our request that the Department continue as originally planned to expand growth at Fort Stewart through the assignment of the additional BCT without adversely affecting the alignment of the current forces stationed at Fort Stewart and Fort Benning. We urge you to meet with Fort Stewart community leaders in the near future and permit them the opportunity to directly share their views and additional information on this issue.

Thank you for your distinguished service to our nation and thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

John Barrow

Jack Kingston

Sanford Bishop

Paul Broun

Hank Johnson

Nathan Deal

John Lewis

Phil Gingrey

Jim Marshall

John Linder

David Scott

Tom Price

Lynn Westmoreland

GERALD E. CONNOLLY
11TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEES:
FEDERAL WORKFORCE, POSTAL SERVICE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND PROCUREMENT

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE
MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4611

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PRINCE WILLIAM OFFICE:
4308 RIDGEWOOD CENTER DRIVE
WOODBRIDGE, VA 22192
(703) 670-4989

May 19, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear President Obama,

I am writing in the hope that you can clear up some confusion regarding the possible placement of detainees currently held at Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp. First of all, I would like to applaud your decision to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay. Because of the actions of the previous Administration, Guantanamo has become a lightning rod for anti-U.S. criticism. Your decision to close the facility sends a signal that will restore U.S. credibility and build goodwill across the globe, give a boost to our diplomatic efforts abroad, and make Americans safer.

Of course, your decision to close the facility will require that some difficult choices be made regarding the placement of the 241 detainees currently held there. Like many of my colleagues, I want to be sure that those decisions are made with our national security interests placed above all others. That is why I supported an amendment to the FY2009 Supplemental Appropriations Bill prohibiting the use of funds to transfer detainees to the United States until the Administration submits to Congress a comprehensive plan detailing the disposition of each individual and certifies to the Governor and legislature of each state that the detainees do not pose a security risk.

Some members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation have claimed that your Administration has a plan to house detainees at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Stafford, VA, a facility neighboring my district. As you are aware, MCB Quantico does maintain a detention facility. I am sure, however, that you share my view that it is not the appropriate place to house detainees awaiting trial or incarcerate those convicted and sentenced in the future.

MCB Quantico is a Level I secure facility with a maximum potential capacity of about 90 inmates. It is not equipped to house inmates for longer than 90 days and is generally used to temporarily hold inmates awaiting transfer to a larger facility. Level I is the lowest tier in the military correctional system. Level I facilities are sometimes the equivalent of a local jail. There are at least nine major military prison facilities more secure and with more capacity than MCB Quantico. Furthermore, MCB Quantico is an open base located just miles from residential neighborhoods and, unlike some of our Level II and Level III facilities, does not have a history of detaining enemy combatants or high-level terrorism suspects. I am sure that your Administration has already determined that a Level I facility such as MCB Quantico is not the appropriate location for these detainees.

OSD 06067-09

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Unlike some of my Republican colleagues, I have the utmost confidence in the men and women of our armed forces to securely detain these prisoners anywhere in the nation. But I am sure you agree that Level II or Level III facilities such as Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, WPNSTA, Charleston, SC, or Fort Knox, KY are better equipped to house these prisoners. Ideally, the Guantanamo detainees will be held in appropriate locations overseas. But if that is not possible, they should be held in Level II or Level III secure facilities with excess capacity and a history of performing this kind of mission. MCB Quantico does not fit those criteria.

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia

GC/HA
cc: Secretary Robert Gates
Attorney General Eric Holder, Jr.

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
GUAM

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NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I write to respectfully request that you convene a meeting of the Economic Adjustment Committee (EAC) at the earliest possible convenience and in accordance with a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report recommendation from April 9, 2009. Additionally, I would request an opportunity to address the EAC to present issues related to the military build-up on Guam.

As was stated in the GAO report, more can be done by the Department of Defense (DoD) to help find ways to address Guam's civilian infrastructure improvement needs. Furthermore, the report stated that senior DoD leadership needed to engage at the appropriate levels to help facilitate a successful military build-up. I believe that the DoD, through the EAC, can better leverage the cooperation of other federal agencies to plan and budget for civilian infrastructure needs on Guam because of senior and executive level involvement in the committee. I appreciate the DoD's continued support and recognition of the importance of this program and I want to continue working closely with the Department to ensure that this build-up is a success for our entire community.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any further questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Matthew Herrmann at matthew.herrmann@mail.house.gov or at 202-225-1188.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

OSD 06072-09

ERIC J.J. MASSA
29TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3229

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FAX: 585-218-0053

89 WEST MARKET STREET
CORNING, NY 14830
PHONE: 607-654-7566
FAX: 607-654-7568

317 NORTH UNION STREET
OLEAN, NY 14760
PHONE: 716-372-2090
FAX: 716-372-2869

May 21, 2009

Secretary Robert M. Gates
Secretary of War
United States of America
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-0001

Dear Secretary Gates: Sir,

It has recently come to my attention from multiple sources, including reports from returning American military personnel, that we have purchased Russian-made helicopters for the Afghan military. I have been further informed that emergency supplemental funding may have been used, in addition to annual budgetary funding.

I further understand that this program is a Defense or Department of State-administered initiative.

Unless advised to the contrary by you, I intend to publicly discuss what I consider to be an exceptionally misguided and inappropriate use of United States government funding. Therefore, I ask to hear from you as quickly as possible.

Very Respectfully,

Eric J.J. Massa
Member of Congress

OSD 06091-09

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CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

COMMITTEE:
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I commend your decision to investigate the recent fatal shooting of five service members at Camp Liberty in Iraq in order to identify shortcomings in mental health care for troops deployed in war zones.

This incident highlights not only the inherent danger to our deployed troops, even on their own bases, but the potential psychological consequences of combat stress and repeated deployments. The incident at Camp Liberty, as well as the growing incidences of suicide in the ranks, make it clear that more must be done to address the mental and psychological well-being of our men and women in uniform. The number of cases of suicide in the military has increased dramatically since the Vietnam War, reaching an all-time high of 128 cases in 2008.

I am horrified at the thought that the terrible slaughter in Iraq could easily have occurred in hometown, U.S.A. I agree with the calls for expansion of psychological testing during deployments in war zones. But I believe it is equally important to provide for intensive mandatory psychological evaluations of members of the armed forces immediately prior to separation as a precautionary step in the transition to civilian life.

As a veteran of the Korean War, I have experienced the difficulty of transitioning to the real world after a stint in combat. The situation is worse today. That is why I have introduced legislation (H.R. 1963) which would require all those separating from active duty to receive counseling in how to repackage their military skills, where and how to find employment, along with physical and psychological testing. The growing incidences of post-separation domestic violence, PTSD and suicide, demands that we do more for those who have contributed so much to our country.

I strongly urge you to expand your Camp Liberty investigation in order to determine the need for this universal mandatory approach. It seems clear to me that dealing with the difficulties of earning a living in a shrinking economy is increasingly fraught with uncertainty and stress, such as we've never seen before.

OSD 06095-09

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Mr. Secretary, with full appreciation for your commitment to the welfare of our troops, I am prepared to work with you, Chairman Ike Skelton, and Chairman John Murtha to find ways to address these issues.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means

CBR/krj
Enclosure:
cc: Hon. Ike Skelton, Chairman, Armed Service Committee
Hon. John Murtha, Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

May 21, 2009

Hon. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express our concern about the Department of Defense Health Information Technology (Health IT) systems. The committee has long expressed concern about how the department has managed its Health IT systems, and recent events have only deepened those fears.

A joint hearing on the Department of Defense Health IT systems was held on March 24, 2009, by the subcommittee on Military Personnel, with oversight responsibility for the Military Health System, and the subcommittee on Terrorism and Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, with oversight responsibility for Department of Defense Information Technology programs. At that hearing, we heard from the military services about the difficulties they have encountered with Health IT systems, specifically problems with the system known as AHLTA. We were encouraged that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and his staff agreed that there are serious problems with the Health IT systems. We were further encouraged when they presented what appeared to be an ambitious and comprehensive plan to overhaul the system that would address all of the issues raised by the services and would provide the best Health IT system possible for the department's beneficiaries.

At that hearing, we were assured that the Department was committed to moving forward with their proposed solution, but that cost details could not be discussed because both the Fiscal Year 2009 supplemental request and the Fiscal Year 2010 budget request were still in preparation.

During our review of the Fiscal Year 2010 budget justification materials, we were surprised to find no mention of the plan referenced by Health Affairs during the March hearing. Further, a review of the Fiscal Year 2009 supplemental request did not turn up any mention of the proposed solution. Most recently, in testimony during the May 15, 2009, hearing on the

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Defense Health Program budget, the Acting Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the Chief Information Officer failed to provide any additional insight into the cost of the proposed solution.

We find this troubling. It calls into question the ability of the department to deliver on the commitments made by Health Affairs during the March hearing, as well as the promise of a Joint Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record recently announced by you and Secretary Shinseki, at least for health information. We therefore respectfully request that you look into the situation and report back to the committee with the actual status and content of any plan or strategy to improve the Department of Defense Health IT systems, as well as projected costs and a budget submission schedule. We look forward to discussing your findings.

Very truly yours,

Susan Davis
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Military Personnel

Joe Wilson
Ranking Member

Adam Smith
Chairman
Subcommittee on Terrorism
Unconventional Threats and Capabilities

Jeff Miller
Ranking Member

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MIKE COFFMAN
6TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

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June 2, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Room 3E880
Washington DC. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Last week I had the opportunity to visit with our military and civilian leaders in both Iraq and Afghanistan. I was able to spend time talking to some of our troops and with members of our diplomatic corps as well. I was deeply impressed with the unwavering dedication of all of our young men and women who serve our nation during such difficult times and under such challenging circumstances.

This was my first trip back to Iraq since having served with the United States Marine Corps in al Anbar province from August 2005 to March 2006. No doubt, I was deeply impressed with the progress that has been made and I'm confident that we are now on our way to bringing our direct involvement in Iraq to a just conclusion.

However, I am deeply disturbed by what I saw in Afghanistan. There is little question that the focus of the main effort, since 2003, has been with Iraq and that we are only now shifting our attention to Afghanistan.

In neglecting Afghanistan, the radical elements of the Afghan Taliban have regained a strong foothold in the country. They have been able to deny the government of Afghanistan the security necessary for the political process to move forward and have caused much of the population to lose faith with their nascent representative government.

Mr. Secretary, we've made enough mistakes already in Afghanistan that have allowed the once-defeated enemy to reemerge and dominate whole provinces. It's time we were honest with the American people about the true cost of what it will take to win this war.

I'm reminded of how we reversed the situation in Iraq. General David Petraeus is credited with devising and executed a strategy commonly referred to as the "surge." The surge had two primary components that were at the heart of the strategy. The first part was increasing U.S troop strength from 140,000 to 160,000 and the second was a redeployment of our forces from

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the larger more secure base camps, located outside of Iraqi population centers, to smaller forward operating bases within their communities. The surge provided enough security to allow the political process to move forward and thus gave Iraq a level of stability that now permits the United States and our coalition partners to proceed with a phased withdrawal from the country.

Afghanistan has no history of effective governance, has a larger and equally diverse population than Iraq, is physically a larger county than Iraq, and has a determined resurgent enemy. Yet when you add together our projected troop strength, military advisors and trainers (68,000) along with the contributions from our coalition partners in Afghanistan (32,000), it all comes out to a number that is far less than the commitment we made in Iraq during the surge in 2007 when Coalition Forces in Iraq totaled 168,000 plus 14,000 from our coalition partners. Equally troubling is the current plan's increase in Afghan security forces, both police and army, to 216,000 which is far less than the 615,000 total that is currently serving in Iraq.

While the Pakistan Army is now launching offensive operations against their indigenous Pakistani Taliban, they have shown little enthusiasm, if any, for confronting the Afghan Taliban on their side of the border who enjoy a safe haven critical to their success.

When I questioned you and Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee about the projected resources dedicated to Afghanistan, Admiral Mullen answered that once we get into the mission, we will have an opportunity to reassess what we need.

Mr. Secretary, I think that it is obvious that there are not sufficient resources dedicated to winning the war in Afghanistan and that each day we move forward without a sufficient plan is a day that prolongs this war and unnecessarily increases the number of our young men and women who are either killed or wounded.

My guess is that senior officials within the Department of Defense probably already know that the plan is inadequate but they are fearful that it will be unpopular to put out larger requirements and reverse the goal of giving our troops a longer dwell time between deployments. It would also force reconsideration of the three additional Army brigade combat teams that were initially planned for but were cut out of the Administration's new Defense budget.

Mr. Secretary, again, by not putting in the necessary resources to win in Afghanistan, we are continuing the same old policies of dragging out a war that has already gone on for too long and has cost too many lives.

The right thing to do may not be the best decision politically for the Administration, but it is the best decision on behalf of those whom we are asking to serve in Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

Mike Coffman

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

June 1, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As you continue your visits to Elmendorf Air Force Base and Ft. Greely I write to urge you to reconsider funding the construction of Missile Field Two and the fielding of the final fourteen Ground Based Interceptors at Ft. Greely, Alaska and to continue funding procurement of the F-22 Raptor until final publication of the next Mobility Capability Study and the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review.

We are sending the wrong message to our enemies by stopping the placement of these interceptors. North Korea continues to build its missile capabilities and is now able to launch a missile capable of hitting any place in the United States. As they showed by threatening to hold more nuclear and missile tests, North Korea's test of a two stage Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) on April 5th of this year was only the beginning. They have begun to restore their nuclear reactor, tested numerous short range missiles and a nuclear weapon and are preparing to test another ICBM. All of this has occurred since your announcement that we would not finish fielding the Ground Based Interceptors at Ft. Greely.

While thirty interceptors may be enough to counter the current threat from North Korea, it is clear that it will not be enough in the future and these interceptors will need to be fielded to ensure our ability to counter all missile threats from Rogue Nations. Before capping Missile Field Two, it is important that the realities of construction in the Interior of Alaska be taken into consideration. Due to the Arctic climate, permafrost and extreme temperatures, the construction season is significantly shorter in Alaska than it is in the Lower 48 States. Putting off construction now may not leave enough time to complete construction of Missile Field Two when it is needed.

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Also, as you have seen at Elmendorf Air Force Base, the F-22 Raptor is and will continue to be an important platform for ensuring air dominance for our military. For that reason, I believe it is a mistake to cap the number of F-22s purchased by the Air Force at 187. Having seen the F-22 fighters stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, I believe the F-22 is the best fighter in the world now and will remain the best fighter for the next twenty years. It is the only 5th Generation fighter that has been fielded. And there are already situations in which a 4th Generation fighter like the F-15 or F-16 would be unable to operate in due to sophisticated and lethal air defense systems like the SA-20 and S-300/400. Stopping production now, when the first F-35 squadrons won't be fully formed until 2013, will leave a critical vulnerability in the Air Force's ability to provide air dominance.

Of course, I understand that fighters with the capabilities of the F-22 are expensive, which is why it makes sense to field a fleet made up of both F-22s and the less expensive F-35s. Prior to lowering the number of F-22s due to the budget crunch caused by the Global War on Terror, the Air Force was going to purchase 381 F-22s and approximately 1,800 F-35s. While the F-35 does not have the capabilities of the F-22, it is still more than capable of forming the backbone of the fighter fleet with the help of the F-22. The F-22 is the advanced, clearing force and the F-35 is the holding force and their capabilities and procurement numbers reflect that. It is not an either/or situation—both planes are necessary for the Air Force to continue to control the skies.

Even with a proper mix, however, a fleet of 183 F-22s is not enough to deter or meet the potential threats facing our country. Once training, maintenance and tests are factored in to that number, it leaves only 100 fighters available. There have been over 30 air campaign studies over the last 15 years that showed a requirement for far more than 183 F-22s to replace a fleet of over 800 F-15s. And with so few F-22s, the planes will be used more often, they will age quickly and they will not be available for all of the missions which they could be used for. And since the production line will be shut down, the Air Force will have to choose between using planes that aren't as well suited for missions or restarting production at significant costs. That situation will, more likely than not, leave the United States in the same vulnerable position it is in now, with rapidly aging planes and an Air Force that is unable to establish air dominance with minimal loss of planes and people the way it has over the past 50 years.

Assuming that we will not face threats which will require the capabilities of the F-22 to meet is a dangerous decision that we will regret. By procuring 243 F-22s, the amount that most Air Force threat studies have shown to be necessary, we will ensure that we will not only have enough F-22s to meet all threats, but we will prevent threats from becoming reality by ensuring that many countries decide that fighting the United States is not worth the drastic losses our Air Force will inflict.

Thank you again for taking the time to come to Alaska and tour our military installations. The men and women that serve in Alaska are among the best in the world and I am proud to represent them in Congress. I hope you will continue to do everything in your power to provide them with the necessary equipment and support for them to continue to protect our country everyday and I look forward to working with you in the future to ensure our military remains the best the world has ever seen.

Sincerely,

Don Young

DON YOUNG
Congressman For All Alaska

WALTER B. JONES
3D DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3303

June 3, 2009

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

Secretary Gates:

Last year I had the pleasure of introducing the leadership of Camp Lejeune to Caroline Canines for Service. Together, they have successfully implemented a program that utilizes the inmates at the brig to train dogs to assist wounded personnel returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. This program benefits the rehabilitation of both the inmate and the wounded Marine.

Care for our wounded veterans may take many forms. The program at Camp Lejeune may train these animals to perform up to 80 functions. Dogs may also be trained to provide mobility to the disabled and bring a degree of normalcy to an individual's life. In addition, these dogs give unconditional love and loyalty to the people they serve.

The program at Camp Lejeune's brig is unique and has gained the attention of many around the nation. I believe the Department of Defense would benefit from replicating this program at other appropriate installations. I would encourage you to determine if this effort could be expanded to other bases.

Sincerely,

Walter B. Jones

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Thank you!

OSD 06364-09

PAUL C. BROUN, M.D.
10TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–1010

June 3, 2009

Ms. Elizabeth King
Assistant Secretary of Defense
Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

VIA Facsimile (703-693-5530)
URGENT MEMBER REQUEST

Dear Ms. King:

In 1985, Public Law 99-145 created the National Science Center to stimulate interest and increase the math and science proficiency of our nation's students. Beginning as a partnership between the U.S. Department of the Army and the National Science Center Inc., funding has been allocated until fiscal year 2010, discontinuing at that point due to budget constraints.

The Tenth Congressional District of Georgia, which I represent, is home to the only National Science Center Discovery Academy in the nation. Without continued funding, the mission of the Center, to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education throughout the nation, will become extremely difficult to fulfill. As a ranking member on the Committee on Science and Technology and as a physician, I understand the importance of educating our children in these crucial subjects and stand in support of the Center's mission.

With this, I am requesting the assistance of your agency in finding funding avenues available to assist the National Science Center. Specifically, the Center is interested in grants and public-private partnership opportunities. I would appreciate your written response as to the manner in which your agency can assist the Center. This initiative is of the highest importance to my office and I would greatly appreciate an expedited response to this matter. I am enclosing documents which further describe the mission and history of the National Science Center. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my Grants Coordinator, Nicole Acevedo, at 706-447-3857.

Warm Regards,

Paul C. Broun, M.D.
Member of Congress

Encl. as stated

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BOB ETHERIDGE
2ND DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

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June 4, 2009

Secretary Robert Gates
Department of Defense
The Pentagon Office of The Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to you regarding a recent decision by Dr. Shirley Miles, the Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), to increase middle school class sizes and remove kindergarten classroom aides throughout DoDEA schools. I urge you to reexamine this policy and move to ensure our students get the attention they need for success in the 21st Century. Study after study has demonstrated that smaller classes improve learning and increase academic achievement, especially in the early grades. Military children, in particular, need special attention to address the challenges of frequent moves and parents who are deployed. It is unacceptable to shortchange our students by increasing class size.

As the only former state schools chief serving in Congress, I know firsthand how important it is to have quality teachers who can address the needs of each individual child. Education is the key to the future for our children, and class size is a critical component of making sure that our schools provide the best possible learning environment for our students. According to the research by the U.S. Department of Education, reducing class size is one of only four reforms that have been shown to increase student achievement. There are also health, safety, and socialization benefits to smaller class sizes and reduced pupil-to-teacher ratios (PTR). Yet the DoDEA's decision moves our schools in the opposite direction, increasing the student-to-adult ratio in kindergarten from 14.5:1 to 18:1, and increasing the PTR for middle school from 16:1 to 25:1. This plan shortchanges our students and will reduce our schools' effectiveness.

Eight elementary schools and one junior high school in my district would be affected by these changes. Albritton Junior High School stands to lose 12 teachers. While the elementary schools would gain 8 teachers on paper, the elimination of dedicated teacher's aides for kindergarten classrooms means a significant reduction in classroom oversight and effective pupil-to-teacher ratios. This is the wrong direction for our schools to be going, and it contradicts both good pedagogy and parent and student needs. In DoDEA's recent customer service survey, parents and students both indicated their belief that lowering class sizes was one of the most important things that could be done to improve DoD schools.

OSD 06536-09

Research shows that in the early years classes with 13 to 17 students achieve better results. The Federal goal is to have class sizes no larger than 18, and best practices for kindergarten call for class sizes to be limited to 12. I urge you work towards this goal in DoD schools and ensure that our military children get the attention they need in the classroom. Thank you in advance for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Bob Etheridge
Member of Congress

BE:dw

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
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Congress of the United States
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June 2, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn, III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E944
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Lynn,

I write to respectfully request that a meeting of the Economic Adjustment Committee (EAC) be convened this month to help address the pressing civilian infrastructure requirements and other budget concerns relating to the implementation of the military build-up on Guam.

I urge you and senior officials at the Department of Defense (DOD) to move forward in scheduling and planning this next EAC meeting without delay. A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report dated April 9, 2009, recommends that DOD regularly convene meetings of the full executive-level EAC to coordinate interagency planning and assistance for the Government of Guam. As stated in the GAO report, DOD concurred with this recommendation. Much work remains under an aggressive and constrained timeline for the military build-up on Guam to be implemented successfully. A meeting of the EAC this month is important for timely and improved coordination among federal agencies with the Government of Guam. This coordination is needed to successfully budget for and satisfy identified program requirements.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

OSD 06540-09

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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AARON SCHOCK, ILLINOIS

June 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to raise an issue with you regarding the efforts of my Subcommittee staff to schedule a briefing with the Department of Defense. The staff has been attempting for over two months to schedule a briefing with the appropriate Department officials to gather information about U.S. global defense posture. To date, they have not received a satisfactory response. Please accept this letter as a formal request for your assistance in facilitating this briefing.

My staff is seeking information on both past and future plans for U.S. overseas basing strategy. Specifically, I have tasked the Subcommittee staff with reporting on:

- management of the U.S. global defense posture;
- the total size, shape, and cost of the U.S. overseas military footprint;
- recent activity related to realignment or redeployment of overseas forces; and
- future plans to review the global defense posture, particularly in the context of the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review.

It is my understanding that the Office of the Under Secretary for Policy and the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Installations and Environment are the most relevant offices for this inquiry.

At my direction, my staff initiated contact with the Department on this issue on March 31, 2009. After contacting the Department again on April 17, 2009, the assigned action officer within the Office of Legislative Affairs informed them that the Department needed an additional two weeks to address the request, due to the need to focus on hearings being held by other congressional committees. After honoring that request, the

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staff contacted the Department at least five times both by phone and by email between May 13 and May 26, 2009. In each of these communications the Department simply requested more time.

I do not believe this to be an unreasonable request, but my Subcommittee staff has expended an incredible amount of effort to facilitate this briefing. At this point, I feel compelled to request your attention to this matter in the interest of expediting a response. I request a response from the Department no later than Friday, June 12, 2009. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

cc: Rep. Jeff Flake
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 1, 2009

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 30, 2009, regarding Codel Pastor to Seattle, Washington during the approximate period of June 5-7, 2009. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Ed Pastor, Chairman (D-AZ) and Mrs. Verma Pastor
The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords, Vice Chairman (D-AZ)
The Honorable Devin Nunes (R-CA)
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
The Honorable Silvestre Reyes (D-TX) and Mrs. Carolina Reyes
The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ)
The Honorable Henry Cuellar (D-TX)
The Honorable Jared Polis (D-CO)

Mr. Peter Quilter, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Dr. Kay A. King, Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
Mr. Jim Farr, Finance Clerk, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Samantha Goldstein, Staff Assistant, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06660-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 2, 2009

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 1, 2009, regarding Codel Pastor to Seattle, Washington during the approximate period of June 5-7, 2009. In addition to those previously listed, the following persons are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Bob Filner (D-CA) and Mrs. Jane Merrill

In addition, the following persons have been invited to travel with the delegation:

Ms. June Beittel, CRS detailee to House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Irene Bruno, Interpreter, Department of State
Ms. Teresa Willett, Interpreter, Department of State
Ms. Isabel Mangan, Interpreter, Department of State
Ms. Olivia Reinshagen-Hernandez, Interpreter, Department of State
Ms. Barbara Phillips, Interpreter, Department of State

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06661-09

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Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

June 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representatives C.W. Bill Young, Rodney Frelinghuysen, and Jo Bonner, members of the Committee on Appropriations and Tom McLemore, professional staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on a CODEL led by Parker Griffith to Paris and Normandy, France during the approximate time period of June 12-15, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to attend the Paris Air Show and meeting with government and business executives to discuss aerospace and defense issues of mutual interest and to attend a wreath laying ceremony.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 06662-09

RANKING MEMBER:
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/minority/republicans.htm
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

May 11, 2009

Mr. Robert Wilkie
Assistance Secretary of Defense for
Legislative Affairs
1300 Desense Pentagon
Washington D.C. 20301

In reply refer to: 2064549mg

Dear Mr. Wilkie:

Mrs Gladys Valdes has contacted my Congressional district office regarding her need to have the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Small Business Administration review and certify her company solicitations as soon as possible.

Mrs. Valdes states that she is the owner of Ibiley Manufacturing Corporation, a small Hispanic business located in Miami, Florida. Her company has been manufacturing military uniforms for the DOD since September of 2001. Presently, most of her solicitations, and specifically SPM1CI-09-R0033 and M6785409R3000, have not yet been certified. As soon as these solicitations are assigned to her, she could bring back to work 120 of her employess who are currently receiving unemployment. I am enclosing a copy of Mrs. Valdes' correspondence which contains details regarding this case.

Mrs Valdez respectfully requests that the DOD and the SBA certify her solicitations withouth delay, consistent with all aplicable rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

IRL/mg
cc: Mr. Guy Torres, Director
SBA, HUB-Zone
409 3 St. Sw 8th Floor
Washington D.C. 20416.

cc: Ms. Gladys Valdes
Ibiley Manufacturing Corporation
1927 West Flager St.
Miami, Florida 33135

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

June 4, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to The Honorable Adam Schiff and The Honorable Steve Israel, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of June 26, 2009 – July 3, 2009, to Ireland, Jordan, Algeria, and Tunisia. The Honorable Cliff Stearns, The Honorable Solomon Ortiz, The Honorable Darrell Isa, The Honorable Gene Green, and The Honorable Donald Manzullo will participate in the CODEL under separate authorization. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government and non-government officials, assess aid programs and policies, and discuss security issues facing the region.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 06668-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

June 9, 2009

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BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On March 23rd, I wrote to you asking you to review your Department's policy on outsourcing and suggesting that you halt A-76 studies pending the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) review of the A-76 program pending the Office of Management and Budget's review of the A-76 program. I requested a prompt reply.

I was disappointed with the response that I received on April 28th, from your former Undersecretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics which largely restated the facts contained in my letter to you. The response also stated that the "Department is reviewing the current (A-76) program". This response appears to misstate what is indeed occurring within the Defense Department and does not address my concerns.

Originally, the OMB Circular A-76 process was to be used as a tool to determine the most efficient source for performing "commercial" work – either in the public or private sector. The use of the OMB Circular A-76 process was extensively criticized by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in two 2008 reports. According to GAO, the OMB guidance for the A-76 process was flawed. As a result, there may have been inadequate tracking of costs and savings but moreover, there are serious concerns that agencies, particularly DoD, had started privatization studies in response to arbitrary targets. Moreover, the DoD Inspector General has found that an OMB error in the A-76 calculation of

OSD 06687-09

"overhead" could wrongly and unfairly result in the outsourcing of workload. However, DoD has recently used OMB A-76 to push more and more work into the private sector. Indeed, in fiscal year 2008, DoD more than doubled spending for contractor provided services compared to the amount it spent a decade ago but your Department has been unable to answer basic questions such as how many contractors and subcontractors there are and their average salaries.

To halt the continued conversion of functions to contractor performance until the Administration could conduct a thorough review of its a-76 policy, the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes a government-wide moratorium on beginning or announcing any A-76 studies. In addition, the President has announced a broader review of "...when governmental outsourcing for services is and is not appropriate..." Yet, the Defense Department is continuing to move forward with numerous public-private competition studies that were in progress before the moratorium took effect, and without further validation of estimated savings, to include converting government functions to contractors.

Therefore I once again, strongly this time, recommend that you immediately suspend all ongoing activities related to OMB Circular A-76 studies, including the conversion of functions performed by federal employees to contractor performance and I recommend that you do so for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2009.

I once again request a prompt response from you to this letter.

Respectfully,

John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

JOHN D. DINGELL
15TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

CO-CHAIR
HOUSE GREAT LAKES
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2215

June 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing with regard to media reports on the actions of Defense Department (DOD) contractors in Afghanistan. Of particular concern is an alleged incident involving employees of Paravant, a subsidiary of the private security contractor currently known as Xe, formerly known as Blackwater Worldwide. Paravant is owned by Erik Prince, founder, owner, and former Chief Executive Officer of Blackwater. It has been widely reported that on May 5, 2009, four off-duty Paravant employees opened fire on Afghan civilians. One of the Afghans died and two others were injured in the shooting.

On May 19, 2009, U.S. military spokesman, Lt. Col. Chris Kubik, stated that Paravant violated the terms of its contract with DOD, which bars contractors' employees from carrying the types of firearms used in the shooting and from possessing any firearms outside of training settings. The employees allege that Paravant supplied them the guns, which also violated the terms of the contract.

The State Department decided not to renew its contract with Blackwater Worldwide (now Xe) after the Iraqi Government, in January 2009, refused to renew its operating license. The Iraqi government cited the company's involvement in a 2007 shooting incident in Baghdad in which 17 innocent civilians were killed as a reason for its decision. Fallout from that incident prompted Mr. Prince to resign from Blackwater Worldwide in March 2009 and change the company's name to Xe. Collectively, five of the contractors involved in the September 2007 Baghdad shooting have been charged by the U.S. Depart of Justice with 14 counts of manslaughter, 20 counts of attempted manslaughter, and one count of using a machine gun to commit a crime of violence. A sixth Blackwater employee pleaded guilty in December of 2008 to charges of voluntary manslaughter and attempt to commit manslaughter.

In light of the serious nature of the alleged crime on May 5, 2009, and other reports on Blackwater/Xe's recklessness in the use of force against civilians, I believe DOD may wish to review its contract with Paravant. The following questions relate to the ability of DOD to terminate its contract with Paravant and to review the past performance of a contractor and its employees in determining the award of a future contract under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). Please provide answers to the following questions by July 8, 2009:

1. The FAR sets forth the policies and procedures for termination of federal contracts for default or for the convenience of the government. 48 CFR § 49.000 *et seq.* "The Government has a contractual right to completely or partially terminate a contract for default because of the contractor's actual or anticipated failure to perform its contractual obligations." 48 C.F.R. § 49.401 (a). Should the government wish to terminate the contract for default, it "is not liable for the contractor's costs on undelivered work and is entitled to the repayment of advance and progress payments, if any, applicable to that work." 48 CFR § 49.402-2 (a).

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Given the failure of Paravant to comply with the terms of its contract, does DOD plan to terminate Paravant's contract for default?

2. The government may also terminate a contract for convenience when it is not in default but has failed to perform due to causes beyond the control or fault of the contractor, or when continued performance by the contractor is no longer in the best interest of the government. 48 C.F.R. § 49.401 (b). Termination for the convenience of the government spares the contractor financial hardship by providing fair compensation "for the work done and the preparations made for the terminated portions of the contract, including a reasonable allowance for profit." 48 C.F.R. § 49.201 (a).

   If DOD will not be terminating Paravant's contract for default, does it plan to terminate Paravant's contract for convenience?

3. Subpart 9.000 of the FAR "prescribes policies, standards, and procedures for determining whether prospective contractors and subcontractors are responsible." The FAR's policy states that the Government may only enter into contracts with responsible companies. 48 C.F.R. § 9.103 (a) For the contract to be awarded, the contractor must "affirmatively demonstrate its responsibility, including, when necessary, the responsibility of its proposed subcontractors." 48. C.F.R. § 9.103 (c). Determination of whether a contractor is responsible is based on several criteria, including the contractor's having a satisfactory performance record, 48. C.F.R. § 9.104-1 (c), and having a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics. 48. C.F.R. § 9.104-1 (d).

   Agencies may consider the past conduct or performance of key employees of prospective contractors when assessing whether contractors have satisfactory performance records, or satisfactory records of integrity and business ethics, in making responsibility determinations. Comp. Gen. Dec. B-165915, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-248572, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-211353, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-210390, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-205602, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-204928; Comp. Gen. Dec. B-202325, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-270849, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-251533.

   Given the past performance of Blackwater/Xe's CEO and owner, and its employees, why did DOD find Paravant sufficiently responsible to be awarded a contract?

On April 6, 2009, you released a statement in which you called for reshaping the way the Pentagon does business, including an overhaul of its approach to contracting. In addition to questioning the Pentagon's contract with a specific private security contractor, I believe this letter provides a strong case for reevaluating the Pentagon's relationship with private security contractors overall. Thank you in advance for your attention to the matter. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Erica Fein at (202) 225-4071.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

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CHAIRMAN

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JANICE MAYS,
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

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PETER J. ROSKAM, ILLINOIS

JON TRAUB,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 12, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Geoff Davis (R-KY) to participate on the CODEL being led by Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA), to Moscow, Russia. This travel will take place during the period of Saturday, June 27 through Wednesday, July 1, 2009; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The purpose of this trip is to meet with government and non-government officials to discuss the future of U.S.– Russia bilateral trade relations, energy, as well as examine current domestic politics.

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

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 06713-09

KAY GRANGER
12TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER,
STATE AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

MEMBER, DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE

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kaygranger.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 29, 2009

Honorable William Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington D.C.

Dear Secretary Gates,

One of the unfortunate and enduring legacies of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) is the fragile psychological health of our returning servicemembers. Traumatic stress, both physical and psychological may not manifest itself for many months or years, and yet its latent symptoms can negatively affect soldiers, their families, and their communities long after their return from deployment. The psychological health of our returning servicemembers will continue to result in a serious undercurrent of health care demands to the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The North Texas region has both urban areas and vast rural areas. We have an unusually large number of returning servicemembers and are beginning to experience serious gaps in the responsiveness of the health care system to their known and future needs. In the Ft Worth and Dallas metropolitan area we have seen families and servicemembers in crisis who are coming to the Tarrant County private and public university-based mental health clinics, emergency departments, and hospitals. As you know, a recent RAND Corp study estimates that 1 in 5 servicemembers who served in OEF and OIF have PTSD, but only 1 out of 2 who are in need of behavioral health care seek it, so we know firsthand that a large challenge looms in our region.

There are several challenges to our servicemembers, their families and the psychological health care system in the North Texas region. As we enter the eighth year of OEF and OIF, we cannot wait any longer to provide comprehensive solutions to these challenges so that we can begin to integrate and assimilate our returning warriors and their families back into civilian life. The challenges faced include:

Lack of education and outreach to the community so that returning servicemembers and their families understand the range of services available and how to access them;

OSD 06762-09

Lack of access to behavioral health care providers. TRICARE coverage is often limited and difficult to navigate, some providers accept TRICARE while others do not, and many insurance policies cover only a limited number of visits, which are often too few to address deep seated, potentially life threatening conditions that need longer treatment protocols to resolve;

A lack of regional data on the size and scope of the challenge in our area, which is critical to help financially strapped municipalities and organizations properly allocate resources to help public university-based, county, and rural- based mental health clinics, emergency departments, and hospitals;

The lack of education for our primary care physicians, who are our first line of defense and referral in the community and who need to be educated in the nuances of military life as well as understanding the symptoms of stress disorders, separation anxiety, depression and hostility;

And finally and most importantly, the huge lack of behavioral health care providers (psychiatrists, psychologists, etc) in DOD and VA. This is without question the most critical issue in the care and psychological treatment of our returning servicemembers and their families. This is the one challenge which the DOD and VA will not (and cannot) solve in the near future. As the Acting Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs stated before the House Department of Defense Appropriations Subcommittee on March 3, 2009, there are simply not enough psychological health professionals available in DOD and the VA to treat the number of service members and families that have been impacted by both wars

Forseeing these challenges, the Congress inserted language in the FY 2009 Department of Defense Appropriations bill that directed the Department to, "... make funds available for projects and programs throughout the United States that (1) serve a high population of returning service members (2) encompass large urban and rural areas (3) have an existing infrastructure that utilizes a combination of local mental health associations, community support networks, private sector mental health care provider networks, and universities for purposes of enhancing the local access, delivery, education and outreach of mental health services for returning service members and their families...".

In the past 20 months, Congress has provided over $1 Billion to the Department of Defense for the psychological health care of our servicemembers and their families. I have the utmost respect and admiration for the good men and women at the Department who are doing their best to provide treatment to our soldiers under difficult circumstances. But the Department faces a task which calls for solutions now, not in the distant future. Seminars, websites and webinars are simply not a substitute for direct one-on-one contact with professional behavioral health care providers.

In the North Texas region, we have developed precisely the model that was identified in the FY 2009 DoD Appropriations legislation. This initiative led by the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) in Fort Worth, (which has one of the

largest behavioral health care programs in the state) has the psychological health professionals already in place to handle the challenges for our region. UNTHSC and its team have partners and contracts throughout the North Texas region for training health and behavioral health professionals, providing mental health services to the communities, and has a large network of referral sources across both urban and rural areas. UNTHSC has affiliations with the VA and other military organizations, as well as with private and public hospital and outpatient providers. In fact, UNTHSC has provided to me an excellent proposal to rapidly address the growing issues of education, outreach and training as well as providing screening, treatment and referral services to our returning servicemembers and their families. This proposal has also been reviewed by the Department but no action has been taken.

Mr. Secretary, I request that, in accordance with the language in the FY 2009 Appropriations legislation, that funding be provided to entities in the north Texas region as soon as possible so that we may immediately begin the critical work of providing our returning warriors and their families with the access to psychological care they need to ease and support their transition back to civilian life. I can think of no obligation that the federal government has that is more important than this.

Sincerely,

Kay Granger
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On Tuesday, September 15, approximately 400 business leaders from our respective congressional districts in North Carolina will come to Capitol Hill for "The Washington Perspective" Economic Development seminar hosted by myself, Rep. Larry Kissell, Rep. G.K. Butterfield, Rep. Bob Etheridge, Rep. Walter Jones, Rep. Melvin Watt, Rep. Virginia Foxx, Rep. Patrick McHenry, and Rep. Heath Schuler.

We would be honored to have you join us as a speaker at this important event. This seminar has been held annually for more than a decade and has been covered by C-SPAN. In the past, we have been honored to have had esteemed speakers such as: Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, former Director of Office of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns, Senator Joe Biden, *New York Times* Op-Ed Columnist David Brooks, and ABC News Correspondent George Stephanopoulos.

We are hosting this seminar in an effort to give the businessmen and women of North Carolina an opportunity to meet with federal government officials and political analysts to discuss issues that may affect their livelihood. Your thoughts and views on the many issues which impact the business community would offer these individuals a unique perspective on how federal policies and laws are formed.

The seminar will be held in the Congressional Auditorium in the new Capitol Visitor Center. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. and the program will last from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. We are aware of the constraints on your time and would be happy to accommodate your schedule. Please contact Kara Spencer in Congressman Mike McIntyre's office at (202)225-2731 or email her at kara.spencer@mail.house.gov to let her know if you can participate.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mike McIntyre

Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress

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OSD 06776-09

1421 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-5261
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COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

TIM RYAN

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
17TH DISTRICT, OHIO

June 8, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Ohio Members of Congress, we are especially proud of an industry that is of vital importance to our state and the nation. Ohio is a leader in the production of strategic materials critical to our national security, like titanium and other high-performance "specialty metals." We strongly support laws that ensure that the United States will remain a world leader in the production of specialty metals and a key supplier to the Department of Defense.

We write to draw your attention to a pending DoD regulation on use of specialty metals for defense products that will likely undermine the Specialty Metals Amendment, 10 U.S.C. 2533b, which requires use of domestic specialty metals in major defense articles such as ships, aircraft, and tanks. We believe that two aspects of this proposed rule will benefit offshore sources for these critical metals at the expense of domestic manufacturers, who are the only guaranteed source of these materials so essential to our national defense.

First, the proposed regulation adopts an overly-broad exception to the specialty metals laws for so-called "commercial-off-the-shelf-items" (COTS). We agree that COTS items should not be subject to unique DoD contracting rules. However, DoD's proposed definition of "COTS" allows for drastic modifications of items for military applications, after which they bear no resemblance to the sorts of items available in the commercial marketplace. This proposed rule ignores a long-standing statutory definition of "COTS", meaning items *"offered to the Government, without modification, in the same form in which it is sold in the commercial marketplace."*

Second, DoD's rule uses an overly-broad definition of what it means for metals to be "produced" in America, abandoning a long-standing requirement that specialty metals must be melted in the U.S. Under DoD's proposed definition of "produced," simple heat treatment -- a low-cost, late stage process -- converts foreign metals into "domestic" metals. We understand that this questionable definition may have been adopted to address certain metal product shortages, but such problems are more honestly addressed through existing waivers and exceptions. To define something as "produced in America" despite such limited contribution by domestic workers sets a terrible precedent.

OSD 06777-09

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330-740-0182 FAX

1030 EAST TALLMADGE AVENUE
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330-630-7311
330-630-7314 FAX

TOLL-FREE: 1-800-856-4152
WWW.HOUSE.GOV/TIMRYAN

Before the pending regulation was published and during the previous legislative cycle, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) took the extraordinary step of drafting language in its Committee Report on the FY 2009 Defense Authorization Act. In its report, the HASC expressed its displeasure regarding these same two critical issues. Despite the Committee's clear statements, the proposed rule issued in July 2008 ignored legislative intent.

We are concerned that the DoD rule is indicative of a larger issue; that is, a lack of emphasis on preserving the domestic industrial base for strategic materials. One example is the December 2008 report by DoD's Strategic Materials Protection Board (established to protect domestic strategic materials production) stating: "specialty metals, as defined in 10 U.S.C. 2533b, are not 'materials critical to national security' for which only a U.S. source should be used; and there is no national security reason for the Department to take action to ensure a long term domestic supply of these specialty metals." We disagree and urge DoD to adopt a clear and consistent position that recognizes the importance of strategic materials like titanium, nickel-alloys, specialty steel, beryllium, and high-performance magnets.

The specialty metals laws provide the incentive our metals suppliers need to innovate and ensure that our military has ready access to the safest and most reliable equipment needed in combat. We join Senator Sherrod Brown in asking that your Administration consider these matters in the course of its regulatory review.

Sincerely,

Rep. Tim Ryan

Rep. Marcy Kaptur

Rep. John Boccieri

Rep. Marcia Fudge

Rep. Charlie Wilson

cc: The Hon. Robert Gates
The Hon. Ike Skelton
The Hon. Sherrod Brown

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 9, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable David Price, Chairman of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Hungary, Mongolia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste on official business during the approximate time period of June 25 – July 5, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the parliaments in each country in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06778-09

DANA ROHRABACHER
46th District, California

Committees:
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Ranking Republican, Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight
Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment
Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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South Bay: (310) 377-9493

http://rohrabacher.house.gov

June 10, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

You have received an invitation to ride in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade & Celebration. We would highly recommend that you accept this offer and share with us this wonderful celebration of Independence Day. Should you decide to be a part of the parade you might consider riding with the two of us. It would be a truly bi-partisan vehicle on a truly non-partisan day. Should you decide to participate in the parade but ride in a vehicle on your own rather than with us, don't worry, we will not take offense. Your participation in anyway would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress

OSD 06779-09

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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TIM RYAN, OHIO
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BEN CHANDLER, KENTUCKY
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, FLORIDA
CIRO RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

June 9, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
TOM LATHAM, IOWA
ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
MARK STEVEN KIRK, ILLINOIS
ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
DENNIS R. REHBERG, MONTANA
JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS
RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
JO BONNER, ALABAMA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated June 4, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Adam Schiff and the Honorable Steve Israel, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Ireland, Jordan, Algeria, and Tunisia during the approximate time period of June 26, 2009 - July 3, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize John Blazey, a staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to participate in this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 06781-09

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

June 15, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write to applaud your decision to terminate the troubled VH-71 presidential helicopter replacement program. A program that does not meet requirements in terms of capability and schedule, and is twice the original cost after only fours years, is a program that should be canceled if we are going to keep defense programs accountable for their projected budgets and timelines.

Nevertheless, we do have serious concerns over the sunk costs of the program. Projected to be nearly $3.2 billion, this cost represents a real investment by the taxpayer that should not to be ignored. We believe it would be prudent to move forward with the program in a way that does not waste this substantial taxpayer investment.

One solution might be to award the contract to the only other qualified competitor, Sikorsky's H-92 helicopter, and team Sikorsky with the incumbent systems integrator, Lockheed Martin. As you know, Sikorsky, the prime contractor for the Marine One since the 1950s, has fulfilled its contracts on time and on budget. This solution offers the dual benefit of "saving" some of the previously sunk costs, particularly jobs in both New York and Maryland, and creating additional American jobs by having those aircraft manufactured in the United States. At a time of severe economic crisis, this solution seems ideal.

You correctly identified the need to terminate a program with costs that grew from an estimated $6.5 billion to over $13 billion, but also made clear that there is a need to develop a follow on option. It is our understanding that the Sikorsky H-92 is currently qualified to meet the mission requirements and is currently more "fail-safe" than the VH-71 Increment I aircraft. By teaming Sikorsky with Lockheed Martin, the Navy can develop a helicopter that can safely transport the president while not only providing the best value for the taxpayer, but also maintaining and creating American jobs.

Thank you for the consideration of this request and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress

JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

OSD 06786-09

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Raymond Mabus
Secretary of the Navy

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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ROSA L. DeLAURO, CONNECTICUT
JAMES P. MORAN, VIRGINIA
JOHN W. OLVER, MASSACHUSETTS
ED PASTOR, ARIZONA
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BARBARA LEE, CALIFORNIA
ADAM SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL HONDA, CALIFORNIA
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STEVE ISRAEL, NEW YORK
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BEN CHANDLER, KENTUCKY
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, FLORIDA
CIRO RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

June 12, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
TOM LATHAM, IOWA
ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
MARK STEVEN KIRK, ILLINOIS
ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
DENNIS R. REHBERG, MONTANA
JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS
RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
JO BONNER, ALABAMA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated June 4, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Adam Schiff and the Honorable Steve Israel, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Ireland, Jordan, Algeria, and Tunisia during the approximate time period of June 26, 2009 – July 3, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize Shalanda Young and Clelia Alvarado, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to participate in this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 06873-09

Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, *Maryland*
Chairman

Sen. Sam Brownback, *Kansas*
Ranking Minority Senator

Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, *Connecticut*
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, *Rhode Island*
Sen. Tom Udall, *New Mexico*
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, *New Hampshire*
Sen. Saxby Chambliss, *Georgia*
Sen. Richard Burr, *North Carolina*
Sen. Roger F. Wicker, *Mississippi*

Fred L. Turner, Chief of Staff

Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, *Florida*
Co-Chairman

Rep. Christopher H. Smith, *New Jersey*
Ranking Minority House Member

Rep. Edward J. Markey, *Massachusetts*
Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter, *New York*
Rep. Mike McIntyre, *North Carolina*
Rep. G. K. Butterfield, *North Carolina*
Rep. Joseph R. Pitts, *Pennsylvania*
Rep. Robert B. Aderholt, *Alabama*
Rep. Darrell E. Issa, *California*

June 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I am writing to authorize Representative Darrell Issa to travel on an official delegation led by Representative Rahall, CODEL Rahall. Representative Issa will travel to Lebanon, Cyprus, and Egypt from July 9 to 13, 2009. The delegation will meet with newly elected leadership of the Lebanese government, observe the democratic institutions forming in Lebanon, and discuss the regional economic, security and energy concerns in Lebanon, Cyprus, and Egypt.

The delegation has requested Marine Corps military support and military 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 for your assistance in the matter.

Sincerely,

Alcee L. Hastings, M.C.
Co-Chairman

OSD 06874-09

234 Ford House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
Telephone: (202) 225-1901 http://www.csce.gov Facsimile: (202) 226-4199

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 16, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:
We appreciate your interest stated during the May 13, 2009 House Armed Services Committee hearing to protect child custody rights for our men and women in uniform.

As you know, legislative language addressing this issue has already passed the House of Representatives three times. First, as Section 577 of the House passed FY2008 National Defense Authorization Act (HR1585). Additionally, portions of this legislation were also included in Section 584 of the final House passed version of the FY2008 NDAA (HR 4986). Finally, last year this language passed the House as a stand-alone bill (HR 6048) and was attached to the FY2009 NDAA. Nearly 60 members from both sides of the aisle signed on to HR 6048 as co-sponsors.

Today, the House Armed Services Committee passed their FY2010 NDAA. This bill contains similar language that would protect custody rights for military parents. As we move forward with the current legislative session and consideration of the FY2010 NDAA, we look forward to your continued interest in addressing this important issue to ensure that our men and women in uniform have their parental rights protected.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

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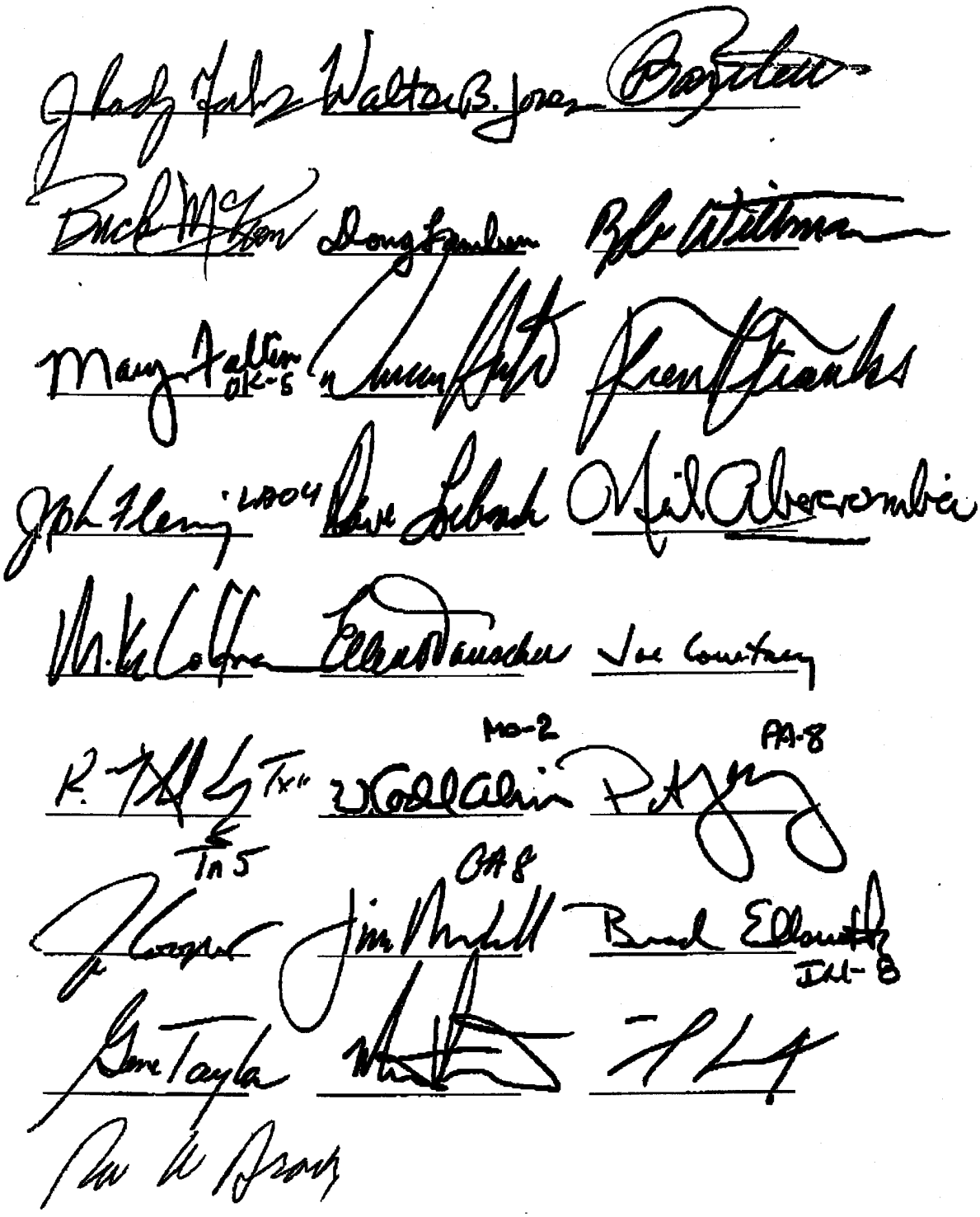
OSD 06875-09



Jhady Tahs Walter B. Jones [signature]

Buck McKeon Doug Lamborn Bob Wittman

Mary Fallin OK-5 [signature] Trent Franks

Joh Fleming LA04 Dave Loebsack Neil Abercrombie

Mike Coffman Ellen Tauscher Joe Courtney

R. [signature] Tx11 Todd Akin MO-2 [signature] PA-8

Tn 5 [signature] OA 8 Jim Mitchell Brad Ellsworth IN-8

Gene Taylor [signature] [signature]

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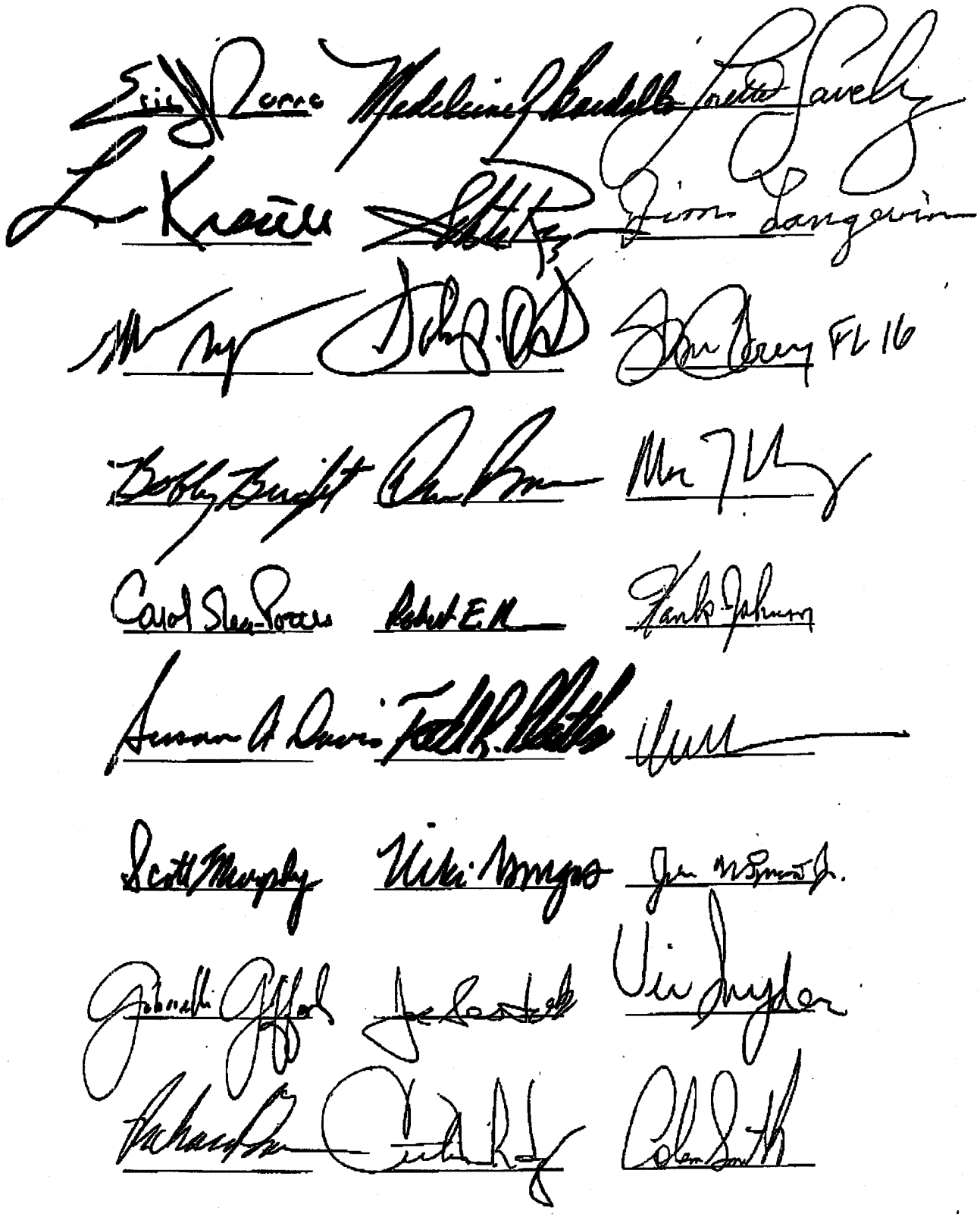

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 16, 2009

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 9, 2009, regarding Codel David Price June 25 – July 5, 2009. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable David Price, Chairman, (D-NC) and Mrs. Lisa Price
The Honorable Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and Mrs. Sandy Buchanan
The Honorable Jim McDermott (D-WA)
The Honorable Jim Cooper (D-TN) and Mrs. Martha Cooper
The Honorable Phil Gingrey (R-GA) and Mrs. Billie Gingrey
The Honorable Bob Etheridge (D-NC) and Mrs. Faye Etheridge

Mr. John Lis, Staff Director, House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC)
Ms. Margarita Seminario, Professional Staff Member, HDAC
Mr. Brad Smith, Professional Staff Member, Committee on Rules
Ms. Rachael Leman, Professional Staff Member, Committee on Rules
Ms. Janice McKinney, Assistant Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
Mr. Clay Wellborn, CRS (authorized by HCFA)
Mr. Bruce Vaughn, CRS (authorized by HCFA)
Ms. Sherry Shapiro, CRS (authorized by HCFA)
Mr. Will Tuchrello, Library of Congress –Jakarta-Dili (authorized by HCFA)
Mr. Yadi Yasin, Library of Congress (Dili) (authorized by HCFA)

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06915-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 16, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable David Price, Chairman of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Colombia, Paraguay, and Peru on official business during the approximate time period of August 15-23, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the parliaments in each country in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06945-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 18, 2009

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 23, 2009, regarding Codel Neal June 26 – July 5, 2009. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Richard E. Neal (D-MA)
The Honorable Tim Murphy (R-PA)
The Honorable Jerry Costello (D-IL)
The Honorable Mike Doyle (D-PA)
The Honorable Tim Holden (D-PA)
The Honorable Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL)
The Honorable Donald M. Payne (D-NJ)
The Honorable Nydia M. Velasquez (D-NY)

Mr. William Tranghese, Office of Rep. Neal
Ms. Susan Mosychuk, Office of Rep. Murphy

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06981-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Alcee Hastings, Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and a delegation of Members and staff to accompany Codel Cardin to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Belarus, Lithuania and Greece during the approximate period of June 26 – July 3, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to meet with government officials in each country and to attend the 18th Annual Session of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA). For protocol purposes only, spouses may travel at no cost to the government. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), Co-Chairman, CSCE
The Honorable Christopher Smith (R-NJ) and Mrs. Marie Smith
The Honorable Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Mr. Robert Slaughter
The Honorable Mike McIntyre (D –NC) and Mrs. Dee McIntyre
The Honorable G.K. Butterfield (D-NC)
The Honorable Robert Aderholt (R–AL) and Mrs. Caroline Aderholt
The Honorable Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Mrs. Kathy Issa
The Honorable Lloyd Doggett (D–TX) and Mrs. Libby Doggett
The Honorable Gwen Moore (D-WI)

Mr. Fred Turner, Chief of Staff, CSCE
Mr. Bob Hand, Policy Advisor, CSCE
Ms. Shelly Han, Policy Advisor, CSCE
Mr. Ed Joseph, Policy Director, CSCE
Mr. Cliff Bond, Senior Advisor, CSCE
Mr. Alex Johnson, Policy Advisor, CSCE
Mr. Winsome Packer Policy Advisor, CSCE
Mr. Neil Simon, Communications Director, CSCE
Mr. Daniel Redfield, Office Manager, CSCE
Mr. Josh Shapiro, Staff Assistant, CSCE

OSD 06983-09

Please note that Chairman Hastings and Ms. Janice Helwig, Policy Advisor, CSCE, are also authorized to travel to Albania en route to Lithuania. For that portion, 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).

Codel Cardin has requested Navy 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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

JARED POLIS
2ND DISTRICT, COLORADO

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http://polis.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
STEERING AND POLICY

June 18, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

My partner, (b)(6) accompanied me on the Dodd/Pastor Codel on June 5-7, 2009 pursuant to a waiver issued by Speaker Nancy Pelosi. In her June 4 letter notifying you of her waiver, the Speaker asked that you in turn use your waiver authority to facilitate (b)(6) participation.

Given that (b)(6) is my domestic partner and is designated by Congress as my Congressional spouse, with a spouse pin and Congressional ID, I request that you waive the requirement that I have to reimburse $1,140.40 to the military for (b)(6) travel, which is not required of Congressional spouses.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter, and I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Truly,

Jared Polis

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

OSD 07053-09

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Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 9, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Mr. John Sullivan, Parliamentarian of the House, to accompany Codel Kosmas (authorized by the House Committee on Science and Technology) to Florida during the appropriate period of June 12-13, 2009.

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,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07074-09

BART GORDON, TENNESSEE
CHAIRMAN

RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS
RANKING MEMBER

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUITE 2320 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6301
(202) 225–6375
TTY: (202) 226–4410
http://science.house.gov

June 12, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Adrian Smith, a member of the Committee on Science and Technology, to travel with CODEL Thompson to Guantanamo Bay on June 15, 2009.

The delegation will meet with U.S. military leaders on a fact-finding mission to gather information about the issues surrounding Guantanamo Bay prison. As this is an issue Congress will be considering in the coming months, it is important that Members learn about as much as possible about the situation at Guantanamo Bay in order to carefully consider any policy implications.

I request the expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses such as transportation and military escorts as may be required as authorized by 31 USC 1108(g).

I would appreciate the Department of Defense, specifically the United States Army, furnishing such assistance as may be required. Travel will be conducted by military air.

If you have any questions please contact Leigh Ann Brown at (202) 226-8669. Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON
Chairman

OSD 07075-09

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

June 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman David P. Roe to travel on official government business to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on June 15, departing and returning on the same day.

Mr. Roe will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Congressman Mike Thompson, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis, and Counterintelligence of the Select Committee on Intelligence. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to visit with service members stationed at Guantanamo Bay and view first-hand the conditions these service members have been working under.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jian Zapata of the Committee staff at 202-225-3036.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 07077-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 3, 2009

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 2, 2009, regarding Codel Pastor to Seattle, Washington during the approximate period of June 5-7, 2009. In addition to those previously listed, please note that Mr. Marlon Reiss has been invited to travel with the delegation.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07078-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

June 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Robert Aderholt, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel with CODEL Kosmas on June 12-13, 2008, to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The purpose of this trip is to attend the launch of Space Shuttle Endeavour, STS-127 and the accompanying NASA briefings.

I request the expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses such as transportation and military escorts as may be required as authorized by 31 USC 1108(g).

I would appreciate the Department of Defense, specifically the United States Air Force, furnishing such assistance as may be required. Travel will be conducted by military air.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 07079-09

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

June 17, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby given to Elizabeth Dawson, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of June 27- July 3, 2009, to France and Belgium. The purpose of this trip is to review Department of Defense activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey

David Obey
Chairman

OSD 07097-09

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CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

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JON TRAUB,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to inform you that I will be leading a Congressional Delegation to Nairobi, Kenya, during the approximate time period of Saturday, August 1 through Saturday, August 8, 2009; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The primary purpose of this trip is to attend the eighth annual United States-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum ("AGOA Forum") being held in Nairobi at that time.

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

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/gsm

OSD 07122-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your actions to eradicate our nation's use of torture. We agree that the use of torture, under any circumstance, is simply wrong. Within hours of taking office, you began the process of restoring a standard of moral behavior on this issue. We are proud to have a President who works to provide for the common defense of our nation's land and people along with the common defense of our nation's values.

As veterans who now serve our country in the House of Representatives, we know that the use of torture not only degrades the values we served to protect, but that it endangers servicemen and women on the front lines today. Internationally acceptable interrogation standards honor our own forces by ensuring that, when they are asked to fight for justice and the rule of law, they will not be asked to abrogate the rule of law or besmirch their own sense of justice.

Recalling the controversy surrounding enhanced interrogation techniques and the legal justifications for torture offered by the Bush Administration, we request clarification on a few issues that have been raised about your Executive Order 13491, *Ensuring Lawful Interrogations*.

First, the Order does not define armed conflict. Since this is a central concept to the Order, given that all interrogations must comply with Army Field Manual 2-22.3 (Manual) if an individual is under our nation's control due to armed conflict, how do you define armed conflict?

Second, are there individuals currently under the control of the United States on whom your Administration does not confer the protections of the Manual's interrogation standards?

Third, if there are individuals under the control of the United States who are not afforded the protections of the Manual, do those individuals – regardless of how the United States

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classifies them – receive the benefit of the Detainee Treatment Act (the McCain Amendment), specifically protection from "cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment?"

Fourth, to what, if any, criminal sanctions would an agent of the United States government be subject for breaking the provisions of the Detainee Treatment Act?

Fifth, the current Manual provides reasonable examples of prohibited actions, e.g., waterboarding, electric shocks, and deprivation of food. What prevents the U.S. Army from changing the Manual and altering the defined prohibited activities?

Again, we sincerely appreciate your efforts on this vital matter and would welcome clarification of these issues. Your Order takes the United States in the right direction by providing protection from torture; however, we feel that positive law both to prohibit torture or cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment by our agents and to define a baseline of what constitutes this type of treatment is essential to our democracy. We ask for your support in this endeavor.

We look forward to working with you to help our nation restore its standing as a fair and humane world power.

Sincerely,

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

John Conyers
Member of Congress

Pete Stark
Member of Congress

Edward Markey
Member of Congress

Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

CC: Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense
Eric Holder, Attorney General of the United States
Dennis Blair, Director of National Intelligence

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TOLL FREE: 1-877-780-0028

June 22, 2009

Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon, Rm. 3D921
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

I understand that my Legislative fellow, (b)(6) has applied for the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense-Crisis Management and Defense Support to Civil Authorities. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response of the House Homeland Security Committee, I would like ask for your support and offer my strong endorsement of (b)(6) for the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense- Crisis Management and Defense Support to Civil Authorities

(b)(6) has spent the last 28 years serving his country and specifically the last 8 years working at the forefront of Homeland Defense/Security and Emergency Preparedness and Response issues. He has been involved at the beginning of every major issue facing our post 9/11 environment. He was decorated for his actions on 9/11, he managed the Defense Departments efforts to secure our airports and borders as the TSA and newly reorganized CBP and ICE organizations were stood up and he authored the first ever Defense Intelligence Strategy, a seminal document designed to provide guidance and clarity to our Defense Intelligence organizations.

Continuing to serve as a Volunteer Advanced Life Support provider in Fairfax County, Va., (b)(6) is well versed in both emergency preparedness and response as well as having a through understanding of the intricate relationship between the Executive and Legislative branches. Combining this experience with his defense expertise, he would provide the Defense Department with political expertise and an understanding and ability to talk the language of the local officials that the Civil Support mission requires.

Please consider this as my strong endorsement of (b)(6) as a leading candidate for Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense- Crisis Management and Defense Support to Civil Authorities.

If selected, he will be a credit to the Administration and the Department.

Sincerely,

Henry Cuellar, PhD.
U. S. Congressman
28th District of Texas

OSD 07190-09

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SEGUIN
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PHONE: (830) 401-0457
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RIO GRANDE CITY
100 NORTH F.M. 3167
RIO GRANDE CITY, TX 78582
PHONE: (956) 487-5603
FAX: (956) 488-0952

JOE SESTAK
7TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

(202) 225–2011

June 4, 2009

Mr. Eric Fanning
Department of Defense Legislative Liaison
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

RE: Letter of Recommendation, Rear Admiral Richard A. Buchanan, US Navy (Ret)

Dear Mr. Fanning,

It is my distinct pleasure to most strongly recommend Rear Admiral Richard A. Buchanan, US Navy (Ret) for a non-career position in the Obama-Biden Administration. His Presidential Appointment Application has been submitted, and I am most pleased to be able to provide a detailed letter as a listed reference in his application.

Admiral Buchanan has an extensive and distinguished career in the military service and in the private sector. He has proven his outstanding leadership, tremendous business acumen and creative strategic mind in a number of challenging and responsible positions as outlined on his attached resume.

Specifically, I want to bring to your attention that his extraordinarily diverse military experience as Commanding Officer of USS Parche SSN 683, as Commander Submarine Group Two and as the Director of Operations and Logistics at United States Strategic Command makes him particularly suited for Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, for Under Secretary of Energy in the Department of Energy and as the Principal Deputy Director for the Director of National Intelligence.

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of the United States Navy Memorial Foundation, he has a true appreciation for and is especially well informed about personnel issues that affect the Defense Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs. His extensive experience and enthusiasm for the importance of high quality men and women to serve in our military today and for those individuals to be supported, as veterans, after their service is complete is remarkable. His background in these areas of interest supports his nomination as Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness or Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits.

It has been my pleasure to know of Admiral Buchanan's outstanding leadership skills, personal ambition and charismatic leadership personally and by reputation throughout his active duty military career and in his private sector career with EDS supporting Navy Marine Corps Intranet; at Raytheon where his responsibilities for Navy programs gave him great insight into contracting and program management as well as the financial responsibilities in the for-profit business world; and at the Navy Memorial Foundation where his creative and strategic vision inspired

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significant improvements in the recognition for the men and women who serve in the Navy and the Sea Services.

I can unequivocally support Admiral Buchanan as a candidate for any of the Obama- Biden Administration positions identified in the enclosed list. Thank you for considering this outstanding candidate for service in our government.

Warmly,

Joe Sestak

Joe Sestak
Member of Congress

Enclosures:

- Potential Presidential Appointments
- Resume for Rear Admiral Buchanan

JOE SESTAK
7TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

(202) 225-2011

June 30, 2009

Tho Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Room 3D844
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates,

In the FY 2009 Defense Appropriation Bill (the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act) was a $1.2 million dollar appropriation for a project requested through my office. That project, which was brought to my attention by Data View, Inc., a small business in my District, was for a key component of the Pentagon's Advanced Emergency Response Integrated Environment (AERIE), the use of uncomplicated visualizations that rapidly convey complex incident or event situation information to incident command and agency leadership. Today I was informed that these funds may not be used for this purpose, but rather to fund the development and implementation of a notification system. This is unacceptable, and I request your assistance in either clarifying the situation or rectifying it.

During a process to oversee the expenditure of appropriated funds which I requested, my staff called the Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA) and was informed that they would be provided a status update. This morning the Executive Director for Data View, Inc. contacted my office to say he has been notified by the PFPA that his project was not going to be funded this year, despite the appropriation. Rather, funding for the project would be revisited in FY2010. I have asked Data View, Inc. to put together a more detailed chronology of its contacts with PFPA, which is enclosed.

Data View, Inc. is a small company with limited contract work. They will be unable to maintain their staff through to FY2010 on the potential for funding in that fiscal year. They have also informed me that if the project could at least be partially funded in FY09 and then further funded in FY10, that would allow them to maintain their staffing and intellectual resource levels.

As a former Three Star Admiral with thirty-one years experience in the Navy, having worked both in the White House and the Pentagon, I am fully aware of the financial constraints faced by agencies such as PFPA. But I am also aware of the difficulties faced by small businesses attempting to provide contract work within the Defense Department. (The chronology highlights the false starts and changes of direction just on this project.)

OSD 07223-09

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(202) 225-2011

Tho Honorable Robert Gates
June 30, 2009

I requested these appropriated funds for a project that would provide needed added security to the Pentagon and could be done by an innovative and hardworking small business. The concept of dynamic visualization in this project has significant potential in improving communications and coordination of inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional issues. And I believe that PFPA, and in particular the Integrated Emergency Operations Center, is an ideal candidate to be a showcase for this type of collaborative tool with its mission to rapidly comprehend situational awareness and communicate actionable information in context.

Mr. Secretary, I request that the $1.2 million dollars, or at least a significant portion of that funding appropriated in the FY09 Defense budget be used, as intended, to implement a system that utilizes uncomplicated visualizations that rapidly convey complex incident or event situation information to incident command and agency leadership as a key component of the Pentagon's Advanced Emergency Response Integrated Environment (AERIE).

I look forward to your assistance in this matter. I can be reached through my Chief of Staff, Bibiana Boerio, at 202-225-2011.

Thank you for your service to our Nation.

Sincerely,

Joe Sestak
Member of Congress

Cc: Paul Juola, Subcommittee Clerk, House Defense Appropriation Subcommittee
Mr. Stephen Calvery, Director of Pentagon Force Protection Agency
Mr. Mark Wallace, Director of the Pentagon Integrated Emergency Operations Center

Enclosure

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

June 29, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your letter of June 22, 2009, regarding the Presidential Helicopter Replacement Program.

While I appreciate your concerns about controlling the costs of this program, I am deeply concerned about the lack of value that the nation has to show for the substantial investment made to date. It is the Congress, and the Appropriations Committee in particular, that will end up carrying the burden of accommodating the changes in judgment and past missteps associated with this program.

I understand that from the period December 2003 through the present the Department of Defense has spent $3.2 billion on this program and has acquired a total of 9 aircraft 5 of which could be put to operational use.

I firmly believe that we must be able to demonstrate some value from the investment made in this program. Therefore I strongly encourage you to make use of those VH-71 helicopters that could be placed into operational service as soon as possible.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

OSD 07354-09

BOB FILNER
51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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1101 AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE D
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TEL: (760) 355-6801
FAX: (760) 355-6803

website: www.house.gov/filner

July 2, 2009

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

Dear Secretary:

On June 30, 2009, Seaman August Provost was found dead in a Camp Pendleton guard shack. The press is reporting that the body was burned. The death of Mr. Provost is suspected as a homicide and possible hate crime. I am writing to urge you to begin a full and detailed investigation on the death of Mr. Provost.

Mr. Provost made the selfless and courageous decision to serve his country, and regardless of his sexual orientation, he should be treated with honor and respect.

I trust and hope the military will investigate this homicide and possible hate crime in a professional manner. I am requesting full disclosure in this matter.

I look forward to your timely response. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 619-422-5963.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/wl
2515414

OSD 07389-09

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CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

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JON TRAUB,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 26, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Charles Boustany, Jr. (R-MD) to participate on the CODEL being led by Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) to Lebanon, Cyprus, and Egypt, with a short stop to refuel in either Ireland or Germany. This travel will take place during the period of Saturday, June 27 through Wednesday, July 1, 2009; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The purpose of the trip is to meet with government and non-government officials to discuss economic security, trade, and energy concerns of these countries, as well as meet with the newly elected leadership for the Lebanese government.

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

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 07441-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 24, 2009

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 19, 2009 regarding Rep. Alcee Hastings and Codel June 26 – July 3, 2009. In addition to the previously mentioned travelers, please note that the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) is authorized to travel.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07455-09

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

June 22, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I authorize Congressman Joe Donnelly to travel on official government business to Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Afghanistan, and Germany during the period of June 26-July 3, 2009.

Mr. Donnelly will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Congressman Brad Ellsworth, member of the House Committee on Armed Services. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to meet with our troops and future veterans on the ground to better gauge troop morale, listen to their concerns, and formulate ideas and remedies to the problems they are facing once they leave military service.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in the countries to be visited. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Bernie Dotson of the Committee staff at 202-226-3653.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 07456-09

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 23, 2009

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 18, 2009, regarding Codel Neal June 26 – July 5, 2009. Please note that the following people have been invited to travel with the delegation in country: Jami Papa; Sighle Doherty, Gráinne Ní Néill, and Orla O'Hanrahan.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07457-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 25th, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to request a briefing with reference to the Department of Defense School of Nursing. The DoD School of Nursing provision was passed by the House of Representatives as part of HR 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for 2010. It directs the Department to establish a DoD School of Nursing that will graduate not less than 100 nurses per year with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree by 2015.

The purpose of this briefing will be to brief Representatives Rodriguez, Smith, Gonzalez, and Cuellar of the San Antonio delegation, and our staffs, on the Department's efforts and plans to establish a DoD School of Nursing per PL 110-181, the National Defense Authorization Act for 2008, Section 955, and discuss initial thoughts on appropriate locations for such a school.

Specifically, we would like to discuss preliminary basing options and the viability of Fort Sam Houston, Lackland AFB, or other area assets as homes for the DoD School of Nursing, including the potential for partnerships with the Department of Veterans Affairs and locations of poly-trauma centers to aid in the education and training of nurse candidates.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to hearing from you promptly on a possible meeting date. Please feel free to contact us directly or Representative Rodriguez's Military Legislative Assistant, Norm Cannon, with any concerns or questions at (202) 225-4511 or Norm.Cannon@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

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OSD 07497-09

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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HEIGHTS OFFICE:
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HOUSTON, TX 77008
(713) 861-4070

FIFTH WARD OFFICE:
3300 LYONS AVENUE, SUITE 301
HOUSTON, TX 77020

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

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CONGRESSIONAL CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000
VIA FAX: 703.571.8951

REFERENCE: NAVY SEAMAN AUGUST PROVOST III

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am requesting a Congressional Inquiry into possible allegations surrounding the murder of Seaman Provost who was found dead Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, north of San Diego that require the full attention of the Armed Services Committee. Seaman Provost was a resident of the TX 18th Congressional District and a constituent of mine.

On behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, I met with the family of Twenty-nine year-old Houston native Navy Seaman August Provost III last Friday evening. The family was told that Seaman Provost was shot three times, had his hands and feet bound, his mouth gagged, and his body may have been burned. I have committed to the family that a full investigation into the murder of Seaman Provost will take place.

We have the greatest respect of the U.S. Military. It is the backbone of our Democracy. However, those who serve in the U.S. Military should be able to serve without concern of violence between military personnel. I look forward to a positive response so that I can report back to the family.

Very Truly Yours,

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

OSD 07499-09

RUSH HOLT
Twelfth District, New Jersey

1214 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-5801
Fax 202-225-6025

50 Washington Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550
609-750-9365
Fax 609-750-0618

http://holt.house.gov

Congress of the United States

Chair
Select Intelligence Oversight Panel
Committee on Appropriations

Committee on Education
and Labor

Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence

Committee on Natural Resources

July 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to inform you that the delegation I was going to lead to Macedonia, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina during the time period of May 25-June 2, 2009 was cancelled.

Thank you very much for your time and assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Rush Holt

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07517-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are requesting a briefing on the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the KC-X acquisition, prior to its release to industry.

As members of the United States House of Representatives, we are most interested in understanding the intended evaluation and criteria from the previous source selection and the rationale for those changes. In addition, we want to understand the steps the Department has taken to address the areas of concern indentified by the June 18, 2008, General Accountability Office KC-X ruling.

As you may recall, during your testimony before the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense on June 8, 2009, you stated that you would "share the draft RFP here in Congress as being a transparent process."

Mr. Secretary, we appreciate your stated commitment to move forward quickly in an open and transparent manner with this acquisition effort and look forward to your response to this request. To schedule this briefing, please contact Jon Hand with Congressman Jo Bonner at (202) 225-4931.

Sincerely,

Jo Bonner
United States Representative
First District – Alabama

Bobby Bright
United States Representative
Second District - Alabama

OSD 07706-09

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United States Representative
Third District – Alabama

Robert Aderholt
United States Representative
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Spencer Bachus
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Artur Davis
United States Representative
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Jeff Miller
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SUE MYRICK
9TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

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WEBSITE: http://www.house.gov/myrick

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

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July 7, 2009

William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary
Public Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Lynn:

I write to personally invite you to join me and top government officials for a summit of moderate American Muslim leaders on July 20, 2009. The meeting will take place from 3:00-5:00 pm in the Congressional Room North, located in the US Capitol Visitors Center. You are also welcome to stay for a second session when these leaders meet with Members of Congress.

Over the past several years, many Members of Congress have had great concerns about the groups with which government agencies meet and use for outreach to the American Muslim community. This meeting seeks to link government officials with often-overlooked, moderate Muslim leaders.

During the meeting, moderate Muslim leaders I have invited will talk about their organizations and their programs. In addition, they will discuss issues important to the Muslim community here in America and analyze several international issues. You will be able to ask them questions about their work and obtain their opinions about issues of interest to you and your office. I have personally met with these leaders and worked with their groups on many projects; I am confident you will find this time with them very valuable.

If for some reason you cannot attend, I ask that you please send a representative from your office. However, it is my hope that you can attend this very important summit on July 20.

For more information, please contact my staffer, Andy Polk, at Andy.Polk@mail.house.gov or 202-225-1976. Please RSVP to him by July 16, 2009.

Sincerely,

Sue Myrick

Sue Myrick
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515–6015

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BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

July 6, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congresswoman Kay Granger, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on July 10-11, 2009, to Marinette, Wisconsin and return to Ft. Worth, Texas. The purpose of this trip is to attend a keel laying for the new USS Fort Worth at the Marinette Marine Shipyard.

I request the expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses such as transportation and military escorts as may be required as authorized by 31 USC 1108(g).

I would appreciate the Department of Defense, specifically the United States Air Force, furnishing such assistance as may be required. Travel will be conducted by military air.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 07694-09

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U.S. House of Representatives

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

July 7, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As part of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs responsibilities, I authorize Cathleen Wiblemo, Director of the Subcommittee on Health, and Martin Herbert, Director of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, to travel on official government business to Chicago, IL and Hines, IL during the period of August 11-13, 2009. In addition, Sidath Panangala, Analyst on Veterans Policy with the Congressional Research Service will accompany Ms. Wiblemo and Mr. Herbert as a detailee.

The primary purpose of their visit is to gain further information and monitor the progress made by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Navy in partnering to implement a jointly administered medical facility in North Chicago, IL. In conduct of this effort, they will visit the North Chicago VA Medical Center and the Great Lakes Naval Health Clinic. Additionally, they will visit the Hines VA Medical Center in Hines, IL and the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago, IL to gain a greater understanding of the work being done at these facilities.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in Illinois. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C. Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jeff Burdette of the Committee staff at (202) 225-9154.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

CW/jb

OSD 07879-09

BILL SHUSTER
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

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RURAL HEALTH CARE COALITION

CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3809

June 26, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am contacting you to request that you review the Department of Defense's continued application of congressionally authorized exceptions to the Berry Amendment relating to the procurement of para-aramid fibers and yarns, as well the procurement of fire-resistant rayon fiber, from foreign sources. The materials are used in the manufacture of body armor and fire-resistant uniforms, respectively.

As you know, the Berry Amendment requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to give preference in procurements to domestically produced, manufactured, or home-grown products – notably food, clothing, fabrics, and specialty metals. Exceptions to this amendment allowing DOD purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns, as well the procurement of fire-resistant rayon fiber, from foreign sources may no longer warranted owing to the availability of suitable materials in today's U.S. marketplace. The recent use of these exceptions is having an adverse impact on U.S. manufacturers and has undercut our policy of maintaining a strong and viable defense industrial base.

In 1998, partially due to limited domestic competition and a reliance on sole-source contracts, a statutory exception was created to the Berry Amendment to allow for purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns from foreign sources. The statutory exception is only applicable when the Department makes a determination that procurement of para-aramid fibers and yarns from domestic sources will result in sole-source contracts or subcontracts. As a result of the exemption, the Department's purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns have become increasingly dependent on foreign suppliers over the last decade. The marketplace has changed significantly in the last decade, however, and a variety of suitable materials now exist domestically.

Similarly, in 2008 a statutory exception was created for fire-resistant rayon fiber for the production of uniforms. This exception allowed the Department to procure fire- resistant rayon fiber for uniforms from foreign suppliers if a determination was made that either fire-resistant rayon fiber was not available domestically, or procuring such fiber domestically would result in sole-source contracts.

OSD 07890-09

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CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201
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FAX: (717) 264–0269

In the short period during which this provision has been in effect, foreign suppliers have dramatically increased their market share. Currently, 90 percent of the fielded Flame Resistant Army Combat Uniforms are constructed of imported fiber. While environmental and other concerns have caused domestic sources to forego production of fire-resistant rayon fiber for uniforms, there are a variety of other fire-resistant fibers in today's domestic marketplace—some of which have out-performed rayon in evaluations for Army uniforms. As a result, the "rayon" exception is not relevant and should not apply to future procurements.

Congress has given the Secretary of Defense discretion to determine whether either exception should be used. However, current law mandates an annual review by the Secretary of Defense. I look forward to working with you to advance a more balanced policy that both promotes competition and preserves our ability to maintain and grow our domestic defense capabilities. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Bill Shuster

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

TODD TIAHRT
4TH DISTRICT, KANSAS

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DEFENSE

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July 14, 2009

The Honorable Ashton Carter
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics
Department of Defense
Pentagon, Room 3E673
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Carter:

It has come to my attention that the United States Air Force and United States Navy are currently negotiating a Memorandum of Agreement to proceed to Phase 2 of a demonstration program called Imminent Fury. While I am an advocate for the development of an irregular warfare capability, I am deeply concerned that this program will ignore domestic manufacturers in favor of foreign competitors.

Originally a Navy demonstration program under the direction of Secretary Donald Winters, Imminent Fury was designed to provide information on the benefits of a light attack aircraft to the warfighter. An Embraer Super Tucano aircraft was leased by the Navy for this program. Throughout Phase 1 of the demonstration program, the Navy insisted that is agnostic with regards to the specific aircraft used. Given that a similar domestic aircraft was still under development, the Navy made the argument that the lease of a foreign aircraft was required for Phase 1.

As the Navy now along with the Air Force move forward with Phase 2, it is my understanding that the domestic Hawker-Beechcraft AT-6B, will be available for testing and evaluation. (The AT-6B is a derivative of the T-6, which is the widely-used joint primary training platform for the United States military.) Throughout the concept development and demonstration phase, acquisition best practices necessitate the evaluation of alternatives, especially within the domestic market. Furthermore, the Air National Guard (ANG) will be conducting similar evaluation activities using a Hawker-Beechcraft AT-6B, an option clearly available to the Navy and Air Force.

The United States Government has invested $8.4 million into the Air National Guard evaluation of the AT-6B and will likely invest additional resources in FY2010. For the Department to ignore this investment and continue testing a foreign aircraft is the wrong

OSD 07908-09

approach, especially when the T-6 has served as the joint primary training platform for the DOD for the past eight years.

In addition, Brazil, the home of Embraer, is not an exempt country under DFARS 225.872-1. As you know, this means that the Department of Defense is required to evaluate the availability of domestic products prior to contract award to a company from a non-qualifying country.

Based on all this information, I strongly recommend that the Department examine the ANG demonstration program and develop a strategy for Imminent Fury that utilizes domestic aircraft. To continue to lease the Embraer, when a similar domestic product is reasonably available, is inappropriate.

I look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress

cc: [redacted]

The Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy

The Honorable Michael Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, Chairman
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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515–6015

July 15, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to ask you to immediately begin a thorough review of the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) and to provide a complete list of all proposals pending as of July 20 for CERP projects in excess of $1,000,000. For years, this Committee has questioned the use and management of CERP funds, totaling more than $10 billion since 2004. I understand the value of this program for our combatant commanders. However, the Army and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) have failed to justify ever-growing CERP requests or to execute proper management or oversight of these funds, most of which are today being spent on the kind of infrastructure and development projects more appropriately executed and administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development. A fundamental review of CERP, its purpose, use and scope, is overdue.

Recent press reports and information from officials in-theater indicate intense pressure on Provincial Reconstruction Teams and combatant commanders to "rush to spend" hundreds of millions of dollars in CERP funds remaining for fiscal year 2009. Proposals for multi-million projects are being thrown together with less thought given to the urgency or usefulness of the project than to a desire to ensure all funds are spent. This practice could conflict with section 8004 of the fiscal year 2009 Defense Appropriations Act, which prohibits more than 20 percent of the appropriations in that Act limited for obligation in the current fiscal year from being obligated in the last two months of the year.

The original purpose of CERP was to provide combatant commanders a resource for responding to "small-scale, urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction" needs in their area of operation to immediately assist the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, a majority of CERP funds are spent on road construction and other "bricks and mortar" projects that, while important, far-exceed the intended scale and scope of the urgent projects CERP was intended to support. Furthermore, the pressure to spend CERP funds, which naturally drives commanders toward large-scale construction projects, is squeezing out the small-scale humanitarian projects identified by company-grade and Special Forces troops as providing an immediate benefit both to local nationals and to the safety and security of our own forces.

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Over the last five years, CERP has grown from an incisive counter-insurgency tool to an alternative U.S. development program with few limits and little management. It is well-past time for better oversight of this program from the Department of Defense. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

While we strongly support our defense facilities and recognize that we need a robust acquisition workforce, we are writing to express a concern that has been brought to our attention regarding the method the government is currently using to increase the size of its defense acquisition workforce. It is our understanding that on April 6, 2009, you announced your goal to "increase the size of the defense acquisition workforce by converting 11,000 contractors and hiring an additional 9,000 government acquisition professionals by 2015."

We would like to call your attention to an unintended consequence this policy is causing. We are hearing from our small businesses that the policy is directly responsible for a significant loss of employees to government positions. This action results in the contractor losing a valuable resource they have trained at considerable cost-- sometimes specifically to meet government requirements -- as well as revenue the contractor would have earned.

Our small businesses, such as the ones negatively impacted by the recent announcement, are the driving force of our economy. Many small, defense contractors have suffered this past year as a direct result of this tough economy. This has contributed to increases in unemployment across the nation.

We want to do everything possible to help, not hinder, our small businesses. Moving forward, we would like to work with you and the Department of Defense to create a balanced policy that would achieve your goal of strengthening our defense, without harming our small businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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OSD 08010-09

STEVE AUSTRIA (OH-07)
Member of Congress

JASON CHAFFETZ (UT-03)
Member of Congress

GREGG HARPER (MS-03)
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CHELLIE PINGREE

1ST DISTRICT
MAINE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATION

COMMITTEE ON RULES

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 6th, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your recent visit to Bath Iron Works (BIW) and for taking the time to meet some of the hard working and dedicated Mainers who contribute to the shipyard and our nation's defense. As Admiral Gary Roughead said, BIW is a "national treasure", and I am glad you were able to see the facility firsthand.

Maine has a long and proud history of contributing to the armed forces in unique and diverse ways. In 1815, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) in Kittery, Maine, built its first ship for the United States, the USS WASHINGTON. Today, PNSY is preparing to work on next generation of nuclear submarines, the VIRGINIA class. Bangor International Airport in Bangor, Maine, is the primary departure and arrival point for the troops serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Each day, a group of dedicated veterans known as the "Troop Greeters" welcome our brave men and women returning from combat and bid farewell to those departing for duty.

As you probably know, Maine is home to literally hundreds of small businesses who are Department of Defense subcontractors. Many of these small businesses provide the DOD with innovative research, products and materials to make our country stronger and more secure. I hope you will come back to Maine to see more of how our state including these small business contractors who are contributing to our national defense.

Thank you for considering this request, and I look forward to seeing you in Maine soon.

Sincerely,

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

OSD 08012-09

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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

July 16, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
The Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On Wednesday, July 29, 2009, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs will conduct a hearing titled "Meeting the Needs of Injured Veterans in the Military Paralympic Program." This hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. in room 334 Cannon House Office Building.

The Committee invites you, or your designee, to testify at the hearing to discuss the number of seriously injured service members who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan in the past three years; what the Department of Defense is doing to assist our seriously injured returning service members with their rehabilitation and what their experience has been with the U.S. Paralympic Program or similar programs; how many programs the Department of Defense currently has in place; and, what partnerships the Department of Defense has formed to provide rehabilitation services to returning service members.

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Ms. Debbie Smith at (202) 225-6389. You will be recognized for five minutes to make an oral statement; however, your complete written statement will be made a part of the hearing record. Please submit 70 copies of written testimony to Ms. Debbie Smith at 335 Cannon House Office Building by 10:00 a.m. on July 27, 2009. To reduce costs and facilitate the inclusion of the written testimony in the printed record of the hearing, please provide one copy of the testimony prepared in accordance with the enclosed formatting requirements.

OSD 08162-09

The Committee provides public access to its hearing statements on the Internet through the World Wide Web at the House of Representatives (http://veterans.house.gov) and the Library of Congress (http://thomas.loc.gov).

To facilitate this public access, please send an electronic copy of your testimony to Ms. Debbie Smith at debbie.smith@mail.house.gov. Additionally, the hearings are now broadcast live, in real time, over the Internet, and are archived on our Web site so they may be accessed following each hearing.

I look forward to hearing your views. Please contact Juan Lara, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, at (202) 225-9756 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

JL/ds

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE

RICHARD D. DEBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 358, Ensuring Safe Facilities and Equipment for American Troops Overseas Act, to ensure the safety of members of the United States Armed Forces while using expeditionary facilities, infrastructure, and equipment supporting United States military operations overseas. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

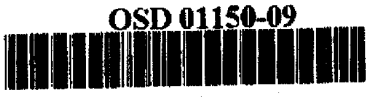
So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 01150-09



RON WYDEN
OREGON

230 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

February 2, 2009

COMMITTEES:
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Robert M. Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1300 Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to express my grave concern over the apparent widespread use of burn pits for waste disposal throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. I have been informed by a constituent that his relative serving in Afghanistan is experiencing health symptoms related to smoke exposure from a burn pit that neighbors his base. The unregulated presence of these sites has endangered the health and well-being of American and allied soldiers as well as civilians, and will undoubtedly leave environmental scars in the areas we currently occupy.

I believe the problems exhibited and widely reported at Balad are indicative of a much larger problem. With approximately 11 million pounds of hazardous waste in Iraq alone, it is easily imaginable that unregulated, unmonitored burn pits may be affecting a large percentage of the service members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan post-9/11. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel (b)(6) a surgeon previously deployed to Balad, stated that everyone at the base had a memo placed in their medical files in fall 2007 noting they had been exposed to the burn pit's fumes. I'm encouraged by this acknowledgement of health risks associated with burn pits, but believe the Department of Defense must do more.

I fear that little is being done to address the issue on a broad scale. The Military Times recently reported that the burn pit in Balad is the only disposal site to be specifically tested, and the reports from my constituents suggest that this problem is not isolated to one location. Soldiers that will be deployed in these areas in the future, servicemembers that may have separated from the service or others that have returned home may be potentially affected by burn pits and should be provided with proper education, health care, and resources as soon as possible.

I believe that transparency in this issue will help alleviate the concerns of deployed personnel and the American public. Thank you for your consideration of these requests and your concern for the health of the brave men and women that serve our country. I look forward to working with you to resolve this matter in the future.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

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OSD 01153-09

Ron Wyden 2022282717

2/2

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 2, 2009

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

Admiral Mike Mullen
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
9999 The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20318-9999

Dear Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen:

We appreciate the directed focus you have brought to the National Guard and Reserves through recent directives, personnel decisions, and other actions. In our September 26, 2008 letter, we asked you to look at the issue of transparency and accountability in the purchase and distribution of equipment for the National Guard and Reserves. We would appreciate an update on the Department's efforts to resolve these challenges, which have prevented equipment slated for the reserve components from actually entering Guard and Reserves inventories.

We have received a number of interim responses, including letters that referred our inquiry to the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and, later, to the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. We look forward to a more detailed response on how the Department actually plans to account for the appropriated dollars provided for National Guard and Reserve equipment.

Given its constitutional authority and paramount responsibility to the American people, Congress has a deep interest in full financial transparency. Establishing a budget and execution plan that provides transparency and accountability of Guard and Reserve equipment funding is also a key recommendation of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves. We understand that that the Department of Defense acknowledges the need for corrective action.

We would appreciate an update on the Department's plans to ensure greater accountability for National Guard and Reserve equipment. In particular, please advise on the status of evaluating the viability of such proposals as delineating Guard and Reserve funding requests within the Services' annual procurement requests or Congress creating a separate appropriation for National Guard and Reserve equipment requirements.

Thank you again for recognizing the importance of this issue and working with the Congress toward a sensible resolution.

Sincerely,

Patrick Leahy

PATRICK LEAHY
Co-Chair
U.S. Senate National Guard Caucus

Kit Bond

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND
Co-Chair
U.S. Senate National Guard Caucus

A strong and robustly equipped operational reserve force is what the American people expect and deserve. We look forward to working with you to ensure we resolve this important issue.

Thank you very much for your personal attention to and support for the National Guard and Reserve.

Sincerely,

PATRICK LEAHY
U.S. Senator

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND
U.S. Senator

TOM DAVIS
U.S. Representative

GENE TAYLOR
U.S. Representative

JIM WEBB
VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS
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VETERANS' AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4024

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4605

February 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing with regard to a November 21, 2008, letter to you that I co-signed with 56 other U.S. Senators expressing our concerns over the new TRICARE outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS) rule. I have not received a reply to that correspondence, but in accordance with the Obama administration's new Regulatory Review guidance, I request that you extend the final regulation's effective date by 60 days and reopen it for public comment.

The reliability and validity of the data used by the Department of Defense (DoD) and its economic impact methodology have been challenged by health-care professionals. If a more effective and extended transition is not adopted to implement the new rule, many of our TRICARE beneficiaries in Virginia will experience a significant disruption in services.

In its final rule, the DoD estimated that TRICARE hospital outpatient revenue will decline by $598 million, or 25 percent, in the first year. This estimate is nearly *seven times* DoD's original estimate of $81 million as noted in the proposed rule. This discrepancy is not adequately explained in the final rule. Of note, the proposed rule's estimated impact fell below the $100 million threshold necessary for the rule to be deemed "economically significant." Had the impact exceeded this threshold, a more thorough analysis would have been required under the Congressional Review Act. Clearly, DoD's revised estimate of the decline in hospital outpatient revenue shows that a thorough review is needed before the new rule is implemented.

I recognize that DoD is required by law to make changes in the way TRICARE pays hospitals for the outpatient care they provide to our military and that it must conform to Medicare "to the extent practicable." I strongly believe, however, that these changes should be implemented with a much more effective transition. In 1996, DoD implemented a 15 percent stop-loss transition for physicians to bring TRICARE payments in line with Medicare payments. I encourage DoD to consider an identical transition for network hospitals. Cutting TRICARE hospital outpatient payments abruptly by 25 percent is unreasonable and without precedent.

In light of these deficiencies, I strongly urge you to review the final regulation regarding TRICARE payments for hospital outpatient services and re-open the rule-making process. Thank you for your consideration of my views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Webb
United States Senator

OSD 01221-09

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
CALIFORNIA

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE - CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
http://feinstein.senate.gov

February 4, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Recently, it has come to my attention that there are allegations of Bush Administration political appointees who have been improperly converted to career positions within the Department of Defense. Specifically, that two political positions were converted to career positions within the DOD's Office of Detainee Affairs, and that Bush Administration political appointees within that office assumed those career positions.

Allegations of improper "burrowing" of political appointees to career positions are concerning to me. This is especially disconcerting within the Office of Detainee Affairs due to the nature of the policy recommendations that office provides regarding Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. President Obama has decisively set a new course on detainee policy by issuing the executive order to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

Accordingly, I ask that you immediately review the circumstances behind the conversion of these positions and the hiring of any former Bush Administration appointees as career or temporary officials within the Office of Detainee Affairs. I would like to know whether Bush Administration appointees were converted to career or temporary appointments in that office. If this has occurred, when were these appointments made, and were they done pursuant to a competitive and publicly open hiring process subject to all applicable Office of Personnel Management regulations? Finally, if improper burrowing of political appointees has happened within the Office of Detainee Affairs, how and when will this will be corrected?

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely Yours,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

OSD 01223-09

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 2, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your letter of January 27, regarding the Department's use of retired military officers as "surrogates" to make the former Administration's case in the media. As you indicate in your letter, the Inspector General found no improper or illegal activities on the part of the Department's Public Affairs personnel and concluded that information briefings provided to retired military officers did not violate legal prohibitions against the use of appropriated funds for publicity or propaganda purposes.

However, the Inspector General also found that the Department excluded a retired General from further participation in the program because of his comments critical of the conduct of the Iraq war. The report also confirms that a senior DOD Public Affairs official sent an e-mail urging the Department to cultivate a core group of "reliably friendly" retired military analysts "that we can count on to carry our water." I do not think it should be acceptable for DOD officials to cut off outside commentators who express critical opinions, or to use access to information to reward political allies in the press. If this conduct is not illegal or improper under existing law or regulations, I believe that those laws and regulations need to be changed. I would appreciate if you would review the applicable laws and regulations and get back to me with your views.

Also, while the report finds insufficient evidence to determine that any contractor received a competitive advantage as a result of its ties to retired military analysts, the report fails to assess whether the retired military analysts themselves obtained financial benefits from contractors as a result of their favorable access to DOD information and officials. The report also concludes that it was appropriate for the Department to employ a contractor to ensure that the commentary of retired

OSD 01226-09

military analysts "reflected accurate information." However, the purpose of the contract, as detailed in the report, was not to determine whether the commentary was "accurate", but rather whether it was favorable – i.e., to determine "how coverage reflects or fails to reflect DoD stated policies or views (as expressed by its spokespeople and other representatives)." The report fails to assess whether it was appropriate to hire an outside contractor to determine which analysts were most supportive of Administration views.

I would appreciate if you would task the Inspector General to conduct an additional review and analysis to address these issues.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Joseph I. Lieberman plans to travel to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel during the period February 14-22, 2009. Senator Lieberman will be accompanied by Vance Serchuk and Christopher Griffin, his personal staffers designated to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Army could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01254-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On January 21, 2009, I wrote regarding the upcoming foreign travel plans to Germany and Bosnia-Herzegovina for Senator Joseph I. Lieberman and his staff during the period February 5-8, 2009. This letter is to request your further assistance. As previously indicated, Senators Joseph I. Lieberman and John McCain will co-lead the American delegation to the annual Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany.

On behalf of Senator Lieberman, I also request that you authorize travel on military aircraft with CODEL LIEBERMAN individuals not belonging to Congress or its staff, but who are part of the United States' delegation and who would travel at no additional cost to the U.S. Government on a cost-reimbursable basis. A list of these individuals is attached to this letter.

Thank you for your continued assistance in support of this conference.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosure

OSD 01261-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 3, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On January 21 and February 2, 2009, I wrote regarding the upcoming foreign travel plans to Germany and Bosnia-Herzegovina for Senator Joseph I. Lieberman and his staff during the period February 5-8, 2009. This letter is to request your further assistance. As previously indicated, Senators Joseph I. Lieberman and John McCain will co-lead the American delegation to the annual Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany.

On behalf of Senator Lieberman, I also request that you authorize travel on military aircraft with CODEL LIEBERMAN the following 2 individuals who are also part of the United States' delegation and who would travel at no additional cost to the U.S. Government on a cost-reimbursable basis:

Max Boot
Bob Woodward

Thank you for your continued assistance in support of this conference.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01262-09

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2009

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write to register concern about the future of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system at Fort Greely, Alaska, and to inform you of our strong support for this system.

As you know, the integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) has been in the news recently. Last week, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin expressed some concern about the BMD system, of which GMD is a key component. His comments came at the same time reports surfaced of North Korea preparing again to test its Taepodong-2 missile, which is estimated to have a range that could hit Alaska. And earlier this week, Iran successfully launched a low-orbit satellite utilizing a three-stage rocket technology, which raises great concern over that country's increased capabilities.

We were sobered by your testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee on January 27, 2009, in which you stated that: "North Korea and Iran present uniquely vexing challenges...North Korea has produced enough plutonium for several atomic bombs; Iran is developing capabilities needed to support a nuclear program...both countries have ballistic missile programs of increasing range and a record of proliferation." Your blunt assessment underscores the need for a fully functioning BMD System, in which Fort Greely plays a key role.

The federal budget includes funding to complete the fielding of all interceptors at Fort Greely to bring the system up to full capacity. Certainly a key component of this system is a more rigorous testing regimen, as stressed in the latest Director of Operational Test & Evaluation (DOT&E) annual report. Additional successful testing will continue to validate this system to the nation and the new administration. Launches for the tests currently originate from the Kodiak Launch Complex in Kodiak, Alaska, which is ideally suited for such testing and ready to execute additional tests.

At this time, we see absolutely no justification for reductions to the GMD System or slowing its implementation. To the contrary, the threats from North Korea and Iran only serve to emphasize the vital role this system should play in the defense of our nation and our state.

SECDEF	DEPSECDEF	SPLASST	EXECSEC	USDP
USDI	ESD	CCD	CBLC	FILE

LA/

OSD 01343-09

Should the Department of Defense consider any adjustments to this system, we ask that you notify us as soon as possible so that we may discuss the justification with you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Mark Begich
United States Senator

Don Young
Congressman for All Alaska

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is in further regard to my letter of February 2, 2009 concerning the travel plans of Senator Joseph I. Lieberman and his staff members, Vance Serchuck and Christopher Griffin, during the period February 14-22.

Please be advised that Senator Lieberman has added Jordan (from February 18-19) to his itinerary.

I would appreciate your continued support and assistance in connection with this travel.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01434-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE

RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is in further regard to my letters of February 2, 3 and 5, 2009 concerning the travel plans of Senator Joseph I. Lieberman and his staff members, Vance Serchuck and Christopher Griffin, during the period February 14-22, 2009.

Please be advised that Senator Lieberman will now be returning on February 23 vice February 22. In addition, Mrs. Hadassah Lieberman will now be accompanying the Senator for protocol purposes and at no expense to the U.S. Government. In addition, Senator Lieberman, Mrs. Lieberman and Senator Lieberman's two staff members, Vance Serchuk and Christopher Griffin, will now be traveling from Egypt to Israel via military air because no commercial flights are available.

I would appreciate your continued support and assistance in connection with this travel.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01435-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 4, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for the following Committee on Armed Services staff members to travel via government vehicle to Charlottesville, Virginia from February 19-20, 2009:

Richard D. DeBobes, Staff Director
Pablo E. Carrillo, Minority Investigative Counsel
Ilona R. Cohen, Counsel
Madelyn R. Creedon, Counsel
Jonathan D. Clark, Counsel
Gabriella Eisen, Counsel
Mark R. Jacobson, Professional Staff Member
Gary Leeling, Counsel
Peter K. Levine, General Counsel
William G.P. Monahan, Counsel
David M. Morriss, Minority Counsel
Russell L. Shaffer, Counsel
Richard F. Walsh, Minority Counsel

The purpose of their trip will be to attend the 2009 Congressional Staff Legal Orientation Course at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate Legal Center and School. It is requested that the Department of the Army be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01440-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 4, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 370, to prohibit the use of funds to transfer detainees of the United States at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to any facility in the United States or to construct any facility for such detainees in the United States, and for other purposes. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 01441-09

DANIEL K. AKAKA, HAWAII, CHAIRMAN
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV, WEST VIRGINIA
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT
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WILLIAM E. BREW, STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

RICHARD M. BURR, NORTH CAROLINA, RANKING MEMBER
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
JOHNNY ISAKSON, GEORGIA
ROGER F. WICKER, MISSISSIPPI
MIKE JOHANNS, NEBRASKA
LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA

LUPE WISSEL, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

February 10, 2009

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

Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave.
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Gates and Secretary Shinseki,

We are writing to request that you convene the DoD/VA Senior Oversight Committee (SOC), because we are very concerned about the recent reports of increased suicides among active duty servicemembers. Between 1995 and 2007, there have been over 2,200 suicides among active duty servicemembers.

Such loss is unacceptable if there is any measure that can be taken to reduce it. We request that you meet as soon as possible to ensure that both the resources of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs are brought to bear on this problem. The SOC should move immediately to determine whether deficiencies exist in the way potential military personnel are screened, or in the diagnosis or treatment of active duty servicemembers who are suffering from psychological problems.

We believe that convening the SOC to look specifically at suicide prevention is a first and necessary step in a coordinated effort.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Akaka
Chairman

Richard M. Burr
Ranking Member

OSD 01487-09

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

United States Senate

Senator Tom Coburn, MD
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 172
Washington, DC 20510-3604
Phone: 202-224-5754
Fax: 202-224-6008

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE LAW

February 13, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1300

Secretary Gates,

I am writing to you in regards to the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) Program Integrity (PI) Office, which is responsible for all anti-fraud activities worldwide for the Defense Health Program. I want to congratulate the agency for identifying over $50 million in TRICARE funds for recovery in 2006 and 2007.

In order to ensure the most judicious use of anti-fraud and anti-waste funds, I am contacting you with concerns about the biennial conference that the TMA Program Integrity Office holds to educate employees, providers, and contractors on fraud, waste, abuse detection and investigation. According to Federal Business Opportunities solicitation number H94002-09-Q-0006 posted February 3, 2009, the conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee at the Opryland Hotel from April 28 to May 1, 2009.

Please provide answers to the following questions:

- What is the estimated total cost of this year's fraud, waste, and abuse conference? Please list individual estimates for airfare, hotel, per diem, audio/visual support, and conference space leasing.
- How many government workers and contractors are planning to attend this year's conference?
- What is the budget for the Office of Program Integrity? Does funding for this conference come out of its budget? If not, what budget authority appropriates these funds?
- Has anyone conducted an analysis of alternative methods of conveying this information such as videoteleconferences or site visits by the Office of Program Integrity?
- How much training do TRICARE Management Agency employees receive outside of conferences such as this?
- What is the annual salary of the average investigator at the Office of Program Integrity?

3310 MID-CONTINENT TOWER
401 SOUTH BOSTON
TULSA, OK 74103-4007
PHONE: 918-581-7651

100 NORTH BROADWAY
SUITE 1820
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102
PHONE: 405-231-4941

www.coburn.senate.gov

711 SW D AVENUE
SUITE 202
LAWTON, OK 73501
PHONE: 580-357-9878

OSD 01544-09

Additionally, please send a copy of the 2003, 2005, and 2007 conference itineraries along with their estimated costs. Thank you for your attention to this request and for your efforts to combat fraud, waste and abuse at the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

Tom A. Coburn, M.D.
United States Senator

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 13, 2009

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

Re: Domestic Source Restrictions

Dear Secretary Gates:

I have advocated for full and open competition in the defense industrial base for Department of Defense development and procurement programs, and maintain that statutory limits on competition produce suboptimal acquisition outcomes for the warfighter and taxpayer. I am aware that the Department has authorities to internally impose restrictions on competition, in the interest of national security.

Please provide me with the Department's general position on statutory domestic source restrictions and briefly detail what authorities the Department has to impose agency-wide domestic source restrictions.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John McCain
United States Senator

CC: Mr. Gary Powell, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Industrial Policy (Acting)

OSD 01553-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for two Armed Services Committee Professional Staff Members, Richard W. Fieldhouse and Dana W. White, to travel by commercial aircraft to Dayton, Ohio during the period February 19-20, 2009.

The purpose of their trip will be to visit the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) at Wright-Patterson AFB in order to receive intelligence briefings on ballistic missile threats and developments and to discuss related matters with NASIC analysts. It is requested that the Department of the Air Force be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01554-09

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD
WISCONSIN

506 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5323
(202) 224-1280 (TDD)
feingold.senate.gov

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

February 13, 2009

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

For many years I have been deeply concerned about the ongoing crisis in Somalia and the potential for greater instability in the Horn of Africa, as well as the threat this situation poses to our national security. Over the last three years, I have consistently called on the executive branch to develop a comprehensive interagency strategy toward Somalia. In 2006, I wrote legislation, passed by Congress, requiring the administration to develop such a strategy. However, despite these efforts, the previous administration maintained a disjointed and short-sighted approach toward Somalia that was counterproductive and led to increased anti-Americanism in the region. As a result, the situation in Somalia has deteriorated, undermining our national security goals, including counterterrorism.

I was pleased to hear from Secretary Clinton and Ambassador Rice at their respective confirmation hearings that they understand the strategic importance of Somalia and that your administration is committed to developing a comprehensive strategy to address this crisis. I look forward to working with the State Department in this regard. Just as important, however, is the integration of all our national security resources, including those of the Department of Defense and the Intelligence Community, into one coherent strategy. Unfortunately, while the legislation passed by Congress requires an annual interagency strategy, the reports provided to Congress by the Bush Administration addressed only diplomatic activity.

In response, I sent a classified letter raising numerous questions about interagency coordination and strategy and requesting that these issues be included in classified annexes to the congressionally required report. The Bush Administration responded only by offering disjointed and incomplete briefings. As you seek a new and more effective way forward, I urge you to bring together all elements of the U.S. government in one coherent strategy and to do so in close coordination with Congress. In that respect, I look forward to working with you on the classified, as well as unclassified, elements of a comprehensive strategy toward Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

○ 1600 ASPEN COMMONS
ROOM 100
MIDDLETON, WI 53562
(608) 828-1200
(608) 828-1215 (TDD)

○ 517 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE
ROOM 408
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
(414) 276-7282

○ 401 5TH STREET
ROOM 410
WAUSAU, WI 54403
(715) 848-5660

○ 425 STATE STREET
ROOM 225
LA CROSSE, WI 54601
(608) 782-5585

○ 1540 MAIN STREET
GREEN BAY, WI 54302
(920) 465-7508

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OSD 01575-09

The need to develop and implement a new approach is urgent. The successful election of a new president by the Transitional Federal Government parliament is a major step forward for the Djibouti process and presents a significant opportunity. I believe expanded U.S. support for this process must be a central component of our strategy, and there exists a window during which high-level, sustained U.S. engagement could help Somalia overcome the many challenges to peace and stability.

I met President Sheik Sharif during my visit to the region in December and he expressed his commitment to an inclusive process to unite Somalia. Encouraging and helping him to deliver on that expressed commitment will be crucial if the process is to effectively translate into security on the ground and lead to the development of a functional government and the rule of law. As you well know, past attempts to form a unity government have failed because they were perceived—whether accurately or not—as favoring one clan or political constituency over others.

Finally, if we are to support the Djibouti process and pursue an effective overall strategy, it is essential that we deal directly with our credibility deficit in Somalia. The previous administration's approach has spurred widespread public resentment and mistrust toward the United States, which has led to increased suspicion about U.S. intentions. This mistrust undermines our ability to engage constructively with different parties. During the first months of your administration, I believe you have a unique opportunity to change this perception. To that end, I urge you to consider making a public, unequivocal statement that you intend to make a clear break from past policies toward Somalia. I believe doing so could make a tremendous impression on ordinary Somalis and greatly advance U.S. public diplomacy efforts in the Horn of Africa and across the Muslim world.

I appreciate your consideration of these suggestions and more importantly, your administration's commitment to address the ongoing crisis in Somalia. I look forward to working together to develop and pursue a comprehensive interagency strategy that brings stability to the region and advances U.S. long-term security interests.

Sincerely,

Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Dennis Blair
Director of National Intelligence

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 6, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 390, S. 390, to expand the authority of the Secretary of the Air Force to convey certain relocatable military housing units to Indian tribes located in Idaho and Nevada. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 01610-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT
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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Mel Martinez plans to travel to Belgium during the period March 20-22, 2009. Mrs. Kitty Martinez will accompany Senator Martinez for protocol purposes and at no expense to the U.S. Government. Senator Martinez will be accompanied by Tom Weinberg, his personal staffer who has been designated to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Air Force could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01652-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Dana W. White, Professional Staff Member on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to travel via commercial aircraft to Kings Bay, Georgia on February 19, 2009.

The purpose of her trip will be to visit Kings Bay in order to tour and receive briefings on the Trident submarine and refurbishing of the DG-5. It is requested that the Department of the Navy be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01717-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
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MEL MARTINEZ, FLORIDA
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RICHARD BURR, NORTH CAROLINA
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA
SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE

RICHARD D. DEBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Arun A. Seraphin, Professional Staff Member on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to travel via commercial aircraft Michigan on February 19-20, 2009.

The purpose of his trip will be to visit the Army Armaments Research and Engineering Center (ARDEC) in Warren, Michigan to receive briefings on Army armaments research programs. It is requested that the Department of the Army be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01795-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Arun A. Seraphin and Michael J. Noblet, Professional Staff Members on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to travel via commercial aircraft Michigan on February 17, 2009.

The purpose of their trip will be to visit the Army Tank-Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) in Warren, Michigan to receive briefings on Army vehicle and energy research programs. It is requested that the Department of the Army be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01797-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Arun A. Seraphin, Professional Staff Member on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to travel via commercial aircraft Michigan during the period February 16-17, 2009.

The purpose of his trip will be to visit the Army Tank-Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) in Warren, Michigan to receive briefings on Army vehicle and energy research programs. It is requested that the Department of the Army be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01798-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Lucian L. Niemeyer, Professional Staff Member on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to travel via commercial aircraft Georgia during the period February 16-20, 2009.

The purpose of his trip will be to visit Forts McPherson, Stewart and Gordon in Georgia to review installation requirements, BRAC implementation efforts, and to receive briefings on local readiness issues. It is requested that the Department of the Army be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01800-09

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SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE

RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Arun A. Seraphin, Professional Staff Member on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to travel via commercial aircraft New Jersey on February 19-20, 2009.

The purpose of his trip will be to visit the Army Armaments Research and Engineering Center (ARDEC) in Picatinny, New Jersey to receive briefings on Army armaments research programs. It is requested that the Department of the Army be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 01801-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On February 13, 2009, I wrote the attached letter to you regarding the travel plans of Arun A. Seraphin, Professional Staff Member on the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Please be advised that the dates of travel have changed to February 18-19, 2009.

Your continued assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosure

OSD 01802-09

BERNARD SANDERS
SENATOR

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 23, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We urge you to implement an important program that addresses a critical health need for our nation's military personnel and their families. The Department of Defense (DOD) should conform to the intent of Congress and establish a comprehensive smoking cessation benefit program.

Development and implementation of a comprehensive smoking cessation program was mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 (PL-110-417). As our nation works to improve preventive medicine, we must ensure that members of our military and their families are afforded the best care available. As enacted, last year's defense bill stipulates that the DOD establish a smoking cessation program to include counseling, written educational materials about the adverse effects of tobacco use, a toll-free 24 hour "quit" hotline, and access to tobacco replacement therapy and other pharmaceuticals at no cost. The law also required the Department of Defense to submit to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees a plan within 90 days of enactment, and to implement that plan within 180 days. Although the 90-day planning period expired on January 14, 2009, no such implementation plan has been submitted.

Tobacco use is the foremost preventable cause of premature death in America. It causes more than 400,000 deaths in the United States each year and approximately 8.6 million Americans have chronic illnesses related to smoking. The financial cost of tobacco use is tremendous; total public and private health care expenditures caused by smoking amount to $96.7 billion annually. Furthermore, there is a significant payoff for addressing this health crisis early in people's lives. Quitting by the age of 30 eliminates virtually all risks associated with smoking. Smokers who quit before the age of 50 can cut in half their risk of dying from smoking related illnesses over the ensuing 15 years.

The Department of Defense has operated a successful smoking cessation pilot program in several states since 2006. Unfortunately, the majority of our military personnel and their families, including those who are stationed overseas are currently excluded from these opportunities.

We ask that you exert your personal leadership to swiftly provide a comprehensive smoking cessation program to all military personnel and Tricare participants. This

OSD 01896-09

program should also be fully funded and adequately staffed. DOD can achieve long-term savings through preventive health measures like smoking cessation programs. More important, we can seize the opportunity to improve the quality of life for our service members, who so faithfully serve our nation, and their families.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please consider Peter Tyler (Senator Sanders, 224-5141) as the staff contact.

Sincerely,

BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator

TOM HARKIN
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to request that you promptly and fully distribute authorized compensation to members of our Armed Forces whose service has been extended by the Department of Defense's stop loss policy.

Over the past seven years, over 160,000 military personnel have had their service-duty contracts extended due to stop loss orders. Today, there are over 12,000 soldiers in the active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard who remain on active duty beyond their scheduled separation date as a result of stop loss. This policy especially impacts the National Guard and Reservists, many of whom have already been deployed much longer than they expected. This is why we introduced legislation in the 110th Congress to provide payments to service members for each month they are extended as a result of stop loss.

On September 30, 2008, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 was signed into law (P.L. 110-329). The bill provided that all military personnel that have had their service duty contracts involuntarily extended due to stop loss orders, during Fiscal Year 2009 will receive compensation. The bill also allocated $72 million for the compensation, thus providing enough to compensate each soldier with the full $500 amount.

It has been nearly five months since the bill was signed into law and stop loss compensation payments have yet to be distributed. We urge you to work with the House and Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittees to develop a thorough and appropriate disbursement plan as quickly as possible to fulfill the Department's obligations under P.L. 110-329. Our soldiers are heroically and bravely defending our country abroad, and they are awaiting the much-deserved recognition and compensation for the unforeseen sacrifice so many have been called on to perform.

Thank you for your prompt attention and your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Betty Sutton
Betty Sutton

Frank R. Lautenberg
Frank Lautenberg

OSD 01931-09

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD
WISCONSIN

506 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5323
(202) 224-1280 (TDD)
feingold.senate.gov

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

FEB 20 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

Thank you for your efforts to prevent suicide and to reduce the stigma associated with mental health concerns among those who serve our nation in uniform. I write to express my concern about the record high rate of suicides among soldiers, and to ask that you reconsider the Department's policy of deploying those with mental health concerns, including PTSD, to war zones and to treat these concerns in theater rather than redeploying those struggling with these issues.

I would appreciate it if you could inform me about any plans the Department has to respond to the record high rate of suicides among soldiers. Furthermore, I would like to know how the Department has factored the issue of high rates of mental health concerns, including PTSD, into its deployment plans. As the Department prepares plans to redeploy from Iraq and increase the number of troops in Afghanistan, I urge you to take into consideration the Army and Marine Corps studies which have found that repeat deployments increase the rate of mental health problems among service members.

Mental health professionals who serve in the VA system in the state of Wisconsin have told me of their concern about the repeat deployments of those struggling with PTSD and I continue to hear from service members who do not feel that the advice of their doctors is taken seriously by their commanders. I urge you to consider a more aggressive policy of identifying those with severe mental health concerns who should not be deployed or should be redeployed. Please consider requiring a physician's certification before deploying any service member that deployment will not exacerbate the mental health concerns of any service member who has screened positive for PTSD or any other mental health concern during a post-deployment health screening or similar exam. We cannot bring down the suicide rate if we do not address this underlying issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator

OSD 01985-09

○ 1600 ASPEN COMMONS
ROOM 100
MIDDLETON, WI 53562
(608) 828-1200
(608) 828-1215 (TDD)

○ 517 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE
ROOM 408
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
(414) 276-7282

○ 401 5TH STREET
ROOM 410
WAUSAU, WI 54403
(715) 848-5660

○ 425 STATE STREET
ROOM 225
LA CROSSE, WI 54601
(608) 782-5585

○ 1640 MAIN STREET
GREEN BAY, WI 54302
(920) 465-7508

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Recent press reports suggest that the Administration is contemplating a nearly 20-percent reduction in funding for the Missile Defense Agency in Fiscal Year 2010. While I realize the competition for funding among defense programs will be intense, I respectfully caution the Department that it would be imprudent to take any premature action with respect to missile defense before the completion of important policy reviews, such as the Nuclear Posture Review, the Quadrennial Defense Review, and the review of ballistic missile defense policy and strategy mandated by Section 234 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417). To precipitously reduce funding for missile defense by some $2.0 billion, as reported, would prejudge the outcome of these important reviews.

In the course of making a case for reduced spending on missile defense, some of my colleagues have argued for greater focus on theater missile defense systems, such as Aegis BMD, THAAD, and PAC-3. While I concur with the need to field these capabilities in numbers sufficient to counter the growing threat, I would caution the administration against increased funding for these programs at the expense of the defense of United States territory and population. Section 223 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364), explicitly states that priority should be given to the ground-based midcourse defense (GMD) system in addition to the aforementioned theater missile defense systems.

The GMD program is modest in scope -- only 44 ground-based interceptor missiles fielded in Alaska and California. Nearly sixty percent of the interceptors have been fielded with the remaining under contract. Therefore, I believe it would be extremely unwise not to field the remaining interceptors, so critical to our nation's safety and security, by the 2013 schedule that was approved by the Congress. Moreover, it is the only defensive system we will have in place over the next 10 to 15 years to provide a measure of protection for the American people against long-range threats from North Korea and Iran. There is no back-up system. As such, we must complete the planned fielding, continue to test and improve the system over time, and explore enabling technology that will increase the cost-effectiveness of the GMD system against future, uncertain threats. I strongly believe that any funding reductions that would jeopardize these objectives would be met with strong opposition.

With respect to the defense of our NATO allies, may I also bring to your attention Section 229 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181), which established the "policy of the United States to develop, test, and deploy as soon as technologically feasible, in conjunction with allies and friendly countries whenever possible, an effective defense against the

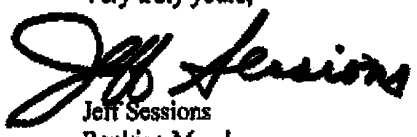
OSD 01988-09

[ballistic missile] threat from Iran" to the United States and its NATO allies. On 3 April 2008, the Heads of States and Governments participating in the North Atlantic Council in Bucharest, Romania issued a declaration in support of the deployment of a missile defense capability in Europe. The declaration stated, "We therefore recognise the substantial contribution to the protection of Allies from long-range ballistic missiles to be provided by the planned deployment of European-based United States missile defence assets." As such, I would caution the Administration against making any decisions that might negatively impact the existing missile defense agreements between the United States and its European allies until the matter has been fully vetted and the views of our European allies taken into account.

I believe funding for our missile defense programs enjoys near-consensus in Congress, especially within the defense committees. Over the last two years, for example, the net reduction to the president's request for missile defense programs was approximately 3-percent, which is an indication that we have moved beyond the politics of missile defense. A 20-percent reduction, as reported in the press, however would again politicize missile defense at a time when our missile defense capabilities are coming on line.

In closing, I would note that earlier this month Iran successfully launched a satellite into space. Additionally, we continue to read press reports that North Korea is making preparations for a similar launch this week. Given those actions and the threat they represent, it is disturbing that the Administration would contemplate significant reductions to our missile defense programs at the very time our potential adversaries are demonstrating the ability to reach U.S. territory and that of our allies with ballistic missiles. The American people, I am sure, will draw their own conclusions.

Very truly yours,



Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Committee on Armed Services

cc: Honorable Peter R. Orszag, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Honorable John Young, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
Honorable Michelle Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
General James Cartwright, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
General Kevin Chilton, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command
Lieutenant General Patrick O'Reilly, Director, Missile Defense Agency

JOHN CORNYN
TEXAS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4305

February 4, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write you in support of (b)(6) nomination to receive the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. I recently learned of (b)(6) nomination through Brigadier General (Retired) (b)(6) and I am confident that she is worthy of this award.

(b)(6) has spent more than thirty years supporting the United States Army and Air Force in San Antonio and throughout Texas. During this time she generously volunteered both physically and financially, to Fort Sam Houston, Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases, Brook Army Medical Center, the U.S. Army All American Bowl, innumerable Wounded Warrior events, and United Service Organizations (USO), as well as countless other military organizations and alliances in the San Antonio area. After reviewing (b)(6) impressive contributions to service members and their families, I believe her work merits this prestigious award.

I encourage you to give (b)(6) nomination every possible consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact Paul Taylor, of my staff, if I may be of further assistance at 202–224–2430.

Sincerely,

John Cornyn

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

OSD 01991-09

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–2101

February 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I'm writing to request your support for the continued development and procurement of the Joint Strike Fighter Alternate engine by including it in your Defense Budget submission for Fiscal Year 2010.

To do so would be in compliance with existing law and in keeping with the clear justification provided by Congress. As you know, Congress has supported the development and procurement of an alternative propulsion system for the Joint Strike Fighter for over a decade. It's my belief that such a competition is essential to obtaining these systems at the lowest possible price, and that this competition will likely lead to increased performance and overall savings throughout the life cycle of the program.

To date, the Alternate Fighter Engine Team has performed admirably, as demonstrated by the "exceptional" award fee ratings it has consistently received. It remains on budget and on schedule, which is a significant accomplishment when compared to other major development programs in the Department.

Much of the development is now complete. Less than 30% of the overall development costs for the engine will remain after this year, and production funding has already been appropriated to enable deliveries to be made in Fiscal Year 2012.

I hope very much that the Department will continue to fund the development and procurement of the Alternative engine for the Joint Strike Fighter in Fiscal Year 2010.

Sincerely,

Ted Kennedy

Edward M. Kennedy
U.S. Senator

OSD 01993-09

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Arun A. Seraphin and Paul C. Hutton IV, Professional Staff Members on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to travel via military van to Dahlgren, Virginia on February 27, 2009.

The purpose of their trip will be to visit NAVSEA Dahlgren in order to receive briefings and view demonstrations of Navy applied research activities. It is requested that the Department of the Navy be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 02033-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator James M. Inhofe plans to travel to Germany, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Liberia and Morocco during the period April 3-11, 2009. Senator Inhofe will be accompanied his wife, Mrs. Kay Inhofe, for protocol purposes and at no expense to the government. Senator Inhofe will also be accompanied by Anthony Lazarski, Mark Powers, and Ryan Thompson, his personal staff members who have been designated to the Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Air Force could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 02045-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 454, Weapons Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, to improve the organization and procedures of the Department of Defense for the acquisition of major weapon systems, and for other purposes. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02046-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

February 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 459, to improve and enhance substance use disorder programs for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02047-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 26, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 476, Care Affordability for Military Families Act, to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the minimum distance of travel necessary for reimbursement of covered beneficiaries of the military health care system for travel for specialty health care. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02168-09

MARK BEGICH
ALASKA

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HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3004

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 19, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am very pleased to see the great outcome for the Department of Defense in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

In total, the Department of Defense has $12 billion in funding allocated to various programs, with $2.5 billion specifically allocated to defense-wide programs. I am anxious to see this money moved into the system to begin to stimulate the economy while fulfilling many of the requirements for the Department of Defense.

I would appreciate if you would provide me a prioritized list of projects the Department of Defense plans to fulfill using the $2.5 billion in defense-wide allocated funding. In particular, I would like to see what impacts this money will have on installations or projects in Alaska.

I look forward to your response while we begin to make a difference in our economy and the future of the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

Mark Begich
U.S. Senator

OSD 02196-09

DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

DPC

BYRON L. DORGAN
CHAIRMAN

February 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

It is my pleasure to invite you to speak to the Senate Democratic Caucus at our annual weekend issues conference, which will be held the weekend of May 1, 2009 in Bedford Springs, Pennsylvania.

This is the one time each year that Senate Democrats meet outside of Washington to brainstorm and strategize on the most pressing challenges facing our nation. Our Caucus is very interested to hear your strategies for addressing the multiple national security challenges facing the United States.

My staff will work with your office to schedule a time for you to speak, either on Friday afternoon, May 1 or Saturday morning, May 2. President Obama has confirmed his attendance at the conference.

I know my colleagues will be thrilled if you are able to join us. Please let me know whether you will be able to attend, or have your staff contact Chuck Cooper at the Democratic Policy Committee at (202) 224-4637.

Sincerely,

Byron L. Dorgan
Chairman

OSD 02198-09

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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

February 28, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 504, to redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02240-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On February 13, 2009 I wrote the attached letter to you regarding the travel plans of Senator Mel Martinez and his staffer, Tom Weinberg, during the period March 20-22, 2009.

This letter is to advise that Mr. Weinberg will no longer be accompanying Senator Martinez on this trip. Mr. Dan Fisk, Senator Martinez's staffer who has been designated to the Committee on Armed Services, will now be travelling with Senator Martinez.

I would appreciate your continued support and assistance in connection with this travel.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02241-09

E. BENJAMIN NELSON
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United States Senate

March 4, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As we face a rapidly deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan and the region, I commend the Administration for shifting our focus to that country and working to develop a strategy to ensure the security of the nation. Unfortunately, a greater commitment in Afghanistan will require further sacrifice from our country and our men and women in uniform. As such, it is our responsibility to ensure that the American people are given a clear objective for the mission in Afghanistan, one which contemplates defense, diplomacy and development.

As the deployments of additional troops are ordered to Afghanistan, I urge you not to forget recent history and the difficult lessons learned from the war in Iraq. For too long, our standards to measure success there were vaguely defined.

For just that reason, I had pushed for the establishment of 18 benchmarks for America's mission in Iraq to measure political, economic and military progress. These benchmarks were included in the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, P.L. 110-28. Likewise, I believe our mission in Afghanistan calls for a system which will allow us to objectively gauge our success both militarily and politically. The establishment of a clear objective in Afghanistan and the creation of a metric system to track the progress of all mission-critical elements will demonstrate to the American people what we hope to accomplish in Afghanistan and how we will achieve those goals.

I applaud the commitment to developing a strategic plan in Afghanistan, one which combines military action with a cohesive and strong diplomatic engagement; and I respectfully urge the Administration to develop a series of benchmarks to assess the military and political progress in Afghanistan. I believe we have an obligation to our servicemembers to ensure that their sacrifice is met with a clear objective and a means to measure success.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

OSD 02298-09

EBN:ajp

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7602 PACIFIC STREET
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Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, *Maryland*
Chairman

Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, *Florida*
Co-Chairman

March 4, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express the most steadfast support for Dr. Solomon Passy's nomination for Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). His record of leadership and vision distinguish his nomination.

The challenge of seeking collaboration among nations through international organizations is not new to Dr. Passy. As a former Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and most recently as chairman of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Transparency and Accountability Committee, Dr. Passy has a unique understanding of the complexity of seeking consensus among nations with diverse political, economic and social realities. Facilitating cooperation, Dr. Passy played a key role in the OSCE's outreach to Mediterranean states; support to elections in Afghanistan; support to pivotal elections in Ukraine and Georgia; and engendered a renewed commitment to supporting tolerance, education, good governance, and private enterprise by OSCE participating States. As a Commissioner on the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe since 1993 and the current Vice President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I can attest personally to the legacy of Dr. Passy's leadership.

Moreover, Dr. Passy recognizes that security institutions must adapt to amorphous and asymmetrical threats such as counterinsurgency, terrorism, various forms of trafficking, and piracy. He has long recognized that these threats cannot be countered unless the "security needs of the individual citizen" are addressed. This accounted for his strong support for development of democratic institutions and functioning market economies during his tenure as Chairman-in-Office. The challenges that NATO faces today requires the vision of a person who realizes that military strength is but one component of a strategy to provide genuine security. As NATO seeks to leverage resources in a stabilization and reconstruction capacity in states like Afghanistan, Dr. Passy is the ideal choice for Secretary General.

OSD 02300-09

234 Ford House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
Telephone: (202) 225-1901 http://www.csce.gov Facsimile: (202) 226-4199

Dr. Passy's achievements in his home country as a Member of Parliament and Minister of Foreign Affairs cannot be overlooked. He has led efforts to improve military and foreign policy oversight. He has increased military cooperation of South-Eastern Europe through the creation of the South-Eastern European Brigade. Additionally, while simultaneously balancing Bulgaria's and Europe's security interests, he has carefully reached out to nations such as Libya and North Korea. This outreach resulted in the release of Bulgarian Medics detained in Libya in 2001. Most notably, Dr. Passy was influential in Bulgaria's accession to NATO both by actions within the government and by promoting public support outside the government.

Dr. Passy has a unique combination of experience and vision. Dr. Passy's leadership will immediately be felt on issues such as collective procurement of expensive military systems, integration of non-NATO militaries into missions, improving the deployment capabilities of NATO militaries, and the relationship with Russia. This is so because he has spent his diplomatic career bringing once divided people in Europe together to achieve common goals.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin, U.S.S
Chairman

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Last October the United States Congress passed, and President Bush signed into law, the Code Talkers Recognition Act, Public Law 110-420. Senator Inhofe and I were the lead sponsors of this bill in our respective legislative bodies. The purpose of this act is to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to a select group of Native Americans for their heroic service in World War I or World War II.

Found within the legislation is a directive asking the Defense Department, along with the Treasury Department, to help fully indentify all individuals who are deserving of this award.

Section 5, subparagraph (b) states:

The Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the tribes, shall:

(1) Determine the identity, to the maximum extent practicable, of each Native American Tribe that had a member of that tribe serve as a Native American Code Talker, with the exception of the Navajo Tribe.
(2) Include the name of each Native American tribe identified under subparagraph (a) on a list
(3) Provide the list, and any updates to the list to the Smithsonian Institution for maintenance

Over the last few months our offices have held meetings with officials from the Department of Defense and the Department of the Treasury in an attempt to move this process forward. After speaking with all the parties involved, it is our understanding that the Office of the Army Historian or some other archival department within the Department of Defense has a tentative list of individuals who would be deemed "Code Talkers" within the definitions of the recently passed legislation.

I am writing to ask you to expedite this identification process so that the United States Congress can move forward in honoring these brave soldiers. I will enclose a copy of the public law pertinent to this request for your review. If you have any questions about our expedited request, feel free to contact Tom Wharton (226-2275/Boren) or Clark Peterson (224-4721/Inhofe).

Sincerely,

James Inhofe
United States Senator

Sincerely,

Dan Boren
Member of the House of Representatives

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OSD 02352-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary
The Department of Defense
1100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1100

Dear Deputy Secretary Lynn:

Recently, we were informed that the Department of Defense is considering postponing again the acquisition of a new Air Force aerial refueling tanker. As the co-Chairmen of the Senate Tanker Caucus, we believe that any additional postponement of the tanker re-capitalization program will have a serious and unnecessary adverse effect on our service members' ability to carry out the National Military Strategy. Accordingly, we recommend that the Department recommence the aerial refueling tanker competition on an expedited basis.

As you know, the Senate Tanker Caucus is a bipartisan organization whose purpose is to assist the Department in efficiently procuring whichever aircraft best meets the requirements of our National Military Strategy and provides the best value to the taxpayer. The Caucus has not, and will not, take a position supporting any particular bidder in the competition for procurement of a replacement tanker. However, the failure of recent efforts to procure a new tanker has been disconcerting to members of the Caucus.

The ability of our nation to continue to project aerial power worldwide depends on our tanker fleet. The backbone of this fleet is the KC-135, which is rapidly approaching its 50th year in service. As I am sure you agree, continuing to rely upon these aircraft for decades to come poses an unacceptable risk not only to our nation's unique global reach capability, but to our most valuable asset, our men and women in uniform.

Therefore, we respectfully recommend that the Department resume the competition to select a new aerial refueling tanker as soon as possible. We also request that our respective staffs be briefed, in a timely manner, on the Department's plans.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kent Conrad
United States Senator

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

OSD 02620-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 11, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lynn:

Earlier this month, the Armed Services Committee was informed of a proposed reorganization of the office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD/P). The proposed reorganization would establish two new Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense (DUSDs), each at a level that appears to be equivalent in authority and control to the existing Assistant Secretaries of Defense (ASDs). While ASD positions are authorized by statute, limited in number, and subject to Senate confirmation, the Department can apparently establish the DUSD positions without statutory authorization, without limitation, and without Senate confirmation.

This proposed reorganization raises broader questions about the number and status of DUSDs in the Department. For example, it appears that there are currently at least ten DUSD positions under the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD/AT&L). Of these ten DUSD positions, two were established by statute and the other eight (including the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense position) appear to have been established unilaterally by the Department. Moreover, the office's organization chart shows multiple layers of DUSDs reporting to each other. For example:

- The DUSD for Industrial Policy reports to the DUSD for Acquisition and Technology (a statutory position), who reports to the Principal DUSD.
- The DUSD for Advanced Systems and Concepts, the DUSD for Laboratories & Basic Sciences, the DUSD for International Technology Security, and the DUSD for Science and Technology all report to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering (a statutory position, but not a DUSD), who reports to the Principal DUSD.

OSD 02632-09

I am concerned that the proliferation of DUSDs at multiple levels of the organization could muddy lines of authority and may not be in the best interests of the Department of Defense. Accordingly, I would appreciate if you would provide me with the following information:

- How many DUSDs are there in the Department of Defense?
- How many DUSDs are statutory positions and how many are not?
- How many DUSDs are Senate-confirmable and how many are not?
- What is the relative rank of a DUSD and an ASD?
- Are all DUSDs of equal rank? If not, how is the rank of a DUSD determined?
- What is the authority for establishing the position of "Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense," to whom other DUSDs (and ASDs) report?

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Secretary Gates,

The Pennsylvania Delegation is writing to you on a matter of great urgency. We understand that the Air Force plans to begin the redistribution of A-10 aircraft from the 111th Fighter Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard, as early as April 2009 and that 11 of the unit's assigned aircraft are scheduled to be moved in the next few months. The remaining 6 A-10s assigned to the 111th are to be moved next year.

We strongly believe that taking A-10s from the 111th Fighter Wing is premature and ill-advised. There is no requirement to move these aircraft at this time. Although the BRAC Commission's Report directed redistribution of the 111th's A-10s, it did not require that it be done on any particular timetable. What's more, the BRAC Commission directed that the Air Force should maintain the end strength of the 111th Fighter Wing, but the loss of the unit's flying mission will result in loss of up to 80 full-time jobs and 140 military positions. Finally, the pending action completely overlooks the BRAC Commission's finding that strongly encouraged the Air Force to keep A-10s at the 111th Fighter Wing.

Taking A-10s from the 111th Fighter Wing is a serious mistake. The original recommendation to redistribute the unit's mission aircraft was based largely on the assumption that the airfield at Willow Grove would not be in operation after the Navy leaves the installation in 2011. However, legislation passed by Congress in 2007 and 2008 provided for the establishment of a joint interagency installation under state jurisdiction and control at Willow Grove. This installation will continue to include an operational airfield to be used by the Pennsylvania National Guard, other military units, other government agencies and associated users to support national defense, homeland security and emergency preparedness missions.

It makes no sense to strip this unit of its aircraft and reduce its capabilities at a time when our Nation and our Commonwealth need them most. There are sufficient A-10 aircraft in the Air Force inventory to keep all 17 mission aircraft at the 111th Fighter Wing. The 111th has the well-trained, combat-experienced aircrews and maintenance/support personnel to continue to operate the A-10s in a cost effective manner. The new joint interagency installation offers the airfield and support facilities for the 111th Fighter Wing to continue flying without major capital investments.

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OSD 02635-09

We are asking that you issue an order delaying the start of the movement of A-10s from the 111th Fighter Wing. This action will give the Air Force the opportunity to reassess the capabilities of the Horsham Joint Interagency Installation and to consider alternative future flying missions for this unit. This action will preserve the capabilities of this unit to support military operations and will leverage the tremendous skills and experience of the unit's aircrews and maintainers. Failure to act will further erode the ability of this unit and the Air Force to carry out the close air support and related missions that the men and women of the 111th Fighter Wing have performed with great distinction for many years.

Due to the urgent nature of this situation, the Pennsylvania Delegation respectfully requests that you respond to our concerns within the next two weeks. We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to receiving your views. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Senator Arlen Specter

Senator Robert Casey

Rep. Allyson Y. Schwartz

Rep. Patrick Murphy

Rep. John Murtha

Rep. Jim Gerlach

Rep. Robert Brady

Rep. Chaka Fattah

Rep. Bill Shuster

Rep. Paul Kanjorski

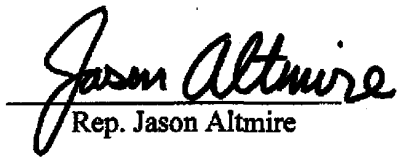
Rep. Charles Dent

Rep. Mike Doyle

Rep. Joe Pitts

Rep. Todd Platts

Rep. Glenn Thompson

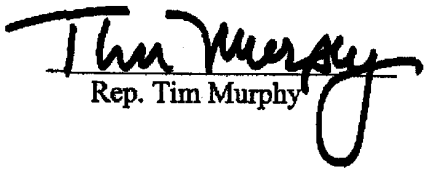

Rep. Jason Altmire

Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper

Rep. Chris Carney

Rep. Joe Sestak

Rep. Tim Holden


Rep. Tim Murphy

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 6, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lynn:

Last week, we introduced S. 454, the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, in an effort to address some of the problems that have led to massive cost overruns and schedule delays on some of our largest defense acquisition programs. At the White House on Wednesday morning, the President announced his support for the goals of our legislation and designated you to take the lead on the issue for the Department of Defense.

We would appreciate if you would provide us with any comments that the Department may have on the proposed legislation by no later than Friday, March 20, 2009.

We look forward to working with you on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

John McCain
Ranking Member

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 02642-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator John McCain plans to travel to Belgium during the period March 20-22, 2009. Senator McCain will be accompanied by a staff member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Richard H. Fontaine, Jr., Deputy Minority Staff Director. He will also be accompanied by Brooke Buchanan, his personal staffer designated to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Air Force could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 02644-09

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United States Senate

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I understand you have been invited to participate as a keynote speaker in the first annual Deterrence Symposium being held on July 29, 2009, at the U.S. Strategic Command in Omaha, Nebraska (USSTRATCOM). Your presence would be most welcome in addressing the full range of matters with regard to nuclear weapons and deterrence.

From your previous visits to Offutt Air Force Base, the home of USSTRATCOM, I know you are aware that the base maintains one of the largest military presences in the Midwest. The Command employs more than 2,700 individuals, representing all branches of the armed services, as well as DoD civilians and contractors, who oversee the Command's operationally focused global strategic missions.

I recall that you have also visited the 55th Wing at Offutt. The 55th Wing's missions of providing intelligence and surveillance make it, too, a vital unit in America's national security operations. I believe Offutt's diverse missions and global responsibilities put it on the cutting edge of transformation for the U.S. Air Force.

Finally, there are more than 1.2 million Nebraskans living in the greater Omaha metropolitan area; and these Midwestern families play a vital role in supporting those stationed at Offutt. As I am sure you are aware, military members consistently praise the people and the area for their zealous support of America's servicemembers and their families, as well as the overall U.S. military and its mission.

I respectfully urge you, therefore, to give this request your utmost consideration and allow my fellow Nebraskans to show you a little of our Midwestern hospitality. If there is anything I can do to be of assistance with this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

EBN:ajp

OSD 02666-09

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 6, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 535, to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02713-09

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

In its enclosed letter of February 12, 2009, the National Institute of Military Justice seeks legislation to expand the applicability of the court-martial sentencing option of Life Without the Possibility of Parole to rehearings involving certain individuals who were sentenced to death by a military court-martial.

We request an expedited review of this proposal by the Joint Service Committee on Military Justice and the Department's views of the merits of this initiative.

Sincerely,

John McCain
Ranking Member

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosure

OSD 02734-09

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 12, 2009

Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A critical element of our strategy for success in Afghanistan must be enabling Afghan forces to take responsibility for the security of their own country. We applaud the decision to increase the size of the Afghan National Army (ANA) to 134,000 soldiers, though the force level may well require additional growth in order to meet Afghanistan's security needs over the long term.

The United States and its allies need to do all we can to accelerate as quickly as possible the training and equipping of the ANA and the Afghan National Police (ANP). General David McKiernan, Commander, NATO International Security Assistance Force, has said he needs more embedded trainers and funding to speed up building the capacity of the Afghan security forces.

We have also heard recently that the "long pole in the tent" for growing the ANA rapidly is getting these units the basic equipment they need – machine guns, radios, and vehicles – when they need it. At a hearing on February 26th, General David Barno, former Commander, Combined Forces Command Afghanistan, testified that the main problem is "a constipated, peace-time system" for equipping these forces which is not well suited to the demands of an ongoing conflict. As you recall, similar problems were encountered in delivering badly needed military equipment to Iraqi forces. In this regard, we hope the lessons learned in Iraq will be applied to our efforts in Afghanistan.

We request that you closely examine what is needed to expedite the training and equipping of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police and report to us on what more is needed, in terms of resources, personnel, or legislative relief.

OSD 02750-09

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We look forward to your prompt response and working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

John McCain
Ranking Member

Carl Levin
Chairman

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Jeff Sessions plans to travel to Israel, Afghanistan, Turkey and Pakistan during the period April 3-11, 2009. He will be accompanied by Sandra E. Luff, his personal staffer who has been designated to the Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Navy could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 02754-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 546, Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2009, to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service of Combat-Related Special Compensation. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02774-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 549, to provide benefits under the Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence program for certain periods before the implementation of the program. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02775-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Michael J. Noblet, Professional Staff Member on the Committee on Armed Services, to travel by commercial aircraft to Norfolk, Virginia during the period March 19-21, 2009.

The purpose of his trip will be to visit the Naval Special Warfare Group 2 at Little Creek, Virginia and the Naval Special Warfare Development Group at Dam Neck, Virginia to receive briefings on their roles and missions. It is requested that the Department of the Navy be assigned as the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 02811-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with their responsibilities as Professional Staff Members on the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Michael J. Kuiken, Michael J. Noblet and Dana W. White plan to travel to Yemen, Libya, and Burkina Faso during the period April 6-16, 2009. They plan to transit through France and Algeria.

The purpose of their travel will be to receive briefings on Department of Defense and U.S. Government efforts relating to counterterrorism, security assistance, bilateral issues and military-to-military relations.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier transportation, should it be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Army could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 02813-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 590, The Defense Communities Assistance Act of 2009, to assist local communities with closed and active military bases, and for other purposes. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 02972-09

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FOREIGN RELATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
JOINT ECONOMIC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Deputy Secretary Lynn,

I am writing you in order to memorialize our conversation last week, reiterate the key points, and ensure that we maintain an open dialogue moving forward.

As you know, there have been 19 deaths by electrocution in Iraq since the United States invaded Iraq in 2003; 17 of those were US military personnel and 2 were contractors. The majority of the deaths were ruled initially as accidents or the result of encounters on the battlefield. However, recent developments have prompted both the Army and Navy to reopen investigations into several deaths. These criminal investigations supplement the comprehensive review of all electrocutions undertaken by the Department of Defense Inspector General, which I understand is being wrapped up and will shortly be released.

I was initially contacted in April 2008 by Ms. Cheryl Harris, mother of SSGT Ryan Maseth, who requested that I look into a troubling pattern of electrocution deaths in Iraq. Over the past year, I have spent considerable time looking into these electrocutions and want to ensure that our servicemen and women are not senselessly placed into harm's way and that those senior Army personnel and military contractors who are responsible for these electrocutions are held accountable. Cheryl is a remarkable woman and has inspired me to remain involved on this issue to demand justice and accountability for all of the families.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OSD 02974-09

My involvement in this issue has resulted in numerous meetings, phone conversations, and exchange of correspondence with such individuals as General David Petraeus, Lieutenant General David Huntoon, and Mr. William Utt, the Chief Executive Officer of KBR. General Petraeus informed me that he had established an Electrical Safety Joint Planning Team to oversee the theater-wide assessment of all facilities following a series of electrocutions in Iraq; this team was later designated the Task Force for Safety Actions for Fire and Electricity, or Task Force SAFE. Despite the creation of this task force, we continue to hear accounts of our servicemen and women suffering electrical shocks while taking showers, as recently as a month ago. Accordingly, I have sent a series of letters and sought to arrange a personal meeting with Secretary Gates to urge his direct intervention on this issue. As we discussed, I was disappointed at the length of time it took before he responded to me and assigned you to provide personal attention to this critical safety challenge.

We continue to learn of new troubling developments on this issue. A CNN broadcast last week reported that five electricians who worked in 2005 and 2006 for KBR in Afghanistan witnessed dangerous electrical conditions there, but their warnings to senior management were ignored. As important as accountability for past cases is, we must also ensure that no further electrocutions occur, in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

During our phone conversation, you agreed to provide me updates and milestones as they occur in simultaneous Department of Defense investigations. I appreciate this offer of transparency, but also request to receive a current status report explaining to me where things stand as of today and the timeline you envision for the various DOD investigations to be completed. This status report should also provide a comprehensive overview of the status of efforts, including a schedule of any future repairs or upgrades, in the operating environment to assure that no further U.S. military personnel are harmed by electrocutions. It is my expectation that the final report will contain proposed sanctions and/or penalties against supporting contractors, particularly KBR, if their lack of action or errors contributed in any way to these electrocutions. The same threat of punitive action should apply to our military chain of command if they are held responsible in any way.

Finally, I insist that the Pentagon adopt complete transparency and forthrightness with the families of those fallen by electrocutions. These mothers and fathers, husbands and wives are entitled to receive continuous updates and full inclusion. They deserve nothing less.

I look forward to working with you in coming weeks and months.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
United States Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Ms. Betsy Schmid, professional staff member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to travel for official committee purposes to Rochester, New York, on March 27, 2009. She will visit satellite manufacturing facilities in conjunction with defense and intelligence responsibilities.

Per diem expenses 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 P. L. 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)).

It would be appreciated if officials from the Department of Defense would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for travel.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations

DKI:rss

OSD 02976-09

DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
United States Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Ms. Betsy Schmid, professional staff member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to travel for official committee purposes to Huntsville, Alabama, on March 31, 2009. She will visit Missile Defense Agency leadership and tour contractor facilities involved in missile defense programs.

Per diem expenses 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 P. L. 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)).

It would be appreciated if officials from the Department of Defense would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for travel.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations

DKI:rss

OSD 02977-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 11, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
United States Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Ms. Kate Kaufer, professional staff member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to travel for official committee purposes to China Lake and Ft. Irwin, California, and Nellis AFB, Nevada, from April 6-9, 2009. She will review Department of Defense energy conservation programs in preparation for the fiscal year 2010 budget review.

Per diem expenses 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 P. L. 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)).

It would be appreciated if officials from the Department of Defense would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for travel.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations

DKI:rss

OSD 02980-09

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 16, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Mr. Charlie Houy, Ms. Betsy Schmid, and Mr. Erik Raven, professional staff members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to travel to Maui, Kauai, Oahu, Hawaii, and San Francisco, California, from April 5-11, 2009. They will participate in meetings on defense research and development programs and visit military sites to review defense programs and budgets for fiscal year 2010.

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

It would be appreciated if officials from the Department of Defense would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for travel.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman

OSD 02982-09

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with their responsibilities as Professional Staff Members on the staff of the Committee on Armed Services, William K. Sutey, John H. Quirk V, Lucian L. Niemeyer and Paul C. Hutton IV, plan to travel to Afghanistan during the period March 29 – April 4, 2009.

The purpose of their trip is to visit military bases in order to receive information regarding requirements for operations, readiness, installations, logistics and medical care from local commanders.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including in-theater military air and the use of a foreign carrier, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Army could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03047-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator John McCain plans to travel to Hong Kong, Vietnam, China and Japan during the period April 3-11, 2009. Senator McCain will be accompanied by a staff member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Richard H. Fontaine, Jr., Deputy Minority Staff Director. He will also be accompanied by Brooke Buchanan, his personal staffer designated to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Navy could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03051-09

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Lindsey Graham plans to travel to Hong Kong, Vietnam, China and Japan during the period April 3-11, 2009. Senator Graham will be accompanied Laura Bauld, his personal staffer designated to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Navy could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03052-09

JEFF BINGAMAN
NEW MEXICO

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3102
(202) 224-5521
IN NEW MEXICO--1-800-443-6658
TDD (202) 224-1792
senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov

United States Senate

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to request that you immediately reaffirm the moratorium on conversions of Department of Defense (DoD) service contracts set forth in the December 29, 2004 Memorandum. In the Memorandum Under Secretary of Defense Chu stated that "DoD NAFIs shall not enter into contracts or agreements with DoD elements or other Federal Departments, Agencies, or instrumentalities for the provision of goods and services that will result in the loss of jobs created pursuant to the Randolph Sheppard Act, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, or small business programs" until a policy solution can be reached that encourages job creation. Unfortunately, the Memorandum issued on March 7, 2007 by Arthur Meyers, the Director of Services, Air Force Manpower, muddled the issue with imprecise and contradictory language. I believe that it is necessary for you to reaffirm the standing in the Chu Memorandum in order to remove any question as to the standing of the DoD on this matter.

The moratorium is essential to protect the jobs of people with severe disabilities working on DoD service contracts under the AbilityOne Program. In 2007 I toured Adelante Development Center Inc, an AbilityOne program in New Mexico. I was impressed by the staff and their commitment but I was particularly struck by the commitment of the disabled adults who find work through the program. They take great pride in the work they do and are committed to quality in even the most basic tasks. AbilityOne programs provide more than a job, they give all of their clients the opportunity to succeed and to contribute to society. In addition, they provide the families of their clients the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their loved ones are actively engaged in work and well-looked after.

In addition, I am writing to I strongly urge the DoD to coordinate with AbilityOne representatives to develop a policy solution that encourages job creation through both the MWR and the AbilityOne Program. I support the DoD Food Transformation effort where it results in higher quality and efficiency to service members at lower costs. However, given the potential impact this challenge could have on the employment of thousands of people with severe disabilities in the AbilityOne Program, I urge DoD to carefully assess the full impact of the conversions before moving forward and to make appropriate changes to the program.

OSD 03064-09

ALBUQUERQUE (505) 346-6601 | LAS CRUCES (575) 523-6561 | LAS VEGAS (505) 454-8824 | ROSWELL (575) 622-7113 | SANTA FE (505) 988-6647

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, and to update me on this issue, please contact Annie Chávez (202)224-3882 in my office.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Friday, March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write to you today to express our strong concerns regarding the OMB Circular A-76 Study currently underway to review the operations, maintenance, and custodial duties at West Point. Congress and the President have expressed deep reservations with this process, and we encourage you to defer completing this and any pending studies until the process can be improved or replaced. Regardless, however, of the Defense Department's (DOD) stance on the larger question of A-76 studies, we believe that the serious concerns raised by West Point's union warrant cancellation of this study. With the accuracy of the study in question, it would be far preferable to cancel this study and begin a new one.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) established this type of study to ensure that the government does not waste taxpayers' money by paying government employees to perform tasks which could be completed at a lower cost by private contractors. Although we support the goal of saving taxpayer dollars, we are concerned by mounting evidence that the process unfairly disadvantages federal employees and fails to save any money. After studies by the Government Accountability Office, Congress acted in the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill to curtail the A-76 process. President Obama, too, has issued an executive order to stop new A-76 studies. With such serious reservations at the highest levels of government, we believe that the responsible course of action would be to stop any A-76 studies currently under way.

The study underway at West Point has several serious flaws. First, the process compares different price structures, making it impossible to evaluate accurately which is the lower cost. For federal employees, the study estimates the total cost to the Army of performing the work. However, when soliciting bids from private contractors, the Army is asking for "cost plus firm fixed fee" contract. These contracts allow for variable costs, which cannot be accurately compared to the fixed cost used for continuing with federal employees.

Second, the Army changed the requirements for the union halfway through the study. Originally, the Army allowed the union to combine the operations/maintenance and custodial responsibilities into a single bid, which allowed them to achieve economies of

scale. Halfway through the process, Army required the union to separate these two contracts, but did not allow them to begin the process over.

Given the serious concerns related to these studies in general, and this study in particular, we urge you to cancel the study. Millions of taxpayer dollars are at stake, and we cannot afford to risk wasting them by engaging in an inaccurate and unfair process.

We look forward to your reply. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact John Jones, of Senator Schumer's staff, at (202) 224-6542, or Kevin Fink, of Senator Gillibrand's staff, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer
U.S. Senate

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
U.S. Senate

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act authorized full funding for the third DDG-1000 destroyer, while the Department of Defense Appropriations Act provided partial funding for the third DDG-1000 and directed the Navy to budget for the remaining funding requirement in FY10. We urge you to follow through on this commitment by ensuring that the necessary funds for completing the third DDG-1000 are included in the President's budget request.

Last year, the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee demonstrated strong support for the Department's Fiscal Year 2009 budget request for funding the procurement of the third DDG-1000. Because of this support and your willingness to directly reaffirm the Defense Department's support for the President's DDG-1000 Budget request, the third DDG-1000 was fully authorized in the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act. Likewise, the Fiscal Year 2009 Defense Appropriations Act supported procurement of the third DDG-1000 by providing $1.5 billion in split-funding toward the ship's procurement. In addition to providing funding, the conference agreement included explicit direction for the Department not only to proceed with contracting for the third ship, but also to provide the ship's remaining funding in the Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

Any failure to follow through on these commitments would result in a multi-year procurement gap of complex surface combatants. Such a decision would also place at risk the nation's surface combatant shipbuilding industrial base and the jobs and unique skills of thousands of defense-critical U.S. workers.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with you to meet the Navy's requirements for a 313-ship fleet and to preserve a strong and highly skilled industrial base.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Olympia J. Snowe
United States Senator

OSD 03122-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

It has come to our attention that the Department of Defense (DOD) has undertaken an initiative to transform the manner in which it contracts food and postal services. We are concerned about the implications that this initiative could have on the jobs of people with severe disabilities working on Department of Defense service contracts under the AbilityOne Program.

Specifically, Opportunity Village is a community rehabilitation program in southern Nevada that has been providing job training and employment services for almost 55 years. No other organization in Nevada has worked as hard for people with disabilities for as long as Opportunity Village, and we both have a special place in our hearts for this agency and the people they serve. At Nellis Air Force Base (AFB), Opportunity Village has supported the airmen there for over 35 years. Opportunity Village currently has a "food service attendant" contract and a "postal service center" contract with Nellis AFB, and 43 people with severe disabilities are employed on those contracts. We also know there are literally thousands of people with severe disabilities working for other community rehabilitation programs at other Department of Defense facilities throughout our nation.

In addition, we would like to express our support for the Department of Defense's Food Transformation effort where it results in higher quality and efficiency to service members at lower costs. However, given the current economic crisis and the potential impact this change could have on the employment of dozens of people with disabilities at Nellis AFB and thousands of people with severe disabilities in the AbilityOne Program, we strongly urge the Department of Defense to coordinate with AbilityOne representatives to develop a policy solution that encourages job creation through both the MWR and the AbilityOne Programs. This is a crucial step to incorporate the best thinking to resolve this issue, particularly when jobs for people with severe disabilities are so rare, reflecting an unemployment rate unparalleled in our society.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Herbert at (202)224-3542 or Ryan Tully at (202)224-8049 in our offices respectively.

Sincerely,

Harry Reid
United States Senator

John Ensign
United States Senator

OSD 03124-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As you know, last year's Department of Defense Appropriations Act provided partial funding for the third DDG-1000 and directed the Navy to budget for the remaining funding requirement in FY10. Congress expects the Navy to adhere to this direction; therefore, we write to urge your support for full funding of the DDG-1000 program in the FY10 President's budget, and request that you continue a thorough and transparent review and evaluation of the Navy's proposal to truncate the DDG-1000 program and restart DDG-51 production.

We remain very concerned about the Navy's long-term shipbuilding plan. Despite several months of Congressional and Department of Defense requests for further analysis, the Navy has yet to provide sufficient justification in support of the proposal to truncate the DDG-1000 program and restart DDG-51 production. We continue to await an in-depth comparative analysis of the DDG-51 and DDG-1000. The Navy's failure to provide such a detailed cost analysis strongly implies a lack of supporting documentation of the Navy's position and undermines our confidence in the merits of the Navy's plan to truncate the DDG-1000 program. Congress must have this information before acquiescing to a change of this magnitude.

Supporting the DDG-1000 program will enable the Navy to leverage $11 billion in already invested research and development funding. The ship has been designed with significant growth margins including power, cooling, space, and weight to enable rapid enhancements to meet evolving threats in the existing hull. We believe that continued production and delivery of DDG-1000 class destroyers is essential to the long-term stability of our shipbuilding program and the timely delivery of needed capabilities to the Navy.

With respect and appreciation, and thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy

Jack Reed

John F. Kerry

Sheldon Whitehouse

OSD 03125-09

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress

James McGovern
Member of Congress

Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

Paul Hodes
Member of Congress

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

James Langevin
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is in further regard to my letter of March 5, 2009 concerning the travel plans of Senator John McCain and Richard Fontaine and Brooke Buchanan, during the period March 19-22, 2009.

I am writing to advise that Senator McCain has added Luxembourg to his itinerary.

I would appreciate your continued support and assistance in connection with this travel.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03128-09

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BRANDON L. MILHORN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6250

March 16, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing today to request information and documents related to the Defense Department's award of contracts for Congressional earmarks.

For each item listed in compliance with clause 9 of Rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate in the Defense Appropriations Acts for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009, the Subcommittee requests the following information and documents:

(1) The number, value, and recipient of any contract or grant awarded;

(2) Information regarding the type and extent of competition conducted, including the number and identity of competing offerors; and

(3) Communications related to the award of any contract or grant to the recipient identified by the requesting member of Congress.

I request that you provide this information as soon as possible, but in no case later than **Monday, April 6, 2009.** If you determine that you will be unable to make a complete production by this date, please contact Subcommittee staff to discuss possible modifications to this schedule.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight is set forth in Senate Rule XXV clause 1(k); Senate Resolution 445 section 101 (108th Congress); and Senate Resolution 50 (109th Congress). An attachment to this letter provides additional information on how to respond to the Subcommittee's request.

Please contact me or ask your staff to contact Margaret Daum at (202) 224-6154 with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

Enclosure

cc: Susan Collins
Acting Ranking Member

OSD 03174-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are greatly concerned by reports that the Airborne Laser (ABL) program is facing severe budget cuts or even termination in the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget proposal. The ABL is America's premier directed energy effort and represents not only a tremendous potential for our nation's warfighters, but also for maintaining America's technological edge. It is critical to the future of our national security capabilities. For these reasons, we urgently request the ABL remain a robustly funded program.

According to the Missile Defense Agency, the ABL provides a unique capability *"to detect, track, target, and destroy ballistic missiles shortly after launch during the boost-phase. Its revolutionary use of directed energy makes it unique among the United States' airborne weapon systems, with a potential to attack multiple targets at the speed of light with a range of hundreds of kilometers."*

Our military warfighters agree that the ABL is essential for addressing many of the challenges facing our nation. General B.B. Bell, the former Commander of the United States Forces Korea, wrote in 2007, *"...from a warfighter's perspective, the ABL will be an important ingredient in our much needed and required layered missile defense capability for the Korean Peninsula."* This is a legitimate capability our nation needs.

As you know, the Airborne Laser began during the Clinton administration in the face of an increasing ballistic missile threat. Since that time, the proliferation of ballistic missiles has only grown. Today, outside of Russia, China and our Western allies, there are 3,000 ballistic missiles around the world. That number is continuing to grow every year. As threats proliferate around the globe, the relevance and importance of the ABL as the nation's only fully designed boost-phase missile defense system will continue to increase.

The ABL is performing well and is scheduled to shoot down a boosting ballistic missile by the end of the year. Should the ABL be severely under-funded or canceled, the promise of speed-of-light and extreme precision in the hands of the warfighter will disappear, as will the fragile industrial base that supports it. In short, we will have wasted the resources that have been well invested since the Clinton administration.

OSD 03189-09

Again, we respectfully request your support for the Airborne Laser program.

Sincerely,

Sam Brownback

Pat Roberts

John Thune

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On March 19, 2009 I wrote to you regarding the travel plans of William K. Sutey, John H. Quirk V, Lucian L. Niemeyer and Paul C. Hutton IV during the period March 29-April 4, 2009.

This letter is to advise that they have added United Arab Emirates to their itinerary.

I would appreciate your continued support and assistance in connection with this travel.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03200-09

Carl Levin
Michigan

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I understand that former Congressman (b)(6) (b)(6) has expressed an interest in serving on the Defense Policy Board. I remember (b)(6) from his service on the House Armed Services Committee. He was knowledgeable and thoughtful on national security issues, and I think he would make a valuable contribution to the work of the Defense Policy Board.

I am enclosing his resume. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin

Enclosure

OSD 03225-09

EVAN BAYH
INDIANA

131 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1404
(202) 224-5623
http://bayh.senate.gov

1650 MARKET TOWER
10 WEST MARKET STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204
(317) 554-0750

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1404

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SMALL BUSINESS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
ENERGY

March 25, 2009

The Honorable William Lynn, III
Deputy Defense Secretary
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Deputy Secretary Lynn:

It is my understanding that the Army plans to award a contract for an additional 56,000 SINCGARS radios this spring. Further, I understand that the Office of the Secretary of Defense must certify to the Congress that this competition is open and fair. As such, I respectfully request that you complete work on the certification process in a timely manner in order to meet the Army's needs.

My hope is that this contract not be delayed. The faster this contract is awarded, the more quickly the Army will be able to procure the additional tactical radios it needs while also ensuring that the radios are interoperable with current inventory and will not disrupt the Army's supporting logistics chain. These SINCGARS radio systems support near term operational needs, such as the new brigade combat teams and ground vehicle fleet. I have also been told that no Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) solutions are currently available to meet future needs, and alternate solutions may not meet full spectrum environmental requirements consistent with the SINCGARS and JTRS ORDs. Therefore, I do not believe these options are appropriate for our soldiers at this time.

Additionally, awarding this contract without delay will provide a much needed economic boost to the communities who produce these radios, which is an important concern to both the Department and Congress in these challenging times.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of my request, and thank you for your continued service in your new position.

Sincerely,

Evan Bayh
U.S. Senator

CC: Secretary of the Army Peter Geren

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OSD 03258-09

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 644, to amend title 10, United States Code, to include service after September 11, 2001, as service qualifying for the determination of a reduced eligibility age for receipt of non-regular service retired pay. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 03268-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 645, to amend title 32, United States Code, to modify the Department of Defense share of expenses under the National Guard Youth Challenge Program. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 03270-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write today to express serious concern about the administration's planned national defense spending in Fiscal Year 2010 and beyond, which appears to be insufficient to guarantee U.S. national security in the coming years. Based on the administration's budget documents submitted thus far, it appears that a marked decrease in overall defense spending is in store for our country. If recent press accounts are accurate, this will be accomplished by canceling or postponing the acquisition of numerous major weapon systems critical to our Armed Forces and necessary to ensure their future ability to defend our country.

As Congress begins the Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) budget process, it is our view that we have too little information on hand, based solely on the President's incomplete budget submission, to thoroughly and responsibly make decisions about top-line figures for the country's core defense program. For example, it is widely reported that the administration intends to shift funding that is currently part of the supplemental budget process into the normal DoD appropriations request. But, to date, Congress has not been told exactly what amount will be transferred, nor has it been informed about which particular programs will be affected. This lack of information raises a number of important questions, with potentially troubling answers.

The President's plan to substantially increase U.S. military force levels in Afghanistan, while simultaneously withdrawing all U.S. combat forces from Iraq by August 2010, will require substantial funding. However, it is our understanding that the administration will be requesting far less this year and next in supplemental funding, which is cause for great concern. It is unclear how the administration, if it intends to cut supplemental funding, expects to maintain our military forces in the field and enable them to conduct their missions safely and effectively. We would appreciate an explanation on this issue.

To be clear, we fully support efforts to maximize transparency in the budget process by including all foreseeable DoD requirements in the normal DoD budget request; however, by shifting major expenses from the supplemental requests to the base budget, while simultaneously slashing the supplemental request, the net effect would be a decrease in overall spending on our national defense. Our concern is that, under the guise of an "honest budgeting" approach to national security spending, we would be locking in an overall cut in military spending that either puts our troops in jeopardy today or our

OSD 03274-09

national security in jeopardy tomorrow as we restrict urgently needed capital investments in equipment such as planes, ships, and land vehicles.

As such, we request that your department provide us as soon as possible with more detailed information on what expenditures, and at what levels, you anticipate moving from the supplemental budget to the base defense budget for FY10 and what defense programs you anticipate eliminating or substantially reducing, in relation to the most recent Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). In addition, it is essential that we hear from our uniformed combatant commanders and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the potential problems they will face in carrying out their responsibilities under the administration's proposed defense spending blueprints. Accordingly, we request that you provide us, as soon as possible, risk assessments by each combatant commander, evaluating to what extent the President's proposed defense spending levels will limit their ability to meet ongoing requirements over the lifetime of the FYDP. Finally, we request that the Chairman's risk assessment, which is statutorily required and is long overdue, be provided within 30 calendar days.

During the early part of this decade, it became clear that defense spending decisions made during the 1990s and the resulting military "procurement holiday" that our government had taken left our Armed Forces without the needed advanced equipment and superior capabilities to defend our nation. Today, in the middle of a global war on terror, we must not allow that to happen again. Now is not the time to attempt to cash in a "peace dividend," while thousands of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are serving in harm's way, engaged in military operations in two major theaters of conflict overseas, with other very real threats on the horizon.

We urge you to examine these issues carefully as the administration completes work on its FY10 DoD budget request. Thank you for your service to our nation and your tireless dedication to its Armed Forces.

Sincerely,

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

JON KYL
United States Senator

LISA MURKOWSKI
United States Senator

JAMES M. INHOFE
United States Senator

JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

JOHNNY ISAKSON
United States Senator

JIM DEMINT
United States Senator

SAXBY CHAMBLISS
United States Senator

ROGER F. WICKER
United States Senator

DAVID VITTER
United States Senator

ROBERT F. BENNETT
United States Senator

RICHARD BURR
United States Senator

JEFF SESSIONS
United States Senator

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to seek your assistance in obtaining funds appropriated by H.R. 1, the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009", to further the research conducted by Bell BioEnergy, Inc. on the use of bioengineered bacteria in the production of biofuels from biomass. Bell BioEnergy, Inc. is fully ready to implement the goals of this Act and produce renewable, domestically-produced, high-quality transportation fuels to enhance America's independence from foreign oil in an environmentally sound manner. Such efforts will result in the creation of a significant number of new and green jobs.

Bell BioEnergy is presently undertaking such research in the form of pilot projects conducted in collaboration with the Department of Defense and the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC) at seven military installations around the nation including Fort Benning, Fort Stewart, Fort Bragg, Fort Lewis, Fort Drum, Fort A.P. Hill, and the DESC facility at San Pedro, CA. Specifically, Bell BioEnergy is requesting $50 million to complete the research begun through these pilot projects. The objectives of the pilot projects are to:

1) Perfect the Bell BioEnergy, Inc. waste biomass to hydrocarbon fuels process

2) Further refine the unique bacteria used in the process

3) Produce sufficient amounts of usable hydrocarbon fuels (natural gas, gasoline, diesel and jet) for laboratory testing

4) Test and certify the fuels generated by the process as a drop in fuel that is fit for purpose

5) Gather the engineering and scientific data necessary to design full scale production facilities

A clear intent of Congress in enacting H.R. 1 is to provide funding for the types of projects that Bell BioEnergy has undertaken. We believe that the successful conversion

OSD 03323-09

of non-food biomass to biofuels would have overwhelmingly positive effects on our economy and energy independence and also help create a cleaner environment.

The $50 million Bell BioEnergy seeks would be employed to 1) complete construction of the seven pilot projects, 2) perform university level research to determine the most viable bacteria for the production of hydrocarbon fuels from biomass, and 3) construct the first research laboratory dedicated to the segregation and propagation of the bacteria required to produce biofuels from non-food waste biomass. We estimate that each test facility would employ five technicians and that the research laboratory would employ 25-50 scientists and technicians with secondary employment of up to 400 people.

We appreciate your consideration of this proposal, consistent with your standard policies and practices, and look forward to any feedback you may have.

Sincerely,

Saxby Chambliss

Johnny Isakson

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN
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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

We request your assistance in achieving the goal of eliminating the need for any active-duty military member to rely on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, more commonly referred to as Food Stamps.

A decade ago, the number of service members who were receiving Food Stamps exceeded 10,000. Enactment of the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) in October 2000 has helped to reduce that number. Moreover, significant increases in basic pay and allowances since FSSA became available have also greatly improved the income and quality of life for all military personnel serving on active duty. It was surprising, therefore to learn last week, following the First Lady's visit to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, that more than 3,000 service members are currently receiving food stamps.

The Food Stamp Program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and we realize that implementation can vary by state. We also acknowledge that certain pays and benefits, such as combat-related pays and government-provided housing, are generally not considered in determining eligibility for Food Stamps. Nonetheless, we consider it unacceptable that the measures put into place in 2000 and the significant improvements in pay and benefits since that time, have fallen so far short of the goal of eliminating the requirement by any service member to seek aid for nutritional assistance.

We request your views and recommendations on this topic at your earliest convenience. If legislation is required to achieve the goal we have stated, we hope that you will offer proposals for consideration within the current legislative session.

Sincerely,

John McCain
Ranking Member

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03394-09

JEFF BINGAMAN
NEW MEXICO

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United States Senate

March 26, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to respectfully request that Department of Defense (DoD) consider modifying the State Drug Interdiction and Counterdrug Activities plans for the National Guard to permit counterdrug personnel to support law enforcement in inspecting certain vehicles at ports of entry. I strongly believe that including vehicle inspection under the counterdrug mission set would enhance our ability to interdict the southbound flow of weapons and bulk cash as well as the northbound flow of narcotics.

As you know, the National Guard currently provides critical support to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) with the operation of remote cameras and sensors, and conducts aerial reconnaissance of the border in an effort to detect illegal drug smuggling operations. The Guard used to also assist CBP with inspection activities at ports of entry. However, in 2003 the so-called "3(d)" inspection mission was removed from the counterdrug mission set based on a finding by then Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz that inspection activities are not "militarily unique." At that time, I expressed deep concerns regarding this change and the fact that it resulted in CBP having to take over the duties of approximately 350 National Guard soldiers who were assisting with the dismantlement of vehicles suspected of carrying contraband.

Reinstating this mission makes sense now more than ever. The Administration has recognized the importance of reducing the flow of weapons and bulk cash being smuggled into Mexico from the United States, and the need to step up efforts to stop drugs from being trafficked into our country. Permitting National Guard counterdrug personnel to perform the 3(d) mission would free up CBP officers to perform other duties and provide soldiers with additional training experience in detection techniques that are utilized by activated troops maintaining security in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is my understanding that if this change is made the National Guard would be able to place about 30 soldiers at ports along the border just in New Mexico to assist with the interdiction of contraband at no cost to CBP.

OSD 03405-09

I greatly appreciate your prompt attention to this issue, and your assistance in ensuring the continued success of counterdrug operations along the Southwest border.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator

JB/ss

cc: The Honorable Janet Napolitano

USS Constitution Museum

20 March 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On October 22 of this year the USS Constitution Museum will hold its annual Chairman's Dinner at the Fairmont Copley Hotel in Boston. We would be most honored if you would be our keynote speaker.

The evening will follow by one day the 212th anniversary of the Boston launching of USS CONSTITUTION on October 21, 1797, as one of the first six frigates built for the US Navy. Even though the Museum is a non-profit organization, we are for all intents and purposes the Navy's museum for "Old Ironsides."

In addition to celebrating the 212th anniversary of "Old Ironsides'" launching, the Museum will present:

- The Samuel Eliot Morison Award to Dr. John Haddendorf, Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime History and Chairman, Maritime History Department at the Naval War College, in recognition of his many contributions to naval history and scholarship. This award is presented annually to individuals who have enhanced the image of USS CONSTITUTION and who reflect Rear Admiral Morison's artful scholarship, patriotic pride and eclectic interest in things maritime.

- The Charles Francis Adams Award to Boston Mayor Thomas Menino. "Old Ironsides" and the Museum have no better friend than Mayor Menino. This award honors the legacy between the Adams' family and the Navy, from President John Adams attending the launching of "Old Ironsides," to Secretary of the Navy Charles Adams dispatching "Old Ironsides" on her national cruise to 76 ports along the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts between 1931 and 1934.

I also extend a personal invitation for you to visit the USS Constitution Museum, in conjunction with any visit you may make to USS CONSTITUTION during your time in Boston.

The USS Constitution Museum's staff and I will provide additional information as details of the evening become firm, and we stand by to assist you in any manner. Our point of contact for your staff is Mr. Burt Logan, President of the Museum, who may be reached at (617) 426-1812 x 115.

Very truly yours,

James C. Stokes
Chairman
Board of Trustees

OSD 03517-09

Box 1812 Boston, MA 02129 617.426.1812 617.242.0496 (fax) www.ussconstitutionmuseum.org

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United States Senate
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WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 19, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
United States Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Mr. Erik Raven, majority staff member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to travel for official committee purposes to Deadhorse, Alaska, and Ice Camp APLIS from March 21-23, 2009. He will participate in ICEX 2009.

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

It would be appreciated if officials from the Department of Defense would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for travel.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman

DKI:rss

OSD 03542-09

Congress of the United States

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your leadership in recent months has been instrumental in refocusing the Department of Defense on nuclear matters. We share many of the concerns you have expressed regarding the degradation of our nuclear capability and appreciate the Department's immediate implementation of plans to revitalize our strategic nuclear deterrent.

Accordingly, we write to request your leadership on a related and urgent budgetary matter involving the preservation of our nation's land-based Intercontinental Ballistic Missile ("ICBM") solid rocket motor industrial base. In the next few weeks, the Minuteman III Propulsion Replacement Program ("PRP") will cease production and government funds have been allocated to close the program's production facility. However, the Air Force has determined that it is in the national interest to maintain a land-based solid rocket motor production capability. Accordingly, the Air Force is planning to commence an ICBM Solid Rocket Motor Life Extension Program, that will preserve our nation's capability to produce land-based ICBM solid rocket motors. Unfortunately, due to a budgetary perplexity, FY2009 funds will be used to close the land-based solid rocket production facility only to reopen that same facility a few months later using FY2010 monies. The result will create unnecessary layoffs, and cost the taxpayers millions of additional dollars. However, these needless costs and risks to the industrial base can be avoided by sending Congress a reprogramming request that authorizes FY2009 funds to be used to maintain the land-based solid rocket production line instead of closing it. Therefore, we respectfully request your assistance in approving a reprogramming request of FY2009 PRP closeout funds to instead be used to immediately commence an ICBM Solid Rocket Motor Life Extension Program.

Later this month, the Air Force, under the PRP, will receive the last Minuteman III Stage 1 booster segment, and in August, will receive the last Stage 2 and Stage 3 segments. This will conclude the PRP program and for the first time since the beginning of the Cold War, our nation will not produce ICBM solid rocket motors. Therefore, the nation could lose this highly specialized production capability and compromise the long-term dependability of the Minuteman III.

Congress recognized these risks during the FY2008 budget process, and directed both the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the Air Force, to conduct studies regarding the capability of the

OSD 03554-09

defense industrial base to maintain, modernize, and sustain the Minuteman III system until 2030. This Air Force study validated the requirement to preserve an ICBM industrial base capability, and specifically a low-rate solid rocket motor life extension program production line. Unfortunately, the Secretary of Defense study has still not been delivered to the Congress.

Subsequent congressional directives have been even more specific. Following the release of the FY2009 Air Force Unfunded Requirements List, which included a request for an additional $31 million to initiate an ICBM Solid Rocket Motor Life Extension, the FY2009 Defense Appropriations Act stated, "*the Air Force is encouraged, at a minimum, to continue a warm line status for Minuteman III propulsion systems and to use funds provided for Fiscal Year 2009 to initiate a Minuteman III motor life extension program.*" This language was further clarified in a letter from Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran to the Air Force Secretary and Chief of Staff, which raised concerns about the ability of the United States to maintain a land-based solid rocket motor industrial base. This letter cited the final FY2009 Appropriations Report language and urged the Air Force to provide funding in FY2009 to maintain a viable land-based solid rocket motor production capability. Subsequently, the Air Force received Program Decision Memorandum (PDM-3) guidance to prepare to transition to this program in FY2010.

However, the delayed submission of the new Administration's FY2010 detailed Defense Budget has caused the Air Force to also defer the transition from the Minuteman III PRP program to an ICBM Solid Rocket Motor Life Extension Program. We have brought this matter to the attention of the Air Force's senior leadership, including: the Assistant Chief of Staff, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration (AF/A10) and the Director, Space Acquisition, Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/USA). Unfortunately, due to the formalities of the budgetary process, the Air Force has been unable to implement a reprogramming of FY2009 funds and immediately implement an ICBM Solid Rocket Motor Life Extension Program.

As a result of this bureaucratic budgetary conundrum our nation risks losing unique and irreplaceable expertise and skills. Specifically, delaying the implementation of a life extension program until FY 2010 will incur an estimated $20 million in additional costs. As we are sure you would agree, using funds to close a production facility only to reopen that same facility a few months later is not a responsible use of taxpayer funds.

In addition, the true value of maintaining the limited production of solid rocket motors, is to ensure that our nation has a highly skilled work force that can produce technically demanding land-based ICBM solid rocket motors. Under the current plan, 500 of these workers, who have irreplaceable specialized skills, will be laid off. Even if the Life Extension Program is initiated in FY2010 only approximately 120 workers will be rehired. However, due to the continued

uncertainty surrounding this program many of these workers may not return, resulting in further additional unwarranted costs. In addition, a long-standing supplier base would be disrupted.

Therefore, we respectfully request your assistance in approving a reprogramming request of FY2009 PRP closeout funds to instead be used to immediately commence an ICBM Solid Rocket Motor Life Extension Program. In addition, we ask that you facilitate a meeting between the Commander, Air Force Materiel Command, General Donald J. Hoffman and us to discuss the execution of your reprogramming request. Finally, we also request a status report on the study that the Congress directed to be completed by the Secretary of Defense.

We stand ready to assist with a related reprogramming request, or with any other avenue of relief that may be available, and look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

Robert F. Bennett
United States Senator

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Mel Martinez plans to travel to Spain during the period April 12-17, 2009. Senator Martinez will be accompanied by Daniel W. Fisk, his personal staffer who has been designated to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Air Force could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03558-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Ms. Madelyn R. Creedon, Counsel, and Mr. Daniel A. Lerner, Professional Staff Member, on the Senate Armed Services Committee, to travel by commercial transportation to California. Ms. Creedon will be traveling during the period April 5-9, 2009; and Mr. Lerner will be traveling during the period April 6-9, 2009.

The purpose of their trip is to receive briefings on missile defense and defense space programs at Los Angeles Air Force Base, Vandenberg Air Force Base, and Edwards Air Force Base. It is requested that the Department of the Air Force be assigned the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03560-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Ms. Madelyn R. Creedon, Counsel, and Mr. Daniel A. Lerner, Professional Staff Member, on the Senate Armed Services Committee, to travel by commercial transportation to Alabama and Colorado. Ms. Creedon will be traveling during the period April 15-17, 2009; and Mr. Lerner will be traveling during the period April 12-17, 2009.

The purpose of their trip is to receive briefings on missile defense and defense space programs at Redstone Arsenal, Shriever Air Force Base, and Peterson Air Force Base. It is requested that the Department of the Air Force be assigned the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03561-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Mr. William K. Sutey and Mr. John H. Quirk V, Professional Staff Members on the Senate Armed Services Committee, to travel by commercial transportation to Florida, Virginia, and Louisiana, during the period April 14-17, 2009.

The purpose of their trip is to survey Department of Defense and Department of the Army plans and programs related to current and future security force assistance operations at the United States Special Operations Command, United States Joint Forces Command, Joint Readiness Training Center, and 162d Brigade. It is requested that the Department of the Army be assigned the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03562-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with my responsibilities as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, I plan to travel to Poland, Czech Republic, Russia, and Belgium during the period April 12-18, 2009. Senator Susan M. Collins, who is also a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, will travel with me. I will be accompanied by two Senate Committee on Armed Services Staff Members, Richard D. DeBobes, Staff Director and Richard W. Fieldhouse, Professional Staff Member. Senator Collins will be accompanied by Robert Epplin, her personal staffer who has been designated to the Committee on Armed Services.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Army could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03564-09

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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6475

SSCI #2009-1404

March 30, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Enclosed please find the "Terms of Reference of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program," which the Committee adopted on March 5, 2009, by a strong bipartisan vote. In the course of the review, we may be submitting requests for documents to departments and agencies in addition to the CIA, including the Department of Defense. Accordingly, we wanted to make sure that you are aware of the scope of our review.

A thorough review of the detention and interrogation program is essential for shaping future detention and interrogation policies. We are aware of the related responsibilities of two of the Special Task Forces that you are now either helping to lead as Co-Chair or Co-Vice Chair : the Special Task Force on Interrogation and Transfer Policies (Executive Order 13491) and the Special Task Force on Detainee Disposition (Executive Order 13493). Our review, and these reviews, share common interests. We look forward to working together with you and others in the Administration on the policies that will guide the CIA's detention and interrogation efforts in the future.

We have marked the Terms of Reference as "Committee Sensitive." Other than as released by the Committee, it is our intention that the Terms of Reference should not be made available to the public and should be used for official government use only.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
Chairman

Christopher S. Bond
Vice Chairman

Enc.: Terms of Reference, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program

OSD 03565-09

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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 26, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On March 24, 2009 I wrote to you regarding the travel plans of Senator Mel Martinez and his staffer, Daniel Fisk, during the period April 12-17, 2009.

This letter is to advise that Senator Martinez's schedule requires him to depart from Orlando, Florida via Miami to Madrid. Similarly, for scheduling reasons, on his return from Madrid, Senator Martinez needs to return to Orlando, Florida. In addition, it is necessary for Mr. Fisk to travel roundtrip from Washington to Madrid via Miami, Florida in order to be able to accompany Senator Martinez on the international portions of this trip.

I would appreciate your continued support and assistance in connection with this travel.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03571-09

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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 26, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 711, to require mental health screenings for members of the Armed Forces who are deployed in connection with a contingency operation, and for other purposes. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 03573-09

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 27, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herewith are copies of S. 731, to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for continuity of TRICARE Standard coverage for certain members of the Retired Reserve. I am forwarding this legislation to you for your review.

So that we can consider your views when the Committee reviews this legislation, please submit to this Committee the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

Enclosures

OSD 03574-09

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
UNITED STATES SENATOR
MARYLAND

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

March 18, 2009

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie
Assistant Secretary (Legislative Affairs)
Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to you to request your consideration to provide my office a Department of Defense Legislative Fellow for calendar year 2010.

Currently serving as my 2009 Defense Fellow is (b)(6) (b)(6) a Navy Medical Service Corps Officer. He is a most welcomed addition, and his expertise in Navy Medicine and military construction has proven extremely beneficial to my projects team as Maryland's military bases undergo the BRAC transition.

I ask that you give special consideration to providing my office with a Defense Fellow for 2010 who possesses a similar Navy or Army medical background. This would provide my office with an invaluable ability to better understand the intricacies of the medical planning efforts, challenges and noteworthy achievements toward the successful completion of the Walter Reed National Medical Center.

Let me close by offering to you my personal thanks for allowing (b)(6) to join my staff for the 2009 program. He is a most impressive representative of the Department of Defense and proudly exemplifies the professionalism of the men and women serving in our Nation's Armed Forces.

I look forward to working with you to continue this mutually beneficial program. Should you have any questions, please contact me or my Chief of Staff, Mr. Chris Lynch at (202) 224-4524 or chris_lynch@cardin.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

OSD 03576-09

Reply To: ☐ 509 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2004
(202) 224-4524
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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

March 31, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On March 24 and March 26, 2009 I wrote to you regarding the travel plans of Senator Mel Martinez and his staffer, Daniel Fisk, during the period April 12-17, 2009.

This letter is to advise that Daniel Fisk will no longer accompany Senator Martinez. Instead, Senator Martinez will be accompanied by Tom Weinberg, his Chief of Staff and his personal staff member who has been designated to the Committee.

I would appreciate your continued support and assistance in connection with this travel.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03631-09

[redacted]

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
United States Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

It would be appreciated if you would request the temporary assignment of an employee of the Department of Defense to serve as a legislative detailee to the Senate Committee on Appropriations during the 111th Congress, 1st Session, effective April 20, 2009, and ending on September 30, 2009, with an option to extend if needed by the Committee. The detailee will provide assistance to the Majority staff of the Subcommittee on Defense during the FY 2010 appropriations process, and it is my understanding that such an assignment would be on a non-reimbursable basis, with the Department of Defense continuing to cover the detailee's salary, benefits, and related expenses, including travel, for the duration of the assignment with the Committee.

Additionally, it would be beneficial to have the employee's security clearance certified by the agency of the Office of Senate Security as soon as possible following the assignment.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman

DKI/bbz

OSD 03633-09

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-10000

Admiral Michael Mullen
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
9999 Joint Staff Pentagon
Washington, DC 20318-9999

Dear Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen:

We understand that the Air Force will be deciding soon where to base the new Global Strike Command headquarters, and we know that you have been monitoring the decision process since it began last fall. As part of our effort to inform senior defense leaders, it is our pleasure to provide you with this copy of "Why Minot," a comprehensive description of how Minot, North Dakota, meets or exceeds all Air Force Global Strike Command headquarters basing criteria. We have also sent this material to Secretary Donley, General Schwartz and General Corley.

"Why Minot" showcases the full array of benefits that the base and the city have to offer. We want to stress in particular how Minot is the only location that offers the ability to bring direct oversight to every aspect of the operational nuclear mission. Minot possesses the complete range of Air Force operational nuclear expertise – a nuclear bomber wing, an ICBM wing, and a nuclear weapons storage area. A major lesson of the past two years is that the Air Force must increase command supervision at the operational level. Standing up a new major command without doing so would be a major missed opportunity.

We also want to stress the incredible support the community of Minot offers the Air Force. Strong support by the community will pay dividends for the Air Force by helping to ease issues like the environmental assessment process and base expansion. When combined with our delegation's commitment to assisting the Air Force in its mission to restore confidence in nuclear surety and regain its reputation as the world's best nuclear steward, this support is unparalleled.

After reviewing "Why Minot," we believe you too will agree that Minot is indeed the best location for Global Strike Command! Thank you as always for your service.

Sincerely,

KENT CONRAD
U.S. Senate

BYRON DORGAN
U.S. Senate

EARL POMEROY
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03681-09

* HARRY REID
NEVADA

MAJORITY LEADER

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

March 31, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

It has come to my attention that a company – SolarReserve – has identified a site near Tonopah, Nevada for a state of the art solar power plant that could produce enough power to serve 100,000 homes. This facility requires a tower similar to a large smoke stack about 600 feet tall. The primary impediment to moving forward on this facility is an imminent objection from the Defense Department.

Of apparent concern to DOD is that the site for the proposed solar power plant is located 25 miles northwest of the Nellis Air Force Range, beyond the town of Tonopah and over the San Antonio Mountains. It is my understanding that the Air Force's concern is related to potential interference with radar and the height of the tower.

SolarReserve began discussions with the Air Force in early 2008. After meeting with the Nellis AFB radar experts, the company has already agreed once to move the solar project from a proposed site 5 miles away from the base to the current site in order to greatly diminish any impact the project might have on military activities. Now, however, the Air Force has extended its objections to the new site.

I appreciate the need for exercising caution in making decisions that could affect military training and testing activities. The Department must ensure that projects do not interfere with its critical activities. At the same time, I am very concerned by the Department's inattention to developing mitigation strategies that provide for the safe development of renewable energy facilities and the complete lack of a standardized, centralized process for reviewing impacts of proposed renewable energy projects near military bases. That is one of the reasons why I spoke with you about this subject in November 2007 and met with former Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne over a year ago. I have also enclosed a letter I sent to Secretary Wynne early last year before he retired, explaining some of my suggestions.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) recently signed into law by the President provides companies with incentives for breaking ground on solar power facilities within the next two years. It is important that promising renewable energy projects receive close and expedited attention from Federal agencies that play a role in the permitting of such facilities so that they are able to utilize these incentives to create thousands of jobs and clean power in the near future. Further, I would note that ARRA provides ample funds, should any be needed, for quickly developing or deploying any necessary mitigation strategies.

OSD 03683-09

I urge you to expeditiously review the proposed solar plant near Tonopah, and to begin working to establish a standardized procedure for reviewing renewable energy projects near military operations. If I can be of any help in this process, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Bob Herbert (202-228-4578) or Alex McDonough (202-224-1052) of my staff.

Sincerely,

Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader

Encl.

DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

April 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am aware that the Department of Defense is analyzing the requirements and future program options for a revised Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH) based on termination of the former ARH-70A program in October of last year. Given the age of the Vietnam-era OH-58 Kiowa Warrior which a new ARH is being designed to replace, I support moving forward with a replacement program. However, the last two Army efforts to replace the Kiowa Warrior fleet, the RAH-66 Comanche program and the ARH-70A program, resulted in program terminations due to requirements growth, cost overruns and schedule delays after significant taxpayer investment.

After two failed attempts, my greatest concern is that we attempt yet another new costly development program to meet ARH mission requirements. Therefore, I encourage the Department to consider modifying an existing modern platform to provide capabilities which exceed the current OH-58 fleet which is based on 40-50 year technology and is no longer in production.

In order to accomplish this and mitigate program risk, the Department should begin ARH risk reduction efforts in fiscal year 2010 and not wait until fiscal year 2012. A risk reduction effort to build ARH capabilities on an existing and in-service aircraft offers a substantial advantage in terms of cost, risk and schedule versus another attempt at a new development program.

I look forward to working with you to get this much needed capability to the force at the earliest opportunity. With best wishes,

Cordially,

THAD COCHRAN
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

OSD 03741-09

DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII, CHAIRMAN

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http://appropriations.senate.gov

April 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am aware that the Department of Defense is analyzing the requirements and future program options for a revised Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH) based on termination of the former ARH-70A program in October of last year. Given the age of the Vietnam-era OH-58 Kiowa Warrior which a new ARH is being designed to replace, I support moving forward with a replacement program. However, the last two Army efforts to replace the Kiowa Warrior fleet, the RAH-66 Comanche program and the ARH-70A program, resulted in program terminations due to requirements growth, cost overruns and schedule delays after significant taxpayer investment.

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In order to accomplish this and mitigate program risk, the Department should begin ARH risk reduction efforts in fiscal year 2010 and not wait until fiscal year 2012. A risk reduction effort to build ARH capabilities on an existing and in-service aircraft offers a substantial advantage in terms of cost, risk and schedule versus another attempt at a new development program.

I look forward to working with you to get this much needed capability to the force at the earliest opportunity. With best wishes,

Cordially,

THAD COCHRAN
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

OSD 03741-09

cc:
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics
Secretary of the Army
Chief of Staff of the Army

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6250

March 27, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am writing to request that the Department of Defense sponsor a visit by Committee Staff to U.S. Northern Command Headquarters in April 2009. The purpose of the visit would be to examine NORTHCOM's capabilities for CBRNE consequence management and support to civil authorities, its role in and preparations for border security operations, and preparedness for pandemic influenza, as part of my Committee's homeland security oversight responsibilities.

I would very much appreciate if U.S. Northern Command could accommodate such a visit on April 6-8, 2009. It is requested that the Department of the Navy be assigned the action agent for the trip. Committee staff members planning to attend are as follows:

Eric Andersen, Majority Professional Staff Member
Aaron Firoved, Majority Professional Staff Member
Blas Nuñez-Neto, Majority Professional Staff Member
Thomas Richards, Majority Professional Staff Member, OGM Subcommittee

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses, and such transportation as may be required, is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108 (g).

Thank you in advance for your assistance in coordinating this visit. Please contact Eric Andersen at (202) 224-2627 to coordinate the details of the trip.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman

OSD 03753-09

MIKE JOHANNS
NEBRASKA

404 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4224
(202) 228-0436 FAX

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

April 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am deeply disappointed in the way the Air Force has handled the recommendation process for the location of Global Strike Command.

It has come to my attention that a scoring process was employed to evaluate the prospective sites. This process was thoughtfully created and carefully executed during the evaluation. It resulted in Offutt Air Force Base (AFB) being awarded a score of 89 out of 100 points. The nearest competitor received only 81 points. Based on the outcome of this analysis, Offutt AFB is the proper location for Global Strike Command.

I therefore call on you to reject the Air Force's site recommendation, which ignored the Air Force's own evaluation process, and to select the highest scoring site – Offutt AFB – as the new location of Global Strike Command.

I understand that the next step in this process is to conduct environmental assessments on all three of the top scoring sites. You therefore have every opportunity to correct the Air Force's poor judgment in its recommendation without causing any delay in the process.

I look forward to your prompt response, and request a direct conversation or meeting with you at your earliest convenience. I am deeply disappointed in the Air Force's handling of this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Johanns

Mike Johanns
United States Senator

cc: Michael Donley, Secretary of the Air Force
Ben Nelson, United States Senator
Lee Terry, United States Congressman

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4111 FOURTH AVENUE
SUITE 26
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SCOTTSBLUFF OFFICE
115 RAILWAY STREET
SUITE C102
SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69361
(308) 632-6032
FAX: (308) 632-6795

OSD 03759-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 2, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn, III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Lynn:

The tragedy of September 11, 2001, is something Americans will never forget. Neither should we ever forget the first heroes who fought and died for us in our global struggle against Islamic extremism. The first American to die in this struggle was John Michael Spann, a CIA operative who was killed while collecting battlefield intelligence near Mazar-i-Sharif at the infamous Qala Jangi fortress. The information surrounding the event at Qala Jangi has been well-documented in the Western media, including a two-and-one-half hour videotape, shot by a Northern Alliance intelligence official, which recorded events in the Qala Jangi fortress up to the moment when the uprising began, as well as a subsequent video of the event filmed by an on-scene foreign news crew that has aired on the Discovery Channel and the History Channel. In these videos, Spann is shown interviewing the first-known American Taliban/al Qaeda terrorist, John Walker Lindh, just moments before Spann's murder. Then-Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director George Tenet considered Spann's death monumental enough to publicly disclose his name and CIA affiliation at the time, an unprecedented act for the CIA.

At that time of Spann's death, an American Navy Sea, Air, Land (SEAL) team member embedded in a British Special Boat Squadron team responded to the scene and attempted to rescue Spann. By the time he reached him, however, Spann had passed away. This heroic act by one American risking his life to save another at the earliest stages of our ongoing national struggle deserves broader dissemination among the American people. Recently, a Hollywood film producer, Mr. Brandon Hogan, made known his intention to factually depict the events that took place at the time of Spann's death. Mr. Hogan has been seeking factual information about this incident for the past five years. To date, he has conducted

OSD 03763-09

multiple interviews with current and former U.S. officials to make certain that the stories of this event are not only accurate, but that the stories of the men who sacrificed their lives are not forgotten.

We see no damage to national security in further disclosing more details concerning the events of November 25, 2001, and we ask that you extend Mr. Hogan the opportunity to review documents and video footage of the Qala Jangi event. In addition, we request that information surrounding the events of "Operation Redwing" be made available to Mr. Hogan under the same conditions and circumstances the Department crafted for another Hollywood producer. As you will recall, Operation Redwing was an operation that took place in Afghanistan during June 2005 that ultimately led to the largest loss of life in Navy SEAL history.

We believe it is time to tell the stories of these heroic men involved with these incidents. Your accommodation to Mr. Hogan would assist in honoring the men who have lost their lives in Afghanistan while defending this nation. If you have any questions about our request, please contact Louis Tucker, the Minority Staff Director of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Mr. Tucker can be reached at (202)224-1700.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Bond
United States Senator

Richard C. Shelby
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Leon Panetta, Director, Central Intelligence Agency
The Honorable Dennis C. Blair, Director of National Intelligence
The Honorable Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense

E. BENJAMIN NELSON
NEBRASKA

720 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-6551
FAX: (202) 228-0012
www.bennelson.senate.gov

United States Senate

April 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On April 2, 2009, the U.S. Air Force announced that it had chosen Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana as the location of the new Global Strike Command to oversee the Air Force's nuclear operations. In press reports announcing this decision, I was greatly concerned to see allegations by a member of the Nebraska Congressional delegation that military commanders have asserted that politics play a role in the decision of the location of major new commands.

Yet the *Omaha World-Herald* reported on April 3, 2009, that "Rep. Lee Terry said that while military commanders maintain publicly that politics are not involved in such decisions, they concede in private that politics do play a role. Terry said those politics occur primarily at the Senate level." This is a very serious allegation which I believe merits serious consideration and a response by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). I am greatly concerned by any accusation that DoD chose Barksdale Air Force Base as the location of the Global Strike Command based on political considerations, particularly those in the Senate, rather than an objective evaluation of the qualifications of the bases. Such allegations, if left unaddressed, seriously undermine the credibility and integrity of our armed services and the men and women who serve to keep our nation secure.

I ask you to immediately investigate and report on the allegations by Congressman Terry as reported in the *Omaha World-Herald* that military commanders are basing their decisions on politics, in part in or in whole, rather than the interests of DoD and the security of our nation.

Since Congressman Terry provided no specifics to back up his allegations, some could choose to discount them as baseless. However, since Offutt Air Force Base scored highest overall of all the bases under consideration in the criteria used, and rated the highest or tied for the highest in all six individual subcategories, it is difficult to explain why Offutt was not selected and to argue that politics was not the basis for this decision.

The longer such an allegation goes unaddressed, the greater the appearance of plausibility becomes. Therefore, I am requesting an immediate and thorough investigation of this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

EBN:ceg

cc: The Honorable Barack Obama

OSD 03788-09

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PATRICK LEAHY
VERMONT

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4502

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A recent report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) describes the use of U.S.-manufactured white phosphorus (WP) artillery shells during Operation Cast Lead in Gaza (December 27, 2008 – January 18, 2009). According to HRW's field investigation, all of the WP shells that HRW found in Gaza are from the same lot, manufactured in the United States and marked: THS89D112-003 155MM M825E1. It is my understanding that THS89 is the manufacturer identification code denoting that the shells were produced in April, 1989 by Thiokol Aerospace, which operated the Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant at the time; 112-003 are the interfix and sequence numbers, which denote that several lots of the same ammunition were being produced simultaneously; 155MM stands for the caliber of the artillery shell. M825E1 is the U.S. military designation for an older remanufactured M825 white phosphorous shell that has been brought up to the current M825A1 standard.

Additionally, Reuters news agency photographed Israeli Defense Force (IDF) M109 artillery units near the Gaza strip handling M825A1 projectiles on January 4, 2009 with the lot number PB-91J011-002A, indicating these were produced in the United States at the Pine Bluff Arsenal in September 1991.

There are also reports that WP was air-burst over densely populated urban areas during the military campaign. In order to better understand how American manufactured WP got to the IDF's arsenal and also how U.S. tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) may differ from IDF TTPs, we would appreciate your answers to the following questions:

- Under what mechanism was the white phosphorus from the two lots noted above transferred/sold to Israel?
- Are there any transfer or use restrictions placed upon Israel by the United States?
- Does the U.S. still provide Israel with WP munitions? If so what type? When was the most recent transfer/sale of WP to Israel?
- How much WP has the U.S. sent to Israel in the last 10 years?
- Who produces and where is WP currently produced in the United States?
- Where does the U.S. Army get WP munitions from?

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- What are the U.S. Army's TTPs for employment of 155MM WP?
    - Does the U.S. Army air burst WP? For what reason? What are the restrictions?
    - Does the U.S. Army allow WP to be fired over urban areas? What if any restrictions are placed on such actions?
    - Why does the U.S. Army employ WP, beyond the creation of smokescreens?
    - In what manner does the U.S. Army employ WP?
    - At what level is the employment of WP authorized?
    - Does the U.S. Army still use WP as a weapon as it did in the Second Battle of Fallujah in 2004? If so, what restrictions are placed on the use of WP as a weapon?
- What alternatives to WP does the US Army have available to it? Under what conditions would it employ an alternative to WP?

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

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JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

April 1, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with his responsibilities as a Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Jack Reed plans to travel to Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq during the period April 13-20, 2009. Senator Reed will be accompanied by Ms. Elizabeth King, his personal staffer who has been designated to the Committee.

I would appreciate the support and assistance of the Department of Defense in providing such transportation, including the use of foreign carrier and military air transportation, as may be required. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Army could be designated as the action agency for this travel.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03837-09

STAFFOL BARKER

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

April 1, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request assistance for Mr. Adam J. Barker, Research Assistant, on the Senate Armed Services Committee, to travel by commercial transportation to California and Illinois, during the period April 5-10, 2009.

The purpose of his trip is to visit facilities at Camp Pendleton, Naval Special Warfare Command, MCAS Miramar, and Third Fleet HQ in California; and Navy Recruit Training Command (Battle Station 21) in Illinois to receive briefings on issues pertinent to current operations and needs for the upcoming fiscal year, as well as meetings with officers and enlisted personnel on issues of concern. It is requested that the Department of the Navy be assigned the action agent for this trip.

Expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

OSD 03838-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 26, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge you to retain adequate funding for the Next Generation Bomber in the Fiscal Year 2010 defense budget. A recent media report suggests that termination of the Next Generation Bomber is being proposed by your administration as the Pentagon finalizes its FY2010 budget request. We believe termination of the Next Generation Bomber would do tremendous damage to our nation's future ability to project power abroad, and runs counter to what senior defense officials in your Administration have stated about the need for a Next Generation Bomber.

As you know, the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review directed the Air Force to "develop a new land-based, penetrating long range strike capability to be fielded by 2018." The need for this new long range strike capability is urgent because, while our current wars are being fought in undefended airspace, the conflicts of the near-term future will likely feature heavily defended airspace, due in large part to the proliferation of relatively inexpensive, but extremely sophisticated and deadly air defense systems. As General Michael Maples, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, noted during a March 10, 2009 Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on worldwide threats, "Russia, quite frankly, is the developer of most of those [advanced air defense] systems and is exporting those systems both to China and to other countries in the world."

Nearly half of our bomber inventory pre-dates the Cuban Missile Crisis. The B-52 is a robust aircraft, but it is no longer survivable in defended airspace. While the B-1 can be upgraded, it still lacks the vital stealth technology that affords a greater level of protection in defended airspace. With only sixteen combat ready B-2 bombers currently available with vital stealth technology to hold targets deep in heavily defended airspace at risk, a decision to terminate the Next Generation Bomber would severely diminish our ability to project power on a global scale in the future. Should you decide to terminate this important program, the consequences to our national security would be grave.

Aside from our view about the urgent need for development of the Next Generation Bomber, senior officials you have selected to lead the Department of Defense have stated the need for a Next Generation Bomber. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates discussed the need for a new bomber as recently as January of this year, in an article for *Foreign Affairs* entitled "A Balanced Strategy," writing that the United States' ability to strike from over the horizon will be at a premium in future conflicts and "will require shifts from short-range to longer-range systems, such as the next-generation bomber." Michele Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense

OSD 03867-09

for Policy, stated at her nomination hearing on January 15, 2009 that "I think the need for long-range precision strikes that can penetrate the most sophisticated enemy air defenses is absolutely critical."

With an aging bomber fleet that is highly vulnerable to inexpensive yet sophisticated air defense systems rapidly being acquired by potential adversaries of the United States, continued development of the Next Generation Bomber is vital to our nation's future security. As senior defense officials within your Administration have stated, the need for a Next Generation Bomber is absolutely critical. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to continue development of the Next Generation Bomber.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

TIM JOHNSON
United States Senator

DAVID VITTER
United States Senator

MARY LANDRIEU
United States Senator

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
United States Senator

cc: Honorable Peter R. Orszag, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Honorable Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense
Honorable Michele Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense, Policy

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND
MISSOURI

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
SMALL BUSINESS
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2503

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Michele Flournoy
Undersecretary of Defense for Policy
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Secretary Flournoy,

What I have heard about the President's initial approach to formulating and executing a comprehensive strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan is encouraging. This week I spoke at the National Press Club and the United States Institute of Peace, offering my opinions on the regional situation and discussing my thoughts on the President's strategy. I am attaching a copy of my USIP speech for your consideration.

While I still have some reservations about specific details of the strategy that I have not yet seen, I am cautiously optimistic that a well-resourced COIN Strategy, fully synchronized with development and governance assistance, will prevail. I believe that we can defeat al Qa'ida and the Taliban, and establish a stable Afghanistan. I also believe that there is still time to turn Pakistan back from the brink of radicalization and internal destruction.

As the Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and as an active member of the Defense Subcommittee and the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I expect to play a central role in the Senate in working with you and other policy makers to address and resource appropriately our nation's strategy to succeed in this region.

I am dedicated to working with you, other administration officials, and with my colleagues in the Congress to ensure that we win this war. When we do, our nation will emerge safer, stronger, and better protected from the forces of terrorism. We have no other option than to face this challenge head on

I look forward to continued dialogue on this matter.

Sincerely,

Kit Bond

Christopher S. Bond
United States Senator

Enclosure

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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

March 30, 2009

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are concerned that veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan may be ill, and some may have actually died, as a result of exposure to dangerous toxins produced by burn pits used to destroy waste. The *Military Times* reports that scores of returning veterans who were exposed to burn pits display similar symptoms: chronic bronchitis, asthma, sleep apnea, chronic coughs, and allergy-like symptoms. Several also have cited heart problems, lymphoma, and leukemia. We write to request that you direct relevant DoD personnel to fully comply with the VA's requests for information needed to study the impact of these potential environmental exposures.

Our experience with treating illnesses caused by Agent Orange and Gulf War Illness taught us that we must be vigilant in monitoring and treating our veterans long after they have returned from the battlefield. Although the Department of Defense currently maintains that there are no health dangers to troops from exposure to burn pits, we believe it is premature to dismiss concerns raised about burn pits after only a few years.

As you know, a joint study of the burn pit at Balad Air Base found that toxins were present, including carcinogens such as dioxin, but that they did not exceed military exposure guidelines for those exposed to the fumes for one year. The Defense Health Board reviewed the study last year. While the Board found that the study was generally adequate, it identified several weaknesses in the study, including the lack of a comprehensive analysis of the interaction of various toxins and the failure to conduct a valid study of relevant health records. It identified several ways in which the Army could improve its examination of dioxin serum sampling and analysis of respiratory illnesses.

Independent scientists who have reviewed the joint study of the Balad Air Base have informed us that there is a significant danger that veterans may become ill as a result of exposure to fumes emanating from such burn pits. They also noted that the underlying data supporting the study was not included and that it will be difficult to ascertain the potential health care implications of exposure to the fumes without this data.

For this reason, we request that you make this underlying data available to our staff and to the Government Accountability Office for its review, in a classified setting if required.

Meanwhile, the real indicators of the dangers to veterans are the long-term health measures of those exposed rather than less reliable environmental reports. Therefore, the study of those known to be exposed by burn pits should be the primary focus.

OSD 03888-09

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Responding to a recent Congressional request along these lines, Veterans Affairs Secretary Shinseki gave assurance that he is taking seriously our concerns about the dangers of burn pits. In the enclosed message, Secretary Shinseki committed to take the following actions which relate to the Department of Defense:

1. VA scientists have begun health studies on veterans of the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, including requesting assistance from the Department of Defense (DoD) for troop exposure and location data.
2. VA is working with DoD to obtain all relevant exposure data with the goal of establishing potential correlations with health problems among affected veterans. To this end, VA has established a data sharing agreement with DoD that grants access to this data for separated veterans. VA scientists will also review data gathered from DoD's Post Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA) surveys, which ask about exposures to smoke from burn pits, subsequent symptoms, and a variety of other health related questions.

Since time is of the essence and the lives of our troops and veterans are at stake, we are requesting your expressed commitment that the Pentagon will fully cooperate with the VA in this matter so that these analyses can be completed as quickly and accurately as possible. We also request that you direct the relevant Department of Defense offices to fully cooperate with the VA's studies.

Thank you for your attention and assistance in this matter.

Senator Russ Feingold

Senator Evan Bayh

Senator Ron Wyden

Representative Tim Bishop

Representative Steve Cohen

Representative John Hall

Representative Maurice Hinchey

Representative Carol Shea-Porter

EVAN BAYH
INDIANA

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–1404

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
ENERGY

March 20, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write today about a pending regulation regarding the use of specialty metals melted in the United States for defense items. As I understand, this and many other regulations have been put on hold pending a review by your Administration.

I believe that it is important to maintain a strong defense industrial base, and that a domestic supply of strategic materials is vital to our national security. As such, I have supported Congressional efforts to ensure that the Department of Defense (DOD) purchases domestic specialty metals. However, I am aware that there are outstanding questions regarding how the DOD should interpret the Specialty Metals Amendment (10 U.S.C. 2533b).

I have written letters to senior DOD officials in recent months regarding the interpretation of recent statutory changes to the provision, which were enacted in the FY 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. I am not alone in my questions on this issue. The House Armed Services Committee also included language in its Report on the FY 2009 National Defense Authorization Act expressing its concern regarding DOD's preliminary interpretation of the statutory changes with respect to two points: (1) the definition of "commercial-off-the-shelf-items (COTS) for purposes of the Specialty Metals Amendment; and (2) the definition of the term "produced," and whether the proposed definition would change the melting requirement of the law.

The DOD issued a proposed rule in July 2008 that was not in concurrence with what was in the report for the FY 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. The proposed rule allowed components to be COTS items if the component is modified for military applications. However, as I understand, current law requires that a COTS item to be "offered to the Government, without modification, in the same form in which it is sold in the commercial marketplace."

I am also concerned the proposed rule may create a precedent by permitting the use of imported specialty metals – such as armor plate – which are subjected to minimal processing operations following importation. While I remain adamantly in favor of any actions necessary to provide force protection equipment to our military, I ask that your staff consider whether the waivers and exceptions in the existing statutory framework may make this expansion of the definition unnecessary.

OSD 03889-09

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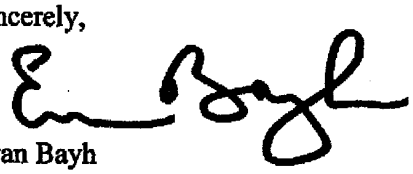
Further, as I understand, the DOD's proposed rule was never issued as a final regulation. However, the General Services Administration (GSA) recently incorporated it into a final rule (48 CFR Parts 2, 3, 12, 23, 25, and 52) in an effort by GSA to be consistent with the definition that was provided in draft form by the DOD. In order to fix this problem, I ask that these GSA provisions be part of your regulatory review and subject to revision accordingly.

The proposed DOD rule implementing changes in the Specialty Metals Amendment, and the regulatory changes adopted by the GSA, warrant full consideration. I am concerned how they will impact the ability of domestic specialty metals manufacturers to produce and supply these materials, and how they may create a dependency on offshore sources for these critical materials.

Our military cannot permit supply disruptions in a time of war. I believe that the Specialty Metals Amendment provides the incentive our metals suppliers need to invest in the technologically advanced materials that remain vital to our defense industrial base. We ask that your Administration consider these matters in the course of its regulatory review.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or your staff have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued service and leadership.

Sincerely,



Evan Bayh
United States Senator

cc: Director Peter Orszag
Secretary Robert Gates

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–2101

February 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I'm writing to request your support for funding of the Center for Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology (CIMIT) in the President's Fiscal Year 2010 Department of Defense budget in the amount of $25 million.

CIMIT, a research consortium in Massachusetts consisting of 12 member institutions, was founded 10 years ago by a medical innovator and Vietnam veteran to improve combat casualty and soldier/civilian care by bringing together clinicians and engineers to encourage more rapid and effective development of innovative medical technology, procedures and processes. The consortium consists of Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Partners HealthCare, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston Medical Center, Boston University, Children's Hospital Boston, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, and the VA Boston Healthcare System. The Center itself is located at Harvard Medical School.

CIMIT investigators have developed innovative technologies and new treatments in a timely fashion in major areas of need: Trauma and Casualty Care, Infection Control and Sepsis, Spinal Cord Injury, Enhancing Performance, and Skin and Muscle Innervation. They have established new programs on Traumatic Brain Injury, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and these programs are led by nationally recognized research clinicians who address these serious and growing challenges.

The consortium has already established links with the Department to translate its innovational research to prototype/testing and commercialization, and the Department has expressed interest in using the CIMIT model to facilitate translational research supported or conducted by its own personnel.

CIMIT has the potential to be a major assistant to the Department in protecting and treating our soldiers, and I hope very much that you will support this funding.

With great respect and my warmest wishes,

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy

OSD 03892-09

SHERROD BROWN
OHIO

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BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As the Department of Defense evaluates candidates for positions at the Pentagon, I hope you will consider Dr. Mark Wayda, of Columbus, Ohio. I have every confidence that Dr. Wayda would be an invaluable addition to the Administration. Dr. Wayda has an outstanding career with a diverse background in joint operations, legislative relations, public affairs, and political communication.

In his current role at the Adjutant General's Department of the Ohio National Guard, Dr. Wayda concurrently manages the Department's Government Relations and Public Affairs programs. In these roles, he has built lasting relationships with political advisors, policymakers, and Defense Department leaders, on the local, state, and federal levels, as well as managed all internal and external communications for the Ohio National Guard. Dr. Wayda has been instrumental in leading one of our nation's largest National Guard forces, and has received the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal, the highest award a civilian may receive.

During Dr. Wayda's time as the Chief of Executive Staff at the State Medical Board of Ohio, he successfully served as a liaison between the Medical Board and outside organizations, oversaw its budget, and supervised multiple departments.

I am confident that Dr. Wayda has the knowledge and experience necessary to succeed at the Department of Defense. He would serve our nation well at the national level as a valuable and trusted professional. Thank you for considering Dr. Wayda.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

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MARK UDALL
COLORADO

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2009

The Honorable William Lynn
Deputy Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1010

Dear Mr. Lynn:

I am pleased to strongly support the application of (b)(6) (USA Ret.) to serve in the Department of Defense in the capacity of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations Capabilities, Prisoners of War/Missing Personnel or Homeland Defense. His experience also makes him an excellent candidate for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment.

(b)(6) brings to the table a proven record of tough but smart leadership that is both principled and pragmatic. In addition to his long and distinguished military career, (b)(6) has extensive experience dealing with public-private sector partnerships and media relations regarding United States military engagements. For example, he has led Colorado's efforts to respond to the effects of the growth at Fort Carson from 2005 to the present. Fort Carson will grow from 12,500 troops in 2005 to 28,200 troops in 2013. (b)(6) has helped prepare the Colorado Springs community and the state for this growth. He also understands how to clearly communicate the overall significance and day-to-day realities of our military engagements to the American people. He served as the military analyst/consultant for several Dateline NBC specials, including one on the war on terror and another on Afghanistan.

I hand-delivered a similar letter to Secretary Gates some weeks ago urging him to give (b)(6) every consideration for one of these positions in the Department. I urge you to do the same. I am proud to support (b)(6) application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 224-5941.

Sincerely,

Mark Udall
U.S. Senator

Cc: Mr. Don Gips, Director, Office of Presidential Personnel

OSD 03985-09

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RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6050

April 7, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Personnel, we are concerned about suicides by military members.

On March 18, 2009 the Subcommittee held a hearing to examine the recent increase in military suicides and efforts by the services to prevent suicide. On March 25, 2009, the Subcommittee held a hearing on reserve component issues which also included a discussion of suicides of members of the National Guard and Reserve.

We are concerned that the Reserve Components are not consistently reporting suicides by all service members, particularly those who are not in an active duty status. We believe that to accurately understand both the extent of military suicides and the entire population at risk, the Department must require reporting of all suicides within the total force. This data also should be provided to researchers who are assisting the Department in the design of effective prevention strategies.

We request that you review the procedures of each of the reserve components for collecting and reporting suicide data, and institute uniform policies and procedures to ensure that suicides by members of the reserve components are reported as part of the total force of the Department of Defense.

We request that you report to the Subcommittee within 90 days on the results of your review and actions taken to address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Personnel

E. Benjamin Nelson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Personnel

OSD 03986-09

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA, CHAIRMAN

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 31, 2009

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Wilkie:

I have received the enclosed proposal from officials at Momentive Performance Materials in Sistersville, West Virginia, regarding the company's "Green Silanes" Process Development and Manufacturing project.

I would appreciate your reviewing the enclosed proposal, and providing me with your comments about it.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Byrd

RCB:bwb
Enclosure

OSD 04066-09

JACK REED
RHODE ISLAND

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1 (800) 745-5555

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March 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to strongly recommend (b)(6) to serve on the Defense Policy Board.

(b)(6) is a woman of remarkable talent and intellect who possesses extensive subject matter expertise and sound foreign policy judgment.

Currently, (b)(6) is a visiting professor at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy where she lectures on international security and nuclear regulation and proliferation matters. Prior to her tenure as visiting professor, (b)(6) taught at the Kennedy School of Government and served as Vice Chair and Senior Consultant of the Conflict Management Group, a non-profit international dispute resolution organization.

Recognizing her talents and abilities, in 1977, President Carter appointed (b)(6) as Assistant Secretary, and later Under Secretary, of the Air Force. (b)(6) was charged with a wide range of responsibilities, including oversight of weapon systems, implementation of the department budget, and man-power issues. Indeed, (b)(6) was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for her remarkable service to our nation. She has a strong professional record, and I have attached her resume for your review.

Throughout her career, (b)(6) commitment to academia and public service has remained steadfast. She serves as Chairwoman of the Project on International Institutions and Conflict Management at Harvard Law School. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has authored numerous publications on defense and national security policy including, most recently, *How American Threat Behavior Threatens National Security.*

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OSD 04110-09

I believe (b)(6) is uniquely qualified and would make a strong addition to the Defense Policy Board.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Enclosure

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD
WISCONSIN

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
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SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

April 13, 2009

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am very pleased by the safe rescue of Captain Richard Phillips and the crew of the Maersk Alabama, and applaud your excellent handling of this crisis. I am also pleased by your administration's expressed commitment to bolster the international naval presence and capabilities in the waters off the Horn of Africa to deter attacks, as well to strengthen the international legal framework to bring these pirates to justice. I look forward to working with you, Secretary Clinton and Secretary Gates in this regard.

As you know, piracy off the coast of Somalia is a symptom of the state collapse and instability on land; thus, any military actions we take will only be stopgap measures. In recent Congressional testimony, Director of National Intelligence Blair and Defense Intelligence Agency Director Army Lt. General Michael Maples cited lawlessness and economic problems on land for the rise in piracy at sea. The ultimate solution to the problem of piracy, then, is the establishment of a functional government that can enforce the rule of law. During the rule of the Council of Islamic Courts in 2006, there was a notable decline in piracy that can be attributed, in large part, to the rise of a central authority in southern Somalia. Without replicating the repressive rule of the Courts, we must keep in mind that establishing a central governing structure in Somalia is critical to resolving, not just stopping, the problem of piracy.

In February 2009, I sent you a letter, which I have attached, that outlines the essential need to develop a comprehensive interagency strategy to stabilize Somalia and support effective governance. With the strategic review now underway, I reiterate my belief that expanded U.S. support for the new unity government must be a central component of that strategy. Furthermore, we must seize the opening that lies before us by publicly declaring our commitment to high-level, sustained engagement that could help Somalia overcome the many challenges to peace and stability.

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GREEN BAY, WI 54302
(920) 465-7508

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OSD 04127-09

I met with President Sheik Sharif during a trip to the region this past December, just before his election, and met last month with the new government's Foreign Minister here in Washington D.C. In both meetings we discussed the importance of an inclusive process to unite Somalia and the importance of U.S. support to achieve that goal.

Just as you have personally become engaged in the problem of piracy off Somalia's coast, it is essential that you personally engage in U.S. efforts to address its origins on land. As a first step, I urge you to call President Sheik Sharif and indicate a clear commitment to work with his government not only on maritime insecurity issues, but also to help establish security and functional, inclusive governance within the country. This should be coordinated with other levels of engagement and complemented by ongoing discussions with our regional and international partners on a comprehensive plan to support this transitional government and stabilize Somalia.

We have a unique opportunity with the current level of attention to Somalia's waters to focus on developing a strategic approach that incorporates the broader problems facing Somalia. I urge you to seize this opportunity, and stand ready to support and work with you on a comprehensive strategy that can help bring stability to this region. If we do not take this critical step, we will continue to see Somalia's historic instability manifest itself in piracy and growing extremism, both of which pose serious security threats in the region and around the globe.

Sincerely,

Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Dennis Blair
Director of National Intelligence

LISA MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

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WASILLA, AK 99654-7143
(907) 376-7665

April 14, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Those who serve in the National Guard are being asked to do more in the service of our Nation than they have ever done before and I applaud your efforts to seamlessly integrate our Guardsmen into the total force. Among those Guardsmen currently serving abroad are the members of the Alaska National Guard's 207th Aviation Regiment, who were deployed to Kosovo in November 2008 for a one year peacekeeping mission.

Service members serving in Kosovo are entitled to participate in the Kosovo R&R leave program. This program provides up to 15 days of R&R leave at government expense. However, I have come to learn that the program guidelines cap airfare reimbursement at the cost to travel from Kosovo to Frankfurt, Germany or Baltimore, Maryland. In recent weeks I have heard from the spouses of members of the 207th Aviation Regiment that this cap is insufficient to cover the cost of travel from Kosovo to the Alaska homes of our deployed Guardsmen. The Guardsmen have been required to cover the difference in cost out of their own pockets. Some of the Guardsmen have served in the Persian Gulf and wonder why their R&R trip to Alaska was fully paid in that instance but only partially paid in this one.

I understand that it is possible for your office to grant a waiver on this cap which would enable the Alaska Guardsmen to travel home for R&R entirely at government expense. I also understand that the chain of command has initiated the process of granting a waiver. I would encourage you to grant the waiver when it comes before you.

One or more Alaska Guardsmen may currently be in transit on their R&R trips. I would hope that the waiver, if granted, would enable these Guardsmen to seek reimbursement for the difference between the capped R&R reimbursement amount when they began their trip and the maximum amount allowable under the waiver, if granted.

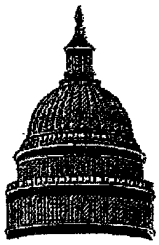
OSD 04160-09

While it may cost a bit more to return an Alaska Guardsman home for R&R than some of his comrades in arms, the incremental investment is returned in dedication to service and family stability. Thank you for all that you and your team do to protect our Nation's security.

Sincerely,

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

JAMES M. INHOFE
OKLAHOMA



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 5, 2009

Honorable William Lynn
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1010

Dear Mr. Lynn,

I would like to invite you to join the civic leaders of Lawton Oklahoma and the members of the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce to the Annual Capitol Hill Breakfast on Thursday, April 30, 2009.

The breakfast will commence at 8:00 am in the Senate Caucus Room (#325), Russell Senate Office Building. We will enjoy a delicious meal, as well as enjoy the company of friends.

Kindly RSVP to Joslyn Wood at 580-354-0021 or e-mail her at jwood@lawtonfortsillchamber.com. We look forward to seeing you at the breakfast.

Sincerely,

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator

OSD 04161-09

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

March 27, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I recently met with Secretary Schlesinger on the findings of the Task Force you established to examine the management of the Department's nuclear weapons and to continue an on-going dialogue I have with him on security issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

He brought to my attention the fact that the United States participates in formal meetings on nuclear posture with NATO member countries through the Nuclear Planning Group; however, there is nothing equivalent to the NATO model in the Pacific region. As you know, the U.S. nuclear presence provides a credible deterrent to a large nuclear build-up in that part of the world. I am aware the government of Japan, in particular, is worried that the U.S. will make a unilateral decision to downgrade or withdraw its nuclear capabilities from the Pacific.

It is my understanding that the Japanese government would like to establish a more formal relationship with the United States to discuss nuclear matters and gain assurance that the U.S. nuclear umbrella remains strong in the region. I believe it may be worthwhile to consider a similar arrangement to NATO's Nuclear Planning Group for our allies in the Pacific such as Australia, Japan, and Korea. I would appreciate your thoughts and insights on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman

OSD 04259-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon, Room 3E718
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to request that you include $25 million in funding for the Gulf War Illness Research Program (GWIRP) of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) of the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command in the Department of Defense's complete budget submission expected in the weeks ahead.

This request follows the November release of the Congressionally-mandated Research Advisory Committee (RAC) on Gulf War Illnesses 454-page report, which concludes that "[t]he extensive body of scientific research now available consistently indicates that Gulf War illness is real, that it is the result of neurotoxic exposures during Gulf War deployment, and that few veterans have recovered or substantially improved with time."[1] At least 175,000 veterans, one in four of those who deployed, are affected. The Committee called for a "renewed federal research commitment ... to identify effective treatments ... to achieve the critical objectives of improving the health of Gulf War veterans and preventing similar problems in future deployments."[2]

As you may know, over the last four years, Congress has provided $23 million for the CDMRP to fund peer-reviewed and merit-based research into treatments for this complex multi-symptom disorder (including widespread pain, cognitive impairment, and persistent fatigue, in conjunction with other abnormalities) known as Gulf War Illnesses. This research is not only important to Gulf War veterans, but to current and future force health protection; not to mention public health generally. Unfortunately, exposures to toxins, chemical weapons, and other hazardous substances are a permanent reality for our service members. We need to make sure we have the effective defensive measures and treatments in place for service members that are exposed. Since no substantial treatments

[1] U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, *Gulf War Illness and the Health of Gulf War Veterans: Scientific Findings and Recommendations* by Binns et al. (Washington, D.C., November 2008), p.17.
[2] Ibid., p.2.

OSD 04425-09

are currently available for Gulf War veterans 18 years after the end of the war, clearly, our work is not yet complete.

After years of the government wasting significant resources on studies focused on trying to explain why these veterans of the first Gulf War were not sick, the research funded and managed by CDMRP is focusing on exactly what is most important: treatments. In Fiscal Year 2006 CDMRP received 80 pre-proposals for research, 31 full research submissions and awarded 9 research grants. In Fiscal Year 2008 CDMRP received 113 pre-proposals, 48 full submissions, and awarded 12. In Fiscal Year 2009 it is expected that this growing trend of scientific interest in conducting this research will continue. However, with the current level of resources allotted to the research, the effort to find treatments is expanding in a far too incremental fashion. Funding at the $25 million level will provide the program with approximately $13 million for pilot studies to identify effective treatments and diagnostic tests, $8 million for clinical trials of treatments identified as effective in previous pilot studies, and $4 million for a center of excellence to identify promising candidates for treatments and diagnostic tests.

As the Research Advisory Committee report indicates, the DoD CDMRP research program complements the Gulf War illness research program at the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA program is focused on understanding biological mechanisms underlying Gulf War illness, which can ultimately lead to the development of treatments to address these mechanisms. However, the CDMRP program is focused on pilot studies of promising treatments already approved for other conditions, so it offers the possibility of early answers. The CDMRP program is also open to all researchers world-wide on a peer-reviewed competitive basis, while VA programs limit the universe of eligible researchers.

The Department of Defense historically funded two-thirds of GWI research, reflecting the need to prevent similar problems in future deployments, but funding for new Gulf War illnesses research was eliminated from the DoD budget after the onset of the current wars. Clearly we can all agree that both DoD and VA have a moral responsibility and vested interest in providing funding to advance research into treatments.

With our request of $25 million for the CDMRP Gulf War Illness Research Program we are taking the first step to implement the RAC report's recommendation that "the Administration request and Congress appropriate a minimum of $40 million annually to the Department of Defense for the Gulf War Illness Research Program managed by DOD's Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs."[3] With its independent, merit-based, and peer-reviewed process we are confident that these

[3] Ibid. p.309.

resources are and will continue to be used in the best interest of our service members and veterans.

Finally, we note that President Obama was a strong supporter of the CDMRP's Gulf War Illness Research Program during his time in the Senate.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that $25 million in funding for CDMRP's Gulf War Illness Research Program is contained in the final FY10 DoD budget submission.

Sincerely,

BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator

ROBERT C. BYRD
United States Senator

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD
United States Senator

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV
United States Senator

SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
The Honorable, Peter R. Orzag, Director of the Office of Management and Budget

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 6, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write to urge you not to allow deep cuts in U.S. missile defense programs that are critically important to protecting our homeland and our allies against the growing threat of ballistic missiles.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates today announced plans to cancel or reduce such major programs as the Airborne Laser, Multiple Kill Vehicle, and the installation of additional Ground-Based Interceptor missiles in Alaska, and to cut the MDA's budget for Fiscal Year 2010 by $1.4 billion. Although we applaud Secretary Gates' commitment to such capabilities as THAAD and SM-3, these proposals would amount to almost a fifteen percent cut in the MDA budget and a major reduction in our missile defense portfolio—actions that we fear could undermine our emerging missile defense capabilities to protect the United States against a growing threat.

As you know, the threat from ballistic missiles is significant and on the rise. Lieutenant General Daniel Maples, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, recently testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee that "the threat posed by ballistic missile delivery systems is likely to increase while growing more complex over the next decade." General Maples further warned that "adversary nations are increasingly adopting technical and operational countermeasures to defeat missile defenses." Ballistic missile technology has already proliferated worldwide and is a direct threat to both our allies and our homeland.

The threat posed by rogue states with ballistic missiles has been underscored by Iran and North Korea's recent missile tests. In early February, Iran launched a satellite atop a rocket that could be used as an intercontinental ballistic missile. Last weekend, North Korea tested the Taepo Dong-2, a long range missile that if successful, could have the range to strike Hawaii, Alaska, and possibly the West Coast of the United States.

Although these developments highlight the danger we face, they have also revealed the progress our national missile defense system has made. When recently asked before the Senate Armed Services Committee whether the United States could intercept a Taepo Dong-2 missile that targeted the American homeland, Admiral Timothy Keating, Commander of U.S. Pacific Command, and General Patrick Chilton, Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, assured that we can do so with high probability. This would not have been the case just a few years ago, and is only the case today because we have invested in a diverse set of missile defense capabilities.

OSD 04622-09

Cooperation on ballistic missile defense is also essential to our most important alliances. In the Asia-Pacific region, Japan became the first among our allies to successfully intercept a ballistic missile with the Aegis defense system. In response to North Korea's growing arsenal of missiles, the Government of Japan decided six years ago to deploy a joint Aegis and Patriot PAC-3 missile defense and has already invested $7.9 billion of its own funds to build a new pillar of our alliance. India has likewise expressed strong interest in closer cooperation on missile defense systems, which promises to become an area of cooperation in our growing strategic partnership.

In the Middle East, we continue to develop missile defense technology in close partnership with Israel. As you know, the State of Israel faces a uniquely pressing threat due to Iran's ballistic missile program and pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. In response, we have long cooperated with Israel to develop the Arrow family of missile interceptors and are now working together on the David's Sling missile defense system to defeat medium range rockets. These are critical programs that should not be abandoned.

In Europe, NATO has also endorsed the importance of missile defense as a collaborative venture among its member states. At the Bucharest summit in April 2008, NATO formally declared that "ballistic missile proliferation poses an increasing threat to Allies' forces, territory, and populations. Missile defense forms part of a broader response to counter this threat." NATO further expressed "deep concern" over the proliferation activities of both Iran and North Korea, and urged the examination of a "comprehensive missile defense architecture to extend coverage to all Allied territory and populations."

In sum, cooperation on missile defense is now a critical component of many of our closest security partnerships around the world. We fear that cuts to the budget for missile defense could inadvertently undermine these relationships and foster the impression that the United States is an unreliable ally. Moreover, sharp cuts would leave us and our friends around the world less capable of responding to the growing ballistic missile threat.

The fact remains that our adversaries continue to invest large sums in the development of these weapons. The question is whether we respond by developing appropriate defenses against them. We therefore urge you to sustain the ability of the Missile Defense Agency and the military services to develop an integrated, layered defense against the threat of ballistic missiles to the United States, our deployed forces, and our allies.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

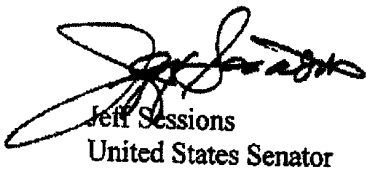
Sincerely,

Jon Kyl
United States Senator

Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Mark Begich
United States Senator



Jeff Sessions
United States Senator

James Inhofe
United States Senator

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

April 28, 2008

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am profoundly disturbed by yesterday's low-altitude flight of Air Force One and F-16 fighters over lower Manhattan. From press reports, I understand that Air Force One's flight mission here, carried out by the Department of Defense, was to fly that aircraft—a Boeing 747, equipped with state-of-the-art command, control and communications equipment—at about 1,500 feet above lower Manhattan to provide a "photo opportunity" for the jet.

Against the backdrop of September 11, the disruption and foreseeable injury to persons and property arising from any ensuing panic and confusion caused (or that could have been caused) by the supposed mission is absolutely unacceptable. In that context, the recent apology of White House Military Office (WHMO) Director and his assumption of responsibility rings hollow. The supposed mission represents a fundamentally unsound exercise in military judgment and may have constituted an inappropriate use of Department of Defense resources.

In furtherance of the Committee's oversight of Department of Defense resources and operations, I respectfully ask that you provide the following information:

1) A description of exactly what the mission of the flyover was and who ultimately approved that mission.

2) An estimate of the total cost associated with planning and executing that mission.

Please provide this information by Monday, May 4, 2009. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Bowab, at (202) 224-4928.

Sincerely,

John McCain

OSD 04682-09

KENT CONRAD
NORTH DAKOTA

website: http://conrad.senate.gov

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET, CHAIRMAN
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

April 16, 2009

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657 2ND AVENUE NORTH, ROOM 306
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GRAND FORKS, ND 58203-3738
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100 1ST STREET, S.W., ROOM 106
MINOT, ND 58701-3846
(701) 852-0703

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I wanted to commend you for your strong support for aggressively expanding the development and use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) so that our military can reap the benefits of their unique capabilities.

As you continue to push this issue, integrating UAS training and other operations into the national airspace system is a key challenge that will need to be resolved. The need for UAS-capable airspace is only going to increase as our nation draws down forces in Iraq, because redeploying UAS units will have to conduct training here at home in the national airspace system. North Dakota, with some of the most unconstrained airspace in the nation, offers an ideal location to test the concepts and rules that will be needed to make this integration successful, and I am pleased that your Department and the Air Force have been working to take advantage of this potential resource.

Interagency cooperation and action are keys to developing and implementing a solution which is agreeable to all concerned parties – FAA, DOD, DHS, civilian airspace users, and others. Mr. Hank Krakowski, FAA Air Traffic Organization Chief Operating Officer, pledged on February 16 in Grand Forks to adopt a very aggressive timeline for fully integrating UAS operations in North Dakota into the national airspace, ultimately aiming to resolve this issue by the summer of 2010. The Red River Operations Working Group was created as a result of the meeting, and all indications at this time are that the group is making great strides toward achieving his vision. Colonel Ed Chupein, Air Force chief of airspace and ranges, is to be commended for his co-leadership of this interagency group and the group's successes to date.

Resolving this challenge is critical, and I thank you for your Department's continued support in this important national and homeland security matter.

Sincerely,

KENT CONRAD
United States Senate

OSD 04865-09

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

United States Senate

Senator Tom Coburn, MD
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 172
Washington, DC 20510-3604
Phone: 202-224-5754
Fax: 202-224-6008

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE LAW

April 22, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As part of the Fiscal Year 2010 budget resolution, the Senate unanimously adopted an amendment on April 2 prohibiting the payment of bonus awards to contractors whose projects went over budget or failed to meet basic performance requirements. While bonuses and award fees may have merit when they provide incentives to complete projects ahead of schedule and under budget, it is concerning that billions of dollars in bonuses have been paid out to contractors who have failed to meet the very basic requirements of contracts or have suffered major cost over runs.

In addition to the 2010 Senate budget resolution, Congress enacted legislation in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2009 to require that the Department of Defense amend its regulations to "ensure that no award fee may be paid for contractor performance that is judged to be below satisfactory performance or performance that does not meet the basic requirements of the contract."

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 also required the Department to issue guidance and implementation instructions to this effect. In a report to Congress from October 2008 in response to this legislation, the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics stated that none of the contract awards they examined "were subject to the provisions of Section 814 of Public Law 109-364."

I am extremely interested to see if the changes implemented have had an effect on properly linking award fees to acquisition outcomes at the Department of Defense. Could you please provide the following information about this issuance of bonuses and award fees to contractors by the Department of Defense.

1. What is your assessment of various mechanisms that could be used to ensure an independent evaluation of contractor performance for the purpose of making determinations applicable to the judging and payment of award fees?

2. How are bonuses and award fees for contractors determined? For example, is there a review board or are the criteria for such awards explicitly outlined in contracts?

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OSD 04866-09

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PHONE: 580-357-9878

3. How many bonuses and award fees did the Department grant to contractors each year for calendar year 2008? What was the total dollar amount of such bonuses and award fees in 2008?

4. In 2008 were bonuses and award fees been paid to contractors whose programs or projects reported cost overruns or exceeded their budget? If so, how many and what was the total cost? Please provide the names of any such contractors.

5. In 2008 were bonuses and award fees been paid to contractors whose programs or projects did not meet the basic requirements of the contract? If so, how many and what was the total cost? Please provide the names of any such contractors.

6. In 2008 were bonuses and award fees been paid to contractors judged to have below satisfactory performance? If so, how many and what was the total cost per year? Please provide the names of any such contractors.

7. In 2008 were bonuses and award fees been paid to contractors that were recently cited for regulatory violations? If so, how many and what was the total cost per year? Please provide the names of any such contractors.

I would appreciate a response no later than June 22, 2009.

Thank you for your assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Jeremy Hayes of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tom A. Coburn, M.D.
U.S. Senator

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We commend you for prioritizing the development and purchase of new airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) assets and light attack aircraft. We agree with you that our warfighters in Afghanistan and Iraq require a robust mix of manned and unmanned platforms to accomplish their counterinsurgency and counterterrorism missions. Given the relevance these capabilities have across the services – as well as the continued development of your Project Liberty initiative – we hope you will organize and resource additional airborne ISR and light attack aircraft programs on a joint basis.

The urgent need to provide these capabilities to our warfighters has spawned a number of separate development efforts inside the Department of Defense. For example, for more than a year, the Navy has been assessing the capabilities of small light attack aircraft with significant ISR capabilities. The Air Force recently studied the need for a similar capability. Based on input from our commanders in the field, that study may grow into stated requirements for new assets.

Moreover, the Air National Guard (ANG) is preparing to demonstrate the capabilities of the AT-6B later this year. We have strongly supported the AT-6B research and development effort inside the ANG for the past few years, and we hope that the Navy and Air Force will reap some of the benefits of a project that appears to be maturing just at the moment such capabilities are most needed.

Based on conversations with the Navy, Air Force and Air National Guard, however, we remain concerned that efforts to develop a light attack and ISR platform remain uncoordinated. We believe DoD should develop light attack aircraft capabilities on a joint basis. Only when the services are working in a coordinated fashion can we expect to get this important capability to our warfighters efficiently and expeditiously.

We hope you agree with our recommendation, and we stand ready to work with you to fund a joint light attack aircraft program that draws together DoD's multiple and ongoing programs.

Sincerely,

Sam Brownback

Todd Tiahrt

OSD 04870-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As the Department of Defense evaluates candidates to fill key positions, (b)(6) of Dayton, Ohio, would be an invaluable addition to the senior leadership at Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

DARPA's goal of maintaining military technological superiority by sponsoring revolutionary, high-yield research will face unprecedented challenges in the near future. Technology is rapidly expanding and spreading around the globe while our nation's defense budget capacity will remain under enormous pressure. DARPA leadership will require proven management, budgetary, and scientific success. The agency will also need individuals who can work with all interested parties inside and outside of DARPA in shaping its future.

(b)(6) exemplary career has been dedicated to developing novel innovations using infrared sensors and electro-optics. (b)(6) is the former Chief Scientist for the Sensors Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory. He has led many substantial DARPA efforts including the Medusa project, which is now a DARPA program at the Air Force Research Laboratory.

As a highly decorated scientist with real world management success, (b)(6) has been recognized on numerous occasions for his exceptional work. He received the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' WRG Baker Award for his work in electron devices. The Air Force Secretary recognized (b)(6) in 2006 for his dynamic and visionary leadership in developing sensor and countermeasure technology by presenting him with the Meritorious Presidential Rank Award.

As the Defense Department seeks to bolster its intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance as a national priority, I have no doubt that (b)(6) knowledge and experience would help ensure DARPA continues to play an integral role in that effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

OSD 04873-09

JEFF BINGAMAN
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United States Senate

April 28, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
The U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing you concerning the February 6, 2009 memorandum from the United States Army Test and Evaluation Command to the Chief, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Army, concerning the initial results from the cost-benefit study requested by the Defense Test Resource Management Center, TRMC, as part of the FY2008 provisional certification of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Budget.

In this document there are significant shortfalls over the FYDP in maintaining adequate investment capability in the joint test ranges managed by Army, which are classified as Major Range Test Base Facilities, or MRTBF. Public Law 107-314, section 231, requires that -

> " '(2)(A) The Director of the Center shall review each proposed budget transmitted under paragraph (1) and shall, not later than January 31 of the year preceding the fiscal year for which such budgets are proposed, submit to the Secretary of Defense a report containing the comments of the Director with respect to all such proposed budgets, together with the certification of the Director as to whether such proposed budgets are adequate.
> '(B) The Director shall also submit, together with such report and such certification, an additional certification as to whether such proposed budgets provide balanced support for such strategic plan.' "

I believe that the initial results of the cost – benefit study will lead to a decertification by the Director of the TRMC with respect to sustaining the Army's MRTBFs. In particular, finding 7 of the report indicates that -

> "The current FY10 funded program in 0605601A will not allow us to execute 23% of the projected workload, putting all major systems at risk. Additionally, 34% of the FY10 annual facilities and operations sustainment requirements are unaffordable, meaning critical annual maintenance efforts to operate and sustain critical test capabilities will not be done."

OSD 04885-09

More importantly, the enclosures to the cost-benefit study indicate serious underlying deficiencies in core sustainment, for instance Program Element 0606502A/D628 shows that in FY10 and FY11, the unfunded requirement for equipment sustainment is 62%. The report notes that –

> "The cumulative effect of this practice is aging test instrumentation infrastructure, wherein over 50% of the existing equipment has exceeded it's projected useful life, creating a "bow wave" of investment requirements that continues into the POM years."

The revised cover of transmittal states –

> "The Army acknowledges the potential for reduced test support of non-major programs and other developmental test but will manage risk to acquisition efforts."

As you are aware, the Army's MRTBI's are ranges which they sustain for the Department of Defense as a whole. The creation of the TRMC in P.L. 107-314 was to ensure that the sustainment of this joint capability was maintained through annual budget certification. The statement in the revised cover memo does not reflect the joint nature of the MRTBFs or even how the Army will correct the underlying deficiencies noted in the enclosure of detailed data.

I ask that you work to address these deficiencies as required under P.L. 107-314 so that the joint ranges managed by the Army can meet the important developmental testing challenges to ensure that the war fighter has the best fielded equipment possible.

My point of contact for this matter is Dr. Jonathan S. Epstein. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

May 1, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As part of the Subcommittee's ongoing oversight of Defense Department contracting, I am writing regarding the Army's continued use of KBR's monopoly LOGCAP contract. I am concerned and need to understand why the Army is not moving quickly enough to transition to the new set of LOGCAP contracts, which were awarded nearly two years ago to reduce costs and improve contract oversight through competition among multiple contractors. The Army's continued reliance on KBR's monopoly contract is particularly disturbing in light of new information obtained by the Subcommittee regarding the Department's failure to recover overcharges and excess profits on KBR subcontracts.

Background

The third Logistics Civil Augmentation Program contract (LOGCAP III) was awarded to KBR, then a subsidiary of Halliburton, in 2001. The previous LOGCAP contracts were awarded to KBR in 1992 and Dyncorp in 1997.

Under LOGCAP III, KBR has been the sole provider of meals, laundry, housing and other support services to the troops in Iraq and around the world. As of February 2009, the value of KBR's work under the LOGCAP III contract was $31.3 billion.[1]

Problems with the LOGCAP III contract have been described in detail by company whistleblowers, government auditors, and congressional investigators. These problems include a lack of meaningful competition; the failure to heed government auditors' recommendations to withhold payments; and KBR's failure to adequately oversee subcontractors.

In 2006, the Army announced its intention to award a new set of contracts for LOGCAP execution through full and open competition. Instead of a single contractor receiving all the work, three contractors would compete to perform task orders. An additional "planning and

[1] Army Sustainment Command, *LOGCAP Financial Management Update* (Feb. 13, 2009).

OSD 04958-09

support" contract would be awarded to another firm, which would help the Army oversee the three execution contractors.

In June 2007, the Army awarded the LOGCAP IV execution contracts to KBR, Fluor, and Dyncorp. Serco, Inc. received the separate planning and support contract. Two unsuccessful offerors subsequently challenged the award, and in October 2007, GAO sustained their protests.[2] In April 2008, the Army announced that the contracts had again been awarded to KBR, Fluor, and Dyncorp.

Failure to Award Competitive Contracts under LOGCAP IV

On April 19, 2007, the Senate Armed Services Committee, of which I am a member, held a hearing on the Defense Department's management of costs under the LOGCAP contract. At the hearing, Members of the Armed Services Committee asked about the Department's planned response to the reported waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement under LOGCAP III. Major General Jerome Johnson, Commanding General of the Army Sustainment Command, told the Committee that LOGCAP IV would eliminate many of the structural problems associated with LOGCAP III.[3] According to Gen. Johnson:

> LOGCAP III grew so rapidly that it nearly exceeded a single contractor's capacity. To minimize this risk, LOGCAP IV will use multiple contractors. This will increase government contract oversight and reduce program risk, while reducing costs through competitive, continuous task order competition.[4]

At the hearing, Senator Levin asked why the Army had waited so long to split the LOGCAP contract among multiple contractors. Claude M. Bolton, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, responded: "I don't have a good answer for you."[5]

The Armed Services Committee later referenced this exchange in recommending the enactment of section 843 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which established enhanced competition requirements for Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contracts in excess of $100 million.[6] According to the Committee, the provision would ensure that future LOGCAP-type contracts would provide for the competition of task and delivery

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[2] *See* Government Accountability Office, *Matter of Contingency Management Group, LLC; IAP Worldwide Services, Inc.* (Oct. 5, 2007).

[3] Senate Armed Services Committee, *Hearings on Department of Defense's Management of Costs Under the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) Contract in Iraq.* 110th Cong. (April 19, 2007).

[4] *Id.*

[5] *Id.*

[6] S. Report 110-077.

orders unless there was "a compelling reason not to do so."[7] A similar provision was previously included in S. 680, which was prepared by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to ensure that there are more than one contract holders that are eligible to compete for task and delivery orders.

Despite the benefits to the taxpayer, the support of the Army Sustainment Command, and the plain language and stated intent of the law, the Army has failed to transition the support of its mission in Iraq from LOGCAP III to LOGCAP IV. As of February 2009, the latest date for which the Subcommittee has received information, the Army has not awarded a single task order for work in Iraq under LOGCAP IV.[8]

The Army has also been slow to transition work in Kuwait and Afghanistan to LOGCAP IV. Only $172 million has been funded under LOGCAP IV in the last year, of which $4 million was awarded for planning and support services. Implementation of LOGCAP IV task orders has also been delayed by protests. All three task orders for work in Kuwait, which were competed and awarded under LOGCAP IV to Fluor and Dyncorp, were subsequently protested by KBR. One protest was resolved against KBR; the other two protests continue. While the protests are underway, KBR continues to perform this work under LOGCAP III.[9]

New Information Regarding Waste, Fraud, and Abuse Under LOGCAP III

Documents obtained by the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight raise concerns about whether the Department has taken adequate steps to identify and recover overcharges and excessive profits paid under contracts associated with KBR employees known or suspected to have committed fraud. These documents indicate that the Defense Department has failed to recover more than $100 million paid out under these fraudulent LOGCAP subcontracts.

Since the beginning of the war in Iraq, multiple KBR officials have been indicted or convicted of corruption-related charges involving LOGCAP subcontracts. These include Stephen Seamans, who was convicted of fraud relating to a subcontract with a Kuwaiti cleaning company; Jeff Mazon, who was indicted for fraud for a subcontract awarded to La Nouvelle; (b)(6) who admitted to accepting $110,000 in kickbacks from an Iraqi subcontractor; (b)(6) who was fired by KBR after awarding a gravel delivery contract to a vendor whose price was five times higher than that of a competitor; and (b)(6) who admitted to accepting kickbacks from First Kuwaiti General Trading & Contracting Company in exchange

[7] *Id.*

[8] Army Sustainment Command, *LOGCAP Financial Management Update* (Feb. 13, 2009).

[9] *Id.*

for the award of subcontracts.[10] These men were responsible for awarding or administering at least $306 million in LOGCAP subcontracts.[11]

Although the Defense Department knew or should have known about the fraudulent activities of Mr. Seamans, Mr. Mazon, (b)(6) and (b)(6) since 2005, when the relevant indictments and convictions became public, the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) failed to take adequate steps to review the other contracts these men had awarded or administered. In fact, DCAA waited until February 2007 to send a preliminary letter to KBR asking for information on the other contracts that had been administered by Mr. Seamans, Mr. Mazon, (b)(6) (b)(6) and (b)(6).[12]

DCAA also failed to perform timely audits of these high-risk subcontracts. DCAA told KBR that it was "confident" that KBR had "proactively" examined the subcontracts administered by the four men. DCAA did request the results of any reviews undertaken by the KBR, but indicated that it would not perform its own audits of these contracts if it KBR had performed adequate investigations.[13] According to DCAA:

> If KBRSI's reviews satisfy our audit needs, we will rely on its work and subsequently curtail our own examination of these subcontracts. However, if we find KBRSI has not performed any reviews or disclosed cost impacts on Government contracts (where appropriate), this will be considered in our overall opinion on KBRSI's accounting control environment and purchasing system internal controls.[14]

Four months later, in June 2007, DCAA reported that KBR had failed to account for millions of dollars in excess profits on contracts awarded by Mr. Seamans. According to DCAA, the subcontractor, Tamimi Global Performance, had potentially realized excess profits of $49.8 million, or 76%, as a result of Mr. Seamans' fraudulent activities.[15] KBR had proposed to return to the government only $525,202 – a small

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[10] *See* Indictment, *United States v. Mazon* (Mar. 16, 2005); *Former KBR Worker Admits to Fraud in Iraq*, Washington Post (Aug. 23, 2005); *Former Kuwait Manager Indicted for Million Dollar Payoff*, CorpWatch (Mar. 25, 2005); *Ex-KBR Worker Pleads Guilty to Bribes*, MarketWatch (Mar. 24, 2006); Letter from Chairman Henry Waxman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (Oct. 9, 2007).

[11] Defense Contract Audit Agency, *DCAA Sampled High Risk Subcontracts on KBR LOGCAP III Contract* (undated).

[12] Letter from Defense Contract Audit Agency to Todd Bishop, Kellogg Brown & Root Services, Inc. (Feb. 28, 2007).

[13] *Id.*

[14] *Id.*

[15] Defense Contract Audit Agency, *Memorandum: Reasonableness of KBRSI Settlement Offer on Tamimi Subcontract Nos. GU49-KU-S00001 and GU68-KU-S000018* (June 7, 2007).

fraction of that amount.[16] DCAA recommended that the Army "rigorously pursue recovery" of these excessive profits.[17] The Subcommittee is not aware of actions taken by the Army to recover these excess profits.

DCAA has also recommended that the Army recover millions of dollars in costs associated with the subcontracts awarded to First Kuwaiti by Mr. Martin. In March 2006, DCAA disapproved $51.3 million in costs relating to First Kuwaiti's subcontracts for the delivery of trailer living containers.[18] In January 2007, the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) determined that $25.6 million of the $51.3 million in costs were allowable. DCAA then reduced the disapproved costs to $25.7 million.[19] In May 2008 – eight months after the public disclosure of Mr. Martin's guilty plea – DCMA reversed its earlier determination and disallowed the remaining $25.6 million.[20] The Subcommittee is not aware of actions taken by the army to recover the $51.3 million in costs from KBR.

Finally, the Department has failed to ensure that these individuals and companies will not receive more government contracts. According to the Excluded Parties List System, the database that contains information regarding individuals and companies who have been suspended or debarred, (b)(6) La Nouvelle, and First Kuwaiti are still eligible to receive federal funds in the future.

Conclusion

Based on the information the Subcommittee has received, I do not understand why the Army continues to rely on the LOGCAP III contract. I also do not understand why the Army, DCAA, and DCMA have not done more to recover these costs. Finally, I do not understand why the Defense Department has failed to take steps to debar all of the individuals and companies involved in defrauding the government and the taxpayer.

Please notify me as to whether you intend to take immediate steps to increase competition, oversight, and accountability under the LOGCAP contracts. I also request that you provide a briefing for Subcommittee staff on these topics by **Friday, June 12.**

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight is set forth in Senate Rule XXV clause 1(k); Senate Resolution 445 section 101 (108th Congress); and Senate Resolution 73 (111th Congress). An attachment to this letter provides additional information on how to respond to the Subcommittee's request.

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[16] *Id.*

[17] *Id.*

[18] Defense Contract Audit Agency, *Living Container Cost Issues Time Line* (undated).

[19] *Id.*

[20] *Id.*; Letter from Defense Contract Management Agency to Todd Bishop, Kellogg Brown & Root (May 19, 2008).

Please contact Margaret Daum with the Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-8316 with any questions and to schedule the requested briefing.

Sincerely,

Senator Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

Senator Susan Collins
Acting Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

Enclosure

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 4, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
The Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to you concerning the House and Senate versions of the Free Flow of Information Act of 2009 (H.R. 985/S. 448), both of which are scheduled for consideration at the Senate Judiciary Committee's executive business meeting on Thursday, May 7.

As you may remember, you were actively involved in the Senate's debate on media shield legislation during the 110th Congress, having provided Congress with the Defense Department's views on the matter in letters dated March 31, 2008 and September 9, 2008.

In the letter dated March 31, 2008, you expressed "strong opposition" to the committee-reported version of the Senate's media shield bill (S. 2035)—the same language placed on the Committee's agenda for consideration this week. In that letter, you suggested that "this bill will undermine our ability to protect national security information and intelligence sources and methods and could seriously impede investigations of unauthorized disclosure." You also stated that "[d]isclosures of classified information about military operations directly threaten the lives of military members and the success of current and future military operations. Such disclosures also threaten the lives and safety of American citizens and the welfare of the Nation."

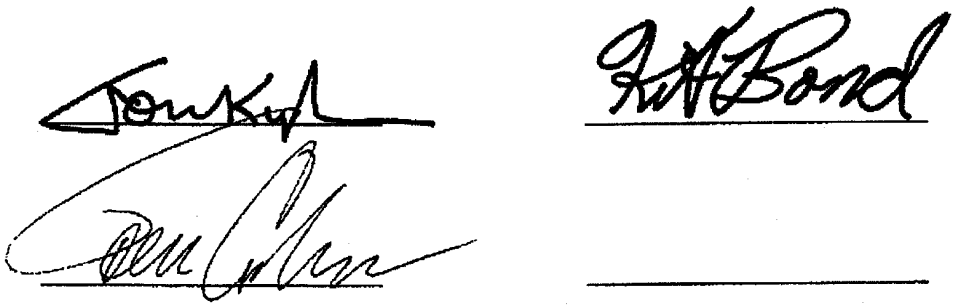
On September 9, 2008, you sent a second letter to Congress concerning substitute language put forth by Senator Specter before consideration of S. 2035 on the Senate floor. In that letter, you stated that "the Department remains opposed to the amended legislation," which you suggested "will still adversely affect our ability to protect national security." You further stated that "[t]he amended legislation will undermine the investigation and deterrence of unauthorized leaks of national security information to the media, gravely damaging the Department's ability to protect national security."

Given your record of "strong opposition" to media shield legislation, we would respectfully request that you provide members of the Committee with an update of the Defense Department's views on H.R. 985 and S. 448 before Thursday's executive business meeting. We would also request that, should Senator Specter or any other member of the Committee put forth a substitute amendment to either bill, you provide the Committee with your thoughts on those amendments prior to their scheduled consideration.

We would appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

OSD 04966-09

Sincerely,



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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

April 28, 2009

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to you to report on our recent trip to Russia, Poland, and the Czech Republic, where we met with senior government officials, parliamentarians, and representatives of NGOs, as well as the U.S. country teams. The focus of our trip was missile defense against the potential threat from Iran, and the U.S. and allied relationship with Russia. In each country, we found a high degree of optimism about an improved and more productive relationship with the United States, in part because of your trip to Europe and meetings with the leaders of those countries.

We believe there may be an opportunity for missile defense to serve as a uniting rather than a divisive issue, as it is now. As one of our Russian interlocutors put it, "a joint missile defense system could be an engine to pull U.S. – Russian relations out of the ditch."

A number of factors lead us to this conclusion. First of all, the Russians do not want a nuclear-armed Iran or an Iran with the missile ability to deliver a nuclear warhead. As President Medvedev reportedly told you in London, the Russians have come to realize that Iran's programs are more advanced than they previously thought. We were told by a number of Russians that a nuclear-armed Iran would be a greater threat to Russia than to the United States. Russia appears to be interested in exploring the possibility of cooperating with the United States on a missile defense system, including by sharing information from its radar installation at Gabala in Azerbaijan and the radar it is constructing in Armavir in southern Russia. However, the Russians maintain their view that the proposed "third site" missile defense deployment in Poland and the Czech Republic is aimed at Russia, rather than Iran. We were also told that Russia is probably more concerned with the deployment of an X-band radar in the Czech Republic than 10 interceptors in Poland, because the radar would look deeply into Russian territory.

The Poles want to be treated as full partners by the United States and NATO, as they deserve to be after 10 years as a member of the Alliance. They point to the lack of a U.S. or NATO military installation of any kind on their territory. They agreed to the proposed deployment of interceptor missiles as a fulfillment of their commitment and obligation to be a good partner to the United States and a contributor to European air defense. They are very concerned that the United States will reach a deal with Russia without real consultations with them in advance. Poland's main goal is not so much the establishment of a missile defense facility as part of the "third site," as it is the deployment of a Patriot battery on their soil. They prefer, of course, that the battery be operational – not just a training battery – and they want it to be "NATO-ized," (a term we heard repeatedly in both Warsaw and Prague). The Poles understand the need for our new Administration to review the "third site" issue and would prefer that any decision be made by the end of the year. The Poles would very much welcome the presence of U.S. troops on the ground in Poland in any form.

The Czechs are currently in the process of transitioning to a caretaker government, and the two main political parties agree that the "third site" issue should be held in abeyance. They prefer that a decision by your Administration come after their elections in October. Unlike the Poles, they are wary of American or any other foreign troops on their territory (although a small number of U.S. technicians and perhaps Russian Embassy civilian observers might be acceptable). Finally, it appears that, if the Czechs elect a social democratic government (which is very possible), they would not be unhappy if the radar were not on their soil.

Taking into consideration these and other factors, we believe that Russia might be willing to participate in a European missile defense system, with information from their radar sites being part of the system. From their perspective, the missile defense system would not be directed specifically at an Iranian threat – it would be a general defense. For us, of course, it would be directed at the Iranian threat militarily. The political message would be greater probably than the military impact because Iran would see Russia and the United States working together. That cooperation would send a powerful signal to Iran that the course they are on is unifying the United States, Russia, Europe and the world against their nuclear program and bringing together the United States and Russia in a way that is unprecedented. Such a move might have an impact on Iran's decision on whether to seek a nuclear weapon capability.

Delaying a decision on the "third site" until late this year would give the United States the chance, after careful consultation with allies, to sit down with the Russians and seriously discuss a missile defense system that could unify us and make a powerful statement to Iran. As part of an overall resolution, Poland could host a Patriot battery (perhaps a training battery). The decision relative to a radar in the Czech Republic will be affected more than anything else by the outcome of the October elections there.

In the meantime, we have an adequate missile defense capability (Patriot PAC-3, Aegis ships with Standard Missile-3 interceptors, and the upcoming THAAD system) against the current Iranian threat. The Aegis system is being upgraded so that it would keep up with a future Iranian threat – potentially even if Iran obtains a long-range ICBM. So all these enhanced systems, including a possible land-based version of the Standard Missile-3, would be able to protect Europe from a potential future Iranian missile threat. Furthermore, if Iran does obtain a long-range ICBM in the future capable of reaching the United States, the missile defense system deployed in Alaska could, if it becomes operationally effective, also address that potential threat.

In summary, with proper consultations with our NATO allies, the prospect of a European missile defense system, which involves the Russians and is not threatening to them, and which could have a major positive impact on Iranian behavior, would seem to be within reach if negotiated very carefully. We would be happy to discuss this matter with you and will be in touch with your staff relative to that possibility.

Sincerely,

Susan Collins Bill Nelson Carl Levin

Susan Collins Bill Nelson Carl Levin

JEFF BINGAMAN
NEW MEXICO

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senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov

United States Senate

April 28, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
The U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing with respect to a $10,000,000 congressionally directed project in Public Law 110-329, "The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009". This directed project is found on page 546 of explanatory statement (attached), which is incorporated into the statutory bill text under section 8006 and listed as "New Mexico State University Institute for Defense and Public Policy".

As stated in the bill's explanatory statement, this project is

1. A directed Congressional appropriations for the New Mexico State University National Security program; and
2. it provides sufficient Congressional intent that this earmark be provided to New Mexico State University.

I would very much appreciate if you could expedite the awarding of these funds to New Mexico State University, the bill became law in October of 2008 and it has now been delayed over 5 months.

My point of contact for this matter is Dr. Jonathan S. Epstein. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator

OSD 05022-09

ALBUQUERQUE (505) 346-6601 | LAS CRUCES (575) 523-6561 | LAS VEGAS (505) 454-8824 | ROSWELL (575) 622-7113 | SANTA FE (505) 988-6647

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

May 5, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
United States Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation is investigating allegations that New Era Technology, Inc. (NETECH), a small business in Florida, fraudulently obtained contracts totaling nearly $3 million from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In the course of its investigation, the Committee has learned that the Department of Defense also awarded at least four contracts to NETECH. I am writing to request your assistance as my Committee investigates this alleged fraud against the federal government.

According to NETECH's website, the company "was established in 1988 as a research and development company specializing in high technology engineering research, design, and simulation, data communications and management, and graphical user interfaces and simulation."[1] NETECH's founder and senior scientist is (b)(6) a professor of Nuclear and Radiological Engineering and director of the Innovative Nuclear Space Power and Propulsion Institute, at the University of Florida. His wife, Sousan Anghaie, is the president of NETECH and their two sons, (b)(6) and (b)(6) have received payments from the company.

Since 1999, NETECH has received eight contracts through NASA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. The SBIR and STTR programs, "seek to increase opportunities for small businesses to participate in government research & development, to improve overall United States competitiveness, and to

[1] New Era Technology, Inc., Home Page, (online at www.confman.com) (accessed April 8, 2009).

OSD 05087-09

increase national employment. The STTR program has the additional intent of developing collaboration between small businesses and non-profit research institutions."[2]

On February 19, 2009, the U.S. Attorney of the Northern District of Florida filed an "In Rem" complaint against various pieces of property owned by (b)(6) and (b)(6) including a BMW automobile, a condominium in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and a Scottrade stock trading account.[3] In an attached affidavit, the government alleged that this property was purchased with funds the Anghaies fraudulently diverted from payments they received through NASA's SBIR and STTR programs. According to the affidavit, this alleged scheme to defraud the government went on for at least eight years and involved multiple contract awards.

I am very concerned about these allegations. On March 6, 2009, I wrote to the Acting Administrator of NASA requesting information and documents concerning all contracts and grants NASA had awarded to NETECH. To date, NASA has produced more than 1,500 pages of documents in response to this request. In reviewing these documents, the Committee has learned that, in addition to eight SBIR and STTR contracts, NETECH received four research grants from NASA totaling $400,000. The Committee has also learned that NETECH was awarded contracts by other federal agencies, including at least one contract with the Department of the Navy (contract # N61339-95-C-0099) and three contracts with the Department of the Air Force (contract #s F49620-03-C-0029, F49620-01-C-0046, and FA9550-06-C-0099).

I am concerned that this new evidence suggests that the alleged NETECH fraud may have been more extensive than was originally believed. I am also concerned that the evidence the Committee has reviewed so far suggests that federal grant funds devoted to basic scientific research may be vulnerable to fraud.

In order to further investigate the extent of NETECH's business with federal government agencies, I request that you provide the following information to the Committee:

1. A list of all grants, contracts, and other awards the Department of Defense (DOD), or any of its agencies or departments, has made to New Era Technology Inc., the Innovative Nuclear Space Power and Propulsion Institute at the University of Florida, (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6), or (b)(6) This list should include grants, contracts, or other awards DOD has made to any corporate entity controlled or operated by any of the four persons named above. The list should include the date, the value, and a short description of each grant, contract, or award. The list should also include the office, program, or person within DOD who authorized the

[2] National Aeronautical and Space Administration, *SBIR and STTR Participation Guide* (April 9, 2009) (online at www. sbir.gsfc.nasa.gov/SBIR/partintro.htm).

[3] Verified Complaint for Forfeiture in Rem, *U.S. v. Real Property Located at 501 South Moody Ave., Unit 117, Tampa, FL* (Feb. 19, 2009) N.D. Fla. (No. 1:09 cv 41-MP/AK).

making of each contract, grant, or award, and should include unique identifying numbers, such as Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) numbers, contract numbers, and grant numbers, that will assist the Committee in precisely identifying each grant, contract, or award; and

2. Copies of all documents related to the grants, contracts, and awards listed in response to question (1) above, including but not limited to, all requests for proposal, applications, proposals, evaluations, correspondence, contracts and subsequent modifications, grant announcements, interim reports, final reports, external reviews, and e-mails and other communications related to each contract, grant or award.

Please provide these documents to the Committee by June 1, 2009.

The Committee is conducting this investigation under the authority of Senate Rules XXV and XXVI. Enclosed with this letter is a document providing additional information about how to respond to this document request. If you have any questions about this request, please contact John Williams or Jeffrey Zubricki of the Committee staff at 202-224-1300.

Sincerely,

John D. Rockefeller IV
Chairman

Enclosure

Cc: Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 5, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
The Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

One of the greatest responsibilities entrusted to the Congress is to ensure the security of the American people by providing for a strong national defense. With that responsibility in mind, we question the analytical basis for the decision by the Department of Defense to terminate the procurement of the F-22 Raptor and C-17 Globemaster III. Accordingly, to ensure the military equipment requirements of the nation are identified through a complete and cogent process, we respectfully request you recommend to the President that production of the F-22 and the C-17 continue until the final publication of the next Mobility Capability Study and the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review.

As you well know, in order to maximize the probability of success in military operations the development and execution of strategies must be comprehensive and well thought out. However, recent history has shown major threats to our national security can arise suddenly and in unexpected regions of the world. Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait and the events of September 11, 2001 prove this hypothesis. In addition, the difficulty in determining when and where a threat may arise is also compounded by the uncertainty as to what tactics and strategies our enemies may employ. Accordingly, we fully support and encourage your initiative to re-establish counterinsurgency warfare as a fundamental and widespread capability in our nation's Armed Forces.

However, just as our nation made a strategic error in permitting our ability to successfully prosecute counterinsurgency campaigns to wither and atrophy after the Vietnam War, we must not make a similar mistake and undermine two of the unique foundations of our nation's military strength: hegemony of the air and our unprecedented airlift capability. As you correctly stated this January, "our military must be prepared for a 'full spectrum' of operations, including the type of combat we're facing in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as large scale threats that we face from places like North Korea and Iran." Therefore, we are concerned the termination of production of the F-22 does not appear to be supported by any analytical study commissioned by the Department of Defense or the Air Force. In addition, though the decision to end production of the C-17 was supported by the 2005 Mobility Capability Study, this Study was criticized by the Government Accountability Office for underestimating our nation's future airlift requirements. We are also unaware of any risk assessment that has been performed

OSD 05148-09

based on the Combatant Commanders' requirements as to the decision to cease procurement of the F-22 and C-17.

Regarding the F-22, unclassified extracts of the Air Force's Sustaining Air Dominance Study state "180 F-22s was not enough" and the Department of Defense's TACAIR Optimization Study concluded the procurement of additional Raptors "was the best option." On April 16th, these conclusions were reinforced by the comments made by General Norton A. Schwartz *after* the F-22 procurement termination was announced. General Schwartz stated that "243 [Raptors] is the military requirement." This appears to conflict with earlier views expressed by the Department of Defense.

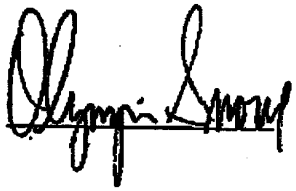
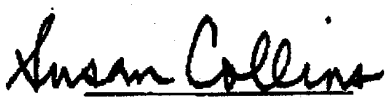
We have similar trepidations regarding the cessation of production of the C-17. In early 2002, even before the true scope and requirements of the Global War on Terrorism became known, the then commander of U.S. Transportation Command argued for the procurement of 222 Globemaster IIIs. Today, as the bulk of our deployed forces will be sent to the land-locked nation of Afghanistan, we are mindful of the critical need for airlift to supply our forces and our allies' operations in that nation. This point is emphasized by the recent Taliban attacks on our supply routes through the Kyber Pass region and NATO supply depots in Peshawar. Therefore, we are puzzled as to why C-17 production would be ended even though a new Mobility Capability Study was scheduled to be published next month.

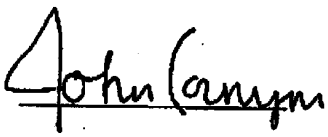
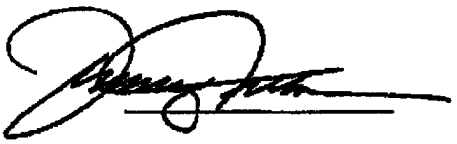
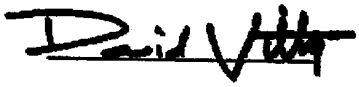
Just as our recent military history points to the need to maintain a "full spectrum" military force to confront a myriad of very different threats, we are also mindful of a point recently made by Michael Korda in his book on the Battle of Britain. He observed that even though the two British Prime Ministers before Winston Churchill adopted a policy of appeasement, they also committed their government to develop and procure the three pieces of equipment: the Spitfire fighter, Hurricane fighter and radar, which were to ensure that nation's survival during the Battle of Britain.

Accordingly, we respectfully request you recommend to the President that production of the F-22 Raptor and the C-17 Globemaster III continue until the final publication of the next Mobility Capabilities Study and the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review can be reviewed and studied.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG
NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 6, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to respectfully urge you to reevaluate the Department of Defense's policy on the availability of Plan B, a form of Emergency Contraception (EC), in military facilities in the U.S. and abroad, including combat zones. The current Department of Defense policy does not require all military treatment facilities to carry this form of EC, and I am concerned that servicewomen may be unable to access this time-sensitive, emergency medication.

Plan B is a safe, effective, and FDA-approved form of emergency contraception that helps prevent unintended pregnancy. If taken within 72 hours after intercourse, it can lower the risk of pregnancy by up to 89 percent. Although Plan B is available to women 18 and older at many pharmacies in the U.S., a majority of servicewomen rely exclusively on military facilities for their health care needs. This is especially true for those serving overseas who may not have access to an alternative facility.

Furthermore, a recent Department of Defense report found that more than 2,900 sexual assaults were reported in the military in Fiscal Year 2008. Access to Plan B is especially important for women who have survived a sexual assault, for whom an unintended pregnancy can contribute to the emotional and psychological effects victims may experience. This demonstrates the urgency of ensuring that all servicewomen have the option to utilize emergency contraception.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to reevaluate the Department of Defense's policy concerning Plan B to ensure that it is available to servicewomen at all military treatment facilities both here and abroad. I am also requesting specific information on which U.S. military treatment facilities do not currently carry this form of EC.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Lautenberg

OSD 05158-09

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Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 6, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As Congress awaits the submission of the President's Fiscal Year 2010 budget request for the Department of Defense, we write to share our strong and unwavering support for the Air National Guard (ANG) units in our states that lost their flying missions through BRAC 2005.

As you know, the last BRAC round made significant changes to the lay down of aircraft within the ANG. In our six states, many units lost their flying missions – ranging from A-10s, C-130Js, and F-16s – with some losing the only flying mission stationed permanently in their state. The loss of a flying mission is a direct threat to the manpower, readiness and relevance of our ANG units and their continued ability to meet their state and federal duties.

The ANG not only serves our nation as we ask them to support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and around the world, but they also serve the local state missions. Without a permanent flying mission within the state, the ANG may lose the valuable expertise and experience our airmen provide. With the immense capability the ANG provides to our nation, we must not jeopardize the investment we've made in the ANG personnel forces.

According to the 2008 Air Force Weapon Systems Roadmap, as well as subsequent planning by the Air Force and National Guard Bureau, our six states are each expected to receive the C-27J Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA). While we welcome the assignment of a permanent flying mission to our states, we are concerned that continued debate about the organization and control of the JCA program could place the future of our ANG units at risk. We believe it is important to firmly resolve the "roles and missions" debate with regards to intra-theater lift, and move forward with a program that meets the needs of ANG states impacted in BRAC while also addressing the capability gap faced by our warfighters.

This is a pivotal year for our Air National Guard. **To this end, we look forward to the Department's strong support for the allocation of permanent flying missions to our states as part of the upcoming submission of the 2010 defense budget.**

As always, we thank you for your service to our nation and look forward to continuing to work with you to support our men and women in uniform.

OSD 05298-09

Sincerely,

Christopher Dodd
United States Senator

Joseph Lieberman
United States Senator

John Larson
United States Representative

Joseph Courtney
United States Representative

Barbara Mikulski
United States Senator

Benjamin Cardin
United States Senator

Steny Hoyer
United States Representative

Roscoe Bartlett
United States Representative

Elijah Cummings
United States Representative

Dutch Ruppersberger
United States Representative

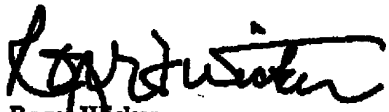
Donna Edwards
United States Representative

Frank Kratovil
United States Representative

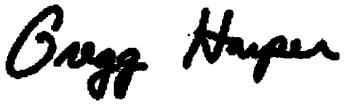
Carl Levin
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Mark Schauer
United States Representative



Roger Wicker
United States Senator



Gregg Harper
United States Representative

Kent Conrad
United States Senator

Byron Dorgan
United States Senator

Earl Pomeroy
United States Representative

George Voinovich
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Marcy Kaptur
United States Representative

Tim Ryan
United States Representative

Jim Jordan
United States Representative

John Sarbanes
United States Representative

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JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
RUSSELL SULLIVAN, STAFF DIRECTOR
KOLAN DAVIS, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

April 29, 2009

Via Electronic Transmission

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am concerned about reports of security breaches of F-35 technology and request an independent assessment of this matter.

This issue first came to my attention during my ongoing oversight of the financial and audit systems of the Department of Defense (DOD).

On March 6, 2008, The DOD Office of the Inspector General (OIG) issued an audit report entitled "Security Controls Over Joint Strike Fighter Classified Technology," Report No. D-2008-058. This report concluded: "The advanced aviation and weapons technology for the JSF program may have been compromised by unauthorized access at facilities and in computers at BAE Systems, and incomplete contractor oversight may have increased the risk of unintended or deliberate release of information to foreign competitors." It raised the possibility of "unauthorized access to classified U.S. technology." Following publication of this report, questions were raised as to whether the DOD OIG's conclusions were consistent with supporting documentation contained in audit work papers.

After Mr. Gordon Heddell became Acting DOD IG in July 2008, this matter was brought to his attention. In response, he took aggressive corrective action. First, on October 23, 2008, he approved the decision to officially withdraw this audit report from public circulation - an unprecedented move. Second, in December 2008, he requested the IG at the Department of Agriculture to conduct a "peer review" audit of the DOD OIG report in question. And third, I understand he is holding responsible persons accountable for shoddy audit work.

The Agriculture IG's peer review report was completed on March 6, 2009. It appears to have substantiated the allegations regarding the flaws in the DOD OIG's audit work product.

OSD 05314-09

To briefly summarize, the original audit, which was withdrawn, and the follow-up peer review both appear to indicate that there are unresolved issues regarding the security of F-35 technology - particularly with respect to the Defense Security Service. These issues were simply not adequately documented in the original report. Despite the disputed assertions made by DOD OIG auditors with respect to BEA Systems, I am worried that there are continuing problems with the Defense Security Service and its role in safeguarding our nation's top secret or sensitive weapons design information and making sure that kind of information doesn't fall into the wrong hands.

A Wall Street Journal (WSJ) article on April 20, 2009, entitled "Computer Spies Breach Fighter-Jet Project," reinforces my concerns. The WSJ piece states: "Six current and former officials familiar with the matter confirmed that the fighter program [F-35 Joint Strike Fighter] had been repeatedly broken into..... Computer systems involved with the program appear to have been infiltrated at least as far back as 2007, according to people familiar with the matter. Evidence of penetrations continued to be discovered at least into 2008." Other recent news reports clearly indicate that potential F-35 technology security breaches are a continuing issue today.

If this technology has indeed been compromised as reported, this information could help potential adversaries to defend against or to defeat one of our most advanced and expensive weapons systems, undermining significant investments of ingenuity, manpower, and money by the United States and nearly a dozen allies. Business or trade secrets and proprietary information could also be needlessly compromised through foreign contractual arrangements.

For these reasons, I would like to urge you to consider initiating an external assessment of the scope and potential impact of the alleged compromise of F-35 technology. This assessment should examine the effectiveness of Defense Security Service's oversight of such matters as well as enhanced safeguards to effectively counter and block future such intrusions.

Your careful consideration of this matter would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chuck Grassley

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

Copy to: Acting IG Heddell

PAT ROBERTS
KANSAS

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605
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http://roberts.senate.gov

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605

May 6, 2009

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE

FINANCE

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

ETHICS

RULES

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson and Members of the Governor's Military Council (GMC), representing the major military installations and activities in the state of Kansas, will be in Washington June 11-12, 2009. I am requesting the Department's assistance in securing senior Defense, Military Service and Guard Bureau officials to meet with the Kansas group, as well as to secure the use of a conference room at the Pentagon for meetings on the morning of Friday, June 12, 2009. Should your schedule permit, I would also be grateful if you would meet with the governor and the GMC during their Pentagon visit.

The purpose of their trip is to meet with federal officials to discuss defense funding, policy, force structure and mission-related issues at military installations in the state of Kansas. In addition to the governor, Mr. Robin Spurrier (Chief of Staff of the Air Force's Civic Leaders Group Alumnus), as well as Messrs. John Montgomery and Mark Edwards (both are Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army) will be among the Council's participants during the GMC trip to Washington. Staff members of the Kansas Congressional Delegation will also accompany the group to the Pentagon.

The group will consist of approximately 15-20 members, including the Kansas Delegation staff members. Names of the attendees will be provided to your staff as we near the June 12th visit date. The issues concerning this group relate to the various initiatives that affect the Kansas bases (including US Army Grow the Force initiatives, options for Military Education streamlining and consolidation, overseas contingency operations, USAF's Future Tanker program, as well as Guard and Reserve Component equipment and infrastructure modernization).

The group would like to arrive at the Pentagon at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, June 12, 2009, for badging and entrance to the building. I would greatly appreciate the assistance of your staff in reserving a conference room from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., as well as arranging for discussions with senior officials on a range of topics.

As a guide for your staff's preparations, I have included a list of individuals (or their designees if the requested person is not available) with whom the GMC has asked to meet in addition to you; along with potential topics for discussion.

OSD 05373-09

On behalf of the Governor's Military Council, I would respectfully request that they have the opportunity to discuss these issues with the following individuals (or appropriate senior level alternates):

- Honorable Wayne Arny, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Installations & Environment
  - Joint Land Use Studies
  - State interest in DOD Alternative Energy initiatives to create Net-Zero Energy installations in Kansas

- Honorable Michael Donley or General Norton Schwartz (US Air Force)
  - Out year budget tradeoffs (personnel & infrastructure vs. modernization)
  - Options for increased quantities of the C-130J in the Program of Record
  - McConnell AFB's role in Future Tanker program & UAS refueling developments
  - Expansion of Air Guard C4ISR ops at McConnell AFB

- General George W. Casey, Jr. (US Army)
  - Maneuver space at Fort Riley & other Maneuver posts
  - BAH calculation metrics to include both rental and purchase units
  - GMC support for Leadership Training and Professional Military Education at Fort Leavenworth

- Lieutenant General McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau
  - Certification and planning for use of Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center as a site for Joint/Total Force training
  - Quadrennial Defense Review anticipated impacts on the National Guard (nationally and in Kansas)
  - Current and future role of Forbes Military Airfield in Homeland Defense, Civil Response Center of Excellence and Counter-insurgency operations

- Joint Forces Command (J-8, Joint National Training Center Program Office)
  - Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center opportunities for Joint/Total Force training curriculum
  - Range utilization by Active & Reserve Component units as well as funding for infrastructure/equipment requirements and training operations.

- Mr. Patrick O'Brian, Director of the Office of Economic Adjustment
  - BRAC funding, or other Federal funding sources for growth communities
  - Joint Land Use Studies

Ms. Libby Quint of my staff will serve as the point of contact in my office (202-224-4774) to coordinate with your staff on the details of this request. I greatly appreciate your support and would be grateful if your staff would communicate with my office as soon as possible regarding this matter.

With every best wish,

Sincerely,

Pat Roberts

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

May 7, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE & FIRST-CLASS MAIL

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

RE: Department of Defense's Implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing in reference to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and the Department of Defense's efforts to quickly utilize and obligate ARRA funds to best meet the DOD's goals and those of the recovery effort. As the Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I would specifically like to highlight an option available to the DOD to use research and development funds from ARRA to directly fund projects derived from the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs as they enter "Phase III." In addition to bringing attention to this important option, I have several questions regarding ARRA funds that I would like to submit for a response.

Small businesses have long been the engine of U.S. economic growth, generating 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs annually over the last decade. The SBIR and STTR programs allow small R&D firms – America's innovation lifeline – to create high-quality jobs and cutting-edge products. Consequently, we believe the SBIR and STTR programs are fundamental to our nation's economic recovery.

As you may know, currently 2.8 percent of the total extramural R&D budget at DOD, including funds from ARRA, must be allocated for competitive grants to small businesses through Phase I and II of the SBIR and STTR programs. An additional option to fund SBIR and STTR Phase III contracts does not come out of the SBIR/STTR allocation. Rather, the funds would come out of the larger R&D budget, the other 97 percent, and include work that derives from, extends, or logically concludes efforts performed under prior SBIR funding agreements.

There are a number of advantages to using this SBIR/STTR Phase III mechanism to help distribute the ARRA funds and further technology to reach our nation's energy goals. SBIR/STTR Phase III contracts can be awarded quickly, fairly, and transparently, in keeping with the spirit and the letter of the ARRA. Furthermore, the competition for SBIR/STTR Phase I and Phase II awards satisfies all statutory competition requirements.

OSD 05383-09

Therefore, a department that wishes to fund a SBIR/STTR Phase III project is not required to conduct another competition, or process a Justification and Approval (J&A) pursuant to FAR 6.302-5, in order to satisfy those statutory provisions. For these reasons, I encourage you to take advantage of it as often as possible in distributing the ARRA funds.

I would also like to respectfully request an accounting of how much of the R&D money DOD received from ARRA has been classified as extramural R&D. In addition, I would like to request information about how the DOD is implementing the SBIR and STTR programs under ARRA.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Thad Inge at the Committee. I would appreciate a response to these questions by May 22, 2009. The response may be faxed to (202) 224-5619.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Mary L. Landrieu
Chair

MLL:twi

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 7, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to request that you review the Department of Defense's continued application of congressionally authorized exceptions to the Berry Amendment relating to the procurement of para-aramid fibers and yarns, as well the procurement of fire-resistant rayon fiber, from foreign sources. The materials are used in the manufacture of body armor and fire-resistant uniforms, respectively.

The Berry Amendment requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to give preference in procurements to domestically produced, manufactured, or home-grown products—notably food, clothing, fabrics, and specialty metals. We believe that exceptions to this amendment allowing DOD purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns, as well the procurement of fire-resistant rayon fiber, from foreign sources are no longer warranted owing to the availability of suitable materials in today's U.S. marketplace. The recent use of these exceptions is having an adverse impact on U.S. manufacturers and has undercut our policy of maintaining a strong and viable defense industrial base.

In 1998, partially due to limited domestic competition and a reliance on sole-source contracts, a statutory exception was created to the Berry Amendment to allow for purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns from foreign sources. The statutory exception is only applicable when the Department makes a determination that procurement of para-aramid fibers and yarns from domestic sources will result in sole-source contracts or subcontracts. As a result of the exemption, the Department's purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns have become increasingly dependent on foreign suppliers over the last decade. The marketplace has changed significantly in the last decade, however, and a variety of suitable materials now exist domestically.

Similarly, in 2008 a statutory exception was created for fire-resistant rayon fiber for the production of uniforms. This exception allowed the Department to procure fire-resistant rayon fiber for uniforms from foreign suppliers if a determination was made that either fire-resistant rayon fiber was not available domestically, or procuring such fiber domestically would result in sole-source contracts.

OSD 05413-09

In the short period during which this provision has been in effect, foreign suppliers have dramatically increased their market share. Currently, 90 percent of the fielded Flame Resistant Army Combat Uniforms are constructed of imported fiber. While environmental and other concerns have caused domestic sources to forego production of fire-resistant rayon fiber for uniforms, there are a variety of other fire-resistant fibers in today's domestic marketplace—some of which have out-performed rayon in evaluations for Army uniforms. As a result, the "rayon" exception is not relevant and should not apply to future procurements.

Congress has given the Secretary of Defense discretion to determine whether either exception should be used. However, current law mandates an annual review by the Secretary of Defense. We believe that a departmental review will clearly document why these exceptions to the Berry amendment should no longer be applied for defense-related procurements. It is our strongly held view that the para-aramid fibers and yarns exception is no longer valid, and that the fire-resistant rayon fiber exception is no longer useful. For the reasons noted above, we urge you not to apply either Berry amendment exception to future procurements involving these items.

We look forward to working with you to advance a more balanced policy that both promotes competition and preserves our ability to maintain and grow our domestic defense capabilities. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Graham
United States Senator

Jim Webb
United States Senator

PATRICK LEAHY
VERMONT

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4502

May 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I deeply appreciate your attention to ensuring that our troops on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan have adequate protection, whether from small arms ambushes or roadside bomb attacks. There is no more important priority than the safety of our deployed personnel, and I would very much like to work with you on a vital initiative in this realm: the speedy development and fielding of the MRAP All Terrain Vehicle (MRAP ATV).

As you know, Afghanistan is a particularly difficult environment for large armored vehicles like the MRAP, because of that country's mountainous terrain and lack of paved roads. There is a strong need for a smaller, off-road armored vehicle that provides the same level of protection as an MRAP. The addition of U.S. forces in Afghanistan to help provide security and create an environment more conducive for political reconciliation makes the need for a smaller, well-armored vehicle that much greater. The 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain) from the Vermont National Guard will arrive in Afghanistan early next year, and it would be helpful if this unit and all U.S. forces were to begin receiving the MRAP ATV as soon as possible.

The Department of Defense has an aggressive development schedule with a production decision in late June of this year. I would like to work with you to ensure this acquisition program remains on track. I would also like to work with the Department to find ways to accelerate the production program to ensuring that all units who may need this equipment in the Afghanistan theater have these assets as soon as possible.

I look forward to discussing this crucial program with you in the very near future. Thank you again for your intelligent, energetic, and far-reaching leadership of the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

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OSD 05436-09

ORRIN G. HATCH
UTAH

JACE JOHNSON
CHIEF OF STAFF

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4402

COMMITTEES:

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HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

INTELLIGENCE

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

February 26, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary
The Department of Defense
1100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1100

Dear Deputy Secretary Lynn:

Congratulations on your confirmation!

I appreciate the time you took out of your confirmation schedule to meet with me and look forward to working with you on the challenging issues that face our nation. In addition, I have taken the liberty of attaching a copy of my remarks supporting your confirmation. However, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate and expand upon the points that I made during our meeting and ask additional questions as to the Administration's position on a number of pressing issues.

The F-22 Raptor

As you know, one of the major decisions that soon will confront the Administration is whether to continue the production of the F-22. The strong bi-partisan support for the F-22 is merited by the unique and exceptional capabilities of this aircraft. This aircraft will ensure our nation's air dominance for the next forty years as well as guaranteeing our ability to defeat one of the major threats of the future: the advanced anti-access air defense system. It is my profound hope that the Department will allocate funding to procure a sufficient number of F-22s to equip each Air Expeditionary Force with a full strength squadron of Raptors.

Therefore, will the President authorize the continued production of the F-22 and what number of aircraft does the Department hope to procure?

Our Depot Maintenance System

Our nation's depot maintenance system has made remarkable progress over the last few years. From Fiscal Year 2004 to Fiscal Year 2008, our Air Force Depots maintained a 96 percent on time or ahead of schedule delivery rate. For example, at Hill Air Force Base's Ogden Air Logistics Center, the A-10 Precision Engagement Program has reduced labor costs by 38 percent and the time allocated to repair F-16 wings has been reduced by 49 percent.

OSD 05517-09

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The foundation for these depot maintenance achievements are the laws 10 USC §2460 and 10 USC §2464, commonly known, respectfully, as 50/50 and Core. As you know, these laws state that 50 percent of all depot maintenance must be performed by government workers at a government-owned facility. Core requires that the Department to maintain a core organic depot maintenance capability.

Therefore, will the Department continue to support the 50/50 and Core laws as currently written and interpreted?

Maintaining Our Strategic Deterrent Industrial Base

For a generation, the Minuteman Intercontinental Ballistic Missile ("ICBM") has served as the backbone of the nation's strategic deterrent force. Unfortunately, under the current plan of record, our nation, for the first time in over 40 years, will cease production of land-based ICBMs. Clearly, this raises fears as to the ability of the United States to maintain a land-based solid rocket motor industrial base.

The Congress has sought a legislative remedy to this issue. A Senate amendment, that I wrote, authorizing the Air Force to create a solid rocket motor life extension program was cleared by the majority and minority of the Senate Armed Services Committee for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act's "manager's package." Unfortunately, due to the lack of a unanimous consent agreement on a procedural issue, the entire "manager's package" was not included in the bill before final passage. However, the defense appropriations conferees did include report language in its legislation that stated "...the Air Force is encouraged, at a minimum, to continue a warm line status for Minuteman III propulsion systems and to use funds provided for Fiscal Year 2009 to initiate a Minuteman III motor life extension program." In addition, Chairman Inouye and Vice Chairman Cochran of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee wrote to the Air Force on September 26, 2008 urging "the Air Force to provide funding in order to maintain a land-based solid rocket motor industrial base." Accordingly, I have been informed, that the Air Force is constructing a proposal to procure additional solid rocket motors this fiscal year and six sets of motors a year for the next five years.

Does the Department support a plan for maintaining our land-based ICBM solid rocket industrial base? If not, how does the Department intend to sustain this vital national capability? With the existing production lines beginning to close in March, will the Department provide Fiscal Year 2009 funding to maintain our solid rocket motor industrial production capability?

The Tanker Recapitalization

Three years ago, during a trip to each of our nation's three Air Force Depots, I was extremely concerned to find that our KC-135s were literally falling apart due to extensive metal fatigue and corrosion. In particular, I will always remember, during one of the stops at Tinker Air Force Base, how one of the workers was able to peel apart, like tissue paper, critical aluminum KC-135 parts. Accordingly, I founded, with Senator Kent Conrad, the Senate Tanker Caucus. The Caucus is a bipartisan organization whose purpose is to assist the Department and

Air Force in its role of efficiently procuring whichever aircraft best meets the requirements of our National Military Strategy. Obviously, the failure of recent efforts to procure a new tanker has been disconcerting to members of the Caucus, especially as the KC-135 is rapidly approaching its 50th year in service.

What are your plans to restart the tanker procurement competition and what is your timeline for fielding a 21st century tanker?

Missile Defense

With the proliferation of ballistic missile technology and the testing of these systems by Iran and North Korea, the need to protect our nation and our allies from a ballistic missile attack has never been greater. Accordingly, I strongly supported the operational deployment of our current limited missile defense system.

Do you support the current plans to expand the capabilities and size of our missile defense system? What are your thoughts concerning the Ground Based Mid-Course Interceptor and the Kinetic Energy Interceptor concept?

Thank you for your attention to these matters and I look forward to reading your response to my questions.

Sincerely,

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We know that you share our concern that the Air Force tanker fleet is aging and needs to be replaced. Given the current challenges associated with awarding this contract, we plan to carefully review all options to begin replacing the tanker fleet expeditiously.

The competing contractors have provided their cost estimates associated with a dual award of 360-plus aircraft. We do not have equivalent estimates from the Department of Defense. As you can understand, it is critical that we have the best DOD cost information available during the Defense Subcommittee examination of the program in the fiscal year 2010 budget request.

Therefore, within 45-days, we request that you provide the Committee with a Cost Analysis Improvement Group estimate of the life cycle costs associated with the development, procurement, and operation and sustainment of a dual source acquisition of 360 tankers (a combined purchase of KC-X and KC-Y aircraft) with annual competitive awards.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation on this matter and look forward to working together with you as we continue our review.

Sincerely,

Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman

OSD 05532-09

JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

May 7, 2009

Mr. Christian P. Marrone
Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Legislative Affairs (Acting)
The Pentagon
Washington DC

Dear Mr. Marrone:

On April 23, 2009, I introduced S. 873, the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Improvement Act of 2009. It has been referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remains the number one national security threat facing the United States and the international community. The Nunn-Lugar Program has become the primary tool through which the United States works to safely destroy nuclear, chemical, and biological warfare capacity. Through Nunn-Lugar, the United States has eliminated more nuclear weapons than the combined arsenals of the United Kingdom, France, and China. I am delighted that President Obama made the Nunn-Lugar Program such a high profile issue during his campaign. In 2005, then-Senator Obama and I traveled to Russia to see the Nunn-Lugar Program in action. We visited the Russian nuclear warhead storage facility at Saratov and the mobile missile dismantlement facility near Perm. This experience gives him a unique vantage point to take important steps to revitalize and expand the program.

In 2008 the National Defense Authorization Act requested that the National Academy of Sciences compile a report on ways to strengthen and expand the Nunn-Lugar Program. The report argues persuasively that the program should be expanded geographically, updated in form and function and supported as an active tool of foreign policy. Nunn-Lugar must become less cumbersome and bureaucratic and more agile, flexible, and responsive to ensure timely contributions across a larger number of countries.

Most of the recommendations do not require legislation but rather simple management improvements. My bill, S. 873, focuses on two recommendations that require Congressional authorization: (1) the provision of limited "notwithstanding authority" to give flexibility for future engagements in unexpected locations and (2) creation of a Cooperative Threat Reduction Partnership Account to permit the Secretary to accept funds from any person, foreign government, or international organization to accomplish nonproliferation and disarmament goals. In addition the bill urges that the program engage the Unified Combatant Commands to ensure full coordination and effective program implementation.

The Nunn-Lugar Program has made critically important contributions to U.S. national security through the elimination of strategic weapons systems and platforms arrayed against us.

OSD 05567-09

Even as the threat changes, I am confident that it can continue to serve U.S. interests with the right leadership and direction. My goal is to provide the program with the tools it needs to continue to be successful.

I ask that the Pentagon review the policy aspects and implications of the legislation and share its views on the impact of my legislation on the Department's non-proliferation and counter-WMD policy priorities. I have attached a copy of the legislation and the statement of introduction that I delivered on April 23.

Thank you for your assistance and I look forward to your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Lugar
Ranking Member

RGL/kmk

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing you in regard to your April 10, 2009, announcement that the decision to establish a second nuclear aircraft carrier homeport at Naval Station Mayport, Florida, would be further reviewed within the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR).

Just four months ago, the Department of the Navy concluded an exhaustive two and a half year study weighing the strategic, operational and environmental consequences of upgrading Naval Station Mayport to homeport a nuclear carrier. This study concluded that indeed Naval Station Mayport should homeport a nuclear carrier, and the upgrades must be done since consolidating ALL nuclear carrier homeporting and maintenance in one East Coast location greatly hampers the Navy's strategic options.

Prior to 2007, the Navy had operational flexibility on the East Coast with carriers stationed both at Naval Station Norfolk and Naval Station Mayport. However the Navy lost this flexibility with the decommissioning of the last East Coast conventional carrier in 2007. In order to reduce risk to the Atlantic Fleet carrier force and restore the proper balance to the Navy, Naval Station Mayport must be upgraded to homeport nuclear aircraft carriers. On the West Coast, nuclear carriers and maintenance facilities are spread among three homeports. In fact, in a December 2008 letter to Senator Jim Webb, you reinforced the concept of strategic dispersal stating, "Having a single CVN homeport has not been considered acceptable on the west coast and should not be considered acceptable on the east coast."

The facts are simple -- the Norfolk area is the only east coast port in which nuclear aircraft carriers are repaired, built and housed. If tragedy, man-made or nature-related....intentional or accidental, rendered Norfolk out of reach the Navy would be forced to journey around the tip of South America to reach another nuclear aircraft carrier maintenance facility in San Diego, CA. While some would like to believe this is an acceptable back-up plan, common sense demands otherwise.

Time and time again, aircraft carriers have proven to be key to the execution of our national security strategy. We believe as access to overseas land bases continues to decrease, the Navy's aircraft carriers will be more and more important. The Navy has alternate homeporting and maintenance options for all ships on the East Coast except aircraft carriers, its most valuable assets. The total costs for permanently homeporting a nuclear aircraft carrier at Mayport is less than 1% of the cost of the nuclear carrier fleet. While the cost is not inconsequential, when weighed against the possible risks to our carrier fleet, upgrading Mayport to homeport nuclear

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OSD 05644-09

carrier is a sound national security expense. The Department MUST make this investment in Naval Station Mayport to provide flexibility to the Combatant Commanders and protection to some of the nation's most valuable assets.

We expect the QDR will reaffirm your decision and honor the considered professional military judgments and recommendations of senior DOD and Navy leadership who all recommend establishment of a nuclear homeport and maintenance facility at Naval Station Mayport. A second such port on the East Coast not only protects our military personnel and naval assets, but also strengthens our national security and the defense of all Americans. In addition, the Navy prides itself in its meticulous approach to nuclear power and to not have an additional nuclear maintenance facility on the East Coast departs from that approach. These points alone make the establishment of a second East Coast nuclear homeport essential for our national security and our sailors' quality of life.

Sincerely,

BILL NELSON
United States Senator

MEL MARTINEZ
United States Senator

ANDER CRENSHAW
Member of Congress

BILL YOUNG
Member of Congress

CORRINE BROWN
Member of Congress

JEFF MILLER
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SUZANNE KOSMAS
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MARIO DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

ALAN GRAYSON
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable B.J. Penn, Acting Secretary of the Navy
Admiral Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6250

May 12, 2009

The Honorable Peter R. Orszag
Director
Office of Management and Budget
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Orszag:

We write to make you aware of security clearance reform efforts undertaken to date and to urge you to continue those efforts.

As you may be aware, we have long been interested in reforming the security clearance process because the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has documented problems with the Department of Defense's (DoD) personnel security clearance program since the 1990s, going so far as to declare the program a systemic weakness affecting DoD and other federal agencies in 2002. GAO added the DoD personnel security clearance program to its high-risk list in 2005, and the program remains on that list today.

Because of these and other issues, Congress has worked for many years on a bi-partisan basis to address security clearance issues across the federal government. For example, in 2003 Congress transferred DoD's personnel security investigative function to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) as part of the *FY2004 National Defense Authorization Act* in an effort to improve the security clearance investigation process. Additionally, in 2004 Congress called for substantial changes to the security clearance process in the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act* (IRTPA). Among other things, IRTPA required the President to select a single agency or office to oversee the security clearance process across the federal government, implement uniform policies regarding the security clearance process, ensure reciprocal recognition of security clearances among agencies, evaluate the use of technology to expedite security clearance processes, and develop a plan to reduce the length of the security clearance process.

In 2005, President Bush issued Executive Order 13381 in furtherance of IRTPA requirements. That order designated the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as the executive branch agency responsible for setting policy for the security clearance process and required annual reports on implementation of IRTPA and the Executive Order.

OSD 05660-09

Additionally, in 2008 President Bush issued a "Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs regarding Security Clearances" in furtherance of IRTPA. That memorandum directed OMB, the Department of Defense, OPM, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Office of the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (collectively, the Joint Reform Team) to produce a comprehensive security clearance reform proposal by April 30, 2008. Such a proposal was produced and recommended a new Executive Order to ensure fitness reciprocity and reinvestigation; a modified Standard Form 86 application to seek more relevant information and support continuous evaluation of cleared individuals; a new strategy to ensure that standard and criminal record checks are conducted to mitigate gaps in automated searches; a new strategy to improve the accessibility of federal investigative records; standardized training and certification for security professionals; a single-search automated interface for verification of existing investigations, eligibility, and access to classified information; an automated process to validate investigations requested, investigations conducted and costs billed by investigative services; and the deployment of electronic fingerprint stations. The Joint Reform Team also recommended that an Executive Order be issued to establish a new governance structure to coordinate hiring and clearing processes.

As a result of these recommendations, in 2008 President Bush issued Executive Order 13467, which names OPM as the executive agent responsible for overseeing investigations and adjudications for employment suitability and the Director of National Intelligence as the executive agent responsible for overseeing investigations and adjudications for security clearances. Executive Order 13467 also established the Suitability and Security Clearance Performance Accountability Council (PAC), responsible to the President for achieving reform goals, measuring agency performance, holding agencies accountable, and establishing information technology requirements.

We firmly believe that each of the above-referenced Executive Orders and actions were undertaken in furtherance of statutory requirements and are important and valuable efforts to reform the security clearance process across the federal government as mandated by IRTPA. Additionally, we believe these efforts are necessary steps towards removing the DoD personnel security clearance program from GAO's high-risk list. Therefore, we strongly urge you to continue and build upon these efforts, including by approving the modification of Standard Form 86 that was delivered to OMB on December 31, 2008. We would appreciate an update from you on what OMB has done in furtherance of IRTPA to reform the security clearance process since January 20, 2009.

Additionally, our Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee has held five hearings on security clearance reform efforts, with the most recent hearing occurring on May 22, 2008. We plan to hold a sixth hearing on this subject this summer, and we sincerely hope that OMB will be willing to participate in that hearing as it has in years past.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you on this and other important issues.

Sincerely,

George V. Voinovich
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight of
Government Management, the
Federal Workforce, and the
District of Columbia

Daniel K. Akaka
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight of
Government Management, the
the Federal Workforce, and the
District of Columbia

cc: The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

The Honorable Dennis C. Blair
Director
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

The Honorable John Berry
Director
Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20415

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to relay our concerns about the lack of coordinated support for families of deployed National Guard and Reserve servicemembers and the Department of Defense's efforts to implement the National Guard Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

Deployment causes substantial stress and anxiety for families. One-third of the respondents to a recent National Military Family Association survey reported problems with both the availability of community support and the lack of information available to them about the Department's services and benefits. A recent Defense Department report to Congress acknowledged these problems and noted that they are particularly acute for geographically isolated families of deployed National Guard and Reserve servicemembers.

A recent RAND study found similar problems--lack of efficient delivery of information about available services, shortage of staff, and poorly coordinated programs. RAND recommended concrete steps at all stages of the deployment cycle to address these problems.

The National Guard Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) was created in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act to address these problems like these. But the YRRP Advisory Board of the Department's Office for Reintegration Programs did not hold its first meeting until March 31, 2009, and progress on this front seems slow at best.

We know you share our view that the YRRP is an important initiative. Going forward, the Department can meet the important goals of the YRRP by implementing program elements that:

(1) Integrate, consolidate and proactively provide family-support information to families during all phases of the deployment cycle: pre-deployment, deployment, demobilization, and post-deployment reconstitution.

(2) Ensure that geographically isolated families receive location-specific information about the services available to them and information about the presence of other military families from the same and different services in their area. To do this, the Department might consider the feasibility of creating a cross-service database of families living in a particular locale, which would be available to these geographically isolated families.

(3) Focus at least as much effort on delivery of resources as volume of resources. Deliver tailored information to families at various "milestone" times during the deployment cycle.

OSD 05680-09

(4) Provide quality family-support services when the servicemember is cross-leveled into a unit that is based far from their family and their home station.

(5) Provide sufficient staffing for the "family readiness" organizations of the Military Services to ensure a more forward-leaning effort to provide family-support information to families during the entire deployment cycle.

(6) Consider the Findings and Recommendations of the referenced RAND study *(Deployment Experiences of Guard and Reserve Families: Implications for Support and Retention, 2008)*, or equivalent sources, that focus on information and resource delivery problems.

After eight years of continuing conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan, we all agree on the need for a robust family-support program worthy of the sacrifices made by deploying servicemembers and their families.

Thank you for your attention and dedication to this effort to date. Please let us know if there are any legal obstacles or resource constraints that prevent full implementation of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Christopher S. Bond
United States Senator

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Ben Nelson
United States Senator

Evan Bayh
United States Senator

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

May 22, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you are aware, the Government of Japan has been interested in purchasing F-22 aircraft for several years. At the request of the Committees on Appropriations, the Air Force has examined what it would cost to design and manufacture an export version of the F-22.

Using the information which was provided by the Air Force, I prepared the attached letter to the Japanese ambassador. I believe the Government of Japan is likely to be interested in purchasing the aircraft even at the relatively high price which has been estimated. I wanted you to know of my actions in this matter and therefore, am forwarding the letter for your review.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

OSD 05793-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 19, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to request that you establish a clear policy through which the Department of Defense (DOD) will encourage renewable energy development while maintaining necessary protections for military airspace.

As you know, DOD has an important voice in wind turbine siting decisions because wind turbines can impact DOD radar and airspace requirements. Unfortunately, to date the interaction between wind developers and the DOD has lacked consistency. For instance, in 2007 Travis Air Force Base objected to the 80 MW Montezuma Wind Energy Center very late in the permitting process. The proposed wind farm is surrounded by other wind farms, some of which were built after 2007, in Solano County California's Wind Resource Area, more than ten miles from the base. That project, and others nearby, remain in limbo today due to DOD concerns that are likely surmountable.

To facilitate the development of renewable energy projects consistent with national security needs, we encourage you to take the following steps that could improve the prospects for wind development in the United States.

- **Consolidate Decision Making:** Formally consolidate decision making regarding wind development in a single office, preferably within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. A single decision-maker, who operates under clear timelines and procedures by which he communicates DOD concerns regarding wind projects, would limit unnecessary conflict between DOD and renewable energy development.

- **Participate in FAA Review:** DOD should identify proposed wind farm impacts on airborne operations during the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) existing, formal wind farm screening and approval process, as well as provide initial feedback during any FAA early feasibility review. If DOD

OSD 06069-09

objections are stated in as transparent a manner as national security concerns permit through the FAA process, renewable energy developers will not be surprised by DOD concerns expressed late in the permitting process.

- **Site Specific Evaluations:** The military has produced extremely useful maps of California, Arizona and Nevada that designate areas in which the military effectively opposes wind energy development (red), areas where the DOD might have some concerns (yellow), and areas where DOD has no military concerns (green). DOD's maps were assembled using data and assumptions that allow them to guide development, but they are not detailed enough to be the final decision making tool. I request that you clarify that DOD staff should evaluate site-specific technical analysis before opposing any wind proposal.

- **Airspace Height Restrictions:** Airspace height restrictions vary considerably across the West and limit wind energy development. If DOD evaluated whether it is reasonable and consistent with safety and national security needs to raise 200, 300 and 400 feet restrictions to 500 feet at sites where wind farms are proposed, DOD may be able to open a considerable amount of currently restricted land to wind energy development.

- **Mitigation Research and Development:** Technical mitigation measures may be able to reduce the impacts of wind turbines on radar. In September 2008, representatives from the DOD, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the wind industry agreed to develop a research and development roadmap, mirroring a similar effort between the British military and the British Wind Energy Association. DOD participation in this effort is important, and I encourage you to ensure that it continues.

- **Radar Upgrades:** DOD is in the process of replacing older analog radar systems with state-of-the-art radar through the National Airspace Modernization Program. I encourage you to request that DOD consider the wind energy potential of an area when prioritizing radar replacements. A report by the defense advisory firm JASON recently concluded, "Radars which don't have the capabilities to mitigate wind farm interference could simply be replaced...The new radar would incorporate multidimensional detection, with greatly enhanced processing, with pulse shapes designed to optimally distinguish between aircraft and wind farms."[1]

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[1] *Wind Farms and Radar (JSR-08-125).* JASON. The MITRE Corporation. January 2008.

As you know, both global warming and our reliance on foreign sources of energy present economic and national security challenges to our country. Your Department rightfully focuses on its primary mission of protecting our national security, but we believe DOD could also play a more productive role. We very much look forward to working with you to ensure that renewable energy development proceeds where it is compatible with the military's mission.

We look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Charles Grassley
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Tom Harkin
United States Senator

Max Baucus
United States Senator

Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
NEW YORK
SENATOR

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

May 19, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500-0004

Dear President Obama:

I am very concerned about the expanding humanitarian crisis triggered by the military offensive by the Pakistani government against the extremist Taliban groups in the Swat valley and neighboring areas. We appreciate Pakistan's determination to end the oppressive and dangerous Taliban regime in those regions. We must ensure that we allocate sufficient funding to address the immediate crisis and the rebuilding that will be necessary to allow those people to return home while minimizing the possibility that extremist groups will again take root in those areas.

As you know, the number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) is over one million and growing. Tens of thousands are in desperate need of immediate and urgent relief in terms of shelter, food, clothing and healthcare. Hundreds of thousands more have found shelter with their families, but their needs and the strain they put on those families likewise necessitate a strong response from the international community. Based on the funding required to address the more limited numbers of Pakistani IDPs in the past year, I understand that it may require as much as $300 million to adequately address the relief operations for the current number of IDPs in the affected areas.

In addition to these immediate needs, I am sure you appreciate the need for a consistent and adequate commitment to rebuilding the affected regions of Swat, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and neighboring regions, as well as other areas of Pakistan. The Taliban and attendant groups in Pakistan are losing their public appeal, while the latest actions of the Pakistani government have gained support of all major political parties in Pakistan as well as the majority of the people of Pakistan. We must capitalize on this shift in opinion to work with the Pakistani government and civil society in helping to rebuild and stabilize the north-west region and address issues such as supporting free media, encouraging the growth of women's rights, expanding educational opportunities, and other democracy and stability building programs throughout the country.

OSD 06092-09

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As you have stated on several occasions, the United States is locked in a battle with the extremists for the hearts and minds of Muslims around the world. We showed our strong support for the people of Pakistan after the earthquake in the Northern regions in October 2005. Our assistance yielded positive attitudes toward the United States among the Pakistani people.

The assistance to Pakistan in the Fiscal Year 2009 supplemental appropriation currently before Congress will go a long way in strengthening Pakistan's constitutional democracy and addressing its developmental needs. But the United States must take immediate action to demonstrate to the 170 million people in Pakistan that our goal is to work with them to achieve a peaceful, stable and prosperous Pakistan for all its citizens.

Sincerely yours,

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

CC: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of Defense Robert Gates
General (Ret.) James Jones, National Security Advisor
Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan
General David Petraeus, Commander, U.S. Central Command

MARK BEGICH
ALASKA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

SUITE SH-825
HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3004

May 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your willingness to meet with several senators Wednesday morning to discuss our concerns regarding proposed reductions in several defense systems, including ground-based interceptor missiles in Alaska. I very much appreciate your time to further explain the administration's thinking on modernizing our nation's defense posture.

I was heartened by your commitment to the ground-based missile defense system, a portion of which is based in my state at Fort Greely. As you know, many members of the Senate believe this system is a proven component of our defense capabilities. Recent missile launches by North Korea and Iran make this system even more vital.

As we discussed, I look forward to your department's further amplification on the role of the system in America's overall defense posture, the robust testing program you have already endorsed and the overall maintenance of the Fort Greely-based missiles to ensure they are capable of addressing threats to our state and nation.

Thank you also for your willingness to travel to Alaska to address in-person Alaska's servicemen and women who are so ably protecting our country.

Sincerely,

Mark Begich
United States Senator

OSD 06093-09

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 18, 2009

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, the humanitarian crisis in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, which is the result of increased fighting between the Pakistan Army and militants, is reaching historic and catastrophic proportions. Over one million people have already been displaced, in what is believed to be the single largest civilian migration in the region since the 1947 Partition. Worryingly, the numbers of displaced are continuing to grow. We must help the Pakistani government protect the civilian population while fighting continues and provide assistance to the displaced to ensure this crisis does not lead to greater unrest throughout the rest of the country.

United Nations officials have called for a "massive international effort" to address the crisis, warning that absent such an effort, it will be "absolutely impossible" to provide assistance. Reports indicate that there are significant gaps in the basic assistance currently being provided, including food, water, shelter, and sanitation. In addition, some 80 to 90 percent of those displaced are relying on the hospitality of family and friends already under strain from the global economic crisis.

We are deeply concerned that if not adequately addressed, the crisis could undermine the Pakistani government and compromise our ability to help stabilize the country. We note with concern that the media is reporting the charity wings of designated terrorist organizations such as Lashkar-e-Taiba are already rushing to provide assistance in the absence of a sufficient government response.

For this reason, we are writing to urge you to work in full partnership with the Government of Pakistan to mount an immediate U.S. response that addresses both the short-term and long-term needs of the displaced. We believe that nothing less than an immediate, large-scale response that mobilizes the resources of the entire U.S. government, as well as the private sector, is required to ensure the Pakistani people receive the help they need.

As we saw in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia and the 2005 earthquake in northern Pakistan, the United States possesses unique capabilities to provide swift and effective aid for civilian populations suffering from unprecedented

OSD 06103-09

humanitarian crises. We believe that we have both a moral and strategic imperative to help provide an immediate response to the crisis unfolding in Pakistan.

We thank you for your attention to this urgent and critical matter.

Sincerely,

Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator

Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator

Lindsey Graham
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey Jr.
United States Senator

Jon Kyl
United States Senator

CC: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of Defense Robert Gates
General (Ret.) James Jones, National Security Advisor
Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan
General David Petraeus, Commander, U.S. Central Command

MICHAEL F. BENNET
COLORADO

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May 23, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates:

On behalf of the 4,500 employees at Memorial Health System and the 140,119 TRICARE beneficiaries who live in Colorado Springs, Colorado, I write to ask your assistance in Memorial Health System's efforts to obtain approval for a three-year Temporary Military Contingency Payment Adjustment (TMCPA). A TMCPA would allow the system to continue to provide quality care to the TRICARE population of Colorado Springs.

Memorial Health System is a 600 plus bed acute care health and hospital system that serves an area in which there are five military installations: The United States Air Force Academy, Peterson Air Force Base, Shriever Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, and Fort Carson. Due to a severe shortage of TRICARE providers in Memorial Health System's service area, Memorial is the largest nonmilitary provider for the TRICARE population in the western region, as well as the largest provider of Emergency Department and Urgent Care services in the Colorado Springs area. In 2008, Memorial Health System provided over 45,000 patient visits to the TRICARE population and provided care for 149 babies.

Additionally, with this an arrival of an additional 7,000 troops and their families from the 4th Infantry Division moving from Fort Hood, Texas to Fort Carson this summer, demand for these military families at Memorial Health System is only going to increase.

While I understand the Department of Defense's desire to adopt a TRICARE outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS) that is more in line with Medicare rules, I am concerned that imminent implementation of this adjustment will be financially crippling for Memorial Health System. Without a TMCPA, Memorial Health System's TRICARE reimbursement will be reduced by over $10 million, and the facility will have to consider limiting both access to the types of care it delivers to its TRICARE population, and potentially the amount of healthcare workforce available to serve these military families.

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Granting Memorial Health System a TMCPA is essential to making sure our military families receive the high-quality care they need and deserve. With a gradual transition to the TRICARE outpatient prospective payment system, Memorial could continue its mission of helping to keep our military ready and prepared for future challenges. On behalf of these families, I thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to grant this adjustment.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our nation's men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 2, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Gates,

We are writing on behalf of the 94th Infantry Division, which valiantly fought during the European campaign of World War II. In April 1945, the Division came across a concentration camp near Velbert, Germany containing hundreds of dying prisoners, and was relieved by a medical unit that cared for the prisoners who were in dire need of medical attention.

Despite the fact that the 94th Infantry Division was the first Allied unit to enter the camp, it has not yet been recognized as an official liberating unit of World War II. The Division hopes very much to be approved for liberation status, so that its flag can be flown at the Holocaust Museum. We understand that the Division has complied with all of the necessary guidelines established for such status by the United States Center for Military History, and have the personal accounts of two soldiers who served in the unit at that time - Edward Cowley and Thomas Manthey.

We respectfully request that the 94th Infantry Division be considered by the Department for liberation status, and any appropriate assistance or consideration that you can provide would be greatly appreciated. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please have your staff contact Tristan Takos in Senator Kennedy's office at (617) 565-4471, or Brady Van Engelen in Senator Kerry's office at (202) 224-2742.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

With respect and appreciation,

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senator

John F. Kerry
United States Senator

OSD 06356-09

ORRIN G. HATCH
UTAH

JACE JOHNSON
CHIEF OF STAFF

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4402

COMMITTEES:

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

June 8, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary
The Department of Defense
1100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1100

Dear Secretary Lynn:

Thank you for your May 28th letter. I appreciate learning the Department of Defense's ("Department") views on the subjects covered in the letter. In addition, I look forward to continuing to work with you on enhancing our nation's security.

I was delighted to learn of the Department's commitment to our depot maintenance system by "compl[ying] with the 50/50 and Core laws as currently written and interpreted." As you know, the Congress, on a bipartisan basis, has worked with the Department over the past several years to recapitalize our depot maintenance system. The warfighter has greatly benefited from this renewed investment through sustained on-time delivery rates of vital equipment.

Regarding the land-based solid rocket motor intercontinental ballistic missile industrial base, I deeply appreciate the Department and the Air Force's recognition of the merits of sustaining this vital national infrastructure. The Air Force's Fiscal Year 2010 budget request of $43 million is an important first step. However, your letter does not address if the Department will accede to the Secretary of the Air Force's request to reprogram sufficient Fiscal Year 2009 funds to maintain solid rocket production this fiscal year. Only a prompt transfer of these funds will prevent further interruptions in production, resulting in millions of dollars in unnecessary costs, and the stabilization of employment for the highly sought after engineers and technicians that manufacture solid rocket motors.

Therefore, I respectfully request the Department agree to Secretary Donley's request and reprogram, on an expedited basis, Fiscal Year 2009 funds to maintain our nation's land-based solid rocket motor intercontinental ballistic missile industrial base.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

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OSD 06447-09

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
CONNECTICUT

COMMITTEES:
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HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS

United States Senate

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June 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I read with great interest your speech to the Association of American Universities on April 14, 2008. On that occasion you noted the potential of the records of Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist regime, captured by American forces in 2003, to provide us "unprecedented insights" into the workings of dictatorial third-world regimes. You rightly compared this collection of materials to the Smolensk archives, upon which scholars of the Soviet Union like Merle Fainsod based much of their research. You also announced that the Defense Department was funding an effort to open a Conflict Records Research Center at the National Defense University.

I strongly support your goal of making the records of Saddam Hussein's regime available to the broad scholarly community for research and study. However, I am concerned by the apparent slow pace of this valuable project. I note that the Defense Department has yet to establish a Conflict Records Research Center in the 15 months that have passed since your announcement, nor does the opening of such a center appear to be on the horizon.

I would therefore be grateful for a progress report on your efforts to establish a Conflict Records Research Center at the National Defense University, a timeline for its creation, as well as an estimate of the resources that the Defense Department will devote to the center over the long term.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to this worthy and important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Lieberman
UNITED STATES SENATOR

OSD 06538-09

~~SECDEF~~	~~DEPSECDEF~~	~~ASST~~	~~EXECSEC~~	~~USDP~~
~~USDI~~	~~ESD~~	~~CSD~~	CBLCH	FILE

1 A /

PATTY MURRAY
WASHINGTON

COMMITTEES:
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BUDGET
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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4704

June 4, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to urge you to act immediately to protect the jobs of people with severe disabilities working on the Department of Defense (DoD) service contracts under the AbilityOne Program. Specifically, I ask that you;

1. Reaffirm the moratorium on conversions set forth in the December 29, 2004, Memorandum wherein Under Secretary of Defense Chu states, *DoD NAFIs shall not enter into contracts or agreements with DoD elements or other Federal Departments, Agencies, or instrumentalities for the provision of goods and services that will result in the loss of jobs created pursuant to the Randolph Sheppard Act, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, or small business programs* until a policy solution can be reached that encourages job creation;
2. Request that the AbilityOne Program be part of the Air Force solution; and,
3. Provide notification that responses to date from Arthur Meyers, principal Director, Military Community and Family Policy, do not fully address the above two issues.

I support the DoD Food Transformation effort where it results in higher quality and efficiency to service members and lower costs. However, given the potential impact this challenge could have on the employment of thousands of people with severe disabilities in the AbilityOne Program, I strongly urge the DoD to coordinate with AbilityOne representatives to develop a policy solution that encourages job creation through both the MWR and the AbilityOne Programs. This is a crucial step to incorporate the best thinking to resolve this issue, particularly when jobs for people with severe disabilities are so rare, reflecting an unemployment rate unparalleled by any other demographic sector of our society.

Thank you for your early consideration of this urgent request. If you have any questions on this issue, please contact Crystal Bridgeman at (202) 224-2621 in my office.

Sincerely,

Patty Murray

U.S. Senator Patty Murray

OSD 06541-09

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JIM WEBB
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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4605

June 11, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Lynn,

During your confirmation hearing in January, you agreed to review the Navy's proposal to homeport a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Mayport, Florida, as part of the Quadrennial Defense Review. I appreciate your making this commitment. My purpose in writing is to request that this review consider new information regarding the Department of the Navy's fiscal year 2010 budget request revealed by Admiral Roughead, the chief of naval operations, during a hearing last week before the Senate Committee on Armed Services. This input updates the comprehensive critical assessment of the Navy's plan that I forwarded to you and Under Secretary Flournoy in January.

I was struck by the growing level of risk that Admiral Roughead identifies in several Navy warfighting and shore readiness areas. In his prepared statement, a copy of which I have enclosed for your information, he states:

- The Navy is "stretched in our ability to meet additional operational demands."
- The risk in the areas of warfighting, personnel, and force structure is "moderate today trending toward significant in the future."
- "Future shore readiness ... is at risk."
- The continued decrease in the number of strike-fighter tactical aircraft "will affect the capacity and effectiveness of our air wings." (One estimate places this shortfall at 125 aircraft by 2015. Other estimates range as high as 220 aircraft in successive years.)

I do not recall a starker assessment of the operational risks facing the Navy since then-CNO Admiral Thomas Hayward testified in 1979 that the Navy possessed a one-and-a-half-ocean Navy for a three-ocean requirement.

The Navy has justified relocating an aircraft carrier to Mayport as "a hedge against a catastrophic event in Hampton Roads." Contrary to Admiral Roughead's assessment of the real risk facing the Navy at sea and ashore, however, the Navy has described the risk of a future catastrophic event in Hampton Roads as "small." Moreover, the Navy has stated, "No clear, credible threat distinguishes one homeport from the other." In short, a risk-based resource allocation methodology will document that the Navy's homeporting proposal for Mayport, Florida, is not a sound investment.

OSD 06636-09

Regarding shore readiness, Admiral Roughead testified, "... Maintenance and recapitalization requirements have grown, and the cost of ownership for our shore infrastructure has increased. At current investment levels, our *future shore readiness*, particularly recapitalization of our facilities infrastructure, *is at risk*."

The Navy documented the full dimension of this growing problem to my staff earlier this year. In January, the Navy acknowledged it has a $28 *billion* backlog in shore facility restoration and modernization—documented projects to repair or modernize taxiways, high-explosive magazines, hangar roofs, piers, waterfront-support buildings, galleys, and other facilities.

In particular, the growing funding backlog for necessary sustainment, restoration, and modernization projects at the Navy's four naval shipyards is cause for alarm in light of their work on nuclear-powered ships. Last November, the Navy said the backlog was $791 million. Last month, I was informed that the shortfall had grown to $1.3 billion, broken out as follows:

- Puget Sound Naval Shipyard: $327.2 million
- Norfolk Naval Shipyard: $450.6 million
- Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard: $312.6 million
- Portsmouth Naval Shipyard: $206.4 million

At the same time that the Navy is not properly maintaining its existing shipyard infrastructure, workers from these yards are periodically rotated to Guam and Diego Garcia to conduct depot-level maintenance on forward-deployed ships. In Guam, this entails a high level of work on homeported nuclear-powered attack submarines and a submarine tender. In Diego Garcia, shipyard fly-away teams perform similar work on nuclear-powered guided-missile submarines. Adequate shore facilities do not exist at either location. Unavoidably, the workers' efficiency in performing complex repairs and maintenance is degraded.

These worrisome trends—a failure to sustain past investments in shore infrastructure or to address emergent requirements—should be reversed before the Navy builds redundant nuclear-support infrastructure in Mayport that will only be fully manned when a carrier is in port. Rather than investing in expensive new facilities in Mayport, which is contrary to the Navy's Shore Investment Strategy's goal of consolidating its shore footprint, the Navy should first remedy its current shore-installation backlog.

There are more fiscally responsible and strategically sound options to sustain Naval Station Mayport as a viable Navy homeport on the East Coast. The assignment of new construction surface combatants or in-service amphibious force ships better suited to the operational requirements of the commander, U.S. Southern Command is a preferable and more affordable approach.

Alternatively, funding could be applied for the construction of an additional Wasp-class amphibious assault ship (LHD). The required funding is estimated by industry to be $2.7 billion in constant-year 2010 dollars. This assumes repeating the LHD-8 design with funding for hull, mechanical, and electrical systems only.

The Navy could fund roughly a third of the construction cost for a ninth LHD with the funding that will likely be required (up to $1 billion) for its carrier homeporting scheme in Mayport. This option has other attractive advantages. Namely, it will:

- Help address today's shortfall in providing sufficient amphibious lift for the Marine Corps' two Marine Expeditionary Brigades. Admiral Roughead and General Conway, the commandant of the Marine Corps, agree that 38 amphibious warfare ships are needed for this mission. We will have 31 (not including two command ships) when LHD-8 is commissioned later this year;
- Provide a more operationally relevant platform for the U.S. Southern. Command's area of geographic responsibility in the Central American region;
- Be homeported closer to Morehead City, North Carolina, for embarkation of Marine units; and
- Provide more opportunities for maintenance work to local ship-repair companies in Jacksonville than a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

Speaking as both a member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and a former secretary of the Navy, I remain convinced that there is no reasonable justification for the relocation of an aircraft carrier to Mayport when the Navy has identified growing readiness risks in its warfighting and shore-installation programs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

J. Webb

Jim Webb
United States Senator

Copy to: Under Secretary of Defense Flournoy

Enclosure: As stated

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June 9, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

At recent hearings before various Committees of Congress, Defense Department representatives have attested to the need for acquisition reform. It is clear from this testimony that competition is the single most effective means to infuse cost, schedule, quality, performance, and technology development discipline into the procurement process.

For several years, Congress has supported the competitive procurement of the propulsion system for the Joint Strike Fighter aircraft. However, while we recognize that the Administration supports competition, the fiscal year 2010 defense budget maintains a sole source acquisition strategy for the JSF engine.

Recent testimony from Defense Department witnesses asserted that the business case does not support a competitive procurement strategy for the JSF engine. The Department has provided estimates ranging from $2-5 billion to establish a competitive source for annual procurements that will total nearly $100 billion for JSF engines over the life of the program. We are advised that the cost to maintain a sole source procurement may be three times that estimate.

To inform our proceedings on your FY 2010 budget request, I would appreciate the Department's estimate of the comparative cost to procure engines from a sole source provider and from two sources. This analysis should include the cost to develop the current sole source engine as well as the cost to finance the announced upgrade of the engine to meet program

OSD 06652-09

performance requirements. Please conclude the analysis with a comparison of the elements of expense and expected unit cost for sole source versus competitive procurement over the JSF production cycle.

I would appreciate a response within 30 days following receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
INDIAN AFFAIRS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

June 2, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

As you are well aware, making certain that soldiers recently separated from the military are fully knowledgeable of the benefits due them as a veteran has been a difficult process. I applaud your efforts as Secretary of Defense to ease the transition and working with Secretary Shinseki at the Department of Veterans Affairs in this effort. To build on these ongoing efforts, I respectfully suggest a modification to the DD 214 form and ask that you consider adding a new contact, the email address, to the form as a way to increase communication to these new veterans.

Earlier this year, I was visited by the New Mexico Secretary of the Department of Veterans Services who reported to me that nearly 60 percent of welcoming mail sent by the Department to new veterans in New Mexico, which makes them aware of their education, health, and home ownership benefits, is returned. Oftentimes the return is due to an incorrect mailing address, which is usually taken from the DD 214 and is the only manner in which the Department is able to contact the veteran. The Secretary stated that by adding a requirement that the soldier filling out the DD 214 include an email address, it would make it easier, timelier, and more cost effective to reach the veteran with information he or she can use.

I fully support this idea and I would ask that you look into having the DD 214 form altered to include an email address. The vast majority of Americans use email daily, including our men and women serving in uniform abroad, and it only makes sense that we would try to continue to connect with them after they have left the service by utilizing all forms of communication, including email. This would benefit not only the soldiers, but veterans departments and organizations across the country.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing back from and continuing to work together to serve our soldiers and our veterans.

Sincerely,

Tom Udall
United States Senator

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June 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
The Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I was grateful for the opportunity to discuss with you the U.S. nuclear deterrent in the context of the Administration's arms control agenda during a recent meeting in Senator Lieberman's office. I appreciated hearing you say that you share my concerns about reducing our nuclear forces, including our operationally deployed strategic nuclear warheads (ODSNW), before a modernization program is in place to address the neglect to both our nuclear weapons and the complex of infrastructure that supports them. I have further articulated my concerns in a recent speech on the Senate floor, and I have enclosed a copy of those remarks for your consideration.

I believe you made a critical point at the Carnegie Endowment last October when you characterized the "long term prognosis" of our nuclear deterrent as "bleak." That assessment was one of the reasons I urged the Bush administration at about the same time to seek funding – even on an emergency basis – to begin the process of arresting the downward spiral and why I believe it is imperative that we move forward on a comprehensive modernization plan now.

As you know, the President stated that he intends to seek bilateral reductions with the Russians below the lower limit (2,200 to 1,700) of the Moscow Treaty of 2002. Some in the press have reported that the Administration may attempt to go to as low as 1,500 ODSNW, which would constitute an approximately 30 percent reduction in our deployed strategic nuclear forces – a very significant reduction. I believe you noted in a recent interview that you begin to get nervous at this low level.

Importantly, consideration of reductions of this magnitude would be occurring well before the Administration has completed the congressionally directed Nuclear Posture Review, Quadrennial Defense Review and Missile Defense Policy Review. Given the timing of these reviews and the impending expiration of the 1991 START agreement, there is the danger that the START process will inform the NPR as opposed to the NPR informing the START process, as Congress intended. This would be dangerous and wrong.

My greatest concern, however, is that we are again talking about reductions to our nuclear forces before the U.S. begins, much less completes, a long overdue and desperately

OSD 06703-09

needed modernization of our nuclear weapons stockpile and complex of support infrastructure. The FY10 budget compounds what I believe is a pattern of neglect of the U.S. nuclear enterprise, and even accelerates it in the five year projections. Though this is chiefly a Department of Energy/NNSA budget issue, the strategic military requirements are appropriately set by the Department of Defense. Based on your comments, I know you are well aware of, and troubled by, the outcomes that have been produced by this system of organization.

For almost two decades, administrations and Congress have underfunded the requests from the weapons labs (e.g., Los Alamos and Sandia) and the weapons facilities (e.g., Pantex and Y-12). Neither branch of government has taken seriously the significant problems affecting the U.S. nuclear enterprise.

The best illustration of this failure is seen in the case of the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program. Two House members who served on an appropriations subcommittee with no real national security role were permitted to reject the request for the RRW without serious explanation or justification, and Congress accepted their rejection.

So, how do we implement a plan for modernization along the same timeline as the START negotiations?

The first option would be to seek a reprogramming of FY09 appropriated funds by submitting a request to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and to the Energy and Water Subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. If any one of those committees disagreed, the reprogramming request would die. In fact, unless the Chairmen and Ranking Members of all four of those committees agree, the reprogramming request would die.

One clear problem would emerge with the Appropriations Committees, which would likely have to absorb a significant share of a reprogramming request -- one that might affect their programs on the nuclear weapons enterprise, but would also likely impact their water infrastructure, energy development, or nonproliferation programs.

Second, a request for supplemental appropriations could also be submitted at the same time as the treaty documents. This option would require a formal vetting of the request by both the House and Senate, beginning with the Appropriations Committees, which could be undertaken, with significant Administration commitment, while the Senate is considering the possible ratification of the expected START follow-on treaty.

Another option would be for the Office Management and Budget to submit an amendment to the FY10 budget request. As of this writing, the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and the House - and shortly the Senate - Appropriations Committees have begun to mark up their annual authorization and appropriations bills, meaning this would be an uphill climb.

Lastly, there is the FY11 budget. As you know, the President ordinarily submits his budget in February. Consequently, START would be expected to precede by several months an official modernization request. Even then, its fate in Congress is uncertain.

Because of these timing issues, I urge you to make clear, in detail, what you believe must be included in a modernization program. One place to start would be the package of supplemental appropriations and reprogramming requests developed by the Departments of Energy and Defense last year at the instruction of Vice President Cheney. I understood you were in support of this concept during meetings on Capitol Hill and in the interagency review process. Since this was never designed to be a comprehensive modernization plan, it is only a starting point.

I understand it is unusual for the head of one federal department to go into detail about how the programs in another federal department should be funded in the federal budget. I would only note that the nuclear weapons enterprise is one of the few programs, if not the only program that crosses so many executive and legislative lines of authority. This could even take the form of a public statement from you and Secretary Chu detailing exactly what is needed to modernize our strategic and tactical warheads and the complex of support infrastructure. Such an action would be most helpful to those in Congress and the Administration who are willing to work to promote the safety, security, reliability and credibility of the U.S. nuclear deterrent.

As we discussed in our recent meeting in Senator Lieberman's office, the Perry-Schlesinger Commission has identified correctly the problems confronting the U.S. nuclear deterrent and what we need to do about it. Following its recommendations, I hope we can work together to ensure this basic building block of U.S. national security is given the attention and resources it needs.

Finally, I understand that the last Administration prepared, but never released, an unclassified version of the 2001 Nuclear Posture Review. I urge you to make it a priority to have the Pentagon release this document. I believe that doing so would serve a valuable purpose of making sure members of the public, their representatives in Congress, and the allied and friendly nations that rely on our nuclear deterrent are fully informed about America's strategy for providing deterrence and assurance over the coming years.

Thank you for your concern about these matters.

Sincerely,

JON KYL
United States Senator

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

June 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On December 19, 2008, I sent you a letter expressing concern about a *Washington Post* article reporting that the Army was seeking bids for an American firm "to manage oversight of private security companies in Afghanistan."

In your February 17, 2009 response, you stated that the solicitation at issue was for a contract to provide administrative support to Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Enduring Freedom's (CJTF-101) Armed Contractor Oversight Directorate (ACOD), which oversees private security contractors (PSC) in Afghanistan. Your letter also said that the ACOD "has four Field Grade Officers assigned, including an 0-6 director. Contractor personnel will have no direct input into daily operations, force protection, or combat operations. Only government personnel will perform oversight duties with respect to private security contractors."

Earlier this week, the Commission on Wartime Contracting issued an interim report to Congress on contingency contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan. I was troubled to read in that report that, since it was established, the ACOD in Afghanistan "has primarily been run by contractor personnel from Aegis." The report said that CJTF-101 submitted an expedited request for four field grade officers for the ACOD, but that "as of mid-May the request had yet to be approved and there were no senior U.S. military officials assigned full-time to the directorate." The Commission concluded that, without those military officers in place at the ACOD, "Aegis is in a role of significant official responsibility in reviewing activities of other private security contractors."

Please advise me as to:

1. The number and rank of military officers currently assigned to the ACOD in Afghanistan and the dates of their assignments.

OSD 06705-09

2. The current responsibilities of Aegis personnel as they relate to the oversight of PSC activities, including their role in investigating escalation of force incidents involving contractors.

I share the view articulated in your February 17, 2009 letter that the Department must continually demonstrate that the use of contractors on the battlefield is governed by proper policies, practices, and oversight. It is my hope that our efforts in Afghanistan meet that standard. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

cc: Senator John McCain
Ranking Member

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HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT

June 12, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Lynn:

In light of new information received by my office and my continued disagreement with a BRAC related determination by the Department of Defense, I ask for your review of the impending relocation of the Technology Services Organization (TSO) in Kansas City, Missouri to Indianapolis, Indiana. In particular, I ask that you review whether DoD officials implementing the move are circumventing law and regulation by understating rental costs and space requirements related to the move. Further, I urge a fresh review of the Department's determination that the TSO is a related activity to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) – Kansas City. Under BRAC 2005, DFAS-Kansas City was required to realign to Indianapolis. Since that time, the Department has inappropriately sought to move the TSO to Indianapolis on the erroneous basis that the TSO is a related activity to DFAS.

As stated in a November 2008 letter signed by myself, Senator Bond, and Congressmen Skelton, Graves and Cleaver, it is inappropriate for the TSO function in Kansas City to be realigned away from the city pursuant to the BRAC 2005 process. This conclusion is buttressed by findings of the Director, DFAS and the Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, both of whom concluded that the TSO had been realigned from DFAS-Kansas City function *prior to* the BRAC determinations and thus constituted both a separate and unrelated activity from DFAS at the time of passage of the BRAC law. Corroborating this finding is the fact that the Department did not budget for the relocation of the TSO, a move with estimated costs approaching $200M. There is also no federal space planned for or allocated to the TSO in Indianapolis.

I have also been informed that the Department has requested approximately 76,000 square feet of rental space in Indianapolis for the TSO. This represents less than half the space the TSO currently occupies in Kansas City. It has been alleged that this under-requesting of office space has the purpose of circumventing expanded Congressional review of the lease. Further, it has been alleged that at some point in the future Department officials will seek to acquire an additional 120,000 square feet of space to house the remainder of the government and contract personnel that currently occupy space in GSA facilities in Kansas City. Such an action, if accurate, appears dubious and may be unnecessarily expensive and inefficient. More importantly, it may represent an impermissible splitting of procurements for the purpose of circumventing the "prospectus level" Congressional approval process. I seek your review of these allegations and would like a detailed explanation of how the Department is acquiring space for the TSO in Indianapolis, as well as how it is compliant with law and regulation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

CLAIRE MCCASKILL
United States Senator

OSD 06715-09

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ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
JOINT ECONOMIC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 22, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Deputy Secretary Lynn,

As you know, over the past year I have closely followed the Pentagon's multiple investigations into the electrocutions of U.S. soldiers while serving in Iraq. My interest in this issue was sparked by the courage and perseverance of a constituent of mine, (b)(6) who lost her son, Staff Sergeant Ryan Maseth, on January 2, 2008 when he was electrocuted while taking a shower at the Radwaniyah Palace Complex in Iraq.

(b)(6) has been driven by an unyielding pursuit of the truth about her son's death. Since Ryan died at the beginning of 2008, she has received three separate accounts of her son's death, each successive account changing in key details. The U.S. Army Criminal Investigative Division (CID) and the Department of Defense Inspector General both have ongoing investigations into the circumstances of Ryan's death. In addition, Ryan's family has filed a civil lawsuit against KBR, Inc.

The U.S. Army CID closed an initial investigation into Ryan's death on June 11, 2008, without filing any charges. However, it reopened the investigation on August 29, 2008. On December 16, 2008 a U.S. Army CID investigator emailed (b)(6) to convey the news that the CID's official classification of Ryan's death had been changed from accidental homicide to negligent homicide.

OSD 06876-09

Since that exchange, (b)(6) has been told repeatedly that her son's case would be closed soon. In an email exchange with General Rodney Johnson, the CID Commanding General, (b)(6) was told she would receive an update on June 8, 2009. On this day, she received a phone call from (b)(6) a CID Group Commander in Atlanta. He informed her that the investigation is complete but that the Judge Advocates General are still reviewing the investigation for thoroughness, a claim that has been made to her before.

(b)(6) was also informed that her efforts to reach out for additional information were slowing down the process because Army investigators would have to stop and respond to those requests. Finally, (b)(6) told her that he could not provide a timeline for the release of final findings for this investigation. (b)(6) is concerned that her family's ongoing lawsuit against KBR may be influencing the lack of Pentagon communications with her on the status of Ryan's investigation.

I understand the need for thoroughness and allowing justice to fully work without undue haste. But I am concerned that (b)(6) now believes that the U.S. Army and the Pentagon as a whole are ignoring her legitimate concerns and requests for information. (b)(6) has been a dogged advocate for all soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, to ensure that no other mother be forced to endure what she has over the past eighteen months.

During our phone conversation in March, you agreed to provide me updates and milestones in multiple Department of Defense investigations. I also asked to receive a timeline for completion of these various ongoing DOD investigations. Finally, I insisted that the Pentagon adopt complete transparency and forthrightness with the families of those fallen by electrocutions. These mothers and fathers, husbands and wives are entitled to receive continuous updates and full inclusion in the investigative process as it unfolds. They deserve nothing less.

Accordingly, I now request that you provide a response on the status of Staff Sergeant Ryan Maseth's case, both in the context of the U.S. Army CID investigation and DOD Inspector General investigation, and the expected timelines for their conclusion. Ryan Maseth was tragically killed almost 18 months ago, and the investigations have dragged on for almost that entire period of time. We as a nation owe his family an answer on what happened. (b)(6) remarkable dedication has inspired me to remain involved on this issue to demand justice and accountability for all of the families who have lost loved ones to electrocutions in Iraq.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Bob Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

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COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

June 5, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Washington DC

Dear Secretary Gates:

Last week I traveled to Russia to celebrate the opening of the Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility at Shchuchye in the Kurgan Oblast. The facility was constructed by the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program to eliminate the threats posed by a stockpile of nearly 2 million chemical weapons stored there. The munitions were considered a severe threat given their lethality and portability. In 1999, a Russian major at the facility took my picture holding a briefcase containing a single 85mm shell of VX nerve gas. The gas in the shell would have been enough to kill tens of thousands of Americans.

The ceremony symbolized U.S.-Russian nonproliferation cooperation and the success we have achieved in responding to common threats. The facility is testament to the progress possible in areas essential to our common interests. I am hopeful that it represents an encouraging sign for future nonproliferation endeavors and progress on finding agreement to extend the START Treaty and other arms control endeavors.

I have assembled a few papers and articles which provide a good summary of the project and its place in our overall effort to destroy weapons of mass destruction through the Nunn-Lugar and related programs.

If the Administration is to succeed in reaching the nonproliferation goals President Obama set in his speech at Prague, Nunn-Lugar must be expanded geographically, updated in form and function and supported as an active tool of foreign policy. The program must be less cumbersome and bureaucratic and more agile, flexible, and responsive to ensure timely contributions across a larger number of countries. I look forward to working with you as we move forward in these important areas.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Lugar
Ranking Member

RGL/kmk

Cc: The Honorable William J. Lynn, Deputy Secretary of Defense

OSD 06968-09

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June 17, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As the Nuclear Posture Review process gears up and begins to inform negotiations for a new arms control treaty, I wanted to raise several points regarding our strategic nuclear deterrent force.

First, you should know that I share the President's view that we need to increase our attention to arms control and cooperative threat reduction efforts. However, I also believe that we must make absolutely certain that we do not make any destabilizing choices as we move down that road. As the Strategic Posture Commission noted, preserving the nuclear triad becomes increasingly important as our nuclear force is reduced. Given that, we must be certain that any force reductions do not threaten the balance or long-term vitality of the triad.

For maximum flexibility and to preserve the option of recallability, we must maintain both the B-52 and the B-2 as dual-mission, nuclear-capable weapons systems and invest in a next-generation cruise missile. Major General Donald Alston, the Air Force's point person on all things nuclear, puts it very well when he points out that the bomber force "speaks with exquisite diction" in a crisis environment. The very fact that B-52 deployments and operational flights are so visible allows the President the flexibility to send precise messages to potential adversaries in times of tension.

For maximum stability and responsiveness, we also must preserve the ICBM force at 450 missiles, preferably downloaded to a single warhead each. As General Larry Welch and others have argued, our land-based nuclear force is the most stabilizing portion of our nuclear arsenal, and it becomes even more so as total warhead numbers shrink. The dispersion and low warhead loading of the ICBM force make a successful disarming attack nearly impossible. That deters attack from near-peer competitors and dissuades future adversaries from building their nuclear forces. It also eliminates the pressure to maintain a launch-on-warning posture.

You have rightfully made restoring discipline and confidence in nuclear surety a top priority. I fear that cutting the ICBM force below 450 missiles would undermine that goal by making it difficult to recruit and retain talented nuclear personnel, a top priority for the Air Force as it works to prevent future mishaps.

OSD 07035-09

Considering that ICBMs can be downloaded to a single warhead and that the Russian force is disproportionately land based, maintaining 450 missiles should not impossible to do, even under relatively strict treaty obligations. Furthermore, given your commitment to keep defense costs under control, I want to note that ICBMs come in at about one-third to one-fifth the annual operating cost of the submarine-launched leg of the triad. What's more, ICBM costs will be stable for many years to come, while an extremely expensive replacement program for the Ohio-class submarine is just about to begin.

As you and the President work to reduce our nuclear force to the smallest size possible consistent with security needs, I feel very strongly that we must ensure that we do not take any steps that would threaten the future of the triad or reduce overall stability. I appreciate you taking these issues under careful consideration and would be grateful if you could keep me informed of the Department and the Administration's continued deliberations on these matters.

Sincerely,

KENT CONRAD
United States Senate

cc: Gen James Jones (USMC, ret.)

HARRY REID
NEVADA

MAJORITY LEADER

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

June 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write today to bring to your attention again a transmission corridor in Nevada proposed by the Department of Defense that could potentially benefit nearby renewable energy projects, as well as the local community, and possibly decrease the Department's costs of adding new transmission capacity. I request that the DOD consider taking this opportunity to utilize the proposed Military Powerline Corridor on the eastern side of the Nellis Test and Training Range for the desired Military purposes as well as to facilitate the development of renewable energy resources.

The DOD has asked the Lincoln County Power District for 10 MW of new service, which would require the current transmission to be upgraded with a 1-circuit 138 kV line. This upgrade would be adequate to serve only Defense purposes. However, further expanding the capacity of the line, at the cost of the non-military users, could benefit the Military, help the local power district with its long term planning, and facilitate the development of hundreds – potentially thousands – of megawatts of clean solar energy.

To serve demand in southern Nevada and California, any renewable energy project will require access to adequate transmission capacity to deliver power to the market. By cooperating with the local stakeholders, DOD's proposed corridor could be utilized for both military and non-military energy transmission capacity, thereby enjoying both cost benefits and environmental benefits from avoiding the almost certain need to build additional structures in the future to serve the same general area.

I strongly urge that the advantages to the local community and other potential consumers of clean energy from nearby projects be carefully considered in making your decision, which I hope will come soon.

I greatly appreciate your attention to this matter. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me, or have your staff contact Bob Herbert, Chris Miller or Alex McDonough of my staff at (202) 224-3542.

Sincerely,

Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader

OSD 07062-09

RON WYDEN
OREGON

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June 22, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing you to express serious concern over the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facilities at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. While these resources are designed to allow service members to communicate with their families, my constituents stationed at the base routinely experience difficulties.

According to their accounts, the U.S. tax payer-funded resources and computers are occupied for lengthy periods of time by non-military personnel. The presence of these individuals monopolizing these limited resources results in soldiers avoiding the computer stations altogether.

With the pending activation of the 41st Brigade Combat Team, Oregon is facing its largest deployment since World War II. I am extremely concerned at the obstacles our soldiers face in staying in contact with their families on lengthy deployments far from home, in Balad and throughout the region. To impede communication between service members and families is an injustice to those who serve and also negatively affects morale. I urge you to ensure that MWR facilities are used for their intended purposes and that our brave men and women are able to communicate with their families.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your concern for the health of the brave men and women that serve our country. I look forward to working with you to resolve this matter in the future.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

OSD 07066-09

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June 26, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Last May after discussing this matter with you, I forwarded a request for the Defense Department to evaluate the cost of proceeding with a competitive split buy on the tanker program. Yesterday I received a response from Undersecretary of Defense, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Mr. Ashton Carter, which failed to respond to the fundamental question posed in my inquiry.

Secretary Carter's response indicated that the Defense Department is unable to assess a competitive split buy in which the Air Force would compete the award of tankers annually. While this dual source approach has been used successfully in the past by the Defense Department in the acquisition of many systems in which there are two competing manufacturers, the response in this case has been that DoD is unable to. evaluate this proposal.

This response is completely unacceptable to me as it should be to you. If the Defense Department is unable to evaluate the cost and/or benefit of this approach then how can you or the Congress be confident that the award to one manufacturer represents the best value to the taxpayer?

OSD 07111-09

I remain concerned that the current plan by the Defense Department will purchase tankers too slowly. Under this plan the nation will be relying on tankers that are more than 50 years old for far too long. Moreover, recognizing the past failures of the current acquisition strategy many believe that continuing down this path sets us on a course of a near guarantee of litigation and continued delay. You and I agree that it is critical that we get on with the tanker replacement program.

Mr. Secretary, I am not convinced that the current acquisition strategy is the best one. Nor am I convinced that an annual competition will generate sufficient savings to merit its selection. However, if the Department is unable to provide a useful cost comparison I am not sure how any of us can be sure we are on the right track.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman

JIM DEMINT
SOUTH CAROLINA

CHAIRMAN
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June 17, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your continued service to our country and your tireless support to national defense during this time of war. I share your desire to make certain that our troops are equipped with protective gear that provides whatever margins of safety possible.

I am writing to request information involving your annual review of the Sections 807 and 829 Exceptions to the Berry Amendment with regards to para-amarid fibers and fire resistant rayon fibers. Specifically I am looking for the rationale and underlying data that the DOD used to determine that domestic manufacturers could not produce these materials at a competitive cost compared to foreign sources.

Further, has the department ever issued a determination or finding that the domestic market lacks sufficient products that could perform the functions desired by DOD or that a lack of competition from alternative domestic products exists in the domestic market such that DOD is disadvantaged through adherence to the Berry Amendment?

I appreciate you and your staff for looking into this issue for me and I look forward to continued work towards national defense and taking care of our troops.

Sincerely,

Jim DeMint
U.S. Senator

OSD 07123-09

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 29, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing in regard to your upcoming visit to the Russian Federation and your meeting with President Medvedev.

As you attempt to set a new tone with the Russians, we believe there are issues of common interest, but we also believe it is crucial that you vigorously defend the values that have been the cornerstone of free markets and free societies. At a minimum, below are three key issues we believe you must raise.

First, with the coming expiration of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, there is little time to complete negotiations. However, the United States must not concede key issues in exchange for expediency. One specific point is the linkage Russian leaders have made between the United States abandoning missile defense and reducing nuclear weapons.

There should be no quid pro quo between deploying defensive capabilities like missile defense and the reduction of offensive nuclear weapons either in a treaty or through separate agreements. This is essential to our close Czech and Polish allies and a key factor in the placement of the "third site."

Second, during her confirmation process before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary Clinton said that the United States "cannot accept the notion that Russia has a special say over the future of its independent neighbors." Whether it is Georgia, Ukraine, Estonia, or other neighbors, Russia aggressively exerts a "special say" over its neighbors. However, undermining UN peacekeeping operations or the European Union's Monitoring Mission in Georgia, waging economic warfare with energy during the winter, and conducting cyberattacks are not the actions of a proud and constructive nation.

It is important President Medvedev understands that the United States strongly supports the independence and self determination of all the former Soviet Republics. As a Senator, you cosponsored a number of resolutions on the ascension of Ukraine and Georgia into NATO, and we hope you will specifically reaffirm this support with President Medvedev.

Finally, as you know, the interests of the Russian people and the Russian elites are not always the same. It is important that you seriously address issues like corruption and the rule of law,

OSD 07187-09

and also take time to visit with members of the opposition and civil society, especially those leaders who are not closely associated with the Kremlin.

There are many tough, but important issues in the relationship between the United States and Russia. It is imperative that the words you deliver in Moscow are well received in the capitals of our close friends and allies in Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

We wish you the best of luck on your upcoming trip, and look forward to working together to ensure success in U.S.-Russia relations upon your return.

Sincerely,

Jim DeMint

Jon Kyl

Roger Wicker

CC: The Honorable Hilary R. Clinton
Secretary of State
The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense

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United States Senate

July 2, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500-0005

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to report on my trip these past few days to Warsaw, Poland, where I met with senior government officials, parliamentarians, and representatives of non-governmental organizations, as well as officials from the U.S. Department of State assigned to Poland and servicemembers from the U.S. Department of Defense assigned to the European Command (EUCOM). The impetus of the trip was missile defense against the potential threat from Iran and the role of the United States, Russia, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) with regard to missile defense.

I understand that you will be in Moscow on July 6-8, 2009, to meet with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and that your talks will focus on working toward an agreement to replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) before it expires on December 5. Both the Russian President and Prime Minister have linked the relationship between offensive and defensive weapons, suggesting interrelated negotiations with respect to START and missile defense.

The Polish officials with whom I spoke repeatedly expressed concerns to me that the European site for missile defense, ten interceptors in Poland and an X-band radar in the Czech Republic, would be abandoned in bilateral negotiations with the Russians. As you have noted, the planned European missile defense system is limited in scope to defend the United States and our allies against the rising and continuing threat posed by Iran, and poses no threat to Russia's strategic missiles.

In addition, these Polish officials consistently impressed upon me their desire to be treated as full partners and equals by the United States and NATO. They stated that agreeing to the proposed placement of missile interceptors in Poland was a weighty decision and that they ultimately would agree to the placement in order to be an active partner in providing for the security of the U.S. and Europe. They further discussed the matter of the deployment of a Patriot battery in Poland, noting that their understanding was that the Patriot would be an operational battery and not just a training battery. With regard to the Patriot, it is my belief the Poles would be amenable to having a Patriot in any form from the onset of deployment, but would also seek to – after training – having multiple operational batteries on their soil. These officials were clear that they would welcome the presence of U.S. troops in Poland, regardless of form.

OSD 07502-09

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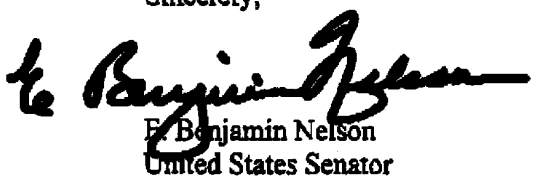
Finally, the Poles impressed upon me the importance of the United States fulfilling what they believe to be our nation's prior commitments to their country. Should the U.S. fail to follow through on what they believe to be America's commitments, it will cut against our standing as a faithful and reliable ally. Although the details of the European site are under review, it is my belief that whatever determination is ultimately made as to the best strategic defense system, the United States should engage the Poles and Czechs regarding such decisions.

In closing, Mr. President, I am optimistic that through your leadership, the multilateral negotiations regarding the European missile defense system will move forward. It is my belief that an effective missile defense system in Europe could unite the United States, our NATO allies, and Russia in cooperative strategic defense against threats from rogue nations.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these matters with you. I wish you a safe journey and look forward to what I know will be positive negotiations for the United States and our allies.

Sincerely,



E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

EBN:ajp

cc: The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State
The Honorable Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense

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United States Senate
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6475

July 6, 2009

SSCI# 2009-2703

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I was concerned to read the enclosed op-ed by defense attorney Barry Wingard in the *Washington Post* ("No Justice Today at Guantanamo," July 1, 2009). I request that you look into the allegations of how detainees are treated by prison guards at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Mr. Wingard, who represents Kuwaiti detainee Fayiz Mohammed Ahmed al-Kandari, alleges that military guards have created an "Immediate Reaction Force" to punish even minor infractions by conducting unnecessary "bruising cell extractions." He also writes that slurs and "petty persecutions" by guards are on the rise since President Obama pledged to close the prison. Furthermore, Mr. Wingard says his client has told him that guards who have typically shown respect for the prisoners have been warned to stop their interactions with detainees. On the other hand, according to Mr. Kandari, a few guards who have been more aggressive toward the prisoners have been promising detainees "a farewell to remember."

Given the history of abuse of detainees at Guantanamo in the past, the allegations raised by Mr. Wingard are especially concerning. I ask that you investigate these claims and provide the Intelligence Committee with your findings before August 7, 2009. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
Chairman

OSD 07567-09

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United States Senate

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HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

July 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security ("the Subcommittee") of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is investigating how the Department of Defense (DoD) awards congressionally directed earmarks, and the value of the resulting projects. In furtherance of the Subcommittee's investigation, no later than July 31, 2009, please have DoD provide the information requested in Attachment A for the FY2008 Department of Defense Appropriations Act earmarks identified in Attachment B.

Upon completion of the document production, DoD should submit a written certification, signed by the appropriate officer, stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in DoD's possession, custody, or control which reasonably could contain responsive documents; and (2) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced or identified in a privilege log.

If you have any questions, please let us know or have your staff immediately call both Velvet Johnson of the majority staff at (202) 224-6579 and Bryan Parker of the minority staff at (202) 224-8265.

Sincerely,

Thomas R Carper John McCain

Thomas Carper
Chairman

John S. McCain
Ranking Member

OSD 07868-09

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6025
http://appropriations.senate.gov

July 15, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am concerned about the ability of the Air National Guard (ANG) to perform its critical domestic Incident Awareness and Assessment (IAA)/Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) mission as a result of the transfer of six of its eleven ANG RC-26 aircraft to support Overseas Contingency Operations. These transfers, combined with routine maintenance and upgrade requirements, have reduced the number of available aircraft in the continental United States to as few as one operational aircraft at times. Additionally, the high operations tempo of overseas deployments has adversely affected crew availability.

It is distressing to learn that the capacity of the ANG to support its law enforcement, counter narcotics, weapons of mass destruction response, search and rescue, border and maritime security and National Security Special Events missions has been degraded, in some cases by as much as ninety-five percent, due to these transfers. These missions are no less important to the continuing safety and well being of the U.S. population than are the overseas military missions to defeat terrorist threats.

I understand that the transfer of the ANG aircraft has been classified as an enduring requirement in support of the battlefield IAA/ISR mission. This suggests that the population of the United States will remain at risk until the ANG IAA/ISR capability is restored.

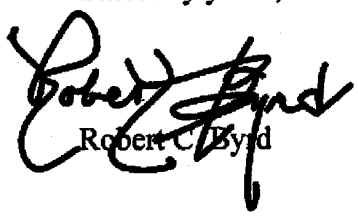
In order to address this vulnerability, I am requesting that your office, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, develop a formal plan to restore the aircraft and equipment necessary to fully meet the Air National Guard's domestic IAA/ISR mission. This program plan, when executed, should enable support to a wide range of domestic missions and this capability should remain available for the numerous missions defined in the Air Force Irregular Warfare CONOPS and other manned IAA/ISR taskings in the event of an unforeseen emergency.

OSD 08213-09

Until this need is met, I remain concerned that in supporting the transfers, you have removed assets vital to our domestic security. I hope that you will share in my concern and act promptly to address this situation.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Robert C. Byrd

RCB:mgm

CC: The Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528