

ACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1507 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5831
(202) 226-2269 FAX

BRUNSWICK OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 304
806 Gloucester Street
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912) 265-9010
(912) 265-8013 FAX



OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1999 FEB -9 PM 12:45

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 8, 1999

SAVANNAH OFFICE
The Enterprise Building
6805 Abercorn St., Suite 102
Savannah, GA 31405
(912) 352-0101
(912) 352-0105 FAX

STATESBORO OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 220
Statesboro, GA 30458
(912) 489-8797
(912) 764-8549 FAX

The Honorable John J. Hamre
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1100 Defense Pentagon
Room 3E944
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear ~~Dr.~~ Hamre: 

I hate to bother you with a contracting matter, but I have exercised every angle at this point. I want to call your personal attention to a concern I have with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS).

As you know from your previous life with Senator Nunn, Gulfstream is a reputable company located in my Congressional District (Savannah). Gulfstream manufactures small executive aircraft, almost 50 of which have been purchased by the U.S. Government over the years. In the FY99 Defense Appropriations Bill, a C-37A (Gulfstream V) was appropriated for the Air Force and went to contract on December 30, 1998. As of today, Gulfstream still has not received their down-payment of \$2 million, but has received another form of payment separate from the down-payment.

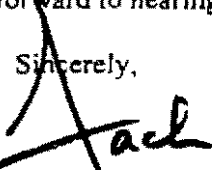
After several contacts with DFAS here in Washington, I was told on Friday, February 5, 1999, by DFAS that Gulfstream would receive a \$3.8 million payment, again separate from the down-payment. Today, Gulfstream received a \$1.65 million payment with a \$2.1 million "authorized recoupment." I contacted DFAS again to inquire as to what happened, and I was fed a bunch of technical language.

In my seven years in Congress, this is the first unfortunate incident I have experienced with the Department of Defense. I would appreciate any immediate assistance on your part to resolve this situation.

The contract number is F33657-C-0037-P00014. I have attached two previous correspondences, one from the Air Force and one sent to DFAS from my assistant.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,


Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

U01965 /99
TOTAL P. 02

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 15, 1999

Committee On Appropriations

SAVANNAH OFFICE
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The Honorable John J. Hamre
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1100 Defense Pentagon
Room 3E944
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Dr. Hamre:

Last month you were instrumental in resolving the down payment matter on a C-37A aircraft for the CINC's. Thank you for your support and timely letters of explanation. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

It is with reluctance that I turn to you again on an issue involving C-37A's for the FBI and FEMA. The FY 99 Omnibus Supplemental Bill provides funding for two crisis response aircraft in the general provisions section under Air Force procurement. Recent international incidents and our nation's deep commitment to Central America in the wake of Hurricane Mitch, clearly validates the need for these aircraft.

I am aware that interagency differences have, thus far, precluded going to contract on these two C-37A's by March 31, 1999. The C-37A contract the Air Force negotiated with the aircraft manufacturer, Gulfstream, is effective until December 31, 2003, and contains quarterly escalations. Like most long-term contracts, the best advantage to the customer is to sign the contract sooner rather than later. If the Air Force delays the execution of this contract until after March 31, 1999, it will result in a cost escalation of nearly \$1 million. I have attached a matrix that quantifies this potential cost increase. As you know a cost savings of this scale will buy a lot of spare parts for the Air Force or the Army at installations like Fort Stewart which is in my District.

With a recognition that interagency differences exist that must be resolved, the most prudent approach would appear to be getting these aircraft on contract and continue a dialogue which leads to a resolution. The aircraft will be in the manufacturing and completion process for approximately 18 months. The intent of Congress was to get these aircraft into the hands of the users as soon as possible. The Source Sought Document has been published in CBJD and the 30 day for comment period has been satisfied. It appears that all parties concerned understand the savings associated with execution of the contracts by March 31, 1999.

OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
MAR 16 AM 11:30

U03970 / 99

The Honorable John J. Hamre
March 15, 1999
Page 2

Once again, I respectfully request your immediate assistance to resolve this situation which could result in a valuable cost savings for the Department of Defense.

Thank you for the professional courtesies you and your exceptional staff always extend to us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Kingston". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a cursive "K".

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 14, 1999

Committee On Appropriations

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Honorable John J. Hamre
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1100 Defense Pentagon
Room 3E944
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Dr. Hamre:

This letter is to thank you for your efforts that facilitated the timely execution of the Air Force procurement contract for the two C-37A, crisis response aircraft, that will support FEMA and FBI missions.

Your actions and the diligence of Acting Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters and his staff were instrumental to the successful completion of the MOU's with FEMA and the FBI, which allowed contract execution prior to March 31, 1999. The timely execution of this contract avoided quarterly escalation costs and saved the Government nearly \$1 million in the procurement of these planes.

I sincerely appreciated your support, candor, and timely letters of explanation regarding this issue. Again, I thank you for the professional courtesies you and your exceptional staff always extend to us.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

JK:pwm

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1999 APR 20 PM 12:03

U06227 /99



1999 NOV 15 PM 3:41

BOB BARR
7TH DISTRICT
GEORGIA
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

PHONE: (202) 225-2931
FAX: (202) 225-2944
Internet: <http://www.house.gov/barr/>

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
1207 LONGWORTH HOUSE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-1007

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
GOVERNMENT REFORM
Subcommittee on Criminal Justice,
Drug Policy, and Human Resources
VICE CHAIRMAN

November 9, 1999

The Honorable William S. Cohen
Secretary of Defense
United States Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

IN RE: Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) Offer for C-130Js

Dear Secretary Cohen:

As you know, our military has continued to stress readiness needs for our tactical airlift workhorse, the C-130J. An increase in operational activities by our military forces, coupled with an aging tactical airlift fleet, makes keeping the C-130J line open essential for maintaining our national security interests.

The Air Force and the C-130J producer Lockheed-Martin, are in agreement that keeping the C-130J production line open must be a top priority for FY01 and beyond. This is a challenge our country must meet.

Earlier this year, Lockheed-Martin presented an offer to the Air Force which includes a pre-determined number of C-130Js to be delivered under a multi-year commercial contract. By agreeing to allocate \$150 million for C-130Js in FY01, the Air Force will receive a highly favorable price and delivery schedule for planes in the FY02-FY06 budgets. Lockheed-Martin will absorb the short-term loss and maintain the C-130J production line.

If the details of this agreement are not finalized for the FY01 budget submission, Lockheed-Martin would be forced to shut down the C-130J line, and could only re-open it at a significantly higher price due to the estimated \$600 million in restart costs. These costs would inevitably be passed on to the American taxpayer.

We urgently ask your favorable consideration of the EOQ offer. This is an economically sound business solution, and one that clearly benefits the government by offering set production rates, lower overall costs, and price stability for the government's C-130J aircraft needs.

U17491 / 99

DISTRICT OFFICES

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423 COLLEGE STREET
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(770) 836-1776
FAX: (770) 838-0436

LAGRANGE
200 RIDLEY AVE.
LAGRANGE, GA 30240
(706) 812-1776
FAX: (706) 885-9019

MARIETTA
999 WHITLOCK AVE.
SUITE 13
MARIETTA, GA 30064
(770) 429-1776
FAX: (770) 795-9551

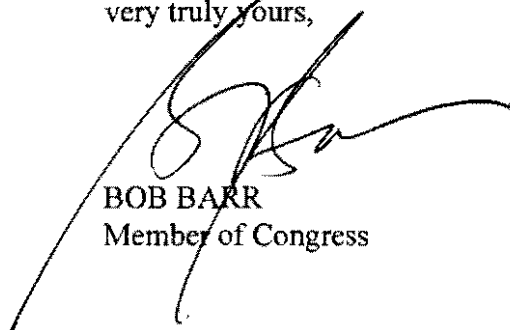
ROME
600 EAST 1ST STREET
ROME, GA 30161
(706) 290-1776
FAX: (706) 232-7864

The Honorable William S. Cohen
November 9, 1999
Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this crucial proposal.

We remain, as always,

very truly yours,



BOB BARR
Member of Congress



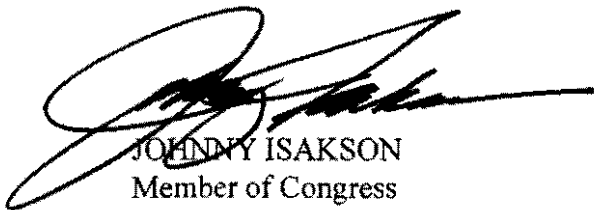
SAXBY CHAMBLISS
Member of Congress



NATHAN DEAL
Member of Congress



MAC COLLINS
Member of Congress



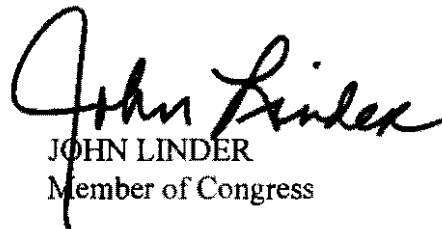
JOHNNY ISAKSON
Member of Congress



CHARLIE NORWOOD
Member of Congress



JACK KINGSTON
Member of Congress



JOHN LINDER
Member of Congress

FEB-09-2001 17:27

KINGSTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

202 226 2269 P.02/05

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

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2001 FEB 12 PM 1:02 Committee On Appropriations

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

February 9, 2001

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

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

I would like to extend a formal invitation to you to come and speak at one of the most special events with which I have had the pleasure of being involved.

My hometown, Savannah, Georgia, is a city steeped in history. Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* began in our historic Pirate's House restaurant. It is where Juliette Gordon Lowe founded the Girl Scouts of America. During the Civil War, General Sherman fell in love with the city's beauty so much, he spared it from burning and presented it to President Abraham Lincoln as a Christmas present.

In addition to these and many other major historical events throughout its rich history, Savannah is very proud of her St. Patrick's Day celebration. Being one of the world's largest and oldest celebrations, it is certainly full of traditions. Perhaps the greatest of those is the Hibernian Society meeting.

The Hibernian Society of Savannah was founded 189 years ago and is dedicated to Irish fellowship and charity within the surrounding community. Their annual St. Patrick's Day banquet has had many impressive speakers, such as Presidents Taft, Truman, and Carter as well as Senators William Brock, Robert J. Dole, Howard Baker, Alan Simpson, Barry Goldwater, Sam Nunn and Paul Coverdell. It is held on the evening of March 17th after the city's parade has ended.

The Hibernian Society and I would be greatly appreciative if you would add your name to this most impressive list of speakers. I have attached their letter of invitation so that you may have more information about the society and their annual meeting. It is our distinct pleasure to invite you to this event, and we would be honored by your acceptance. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

JK:lgb

U02807 / 01

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Committee On Appropriations

2001 MAR 19 PM 2:32
SAVANNAH OFFICE
The Enterprise Building
6605 Abercorn St., Suite 102
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(912) 352-0101
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 8, 2001

STATESBORO OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 220
Statesboro, GA 30458
(912) 489-8797
(912) 764-8549 FAX

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

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

Thank you for considering my invitation to speak to the Hiberian Society of Savannah's annual banquet. I understand your schedule constraints and hope you will keep us in mind as future opportunities for such engagements arise.

I appreciated the chance to speak with you and President Bush on our trip to Ft. Stewart, GA, about the conversion of four Trident-Class Ballistic Missile submarines (SSBNs) to Nuclear-Powered Guided-Missile Submarines (SSGNs). As you may know, there is a limited window of opportunity to implement a conversion program and leverage the substantial strike capability of these vessels. Additionally, this program will support our National Security Strategy to transform our military into a mobile and stealthy fighting force capable of long-range power projection.

There has been strong support in Congress in the last two years for this conversion, and I along with many of my colleagues will be writing you in the next few weeks again, with much greater detail and urging your consideration of the SSGNs as you conduct your strategic review of top defense priorities. Before that time, I wanted to keep the issue fresh in your mind.

Thank you again for your consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

JK:hnp

U05632 /01

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

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Committee On Appropriations

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

August 9, 2001

Col. Pete Bunce
Department of the Air Force
B322 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Col. Bunce:

One of my constituents, Mr. Edward Derst, III, has contacted me regarding a matter in which I believe your agency could be helpful. Therefore, the enclosed communication is submitted for your review.

I would very much appreciate your responding to the points raised by Mr. Derst, and providing any assistance available under the applicable laws and regulations.

The contact person on my staff for this case is Trish DePriest. She can be reached at (912) 352-0101.

Thank you very much for your consideration and for advising me of any action you take in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

Please reply to:

Congressman Jack Kingston
6605 Abercorn St., Suite 102
Savannah, Georgia 31405
ATTN: Trish DePriest

U14715 /01

SINCE 1867

DERST BAKING COMPANY



July 17, 2001

The Honorable Jack Kingston
1507 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kingston:

Derst Baking Company, a family owned business, expanded into the Adel/Valdosta Marketing Area approximately three (3) years ago, and we have been trying to get our product into the Moody AF Base Commissary for some time, but have been unable to for some unknown reason. The Commissary Officer has told our representative that he would like to have our product and that he has space available for it, but that his boss does not want it.

Our Company currently services commissaries in Fort Stewart/Hunter, Kings Bay, Charleston Naval Weapon Station, Charleston AF Base, Fort Gordon, Fort Jackson, Shaw AF Base, Warner Robins AF Base, and Parris Island.

Any help that you could give us would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward J. Derst, III".

EDWARD J. DERST, III
PRESIDENT/CEO

EJDIII/js

F:\Secretarial Pool\president and ceo\sensors reps\kingston-moody afb.wpd

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

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SECRET

Committee On Appropriations

2001 OCT 5 PM 2:53

SAVANNAH OFFICE
The Enterprise Building
6605 Abercorn St., Suite 102
Savannah, GA 31405
(912) 352-0101
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 5, 2001

STATESBORO OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 220
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(912) 764-8549 FAX

Mr. John Veroneau
Acting Asst. Sec. of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon, Room 3E966
Pentagon DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Veroneau:

One of my constituents, Pat G. Gunn and the Georgia Black Farmers' Market Association contacted me regarding their need for a "Georgia Minority/Small Farmers' Resource Conference" due to previously rejected Department of Defense bids.

The enclosed communication from Ms. Gunn outlines GBFMA mission statement and their need of farm resources and information pertaining to the Department of Defense Blanket Purchase Agreement process. We are forwarding this same request to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, School Nutrition Program.

I would very much appreciate your responding to the points raised by Ms. Gunn and providing any assistance available under the applicable laws and regulations. The contact person on my staff for this case is Shiela Williams and she can be reached in my Statesboro office at (912)489-8797.

Thank you very much for your consideration and for advising me of any action you take in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack".

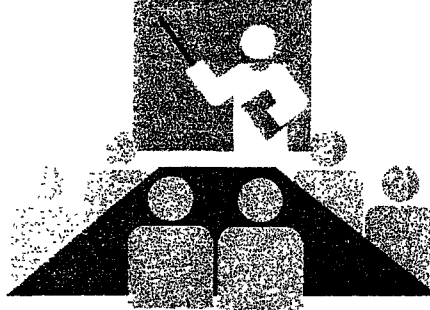
Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

Please reply to: Shiela Williams
Congressman Jack Kingston
Federal Office Building, Room 220
Statesboro, GA 30458

U16899 /01

A PLANNING MEETING

**August 24, 2001, Reidsville, GA – Chamber of Commerce Building
Georgia Minority/Small Farmers' Resource Conference
- *Planning, Planting & Profits for the New Millennium* -**



SPONSOR OF MEETING:

Congressman Jack Kingston,
U. S. Congress, District One

Resource Contacts:

Lynette Richardson, Savannah Office
Shelia Woods, Brunswick Office
Peggy Lee

CONVENER:

GA Black Farmers' Market Association

OPENING PRAYER

Jessie Rhodes
Coastal Georgia Small Farmers Cooperative

**Welcome & Introduction
of Attendants**

(Congressman Kingston's Office)

**The Call for a Minority/Small
Farmers' Resource Conference**

Pat G. Gunn
Founder, GA Black Farmers' Market
Association

Planning Ideas & Discussion

Open -

- Dates and Venue
- Seed Funding the Conference
- Workshops Needed
- Resource Presenters/Invitees
- Planning Committee Taskforce
- Co-Sponsor Commitments
- Call for A GA Minority Farmers' Development Plan

Closing

Rep. Jack Kingston's Office

***Please sign the circulating sign-in sheet.**

GEORGIA BLACK FARMERS MARKET

"Helping Farmers to Help Themselves"

Pat G. Gunn, Founder/Director

505 Harris Trail, Suite 16-B

Richmond Hill, GA 31324

(912) 631-7761 – 756-3598Fax

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Rep Jack Kingston August 10, 2000
C/o Ms Lynette Richardson
U.S. Congress – 1st District
Savannah Office

From: Pat Gilliard-Gunn
President/GBFMA

Re: Rep. Kingston - Host Representation – 1st Annual Small Farmers' Resource Conference

Thank you for your interest in assisting Georgia minority farmers. As we enter this new century, it is essential that we make every effort to support African American farm families grow and sustain themselves throughout Georgia.

Over the past four years I have made it my mission to provide technical assistance to minority farmers. Initially, it was simply a few farmers from towns in Glenville, Reidsville and Vidalia. I began to get calls from farmers seeking business development assistance in Statesboro, Brooklet and surrounding towns. The farmers were seeking bank loans for equipment and planting sources for the next season. Irrigation problems due to drought seasons, inefficient farm equipment and an array of other problems were rampant.

The more I met with farmers, the more I saw farmers fall by the way side. Many farmers within Georgia communities had given up the hope of successfully "*working the land*". Many chose to simply obtain jobs in the private and public sectors as prison guards at Reidsville and Fort Stewart civil service positions.

Congressman Kingston
1st Annual Farmers' Conference
August 10, 2000
Page two

GBFMA began identifying avenues to assist them with loans and the marketing of their seasonal crops. In 1996 our office submitted an application with the Department of Defense for the Blanket Purchase Agreement Program. We received our federal contract that provided the opportunity to sell our produce to commissaries, USDA schools, military hospitals and federal prisons WORLDWIDE (i.e. wherever our military personnel exist throughout the world). We are also registered with Dunn & Bradstreet as a minority organization.

To date we have delivered small loads of produce to commissaries at Fort Stewart and Parris Island, South Carolina. Additionally, we have had one delivery of collard greens to the Jacksonville DSO with a load in December of 1998 that was delivered to commissaries in Frankfurt, West Germany.

Examples of the lack of Farm Resources and Information:

Department of Defense's Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) See Copy

The BPA federal contract has never provided Georgia minority farmers with the full capacity of resources the program offers. Since the beginning of the contract to present – we have had to “*scrape*” for information on the programs within the contract, as well as our non-inclusion in a variety of field purchase opportunities by buyers in the Orlando, Florida office during the peak Vidalia onion season. In fact, in 1998, the Florida buyers, at our request, came on site to view our fields with the opportunity to purchase our onion fields. After riding our fields, they commended our farmers on the quality of onions. Unfortunately, the buyers informed us they were unable to purchase any of our onions during the months of April and May. The buyers stated they were in a “special program” with two large farmers in Glenville who had passed a “sweet onion” certification tested by a laboratory. Local onion growers, to include our minority farmers lost hundred of pounds of onions that Spring. We had to hustle the onions to buyers wherever we could find a buyer. After research by my office, we found that the lab was owned by one of the two large farmers that the DOD buyers were in a “special May & June Project” with. (By the way – May & June are peak seasons for Vidalia sales.)

Congressman Kingston
c/o Lynette Richardson
GA BLACK FARMERS MARKET ASSN.
8-10-2000
Page three

List of DOD (DSO'S) We Have Met With & Results:

GBFMA has traveled to the following DSO's to meet with the produce managers seeking information on selling to the government under the BPA program:

DSO - @ Jacksonville – Todd Baxley – Manager 1996, 97, 98
RESULTS: 1 DSO delivery / several small orders under \$ 1000.

DSO - @ Birmingham - Tony LaPlaca – Spring of 1999
RESULTS: 1 DSO order/ small dozens of collards and mustard greens

DSO - @ Tidewater , West Virginia - Fall of 1999/
Results: Met with DSO Captain regarding selling to their Virginia zone.

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM – Bid Participation Pending

GEORGIA BLACK FARMERS' MARKET ASSOCIATION & THE COASTAL SMALL FARMERS' COOPERATIVE (Glennville) is seeking the assistance of your office. As the need for farm survival continues- we see a need to connect Georgia's farmers with resources on a local, state, national and international level. As a member of the U.S. Congress and U. S. Representative for the 1st District, we would like you to host the first annual Small Farmers' Resource Conference.

We have had the opportunity to meet with your staff in both the Savannah and Statesboro offices over the past few years. We feel your office can serve as the best liaison to bring state and federal farm agencies, agricultural university officials and corporations to a resource conference to aid farmers.

Our offices believe this annual conference will bring positive results to strengthen growth and "*staying power*" of small and minority farmers. . Additionally, as a member of the Appropriations Committee in the U. S. Congress – we feel you can be an asset in guiding us to any grants or subsidized programs federally. **(If we don't reach out to help them – the country will begin to see the last generation of minority farmers since the Black Reconstruction at the turn of the 20th century.)**

I have drafted an overview of the structure for the conference. Your staff Assistant Lynette Richardson has expressed an interest in making this another successful venue for our community.

Congressman Kingston
GBFMA
August 10, 2000
Page four

We are faxing a copy of the drafted overview. Please note that the two day conference's venue is Savannah. We propose an all day conference on Friday and a Saturday "Small Farmers' Tour" on Saturday in Glenville/Reidsville areas. We are aware that you may not be able to attend both days, therefore our focus is your attendance to open the conference on Friday, October 13 at the Coastal Center.

Please contact us after your careful review of the faxed request. I am available to answer any questions your office may have.

We appreciate your continued support of small farmers as they work towards "*planning, planting and profits*" for the new millenium.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

JACK KINGSTON
FIRST DISTRICT
GEORGIA

December 10, 2001

335 SD

The Honorable Paul Wolfowitz
Deputy Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1010

Dear Dr. Wolfowitz :

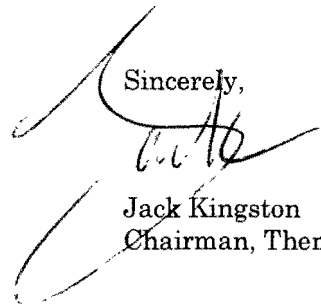
I want to take this opportunity to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to join us at our Theme Team Meeting recently.

In light of the September 11th tragedy, your candid comments, concerns and views were both reassuring and helpful. As you know, the way in which we communicate to our constituents is of paramount importance and having accurate information makes our jobs easier. Obviously there was a great deal of interest in what you had to say which was proven by the turnout of Members and staff.

Thanks again and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of assistance to you.

Stay in touch.

10 Dec 01

Sincerely,


Jack Kingston
Chairman, Theme Team

U01897 /02

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

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2002 MAR 25 PM 2: 50

March 22, 2002

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express our serious concerns regarding continued attempts to extend the federal government's demilitarization authority to lawfully possessed surplus military equipment. Last year, the Senate version of the FY02 National Defense Authorization bill included a Section 1062, which would have allowed government seizure of any "significant military equipment" ever owned by the Department of Defense (DoD).

Under such a broadly defined new authority, the DoD would have been able to require the seizure and demilitarization of aircraft, vehicles, radios, and firearms formerly owned by the Department. Besides raising serious property rights issues regarding fair compensation and due process in seizing private property, this provision could readily have become grounds for bureaucratic over-reach.

For obvious reasons, this provision was met with vigorous opposition from law-abiding firearms collectors, re-enactors, military parts suppliers and surplus vendors, as well as military museums and private property rights advocates. As a result, many of us heard more from our constituents on this issue than any other issue under discussion in the Defense Authorization bill.

Currently, the DoD already enjoys the authority to demilitarize its surplus military equipment before sale. Consequently, we consider it inappropriate to burden law-abiding citizens after sale with a new authority to confiscate and destroy lawfully possessed firearms, aircraft, vehicles, and other military memorabilia held by private individuals. For this reason, an overwhelming number of us in the House have opposed requests for a new demilitarization authority each year and have defeated the provision in conference. We would appreciate your assurances that this provision will not resurface this year in the Administration's proposals for the Department of Defense.

According to several General Accounting Office (GAO) reports, it seems apparent the source of the problem with surplus equipment sales originates within the Department. We appreciate that the DoD has acknowledged the erroneous classification of items, resulting in surplus sales being finalized before proper demilitarization. We are also concerned with mistakes resulting in the unlawful destruction of non-sensitive government property as an

U05348 /02

Page Two
Secretary Rumsfeld
March 22, 2002

overreaction to this problem. Many of these items are of historical value and have been destroyed as a result of the uneven application of demilitarization regulations. As Members of Congress, we seek a long-term solution to these problems and would be happy to discuss any reasonable actions we could take to assist the DoD in improving those processes or correcting errors that pose a serious threat to national security.

We appreciate your leadership in protecting our national security and thank you for your time and attention to this issue of great importance to our constituents and military history.

Boyd Hutchins

Phil Crane

Jack Kingston

Cal Schwab

Clayton T. L. Williams

Lee Cantor

Frank Baker

John Dingell

Bill Keener

Robert A. Underwood

Robin Hayes

J. Randolph Fisher

Kay Coble

Bob Goodlatte

Page 3
Secretary Rumsfeld
March 22, 2002

Don Young

Tom Petri

Jim Oberstar

Moe Cahn

Lynn W. Rivers

Virgil Goode

Mark Kennedy

Phil English

[Signature]

Paul F. Hillman

Page 4
Secretary Rumsfeld
March 22, 2002

Signature Key

1. Gary G. Miller (CA)
2. Phil Crane (IL)
3. Jack Kingston (GA)
4. Ed Schrock (VA)
5. Adam H. Putnam (FL)
6. Eric Cantor (VA)
7. Richard Baker (LA)
8. John Dingell (MI)
9. Brian Kerns (IN)
10. Robert A. Underwood (Guam)
11. Robin Hayes (NC)
12. J. Randy Forbes (VA)
13. Ken Calvert (CA)
14. Bob Goodlatte (VA)
15. Don Young (AK)
16. Tom Petri (WI)
17. Jim Oberstar (MN)
18. Mac Collins (GA)
19. Lynn N. Rivers (MI)
20. Virgil Goode (VA)
21. Mark Kennedy (MN)
22. Phil English (PA)
23. Bob Barr (GA)
24. Paul Gillmor (OH)

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

March 26, 2003

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Office of the Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

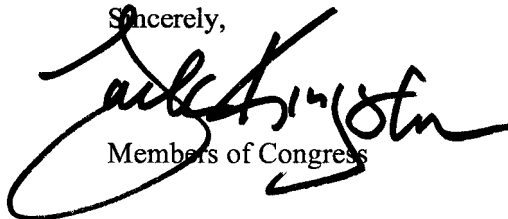
We are writing you today to request that you immediately review the contract between the United States Armed Services and SODEXHO Inc. The co-signers of this letter from the United States House of Representatives urge you to consider renegotiating all contracts with this French based company. We urge you to consider transferring this lucrative contract to a United States based firm with emphasis on offering more contracts to small, disadvantaged, veteran and minority owned businesses.

SODEXHO Inc is the United States subsidiary of SODEXHO Alliance, a French based company that does over \$4.9 billion in food service and food management business in North America. It was with great surprise and disappointment that we also learned that SODEXHO Inc conducts over \$1 billion in food service related activities with the US military and other government agencies. Recently, SODEXHO signed an eight year, \$881 million dollar contract to feed US Marines in 55 garrison mess facilities in the United States.

My colleagues and I abhor the idea of continuing to pour American dollars into a French based firm when those dollars could be feeding our wartime economy. Additionally, termination of the relationship between SODEXHO and the US military will send a tangible signal to the French government that there are economic consequences associated with their international policies.

I look forward to hearing from you and enlisting your support.

Sincerely,



Members of Congress

U05258 / 03

W. Corleaham

Dirin Nones

Sam Kelly
~~Baxter~~

Patt J. Tini

Cass Ballinger

Tom Tancock

~~P. Ferguson~~

Walt Fisher

Ray Dunn

Kay Stanger

Margaret Kennedy

John Boyan

Atty.

Paul Lucas

Bill Thrust

Glenn Lee Keltner

Byrd

E. Estman

~~Bob Santos~~

John T. Doolittle

Paul Hefley

Frank Franks

Paul Kern

Marilyn Musgrave

Charles H. Jago

Mark Smith

Mike Ferguson

Shelley Moore Capito

William J. Turkini

Joe Wilson

John Boehm

John A. L. Bonds

Phil English

Greg Will

See Myself

1/1/2020

Buck McKeon

Chip Pickering

Todd R. Blatts

J. Saxton

MD. Rogers

Mark Sander

~~Kevin Brady~~

~~B. Bonni~~

Nathan Deal

Tom Osborne

J. Roddy Forbes

John Maday

Henry Brown J

Henry Brown - Wichita FL-05

Candice S. Meeker

Steve Chobot

Ray Bent

Mark Foley

Billy Laurin

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

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(202) 226-2269 FAX

BRUNSWICK OFFICE
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Brunswick, GA 31520
(912) 265-9010
(912) 265-9013 FAX



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

July 1, 2003

Committee On Appropriations
Vice Chair, Republican Conference

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One Diamond Causeway
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(912) 352-0105 FAX

BAXLEY OFFICE
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(912) 367-7403
(912) 367-7404 FAX

WARNER ROBINS OFFICE
P.O. Box 9348
Warner Robins, GA 31095

The Honorable Paul Wolfowitz
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Honorable Wolfowitz:

As Chairman of the House Republican Communications Group, the "Theme Team," I am writing to invite you to be our featured guest on Thursday June 19th in the U.S. Capitol. I can promise you that you will enjoy this special opportunity!

I realize that your schedule is busy, but this is a unique type of meeting on Capitol Hill - - it's fun and requires no prep time! This group of more than 70 House Republican communication leaders meets every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of these meetings is to improve the effectiveness of our communications by listening to critics and supporters alike address a broad spectrum of ideas and issues. It is not a technical policy discussion or a legislative review. Rather, it is an opportunity for us to listen to new ideas, diverse viewpoints, and personal commentary from respected leaders in their fields. The meeting is friendly, open and fun. The format is informal; you would speak for approximately ten to fifteen minutes on whatever topic you choose followed by a little Q & A. I might add, no press allowed and all remarks are off-the-record.

Our diverse guest list has included Administration officials, media leaders and authors, such as Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Steve Forbes, Senior Adviser to the President, Karl Rove, and former Deputy Chief of Staff to Ronald Reagan, Mike Deaver.

I am hopeful you will join us soon. Your insight and opinion will be met by open ears and we would appreciate anything you might have to say.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Please contact Righton Johnson in my office at: (202) 225-5831 or Righton.Johnson@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Kingston".

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

JK:erj

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

CONFIDENTIAL
SECRET

2004 JAN -5 AM 9:47

December 17, 2003

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

As you finalize adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2005 budget, we ask that you pay close attention to the C-5M modernization programs - the Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) and Reliability Enhancement and Re-engining Programs (RERP). We strongly support these programs, as they are vital to improving the safety and performance of our airlift fleet and to dramatically increasing our airlift capability in an economically sound manner. We hope that both programs will be funded to modernize the entire fleet of 112 C-5s as quickly as possible.

Operation Iraqi Freedom once again focused attention on the nation's strategic airlift fleet's ability to quickly respond to far reaches of the world and to support our troops in the field. The C-5 was the backbone of airlift operations and demonstrated once again why modernization of the C-5 fleet makes sense. The C-5 fleet flew only 23% of the Iraqi Freedom airlift missions, but moved 48% of the cargo. The same ratio was true of airlift operations in support of Enduring Freedom. No other aircraft in the USAF airlift fleet now, or in the future, matches the cargo capacity of the C-5s; it is truly a national asset. As the global war against terrorism continues and we address other national security threats around the world, our strategic airlift fleet must be diverse and modernized to move and sustain the various cargo requirements of our forces. It is essential to the success of both our military and humanitarian missions.

The AMP upgrades to the C-5 cockpit feature traffic and terrain warning and avoidance systems that will greatly enhance crew safety and increase mission reliability. These systems will also allow for compliance with the new Global Air Traffic Management systems, allowing C-5s to use advantageous flight paths to rapidly reach their destinations quickly while reducing fuel consumption. We are pleased to hear that the AMP flight test program is proceeding on schedule and within budget, with the installation of modification kits on operational aircraft to begin later this year.

The RERP will replace difficult to maintain parts and the systems that are most prone to breaking. In their place will be modern, state-of-the-art equipment that will substantially improve fleet reliability. The centerpiece of RERP is replacing the old engines with very reliable GE commercial engines - the same as those now used on Air Force One. The new engines feature increased thrust and reduced fuel consumption. In their over 90 million accumulated flight hours in commercial operations they have demonstrated an exceptional 99.97% departure reliability rate. The new propulsion system and over 50 subsystem improvements will combine to sharply increase the C-5's take-off, climb, and cruise rates, while also increasing mission payload. In addition, fleet operating costs will be reduced by one million dollars a day, easing pressure on operations and maintenance accounts.

It is our understanding that funding shortfalls and stretched production schedules will slow the fielding of a modernized C-5M fleet. Current funding through the Future Years Defense Plan (FYDP) for AMP modifies 49 aircraft of the 112 aircraft C-5 fleet. Approximately \$253.8 million would be needed to complete all 112 aircraft, as planned, by Fiscal Year 2007. We urge you to consider whether additional funds to modernize more C-5's over the FYDP might be in line with the Department's long-range requirements for air mobility assets.

We hope that as you finalize the adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2005 budget plan, you will fully fund both C-5M modernization programs and consider increasing funds for AMP procurement to create a more robust, capable air mobility fleet. We are concerned that the current plan, which modernizes the C-5s at a slow rate, is less prudent fiscally over the long term and delays critical crew safety and mission capability improvements that our strategic airlift fleet needs to meet today's national security challenges.

As always, we appreciate your willingness to work with us on this and other national security concerns.

Sincerely,



REP. MIKE CASTLE



REP. ELLEN TAUSCHER

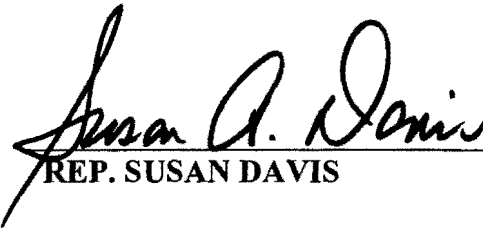


REP. MIKE THOMPSON



REP. PHIL GINGREY


REP. DOUG LOE

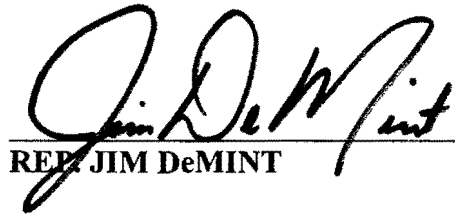

REP. SUSAN DAVIS


REP. CHARLES GONZALEZ


REP. CIRO RODRIGUEZ


REP. ROB PORTMAN

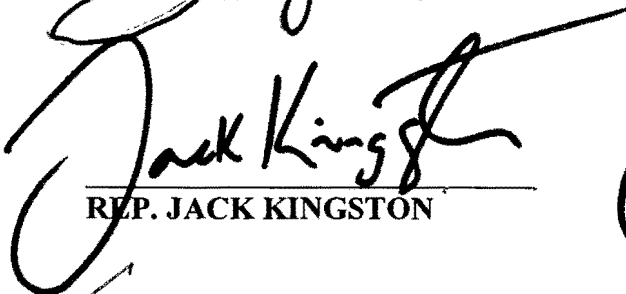

REP. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO


REP. JIM DeMINT


REP. MIKE McINTYRE


REP. JOHNNY ISAKSON


REP. MAC COLLINS

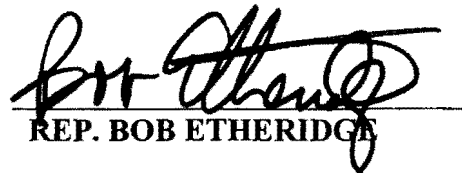

REP. JACK KINGSTON


REP. JIM MARSHALL


REP. JO BONNER


REP. MIKE ROGERS


REP. HAROLD FORD


REP. BOB ETHERIDGE

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 5, 2004

Committee On Appropriations
Vice Chair, Republican Conference

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(912) 367-7404 FAX

WARNER ROBINS OFFICE
P.O. Box 9348
Warner Robins, GA 31095

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld
Department of Defense
100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

As Chairman of the House Republican Communications Group, the "Theme Team," I am writing to invite you to be our featured guest on Thursday March 18th, April 1st, 29th, or May 1st in the U.S. Capitol. I can promise you that you will enjoy this special opportunity!

I realize that your schedule is busy, but this is a unique type of meeting on Capitol Hill - - it's fun and requires no prep time! This group of more than 70 House Republican communication leaders meets every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.


The purpose of these meetings is to improve the effectiveness of our communications by listening to critics and supporters alike address a broad spectrum of ideas and issues. It is not a technical policy discussion or a legislative review. Rather, it is an opportunity for us to listen to new ideas, diverse viewpoints, and personal commentary from respected leaders in their fields. The meeting is friendly, open and fun. The format is informal; you would speak for approximately ten to fifteen minutes on whatever topic you choose followed by a little Q & A. I might add, no press allowed and all remarks are off-the-record.

Our diverse guest list has included Administration officials, media leaders and authors, such as Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, Steve Forbes, Senior Adviser to the President, Karl Rove, and former Deputy Chief of Staff to Ronald Reagan, Mike Deaver.

I am hopeful you will join us soon. Your insight and opinion will be met by open ears and we would appreciate anything you might have to say.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Please contact Robert Lofberg in my office at: (202) 225-5831 or Robert.Lofberg@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

JK:erj

OSD 03865-04

MAR 11 2004 6:53PM HON. JACK KINGSTON

NO. 712 P. 2/2

2004 JUL 27 PM 1:41



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

JACK KINGSTON
FIRST DISTRICT
GEORGIA

July 8, 2004

The Honorable Paul Wolfowitz
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for taking time out of your very busy schedule to be our guest at Theme Team today. As always, we appreciated your sincerity and willingness to hear our issues with patience.

Please let me know if there is anything my office can do for you. I look forward to an opportunity to see you again soon.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

JK:erj

Paul - keep up the good work!

OSD 11182-04

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

SECRET

September 23, 2004

204 OCT 15 11 13 AM '04

Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

As you may be aware, Robins Air Force Base has a well-documented, 60-year plus history of providing proven military value to our great nation and the Department of Defense. This strong military value is further enhanced today by Robins' unique multi-service, multi-mission capability, coupled with the ability to accept and execute new missions without restriction. Accordingly, Robins provides our country with highly sought options during the on-going deliberations regarding our future force projection platforms.

The attached brochure well documents the unique solutions that Robins, along with the entire Middle Georgia community, provides you during these complex deliberations. As you will note:

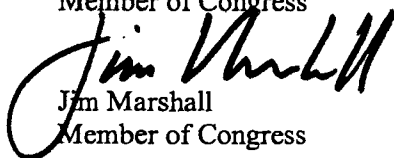
- Robins is a multi-service, multi-mission installation operating in a unrestricted 24/7 environment...and ready to accept new missions
- Robins is located in a defense-rich environment, providing unique joint basing, training, homeland defense, and deployment opportunities
- Robins locale saves millions for the Defense Department due to reduced government civilian labor costs and area cost of living advantages
- Robins is supported by a focused, vibrant community postured to continue to ensure access, resources, benchmark quality of life amenities, and capacity to grow.

Thank you for your attention and for the selfless service exhibited daily by our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines while prosecuting the war on terrorism. We are anxious to discuss with you further the unique military value of Robins Air Force Base, and the solutions it provides the nation during this critical time.

Sincerely,



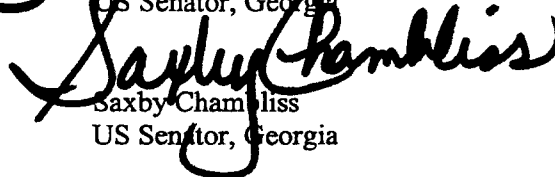
Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



Jim Marshall
Member of Congress



Zell Miller
US Senator, Georgia



Saxby Chambliss
US Senator, Georgia

OSD 16240-04

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 29, 2004

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

It is with great pleasure that we bring to your attention Major General David B. Poythress, The Adjutant General of the Georgia National Guard. As a 37-year veteran of Active Duty and Guard service and by virtue of his outstanding professional qualifications, we sincerely believe that General Poythress would make an outstanding member of the newly created Commission on the National Guard and Reserves.

General Poythress has had a long and distinguished career encompassing military service, public service, and private law practice. A Distinguished Military Graduate of the Emory University ROTC program, General Poythress served four years on Active Duty with the U.S. Air Force as a judge advocate officer, including one year as Chief of Military Justice at DaNang Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam. Upon returning to civilian life, General Poythress remained in the Air Force Reserve, where he served as a judge advocate officer in various positions of increasing responsibility. In 1991, he was recalled to Active Duty to oversee the Continental United States backfill of Reserve legal officers during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He was promoted to Brigadier General in February 1994, and to Major General in July 1999.

Under General Poythress' leadership, the Georgia National Guard has become a template for transformation. As you know, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, is home to the only joint air wing in the Air Force. The 116th Air Control Wing made history two years ago when it became the Air Force's first blended unit - kicking off an historic transformation of our fighting force. The wing is comprised of both Air National Guardsmen and members of the Active Duty Air Force, and the wing is commanded by a member of the Georgia Air Guard.

Since the closing of Vieques Range, General Poythress has worked doggedly to expand the East Coast range complex - a complex which integrates Active and Reserve components from all four Services. Air crews train in air to air and air to ground operations seven days a week flying over coastal and land routes. Recently, the Georgia National Guard has even begun integrating Army and Marine units with close air support to increase training opportunities in a more realistic warfighting environment.

OSD 19197-04

November 29, 2004

2

In June of this year, Georgia National Guard troops mobilized to support the G-8 Summit held at Sea Island, Georgia. The Georgia National Guard led the Joint Task Force for the G-8 Summit, commanding both Active Duty and Guard soldiers. This was a precedent setting event that may foreshadow how similar Homeland Security threats and initiatives will be handled in the future.

General Poythress is known for his leadership and expertise. His combination of intelligence and experience make him an outstanding Commander and truly deserving of a position with the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves. The Department of Defense, as well as the nation, have been very well served by General Poythress. We have no hesitation in giving him our highest recommendation, and requesting approval of his nomination.

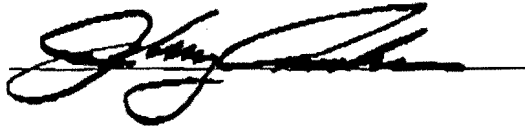

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

<u>Gene Miller</u>	<u>Sally Lambless</u>
<u>John Liska</u>	<u>Phil King</u>
<u>Arnold D. B. Whigg.</u>	<u>Nancy Deal</u>
<u>Charlie Wood</u>	<u>Jack Kingston</u>
<u>Mac Allum</u>	<u>Denise L. Majette</u>
<u>David Scott</u>	<u>Jim Marshall</u>

November 29, 2004

3

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John", written over a horizontal line.A solid horizontal line extending across the page.

Enclosure

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

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(912) 265-8013 FAX



Committee On Appropriations
Vice Chair, Republican Conference

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(478) 923-4734 FAX

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 12, 2005

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
Room 3E880, Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

It has come to our attention that senior acquisition officials in the Army and at OSD have recently been notified of aircraft issues associated with the Army Aerial Common Sensor (ACS) program. The Army briefed our delegation regarding a series of problems with the Embraer 145 aircraft that was previously selected to be the platform for Army ACS. You may recall that the Georgia delegation has a keen interest in this program, specifically, ensuring the acquisition stays on course. Please see previous attached letters to General Schoomaker dated September 22, 2004 and the reply by Lieutenant General Melcher dated November 19, 2004.

We are aware from our Army briefing that a Request for Information (RFI) has been issued to various aircraft manufacturers for a replacement aircraft. Seven months ago we were briefed that the ACS program was on track and low risk. It is now clear that this is not the case. Specifically, requirements related to weight, cooling, and power are in flux and are driving subsequent delays and cost increases. We would appreciate you defining for us what has changed in the mission payload requirements, performance parameters, and delivery milestones that has led to a termination of the awarded aircraft and has started the platform selection process anew? Who is paying the costs for these changes and what are the expected costs in dollars and schedule? Finally, how are you ensuring the selection process for the new platform will result in an aircraft capable of meeting all key performance parameters for both the Army and Navy missions?

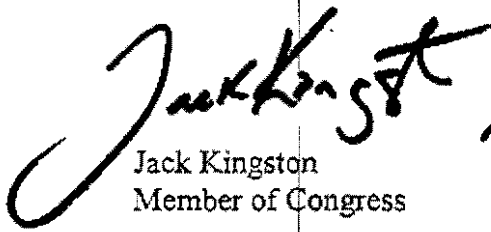
From our discussion with the Army it became apparent that significant engineering work has already been done on a larger alternative airliner as an ACS replacement. This indicates that problems with the EMB 145 were known and the contractor was studying alternatives as early as last fall. Under these circumstances, how is the Army going to insure a proven platform like the Gulfstream 550 will be given serious consideration as a replacement aircraft for the Army? You may not be aware that Gulfstream already has four special variant programs similar to ACS operating world-wide. Gulfstream has 63 aircraft in the U.S. Government inventory, all of which have been delivered on budget, on time, and with an impeccable product support record. The Army

C-37 program, which is supported by Gulfstream Contractor Logistics Support, has the highest operational readiness rate in the Army.

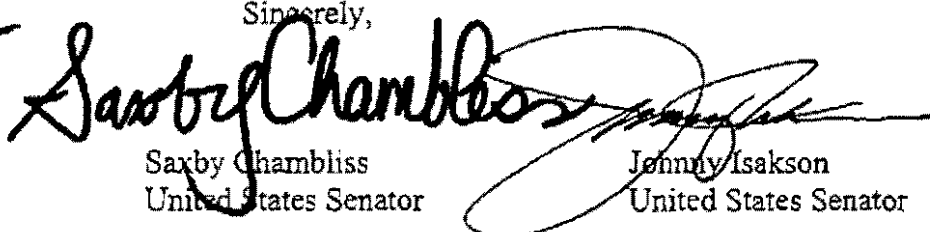
We understand that the Army is pleased with and committed to the electronic mission solution offered by the winning contractor. However, if the payload has been allowed to grow unconstrained with no attention to the aircraft operational performance parameters spelled out for in the original ACS competition, then we feel the ACS program needs a close look by the Army's senior leadership. You may be crossing the threshold from an agile, tactical asset to a strategic platform similar to those operated by the Air Force. We questioned in the past whether a regional jet such as the EMB 145 had robust enough performance to support the Army's operational requirements. Events seem to have proven our concern to be valid. We urge the Army to take decisive action and determine the proper relationship between sensor and platform performance that will lead to the operational capability originally envisioned. While the platform is indeed only one part of the system, the airplane will be flying for decades while the payload will be changed many times. We must get the right airplane for this mission this time.

We look forward to your timely response.

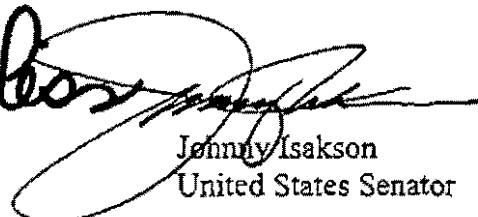
Sincerely,



Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



Saxby Chambliss
United States Senator



Jenny Isakson
United States Senator



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2006 JAN 27 PM 3:38

JACK KINGSTON
FIRST DISTRICT
GEORGIA

January 19, 2006

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld
C/O Powell A. Moore
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

As Vice Chairman of the House Republican Conference I would like to extend an invitation to you to be our featured guest at one of our upcoming *Theme Team* breakfasts.

As you may know, *Theme Team* is an active group of 85 House Republicans that meets every Thursday that Congress is in session for a candid, off-the-record discussion with a special guest. Expect attendance to be 25-30 Republican Members of Congress, Leadership staff and press secretaries.

Here are the dates available for your scheduling purposes:

- February 9, 16
- March 2, 9, 16
- April 6, 27

Please have your staff contact David All in the Republican Conference at 202-226-2348 or via email at David.All@mail.house.gov to confirm or schedule.

Sincerely,



Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

OSD 01412-06



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

JACK KINGSTON
FIRST DISTRICT
GEORGIA

March 16, 2006

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld
C/O Powell A. Moore
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

Thank you for coming to speak at our Theme Team this morning. As always, your thoughts and suggestions make our Team all that more effective.

Thanks for your friendship.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

*You continue
to do a
great
job.
My
thanks!*

OSD 04876-06

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2006 APR -3 AM 0:36

March 14, 2006

Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
Room 3E880, Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you may know, the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum was established under the vision and guidance of Major General Lewis E. Lyle, USAF Retired, and a B-17 veteran of 70 combat missions during World War II. This museum honors the men and women who supported these efforts, 26,000 of whom were killed in action and 28,000 of whom became prisoners of war.

As leaders and supporters of our men and women in uniform, we must do our part in completing the mission of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. For over nine years, there have been ongoing efforts to have a B-17 allocated to the museum, but so far these efforts have been unsuccessful. Therefore, we come to you for assistance in resolving this matter.

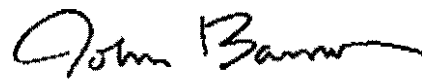
We are aware of the very limited number of static B-17s currently available in Air Force's inventory. However, the allocation strategy used to assign these assets is on a first-come, first-served basis without regard to an organization's mission – especially one that seeks to preserve the B-17's history.

There is currently a B-17 assigned to Randolph Air Force Base, it is wasting away out in the open. I am sure it serves a purpose for that installation. However, we think that purpose could be much better served if it were assigned to the Mighty Eighth Museum. As members of the Georgia Congressional Delegation, we ask for your help in this matter.

We greatly appreciate any help you can give us. If you need any additional information, our contact persons are Derrick Nunn at 202-225-5831, or Mike Goodman at 202-225-2823.

Sincerely,


Jack Kingston
Member of Congress


John Barrow
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2006

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

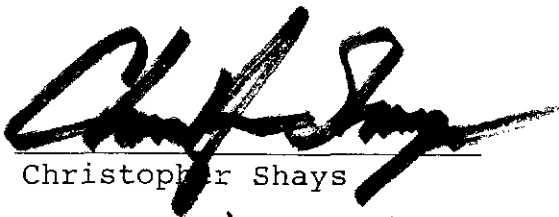
Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to express our strong support for the E-10 Technology Development Program and its critical Multi-Platform – Radar Technology Insertion Program (MP-RTIP). This large radar will provide unique capabilities in the Global War on Terrorism and against threats for decades to come. Congress has long supported Joint STARS operations and the information it provides to the warfighter. MP-RTIP will provide a quantum increase in capability over the current Joint STARS radar, and is required to increase our forces' ability to detect, track and identify ground moving targets, as well as providing a key link in cruise missile defense capability.

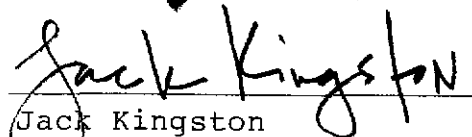
Congress has supported the development of the MP-RTIP radar with the commitment of over a billion dollars to date for the development of this vital program. We believe that it would be unwise and represent significant waste for the Department of Defense to abandon this program after years of successful development, especially when DoD is on the verge of actually characterizing and demonstrating the radar's expected capability. Congress supports the plan to fly the large radar on an E-10, or on an E-8 as originally envisioned, thereby validating the significant investment in developing this critical technology.

We seek your assurance that the Department remains committed to fully fund this critical capability in the budget for fiscal year 2008 as stated in your recent Quadrennial Defense Review report that was submitted to Congress. The Department must continue to demonstrate and characterize the MP-RTIP radar and validate, via live flight, the capability to complete the kill chain against both air and ground moving targets.

Sincerely,



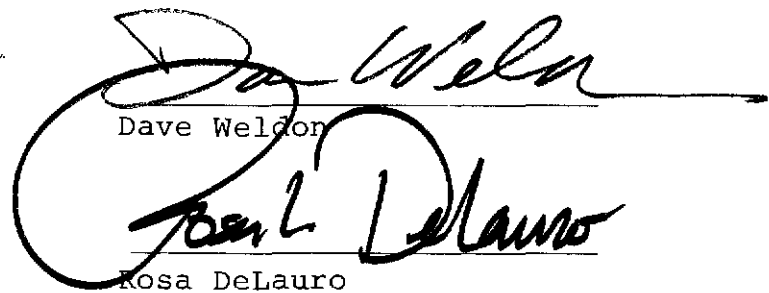
Christopher Shays




Jack Kingston



Nancy L. Johnson



Dave Weldon



Rosa DeLauro



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

OSD 15497-06



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10/2/2006 2:50:00 PM

C. A. Dutch Ruppelberger
C. A. Dutch Ruppelberger

Eliot L. Engel
Eliot L. Engel

Tim Bishop
Timothy Bishop

Silvestre Reyes
Silvestre Reyes

Peter T. King
Peter T. King

Mike McIntyre
Mike McIntyre

Melissa Bean
Melissa Bean

Ben Cardin
Benjamin L. Cardin

Curt Weldon
Curt Weldon

Norman D. Dicks
Norman D. Dicks

Gary L. Ackerman
Gary L. Ackerman

William J. Jefferson
William J. Jefferson

Sam Johnson
Sam Johnson

Ken Calvert
Ken Calvert

Steny H. Hoyer
Steny H. Hoyer

Terry Everett
Terry Everett

Peter Hoekstra
Peter Hoekstra

Rodney M. Alexander
Rodney M. Alexander

Charles J. Melancon
Charles J. Melancon

Henry Bonilla
Henry Bonilla

Ed Pastor

Ed Pastor

Chef Edwards

Chet Edwards

Leonard L. Boswell

Leonard L. Boswell

John B. Larson

John B. Larson

Rob Simmons

Rob Simmons

Ander Crenshaw

Ander Crenshaw

Robin Hayes

Robin Hayes

Rob Bishop

Rob Bishop

Kendrick B. Meek

Kendrick B. Meek

Phil Gingrey

Phil Gingrey

Jane Harman

Jane Harman

Ralph M. Hall

Ralph M. Hall

Charles W. Boustany

Charles W. Boustany

Carolyn McCarthy

Carolyn McCarthy

Walter B. Jones

Walter B. Jones

Steve Israel

Steve Israel

G. K. Butterfield, Jr.

G. K. Butterfield, Jr.

Joe Wilson

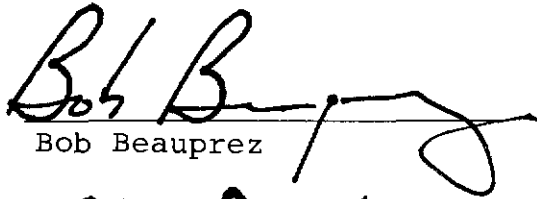
Joe Wilson


Allen Boyd

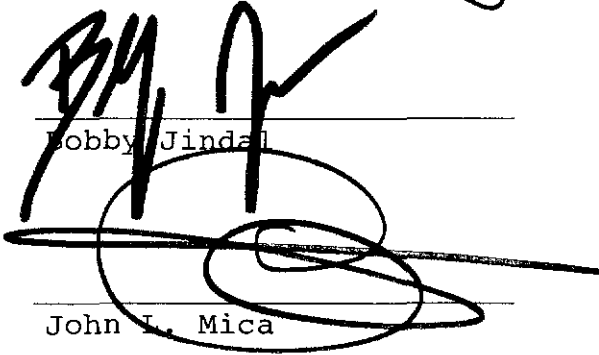
Allen Boyd

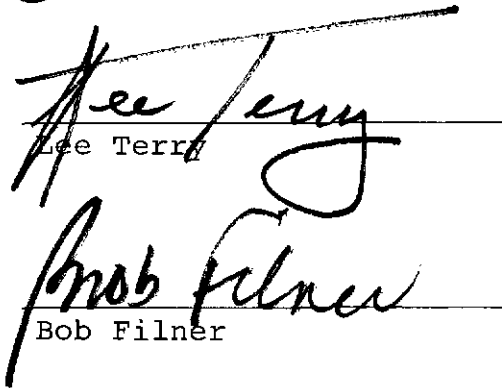
Corrine Brown


Corrine Brown

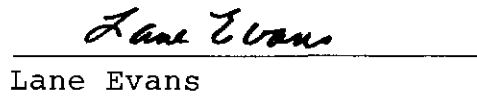

Bob Beauprez


Jim Gibbons


Bobby Jindal


Lee Terry

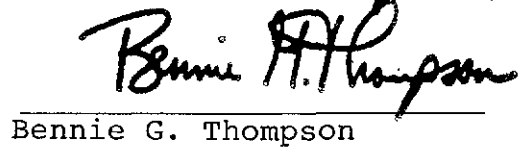

Solomon P. Ortiz

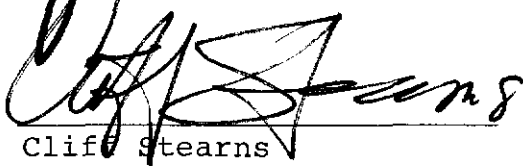

Lane Evans

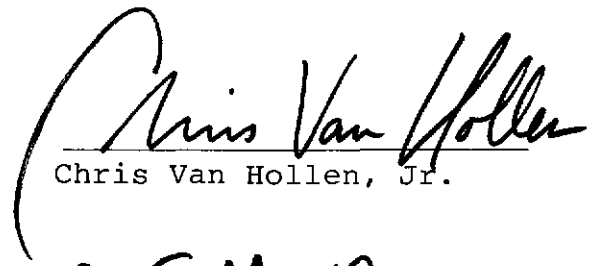

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon


Patrick McHenry

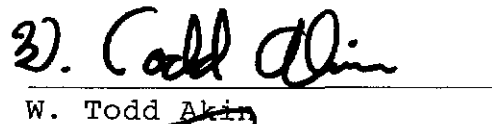

John E. Sweeney

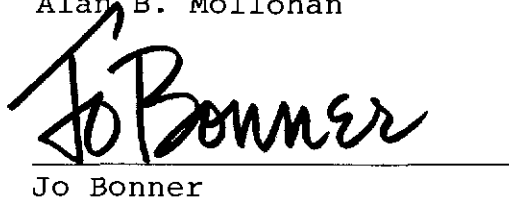

Bennie G. Thompson


Cliff Stearns


Chris Van Hollen, Jr.

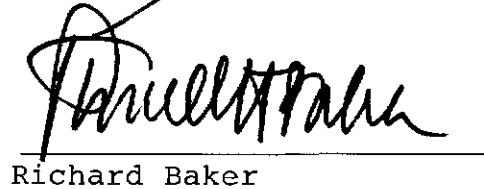

Alan B. Mollohan

3). 
W. Todd Akin


Jo Bonner


Roscoe G. Bartlett


Jim McCrery


Richard Baker

Tom Feeney
Tom C. Feeney I/I

Henry I Brown
Henry Brown

Robert C. Scott
Robert C. Scott

J. D. Hayworth
J. D. Hayworth

Chip Pickering
Charles W. "Chip" Pickering

Wally Herger
Wally Herger

Todd Tiahrt
Todd Tiahrt

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 14, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We would like to solicit your help in gaining a better understanding of the Department of Defense's plans for future acquisition of the C/KC-130J aircraft. The C/KC-130J is the crown jewel in today's tactical air mobility fleet. It is being flown by our Air Force and Marines, as well as by our Allies, and is providing exceptional service in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

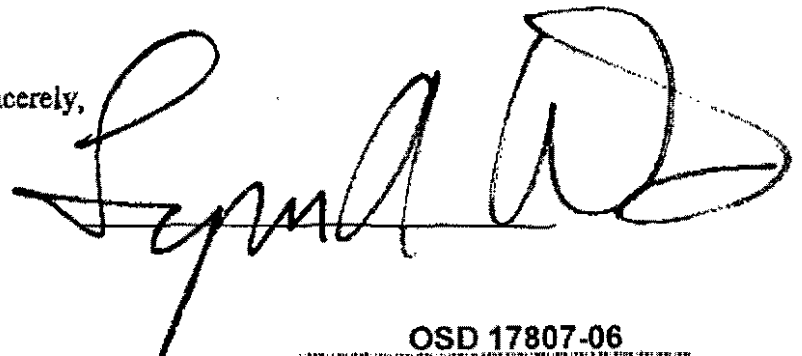
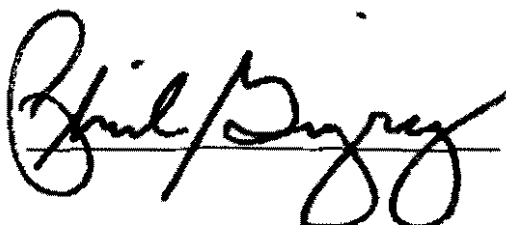
We are concerned that the current Department of Defense C/KC-130J multi-year procurement plan expires in FY 2008. As you are aware, more than half of the combat delivery C-130s are 30 years old or older, with some of the fleet now hampered by significant operational restrictions. Although their longevity is clearly a testament to the value of these critical aircraft, we are very concerned that the existing fleet continues to age at an alarming rate without an apparent long-term solution. The Department has clearly articulated the need for recapitalization, yet we see no indication of an integrated plan to bridge the existing C/KC-130J multi-year procurement to emerging requirements of the future.

We understand that the USMC and USAF have requirements for C/KC-130J replacement beyond those currently being met by the multi-year. We would like to hear from you regarding the Department's efforts to ensure our tactical airlift and tanker fleets in the USAF and USMC remain viable for the future.

Our airmen and marines clearly deserve the best equipment that we can offer them. The C/KC-130J is the right solution for these emerging tactical air mobility requirements.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



OSD 17807-06



11/15/2006 6:28:25 AM

Martin Baum

Mike McIntyre

Charlie Howard

Jack Kingston

Nathan Deal

Don Benton

W. G. ...

Tom ...

Randy ...

Jim ...

Jan ...

John ...

Mik ...

Chip ...

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 8, 2007

The Honorable Robert Gates
The Secretary of Defense
Room: 3E880
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Congratulations on your recent confirmation as Secretary of Defense. We are confident that, as Secretary, you will provide the leadership necessary to reflect the priorities of the Department and to review the Pentagon's budget to ensure those evolving crises our nation faces will be among your priorities.

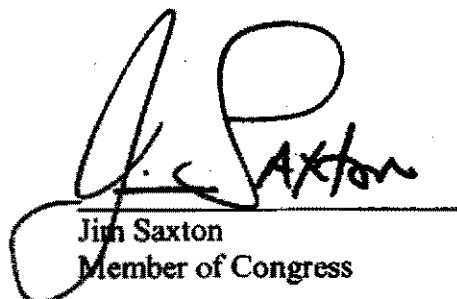
As America faces increasing numbers of threats worldwide, we are particularly concerned about the military's continued ability to shift troops and resources efficiently and effectively. We, therefore, respectfully draw your attention to Section 1034 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, which directs the Department of Defense to complete an assessment of the intratheater and intertheater airlift requirements and sealift mobility requirements needed to support America's armed forces. We believe a new mobility study is of the utmost importance and will be a critical step in maintaining the strongest and most agile military power in the world.

We Members of Congress have raised an issue regarding the September, 2006 report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) which questioned the usefulness of the 2005 Mobility Capabilities Study (MCS). In light of the crisis our nation faces in a time of war and the uncertainty of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear capabilities in other parts of the world, we cannot emphasize enough the importance of a new plan that lays out the Department's methodology. We respectfully request that you provide us with another mobility study using the recommendations of the GAO. We look forward in the coming weeks to sitting down with you to discuss the plan and its status when it becomes available.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

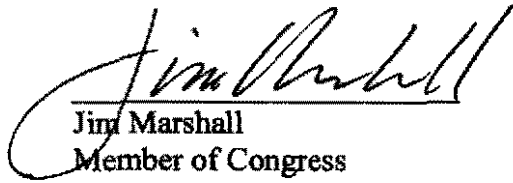
Best wishes,

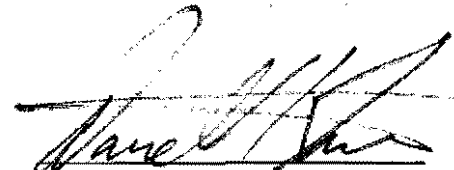

Juanita Millender-McDonald
Member of Congress

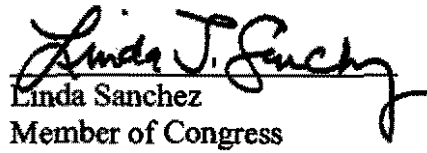

Jim Saxton
Member of Congress

OSD 00971-07

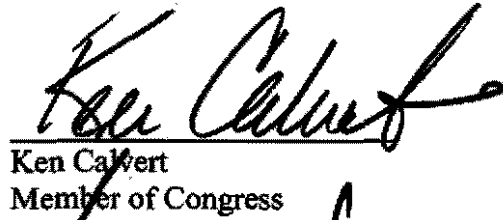


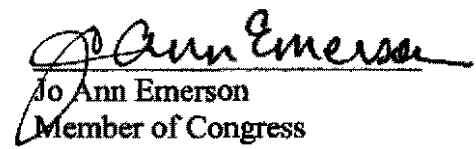

Jim Marshall
Member of Congress

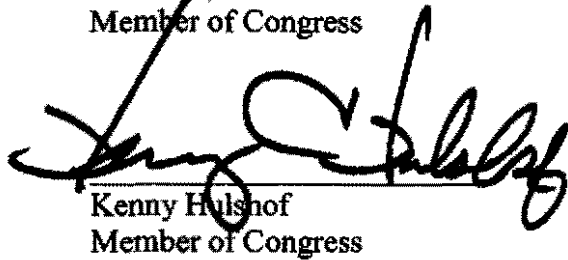

Darrell Issa
Member of Congress

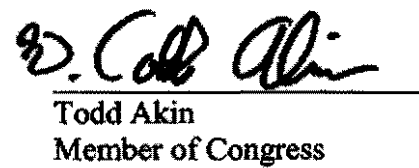

Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress


Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

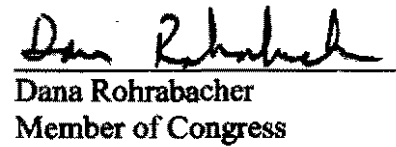

Ken Calvert
Member of Congress


Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress


Kenny Hulshof
Member of Congress


Todd Akin
Member of Congress


Mary Bono
Member of Congress


Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

JACK KINGSTON
FIRST DISTRICT
GEORGIA

January 17, 2007

Hon. Robert Gates
United States Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates,

As Chairman of the House Republican Theme Team, I would like to extend an invitation to you to be our featured guest at one of our upcoming meetings.

As you may know, *Theme Team* is an active group of 70 House Republicans that meets from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. every Thursday that Congress is in session for a candid, off-the-record discussion with a special guest. Expect attendance to be 25-30 Republican Members of Congress, Leadership staff and press secretaries.

Here are the dates available for your scheduling purposes:

- February 8, 15
- March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- April 19, 26

Additional dates may be available later in the year. Please have your staff contact Krista Cole at 202-226-2344 or via email at Krista.Cole@mail.house.gov to confirm or schedule.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

OSD 01283-07



1/24/2007 4:55:21 PM



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

JACK KINGSTON
FIRST DISTRICT
GEORGIA

February 5, 2007

Secretary Robert Gates
Department of Defense
VIA FACSIMILE (703) 695-5860
ATTN: Ms. Virginia Johnson

Dear Secretary Gates,

As Chairman of the House Republican *Theme Team*, I would like to extend an invitation to you to be our featured guest at one of our upcoming breakfasts.

As you may know, *Theme Team* is an active group of 85 House Republicans that meets every Thursday that Congress is in session from 9 to 10 AM for a candid, off-the-record discussion with a special guest. Expect attendance to be 25-30 Republican Members of Congress, Leadership staff and press secretaries.

Here are some dates available for your scheduling purposes:

- March 15, 22
- April 19, 26
- May 3, 17
- June 7, 14, 21 and 28

Please have your staff contact Krista Cole at 202-226-2344 or via email at krista.cole@mail.house.gov to confirm or schedule.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

OSD 01852-07



2/6/2007 7:05:52 AM

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5831
(202) 226-2269 FAX

BRUNSWICK OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 304
805 Gloucester Street
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912) 266-9010
(912) 266-9013 FAX



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Committee On Appropriations
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee
Defense Subcommittee

SAVANNAH OFFICE
One Diamond Causeway
Suite 7
Savannah, GA 31406
(912) 352-0101
(912) 352-0105 FAX

BAXLEY OFFICE
(912) 367-7403
(912) 367-7404 FAX

VALDOSTA OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 215
P.O. Box 5264
Valdosta, GA 31603
(229) 247-9188
(229) 247-9189 FAX

June 15, 2007

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

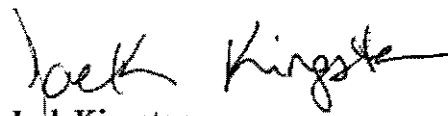
I am concerned that a Department of Defense contractor operating at the Port of Savannah and other locations may not be in compliance with the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988.

It has been brought to my attention that Marine Terminals Corporation-East may not be providing the education and training required under the Act. Further, I understand that they are a defendant in a lawsuit concerning the application of random drug testing in the Port of Savannah.

As I understand this Act, it is up to the contracting agency to ensure that the contractor is in compliance – in this instance, the Department of Defense should have oversight on this issue.

I would appreciate any information that you can provide me with in this matter and, most importantly for the safety and security of the Port of Savannah, assurance that MTC-East is being held to the standards set in the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988.

Sincerely,


Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

OSD 10677-07



6/26/2007 2:19:43 PM

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5831
(202) 226-2269 FAX

BRUNSWICK OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 304
805 Gloucester Street
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912) 265-9010
(912) 265-9013 FAX



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Committee On Appropriations
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee
Defense Subcommittee

SAVANNAH OFFICE
One Diamond Causeway
Suite 7
Savannah, GA 31406
(912) 352-0101
(912) 352-0105 FAX

BAXLEY OFFICE
(912) 367-7403
(912) 367-7404 FAX

VALDOSTA OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 215
P.O. Box 5264
Valdosta, GA 31603
(229) 247-9188
(229) 247-9189 FAX

July 17, 2007

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

One of the tremendous challenges we face is trying to determine whether or not progress is being made in Iraq. Several different products exist that track Iraq operations and progress, to include 18 Congressional benchmarks, the quarterly *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq Report*, weekly State Department reports that focus on the 8 pillars of success in Iraq and the comprehensive *Iraq Index* authored by the Brookings Institute. However, there is not a single source document that captures the essence of whether or not we are making progress in Iraq.

In consultation with the Brookings Institute and other subject matter experts and in an effort to provide a snapshot view of progress in Iraq, I recommend the following metrics. They focus on the areas of Politics, Iraqi Security Forces, Economics, and Quality of Life – all key to every day life in Iraq. Through these metrics, I believe we can capture whether or not we are making progress in Iraq.

I would be very interested in your thoughts on this document.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

OSD 12257-07



7/27/2007 1:37:06 PM

Political Metrics

Political Benchmark	Current Status
Amending the Constitution to address Sunni Concerns	The parliament's constitutional reform committee voted on May 15, 2007, to submit a set of revisions to lawmakers the week of May 21. However, the controversial issues of the rights of provinces to form powerful regions (similar to that of the Kurds) and references to Iraq's Arab identity are yet to be debated.
Disbanding Militias	No political progress thus far, although Coalition and Iraqi security forces have engaged and detained militia members
Increased Sunni governmental participation	A group of Sunni sheiks in Anbar province that recently formed a loose confederation of tribes opposed to Al-Qaeda in Iraq have announced that they will form a political party, called Iraq Awakening, that will partake in future elections
New election laws	No progress thus far
Oil Revenue Sharing	May 2007: During the week of May 21, officials from the Kurdish Regional Government will arrive in Baghdad to discuss differences with central-government authorities.
Plan of National Reconciliation	No progress thus far
Reversing de-Baathification	May 2007: Iraqi VP Tariq al-Hashemi announced that proposals for revising the law would be submitted to parliament during the week of May 21.

As of: July 17, 2007

Military Metrics

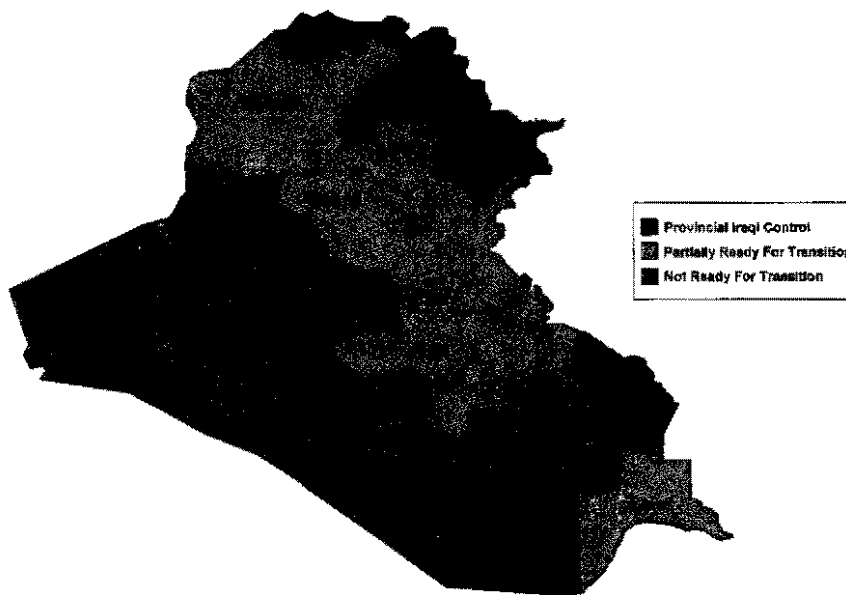
Provincial Iraqi Control: 7 of 18 Provinces. The process of returning the responsibility for security in Iraq to the Iraqi security forces in each province is at the heart of the country's journey to full nationhood. Three Kurdish Provinces, Dahuk, Irbil and Sulaymaniyah, transferred to Provincial Iraqi Control on May 30. The other provinces under Iraqi security control are: Al-Muthanna, Dhi Qar, An-Najaf, and Maysan. Complete transfer of all 18 Provinces to Provincial Iraqi Control is expected by March 2008.

Four criteria for transfer:

**Assessing threats
Combat Readiness of ISF
Governance Capabilities
MNF-I Force Posture**

Provincial Security Transition Assessment

As of June 27, 2007

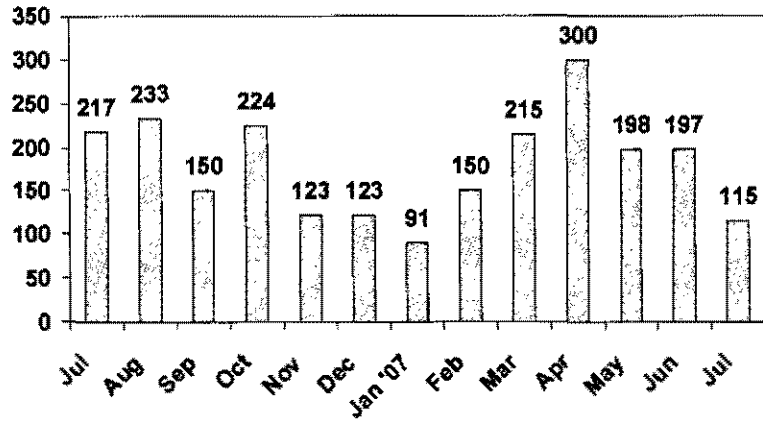


Training/Equipping of ISF: ~349,100. The planned number of trained and equipped members of the ISF was a total of 325,000. Recommendations have been made to increase that by 65,000 in 2007 and by another 65,000 in 2008.

(Iraq Weekly Status Report, Jul 11, 2007 and Growth in Iraqi Forces Will Ensure Training Depth, Unity, General Says; American Forces Press Service, June 13, 2007)

As of: July 17, 2007

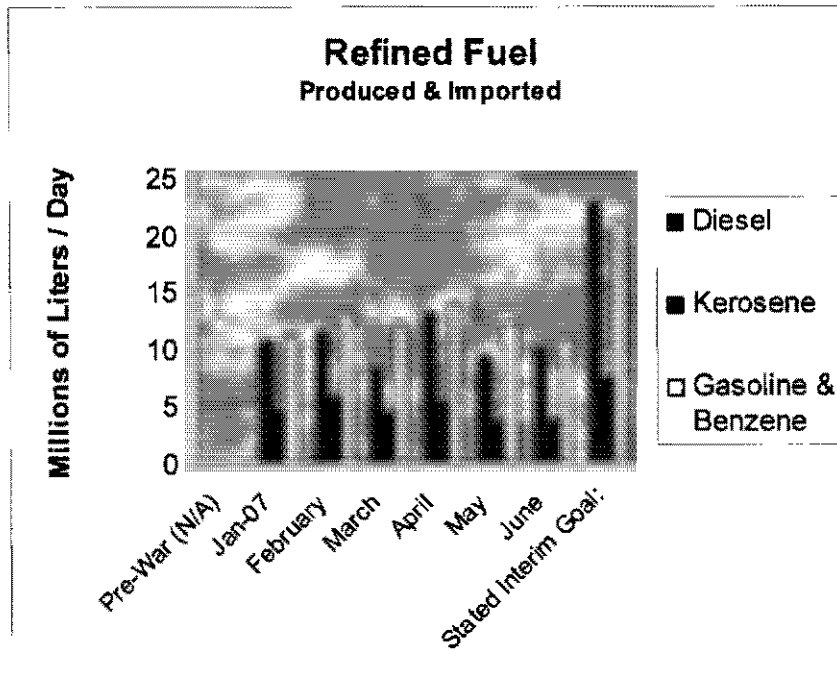
Iraqi Security Forces Killed Monthly



Brookings Institute's Iraq Index, July 12, 2007

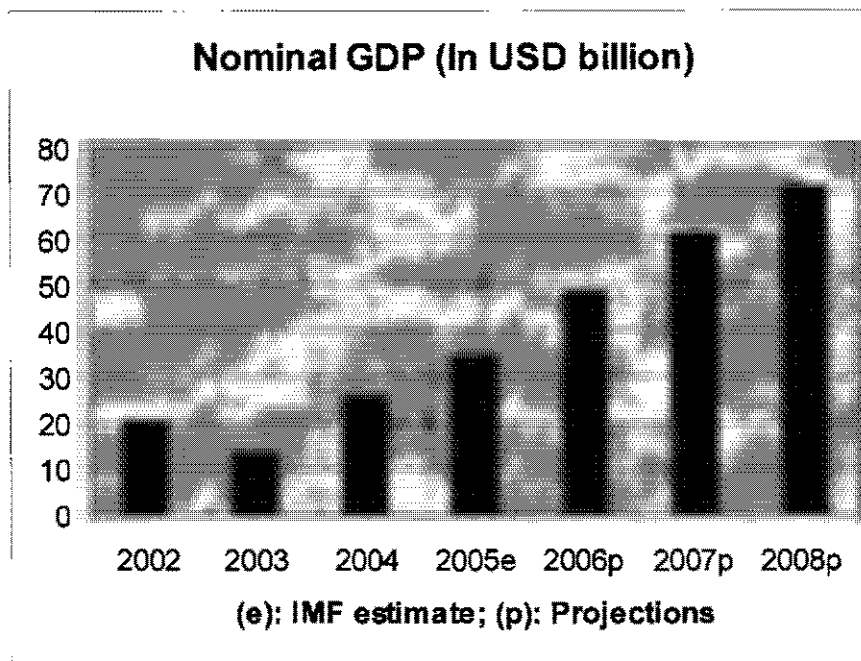
Economic Metrics

Fuel:



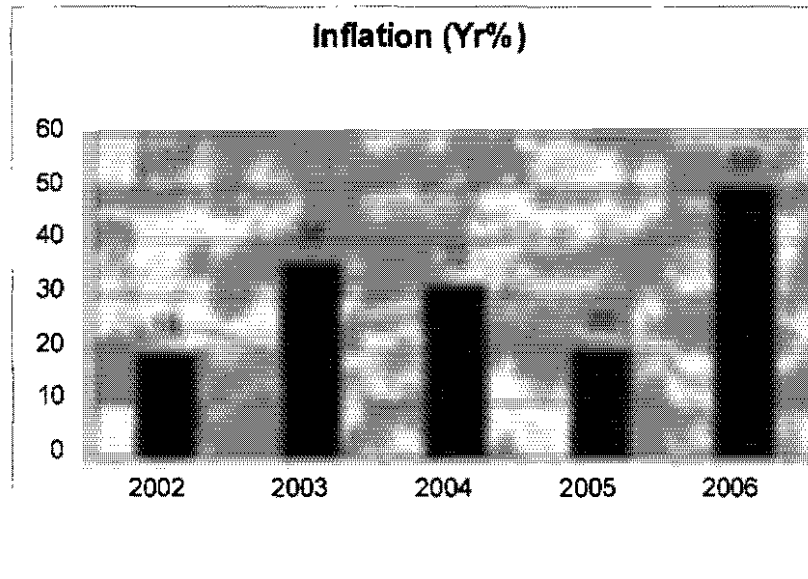
Brookings Institute's Iraq Index, July 12, 2007

GDP/Inflation:



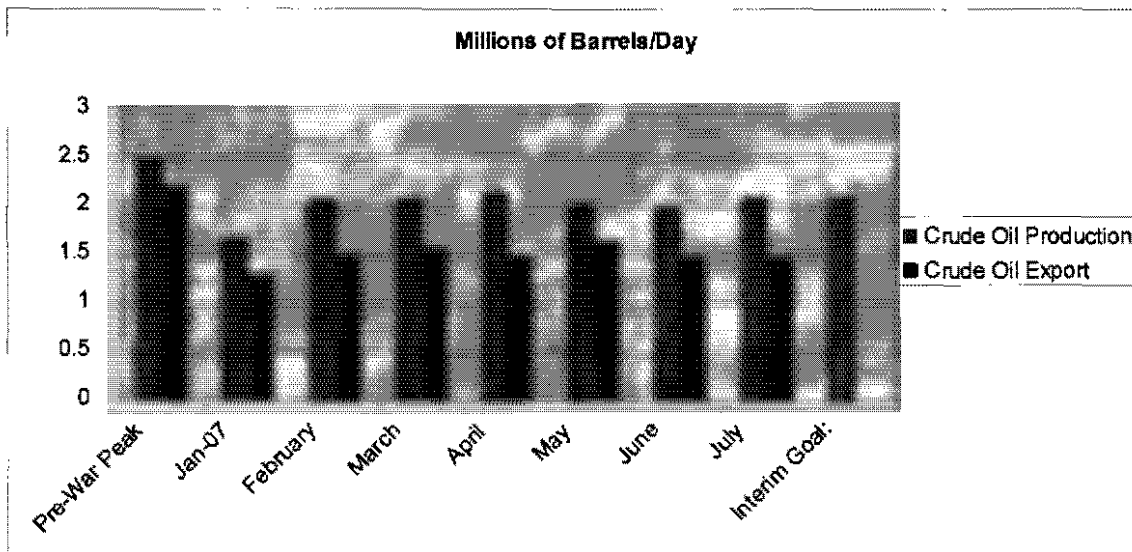
Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq, March 2007

As of: July 17, 2007



Note: For 2007, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects that the economy will grow by more than 10% and that non-oil sectors will grow by approximately 7%. The Central Bank of Iraq has maintained tighter monetary control in 2007 – year-on-year inflation was 33% in March 2007 compared with 66.4% in January 2007 and a peak of 76.6% in August 2006. (*Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq, June 2007*)

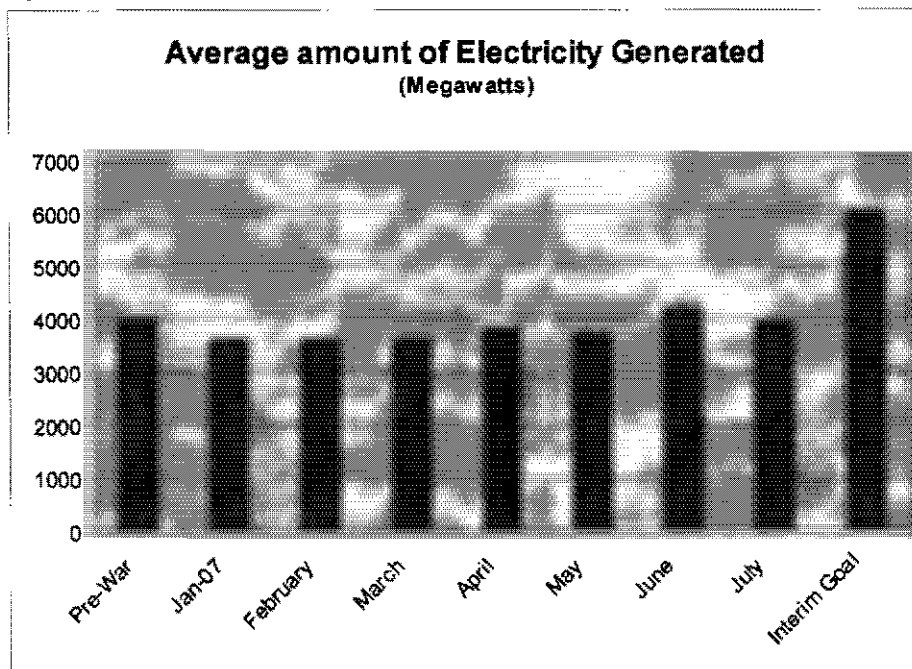
Oil:



Brookings Institute's Iraq Index, July 12, 2007

Quality of Life Metrics

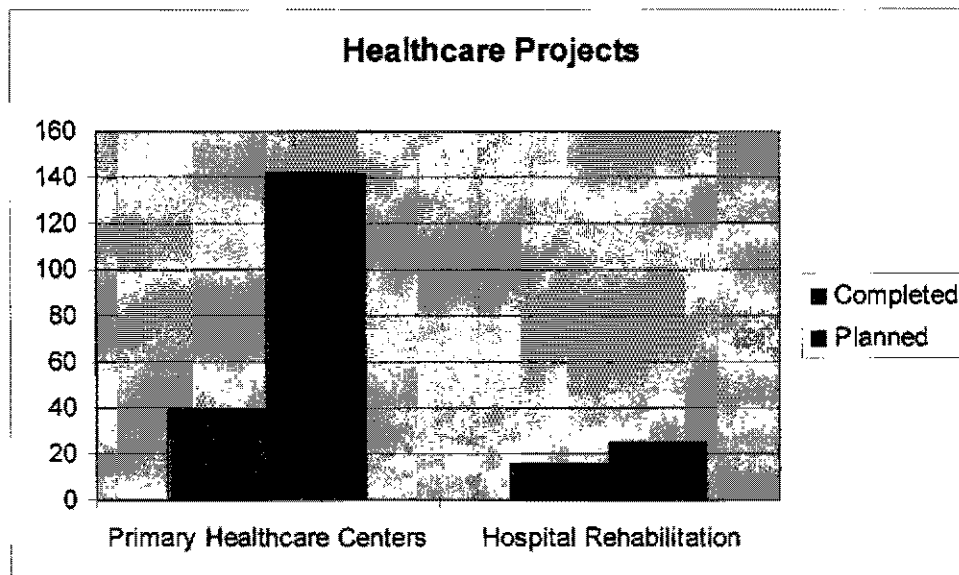
Electricity:



Brookings Institute's Iraq Index, July 12, 2007

Note: To date, 1,420 MW of capacity has been added – increased power generation to 1.3 million homes. Projects completed include 26 400kv and 132kv Substations and 64 33/11kv Substations. Average daily hours of power last week nation-wide 12 hours and in Baghdad 8 hours. (GWOT Reconstruction Report, July 2, 2007)

Healthcare:



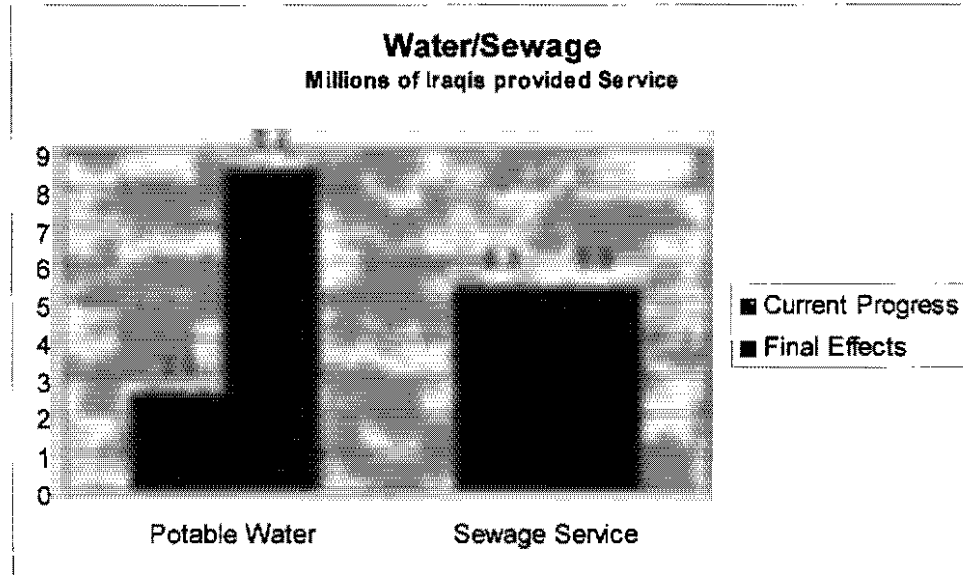
GWOT Reconstruction Report, July 2, 2007

As of: July 17, 2007

Note: When completed, the 142 Primary Healthcare Centers will serve a population between 5 and 6.5 million Iraqis.

(GWOT Reconstruction Report, July 2, 2007)

Water/Sewer:



(Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq, June 2007)

Note: Over 21,000 area residents will receive potable water and fire hydrant service from the recently completed U.S.-funded Sadr City project.

(Iraq Weekly Status Report, July 11, 2007)

Unemployment:

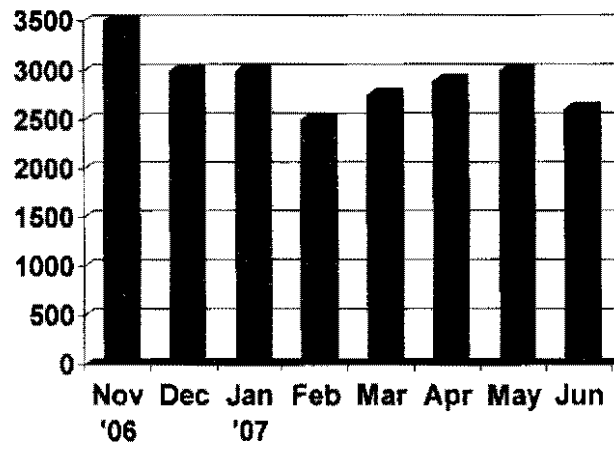
The Iraqi government's Central Statistical Organization (COSIT) estimates 17.6% unemployment and 38.1% underemployment.

A non-sectarian job creation strategy could help to improve the legitimacy of the government. Consequently, the Maliki government is undertaking efforts to create permanent, sustainable jobs with U.S. assistance. The GoI has begun a pilot micro-credit program to promote small business development and address high rates of unemployment. *(Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq, June 2007)*

Violence against Civilians:

As of: July 17, 2007

Estimated Number of Iraqi Civilians Killed by Month



Brookings Institute's Iraq Index, July 12, 2007

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2389 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5831
(202) 226-2269 FAX

BRUNSWICK OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 304
805 Gloucester Street
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912) 285-9010
(912) 285-9018 FAX



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
August 14, 2007

Committee On Appropriations
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee
Defense Subcommittee

SAVANNAH OFFICE
One Diamond Causeway
Suite 7
Savannah, GA 31406
(912) 352-0101
(912) 352-0105 FAX

BAXLEY OFFICE
(912) 387-7403
(912) 387-7404 FAX

VALDOSTA OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 215
P.O. Box 5284
Valdosta, GA 31609
(229) 247-9189
(229) 247-9189 FAX

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I have recently returned from my third trip to Iraq. Many members of Congress have been there more and some not at all. Despite the number of visits all members learn a tremendous amount when they go. Regardless of their pre-trip philosophy on the war, their views get tempered with the increased knowledge.

Since 2003, 397 members have traveled to Iraq. However, many members are unable to make the trip because of the limited number of congressional delegations ("codels") and the fact that codels are capped at six members. While I understand this is a logistically optimal numbers, I believe it is a harmful policy.

Most of us find that members who have been there not only have more knowledge but less partisanship. Meeting the troops, seeing the theater, and getting a front-line view inspires Democrats and Republicans alike. With the tremendous philosophical divisions we have in Congress and in America, opening up access would be healthy to the debate and decisions ahead.

I urge you to remove the 6 member cap and increase the number of codels.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

OSD 13236-07



8/16/2007 9:21:16 AM

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2007

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We understand that the Department of Defense is considering ceasing production of the F-22A Raptor following completion of the current multi-year procurement contract. We believe such a decision would be ill-advised and premature, given the recapitalization shortfalls facing our US Air Force and the rapidly emerging airborne and surface-to-air threats facing our nation's military.

The F-22A Raptor is exceeding all expectations in operational performance as well as production schedule and quality. The USAF urgently needs to replace approximately 500 1970-80's vintage F-15A-D Eagles. Despite the AF's oft-stated minimum requirement for 381, we note that DoD's program of record 183 total is not supported by any rigorous campaign-based analysis assessing the most stressing scenarios and rapidly growing threats. Rather, it has been reported that at least three independent studies commissioned by DoD recommended procuring significantly more than 220 Raptors because of its singularly unique capability to overwhelm all air and surface-to-air threats.

Meanwhile, it has recently been reported that three near-peer potential adversaries are busy co-developing two different stealth, twin-engine, high-altitude, Raptor-like fighters. Terminating the Raptor program at such a crucial and uncertain time only further encourages our potential adversaries to continue down this path. It also risks abandoning our AF's unique ability to deter aggressive actions and when called upon, dominate the airspace over our global allies, interests and deployed troops.

Furthermore, the F-22A Raptor is the world's only 5th Generation Fighter line currently in full-rate production. Over 25,000 Americans working for 1000 suppliers in 44 states manufacture this unique national asset. These are highly technical jobs that represent the leading edge of our nation's aerospace industry. Additionally, it is estimated another 70,000+ Americans owe their jobs indirectly to this program.

We urge you to continue procurement of the F-22A Raptor by including sufficient funds in the FY09 budget request to procure long-lead items for an additional lot of planes, beyond the current multi-year contract. We believe any decision to terminate production of this aircraft at such an early stage is more appropriately deferred until completion of the 2009 Quadrennial Defense Review which will assess current and future threats and recommend the necessary procurement strategies to fully support our national security requirements.


Sincerely,

OSD 19381-07



12/12/2007 3:45:07 PM





Tim Scott

Rob Doherty

Sam Cole

Patrick Pithney

Joe Conroy

Joey Wilson

C. M.

Jim Marshall

Rhodes

Eric Cant

Connie Mack

Paul T. McCaul

Wiley Degen

Carlson

John Baerow

Bill Shuster

Jacqueline P. Peltz

Thomas Price

John P. Loh

Debi Nunez

John B. Rann

Kenny Thurt

John Kincaid

Jean Keller

John Singer

Allen Boyd

Bobby Satt

Shelma Drake

Sam Johnson

Lynn A. Drake

Hilda L. Aulis

Ronald R. Bence

Carol Shea-Power

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
(TX-02)

Cl. Dutch Ruppersberger

Paul C. Brown

Joe Boston

Ben Young

Robert Deal

Ronald A. Mansfield

Elijah E. Cummings

Wayne T. Gilchrist

Rosa L. Delamuro

Jack Kingston

Samuel D. Blythe Jr.

Norm Hicks

Jill Miller

Franklin D. Krueger

Harold P. "Bud" Lee

Johnnie Williams

Chf Edwards

Elmo Smith

Ralph M. Hall

John A. Sobush

Det. R. J.

J. Sisto

John Sessions

Mark Johnson

Jim W. Brown

Dalene Holey

San Fran

Reg. Walde

Richard E. Neal

Joann B. Ortiz

Reg. Lambert

Bee Young

Cc: The Honorable Jim Nussle, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Joshua Bolten, White House Chief of Staff

David Scott
Georgia, 13th

Connie Mack
Florida, 14th

Rob Bishop
Utah, 1st

Mike McCaul
Texas, 10th

Tom Cole
Oklahoma, 4th

Mike Rogers
Michigan, 8th

Patrick McHenry
North Carolina, 10th

Dan Boren
Oklahoma, 2nd

Joe Courtney
Connecticut, 2nd

John Barrow
Georgia, 12th

Joe Wilson
South Carolina, 2nd

Bill Shuster
Pennsylvania, 9th

Chris Murphy
Connecticut, 5th

Gabrielle Giffords
Arizona, 8th

Jim Marshall
Georgia, 8th

Tom Price
Georgia, 6th

Paul Hodes
New Hampshire, 2nd

John P. Sarbanes
Maryland, 3rd

Eric Cantor
Virginia, 7th

Devin Nunes
California, 21st

John Larson
Connecticut, 1st

Kenny Marchant
Texas, 24th

John Linder
Georgia, 7th

Dean Heller
Nevada, 2nd

Kay Granger
Texas, 12th

Allen Boyd
Florida, 2nd

Robert "Bobby" Scott
Virginia, 3rd

Thelma Drake
Virginia, 2nd

Sam Johnson
Texas, 3rd

Lynn Westmoreland
Georgia, 3rd

Hilda Solis
California, 32nd

Leonard Boswell
Iowa, 3rd

Carol Shea-Porter
New Hampshire, 1st

Ted Poe
Texas, 2nd

Dutch Ruppersberger
Maryland, 2nd

Paul Brown
Georgia, 10th

Joe Barton
Texas 6th

Don Young
Alaska, At-Large

Nathan Deal
Georgia, 9th

Donald Manzullo
Illinois, 16th

Elijah Cummings
Maryland, 7th

Chet Edwards
Texas, 17th

Wayne Gilchrest
Maryland, 1st

Chris Smith
New Jersey, 4th

Rosa DeLauro
Connecticut, 3rd

Ralph M. Hall
Texas, 4th

Jack Kingston
Georgia, 1st

Frank LoBiondo
New Jersey, 2nd

Sanford Bishop
Georgia, 2nd

Silvestre Reyes
Texas 16th

Norm Dicks
Washington, 6th

Jim Saxton
New Jersey, 3rd

Jeff Miller
Florida, 1st

Pete Sessions
Texas, 32nd

Trent Franks
Arizona, 2nd

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.
Georgia, 4th

Howard P. "Buck" Mckeon
California, 25th

James McGovern
Massachusetts, 3rd

John Carter
Texas, 31st

Darlene Hooley
Oregon, 5th

Sam Graves
Missouri, 6th

Greg Walden
Oregon, 2nd

Richard Neal
Massachusetts, 2nd

Solomon P. Ortiz
Texas 27th

Doug Lamborn
Colorado, 5th

Bill C.W. Young
Florida, 10th



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

JACK KINGSTON
FIRST DISTRICT
GEORGIA

December 4, 2007

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As Chairman of the House Republican *Theme Team*, I would like to re-extend an invitation to you to be our featured guest at one of our upcoming breakfasts.

As you may know, *Theme Team* is an active group of 85 House Republicans that meets every Thursday that Congress is in session from 9 to 10 AM for a candid, off-the-record discussion with a special guest. Expect attendance to be 25-30 Republican Members of Congress, Leadership staff and press secretaries.

Here are some dates available for your scheduling purposes:

- January 17
- February 7, 14, 28
- March 6, 13
- April 3, 10, 17, 24

Additional dates may be available later in the year. Please have your staff contact Chris Crawford at 202-226-2348 or Chris.Crawford@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

OSD 19815-07



12/26/2007 9:53:34 AM

PAUL C. BROUN, M.D.
10th District, Georgia

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2104 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-4101
FAX: (202) 225-0776

WEB: BROUN.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1010

February 29, 2008

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

The Honorable James B. Peake
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretaries Gates and Peake,

We are writing to urge your consideration of a partnership between the Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA), and the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) School of Nursing to create a new national training site for Recovery Coordinators. Wounded Warriors returning from overseas with combat-related illnesses and injuries have a tremendous need for expert, continuing, and coordinated health care and timely delivery of benefits. In spite of the tremendous efforts by the DoD and VA to care for wounded warriors and their families, the *President's Commission on the Care for Returning Wounded Warriors (2007)* reported that the services need transformation to serve, support, and simplify the delivery of health care and other benefits. Recovery planning and coordination across services are critically needed to prevent serious gaps in care. The Medical College of Georgia School of Nursing is in a unique position to be able to take a leading role in this effort.

The MCG School of Nursing, Augusta VA Medical Center, and Eisenhower Medical Center (EAMC) have a history of collaboration in educating MCG BSN, MSN, and PhD nursing students, including Army Nurse Corps officers stationed at Fort Gordon. We believe that collaboration among these institutions to enhance efficient and effective health care to our injured and ill service members is an approach that warrants consideration, particularly for wounded warriors in the region. This history is particularly important because Eisenhower Army Medical Center is second only to Walter Reed AMC in receiving and treating wounded from Iraq and Afghanistan.

We believe that the need for this collaboration is clear and immediate, and we therefore respectfully request that you consider MCG's proposal as soon as possible. Enclosed, we have included a copy of the proposal, "Wounded Warriors and their Families: A Collaborative Proposal."

TOCCOA
560 FALLS ROAD
TOCCOA, GA 30577
PHONE: (706) 886-1008
FAX: (706) 886-1009

AUGUSTA
P.O. Box 211661
Augusta, GA 30617
4245 WASHINGTON ROAD
SUITE 6
EVANS, GA 30609
PHONE: (706) 647-3857
FAX: (706) 886-8758

ATHENS
3708 ATLANTA HIGHWAY
SUITE 3B
ATHENS, GA 30606
PHONE: (706) 549-9588
FAX: (706) 549-9590

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER


OSD 03110-08




3/7/2008 12:01:32 PM

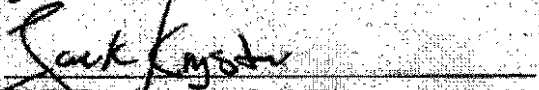
Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


U.S. Congressman Paul C. Brown, M.D.


U.S. Congressman John Barrow


U.S. Congressman Nathan Deal

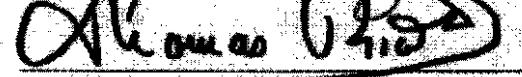

U.S. Congressman Jack Kingston


U.S. Congressman Lynn A. Westmoreland



U.S. Congressman Jim Marshall



U.S. Congressman Phil Gingrey


U.S. Congressman David Scott


U.S. Congressman Tom Price


U.S. Congressman Sanford D. Bishop Jr.


U.S. Congressman Hank Johnson


U.S. Senator Johnny Lakson


U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss


U.S. Congressman Gresham Barrett


U.S. Congressman John Linder


U.S. Congressman John Lewis

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 30, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As you are well aware, the Department of Defense is considering several locations in the Continental United States (CONUS) as headquarters for Africa Command (AFRICOM). The Governor and members of the Georgia Delegation have previously written you regarding the potential use of Forts McPherson and Gillem for the AFRICOM Headquarters. While we understand that these installations are still under consideration, we also understand that Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta is also being considered. In addition to the reasons previously stated for locating AFRICOM at either Fort McPherson or Fort Gillem, we would like to take this opportunity to explain why Dobbins would also be an attractive location.

Dobbins has a substantial runway network as well as rail infrastructure that connects it with the Port of Savannah — already a point of shipment for a significant amount of cargo bound for Africa. Further, given that the facilities in Marietta are presently shared by Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Naval Air Station Atlanta, the Georgia National Guard, and Lockheed Martin, they have long been a model for joint-ness within the Department of Defense, an important and unique characteristic given that AFRICOM will be a joint command and require coordination with many international partners and across numerous government agencies. With 52 acres of available property adjoining the base, any needed expansion of existing or construction of new facilities would also be unencumbered.

Whether you choose Dobbins, Fort McPherson or Fort Gillem, Georgia provides a compelling location for the AFRICOM facility. Each is in close proximity to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Being the world's busiest airport there is frequent and direct access to the African continent. With one of the nation's highest concentrations of Fortune 500 companies and Non-Governmental Organizations, coupled with a very low cost of doing business, the greater Atlanta area is uniquely qualified to accommodate additional consulates and businesses that may be necessary if such an important command is established.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your leadership of the Department of Defense. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further with you at any time. Please know that we share your commitment to ensuring

OSD 13967-08



the success of our brave men and women in uniform, as well as the safety and security of the American people.

Very truly yours,

Saylor Chamberlain Lenny Perdue
 Bill Gray Stan Doo Tom Scott
 Jim Marshall John Lick Hank Johnson
 Lynn [unclear] Sanford [unclear] Noel Deal
 Zack Kingston Carl Brown

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




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.

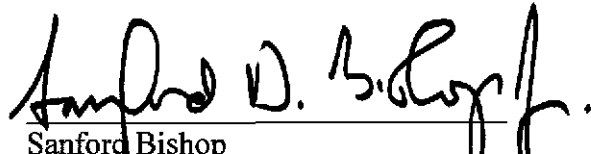
We thank you for your consideration of our request.

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

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



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.

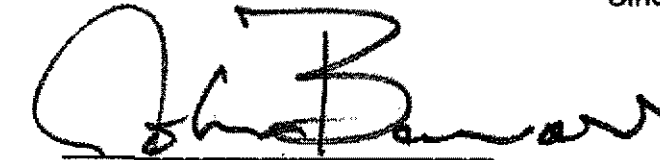
We believe adding the 46th BCT in the Army to Fort Stewart would enhance the immediate operational effectiveness of the 3rd Infantry Division at the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field. When taking into consideration the emerging Center of Maneuver Excellence at Fort Benning and the growing presence 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.

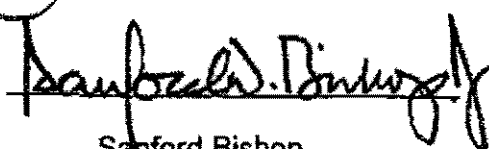
Sincerely,




 John Barrow



 Jack Kingston



 Sanford Bishop



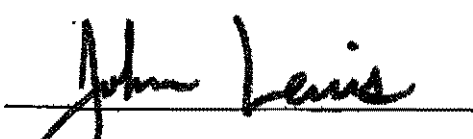
 Paul Broun




 Hank Johnson



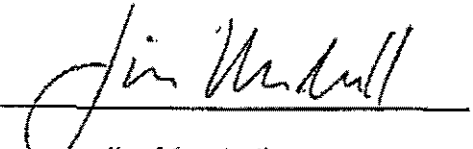
 Nathan Deal



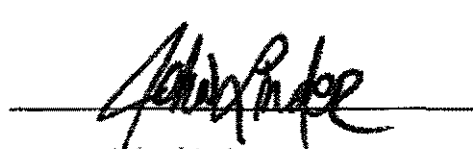
 John Lewis



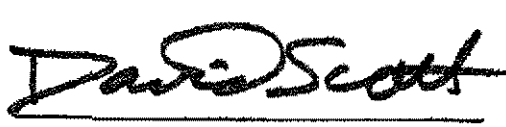
 Phil Gingrey



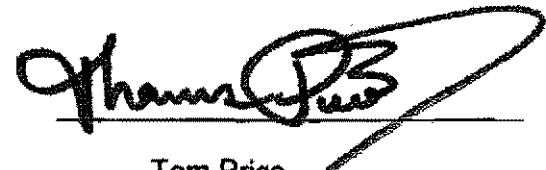
 Jim Marshall



 John Linder



 David Scott



 Tom Price



 Lynn Westmoreland

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 22, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

In response to your announced plans on July 20, 2009 to grow the Army by 22,000 personnel over the next few years, we would like to recommend you give strong consideration toward stationing a significant number of these personnel within the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field, Georgia. Fort Stewart will be deploying two of its four brigade combat teams to Iraq for advisory and assistance missions within the next year as well as the headquarters unit for the 3rd Infantry Division. Stationing additional troops at Fort Stewart meets the intent of your vision to ensure that deploying units are properly manned.

The state and local governments and the civic and business leaders surrounding Fort Stewart have been preparing and are ready for more troops. We believe it makes sense to take advantage of the significant investment the community has already committed in anticipation of the arrival of the now-postponed 46th Brigade Combat Team. Hinesville and surrounding communities have invested an estimated \$450 Million to ensure the base and community are well prepared for growth and can quickly accommodate new personnel at minimum expense to the Army. These communities have been deeply affected by the decision not to locate an additional brigade at Fort Stewart. Stationing these troops to Fort Stewart will go far in assuring the local communities that the Army is making good on their commitment over the past few years to increase forces in southeast Georgia.

We also remain supportive of adding the Army's 46th BCT to Fort Stewart to further enhance the operational effectiveness of the 3rd Infantry Division. Resources are either in place or pending final construction to swiftly accommodate the new Brigade's arrival, as well as the associated families. No other U.S installation can meet these needs as effectively and quickly. Fort Stewart's strategic location in southeast Georgia supports easy movement of the two brigade combat teams for their upcoming deployment, and Hunter Army Air Field also provides a strategic Airborne Point of Entry for unit deployment. Just this month Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field will receive its fourth Commander's-in-Chief Award for Installation Excellence.

Accordingly, it is our request that the Department look to Fort Stewart as a location for increased manning. This will ensure that existing BCTs are fulfilled with the additional troops needed in order to be fully ready for their upcoming overseas deployment certification and operations. We know the local communities would be very willing to meet with you to discuss any details of these actions, and we encourage you take the opportunity to meet with them.



Thank you for your distinguished service to our nation and for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl Kingston
John Barnes

[Signature]
Sally Chaudhri

Jim Howell

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 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.

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,

<u>J. Rudy Forbes</u>	<u>Gene Taylor</u>
<u>Carl King</u>	<u>John P. [Signature]</u>
<u>Robert A. Wittman</u>	<u>Ben Rayburn</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Shirley Rooney</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Tom Wilson</u>
<u>Doug Hancock</u>	<u>Phil King</u>
<u>Rob Grady</u>	<u>Mike [Signature]</u>
	<u>_____</u>

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 13, 2009

Committee On Appropriations
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee
Defense Subcommittee

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The Honorable Elizabeth L. King
Assistant Secretary of Defense
Legislative Affairs
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

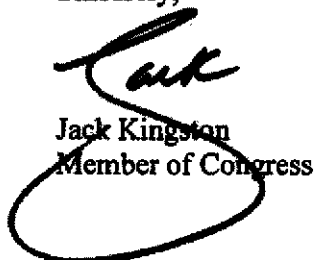
Dear Secretary King,

I am writing this letter to thank you and the Department of Defense for the great working relationship we have had over the years that I have served as a member of Congress. In addition, I would like to request a Defense Legislative Fellow for assignment to my personal staff for the 2010 program. The duties of the fellow would include work supporting legislative decisions that I make as a member of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Georgia's First Congressional District has had a rich history with military installations and their service members. I have had the pleasure of sponsoring a military officer as a fellow since 1999. All of these military officers and civilians were outstanding representatives of their respective services. My specific request for this process is that I would like to interview a candidate from each of the armed services. If practicable, I would also like each of those candidates to have some operational experience as a deployed service member and some familiarity with the state of Georgia.

Thank you for your distinguished service to our nation and for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

OSD 09233-09



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2010

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

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

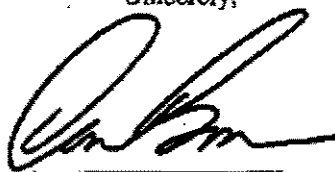

Dear Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen,

We write you today concerned about the recent decision to rescind the invitation to Tony Perkins to attend the National Prayer Luncheon at Andrews Air Force Base. This action sends a dangerous message and could have an unfortunate effect on military chaplains.

We are concerned that this type of censorship suggests further pressure within the military to stifle religious services, forcing chaplains to adhere to "approved politically correct messages" and not preach the gospel as presented in the Bible. Limiting religious discussion on military installations has the basic effect of telling chaplains which parts of the Bible are acceptable and which parts are not.

We ask that your office ensure the right of religious freedom for members of the Air Force. We request your office provide us with the details of how religious views will be protected, especially during the coming months as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is being debated, as well as any other issue in which the Air Force feels that the Bible and national policy clash. Finally, as a show of good faith, we request that the Air Force invite Mr. Perkins to another event which would show other chaplains that you have reexamined your position.

Sincerely,



cc: The Honorable Michael B. Donley
General Norton A. Schwartz



Tim Walle NV-2

Bob Wilson, SC-02

Paul Davis Ca.

Paul G. Ryan CA-8

Tommy Davis TX-2

Al Green TX-26
Bob Latta KS-4

Bob Dwyer SC

Ally Hodge AZ

Norman Mineta CA-52

Butt Roth KY-2

David A. Bonior AL-4

Edna Sanchez CA-24

Tim W. Furner TX-3

Michael Bachmann

John P. Latta TX-5

Gene Schuster TX-2

Andrius Stasiulis AL-4

Devin Nunes Ca.

Pat Tiberius TX-32

Supriya Patel NC

Jim Jordan OH

Steve King IA-5

Lee Boonin TX-9

Tim Huelskamp VA-1

K. Michael Conaway TX-11

Steve Scalise LA-1

Conaway TX-19

Virginia Foxx NC-5

Richard Hanna MD-09

Nathan Deal NC
Canton Va.

W. L. Miller

Tom Manzullo (AL-16)

Bob Latta

Bob Latta 50th

W. Boustany LA-7

James Gray FL-6

Jeff Perry FL-6

Frank Lucas

Mark Taper AK-1

Rodney Alexander La, 5 Va.

Frank Rosten

Lee Duncan

John Gohmert TX-1

Manjiv Mehta OK-5

Kyle Williams TX-28

John Corcos TX

Bill Shuster Pa

Byrd

Paul A. Brown GA-10

Ralph M. Hall TX-4

Byron Jackson

Pete Olson

Joe McClintock CA-4

Ing R. H. PA-16

Joe Barton

Bob Goodlatte

Bob Dold UT

Phil King

Chris Smith

Wally Herger

Tommy L. Luft

Craig Harper

95 Mead TX-28

Bob

Orin G. Hatch

John Flanagan LA-04

Robert E. Jatta

Bonnie J. Thompson

Bill Jay FL-15

John Boozman

Harold Rogers

Jim Culberson

Jim Cooper

Lamar Smith

Jeff Miller IL-19

Al Green

Robert J. Wittman

Clayton L. Kopp CO-5

Lynn A. Westcott

JO Bonner

Frank Rosten AZ-2

Thomas R. Luft

Mark Souder

Barrett MD-6

Mike Halperin

De Young

Jay Byrum WY

Bill Cundy LA-6

K. Y. X-2

Paul Wolf

Gunn Emerson

Denny Rehberger

Dan Burton

Dwight AL-7

Victor NC-2

W. K. Cotton CO-6

Mosler IL-6

Amery (MI-11)

Paul Jordan TX-7

Kyle R TX-8

Strom OH-14

Spill MI-6

John Klein MI-2

Jim Sall OR-7

Paul OH-12

Kent Pitt CA-5

Mark TX-13
Harley TN-11

Vernon J. Ehlers MI-11

E. Whitfield KY

Anthony (SD 02)

T. J. (IL-15)

Aderholt, Robert
Alexander, Rodney
Bachmann, Michele
Bachus, Spencer
Bartlett, Rosco
Barton, Joe
Bilbray, Brian P.
Bishop, Rob
Blackburn, Marsha
Bonner, Joe
Boozman, John
Boren, Dan
Boustany, Charles
Brady, Kevin
Broun, Paul C.
Brown, Henry
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess, Michael
Burton, Dan
Campbell, John
Cantor, Eric
Carter, John
Cassidy, Bill
Chaffetz, Jason
Coffman, Mike
Conaway, Michael
Crenshaw, Ander
Cuellar, Henry
Culberson, John
Davis, Artur
Dreier, David
Ehlers, Vernon
Emerson, Jo Ann
Fallin, Mary
Fleming, John
Fortenberry, Jeff
Foxx, Virginia
Franks, Trent 2
Gallegly, Elton
Gingrey, Phil
Gohmert, Louis
Goodlatte, Bob
Griffith, Parker
Guthrie, Brett
Hall, Ralph M.
Harper, Gregg
Heller, Dean

Hensarling, Jeb
Herger, Wally
Hoekstra, Peter
Hunter, Duncan
Inglis, Bob
Jenkins, Lynn
Johnson, Tim
Jones, Walter B.
Jordan, Jim
King, Peter
King, Steve
Kingston, Jack
Kline, John
Lamborn, Doug
LaTourette, Steven
Latta, Robert
Linder, John
Luetkemeyer, Blaine
Lummis, Cynthia
Lungren, Dan
Manzullo, Donald A.
Marchant, Kenny
McClintock, Tom
McCotter, Thaddeus
Myrick, Sue
Neugebauer, Randy
Nunes, Devin
Olson, Pete
Pitts, Joseph
Posey, Bill
Price, Tom
Rehberg, Danny
Reichert, Dave
Rodgers, Mike
Roe, Phil
Rogers, Hal
Rooney, Tom
Roskam, Peter
Scalise, Steve
Schmidt, Jean
Sesenbrenner, James
Sessions, Pete
Shadegg, John
Shimkus, John
Shuster, Bill
Simpson, Mike

Smith, Christopher
Smith, Lamar
Souder, Mark
Stearns, Cliff
Sullivan, John
Taylor, Gene
Terry, Lee
Thornberry, William
Tiahart, Todd
Tiberi, Patrick
Wamp, Zach
Westmoreland, Lynn
Whitfield, Ed
Wilson, Joe
Wittman, Robert
Wolf, Frank

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 23, 2010

Committee On Appropriations
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee
Defense Subcommittee

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The Honorable Elizabeth L. King
Assistant Secretary of Defense
Legislative Affairs
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

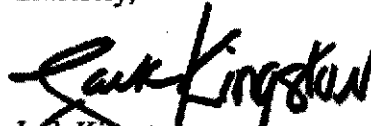
Dear Secretary King,

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Georgia's First Congressional District has a rich history with military installations and their service members. It has been my pleasure to sponsor a military officer as a fellow since 1999. All of these military officers and civilians were outstanding representatives of their respective services. My specific request for this process is to interview a candidate from each of the armed services. If practicable, I would also like each of those candidates to have some operational experience as a deployed service member and some familiarity with the state of Georgia.

Thank you for your distinguished service to our nation and for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,


Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

OSD 08882-10



JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

January 6, 2011

Committee On Appropriations
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee
Defense Subcommittee

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(229) 247-9189 FAX

Ms. Elizabeth King
Asst. Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Ms. King:

One of my constituents, Mr. Robert Payne, has contacted me regarding a matter in which I believe your agency could be helpful. Therefore, the enclosed communication is submitted for your review.

I would very much appreciate your responding to the points raised by my constituent, and providing any assistance available under the applicable laws and regulations.

The contact person on my staff for this case is Charles Wilson. He can be reached at (912) 265-9010.

Thank you very much for your consideration and for advising me of any action you take in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

OSD 01682-11





TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

KINGS BAY SUBMARINE BASE LOCAL 526

107-B INDUSTRIAL DRIVE, ST. MARYS, GEORGIA 31558 ■ (912) 882-9377 ■ FAX (912) 882-4882

President

Robert L. Payne

Vice President

David Black

Secretary/Treasurer

Alison Christopher

Executive Board

Jeff Day

Eric Johnson

December 28, 2010

Dear Congressman Kingston,

I am a fireman at the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in St Marys, GA. I'm sure Kings Bay needs no introduction to you and having said that I'm sure you are aware that there is a Base Operating Services Contractor (BOSC) out there and I believe you may even know the company I work for, VT Group. You may know Walt Yourstone, President of VT Milcom which now comes under our umbrella of VT Group.

The reason I am writing this letter is I need your help. As a fireman at the KBFD we just found out that the government has decided to make our department civil service. KBFD has been a contract fire department from the very beginnings of this base with over thirty years of dedicated service to the navy mission. Many of my guys, (I am also the union president), myself included, have been with this fire department for twenty, twenty five, even thirty years. Many chose service to the navy and its mission in the fire department over military service believing serving in the FD was service enough. Now we are being told that it was not enough. The reason for the letter is that as many as fifty people are going to be out of a job, a job that most have been doing for more than two decades. It's not like the work is going away, like a factory or mill shutting down, the work is still going to be there but done by a different class of citizen. We are being told through "unofficial channels" that unless we are under the age of 37 and have prior military service we won't be picked up, we will be displaced.


There is a real sense of urgency here and the window of opportunity is very narrow. If we can't get this turned around or at least reviewed by February 2nd 2011 we will be forever changed. The reason I say that is this: The BOSC contract is up for a re-bid by big and small business with a deadline for proposals being Feb 2, 2011 with an implementation date of Oct 1, 2011. We only found out about this by virtue of seeing that the Fire and EMS departments were longer in the solicitation. That can only mean that the rumors we have been hearing that this was going civil service were true. William Casey, the Southeast Regional Fire Chief has been telling us off the record that the government was looking at taking the work in house, insourcing is what he called it. His contact information is william.j.casey@navy.mil, office number is 904-542-0930 and his cell is 904-536-2903. I have asked him what is behind the desire to change and he said it was all about money and he believes he can do it cheaper than the contractor.

That brings me to my final point. Mr. Casey stated that an Efficiency and Effectiveness study was done to determine that cost of running the fire department with a comparison of contractor vs. civil service being the outcome followed by recommendations as to keeping it contract or insourcing the work. They chose to insource. I need a copy of that study. There is no way civil service can do the work cheaper than a contractor if you just consider the legacy costs alone. Civil service would be responsible to a retiring employee for the rest of his or her life where with a contractor the government would not. In other words, the government would be responsible for pensions, cost of living increases, possibly even medical care where if the work was done by a contractor when that same employee retired the government would not be beholden to that employee in any way whatsoever. The salaries associated with civil service and compared to the wages the contractor pays are not even close. If this study done by William Casey and his crew (it was a 2006 study updates FEB 20, 2010 by William Casey) and presented to whomever made the final decision says that the government can do the same work cheaper than a contractor then I believe the study is wrong or even a flat out lie. I need a copy of that study to do a real comparison of the work and its cost. These employees have been here for close to three decades and deserve better than they are being given right now. And in the end, if that study proves to be accurate and a fair comparison then we owe it to those who are doing the job right now the right to keep on doing that job and not be cast aside. I know the government can't do the job better than we do, they may in the end show they can do it cheaper but our fire department won the best fire department in the navy award for a small department so how can you do it better than the best? You can't!

There are things and powers going on behind the scenes that we can't see or are unaware of and I need your help sir to wade through this mess and discover what the real motivations are and who the powers that are making these decisions are. Again, we need a copy of the study, the persons for whom that study was made for, the person or organization that made the final decision and the criteria used to come to the decision to take the work in house and the overall cost comparison for the change.

Please contact me at one of the following: rlp911@tds.net, Fax 912-882-4882, office 912-882-9377, cell 912-674-9377 (best bet for getting ahold of me).

Sincerely,


Robert L. Payne
President, Transport Workers Union Local 526
Crew Chief KBFD
107-B Industrial Drive
St Marys, GA 31558

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

August 10, 2011

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As members of the Congressional Defense Energy Security Caucus, along with the Office of Gabrielle Giffords, we write to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Secretary of Defense and to introduce you to this newly formed caucus. For several years, we have advocated for the need to address critical vulnerabilities to our national security based on our military's dependence on both fossil fuels and the national electrical grid. The Department of Defense has prioritized this issue and, as members of Congress, we recognized the strength of unified voices and the need for a formal Congressional Member Organization to highlight this very important issue for our colleagues.

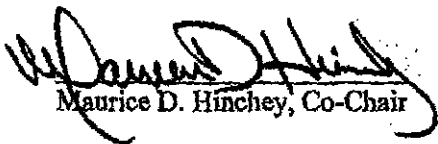
The mission of the bi-partisan Defense Energy Security Caucus is to educate members of Congress and the public about the strategic value of utilizing conservation, efficiency and sustainable energy sources for the U.S. military; highlight and support established and emerging defense energy initiatives; and to help find solutions to energy challenges facing the Armed Forces and the Department of Defense. The caucus serves as a forum through which the DoD, the Armed Forces, energy industry, and members of Congress can exchange ideas and give defense energy security policy an additional platform that will contribute to mission success, protect lives, save money, and safeguard the environment.

Recently, we held an event to officially kick off the caucus and enjoyed a wonderful attendance by industry, DoD, and Congressional staff. Assistant Secretary Sharon Burke joined us as the guest speaker and eloquently explained the DoD's new operational energy strategy. As you know, the Department of Defense's focus on energy sustainability is not simply a fad or fly-by-night fancy. Releasing the military from the tether of fuel, as General Mattis so aptly put it, will facilitate the mission and save lives in the process. We enthusiastically support the June 2011 memorandum entitled "Supporting the Mission With Operational Energy" that General Petraeus sent to the forces under his command in Afghanistan outlining the importance of conserving and tracking the use of battlefield energy. We encourage you to put the full weight of your office behind Assistant Secretary Burke's operational energy strategy, General Petraeus' memorandum, and other life-saving efforts to control fuel demand.

As you stated in your August 3, 2011 message to all DoD personnel, the Department is facing unprecedented fiscal challenges and spending choices must be based on sound strategy and policy. Recognizing the critical importance of mission energy requirements, we urge you to prioritize the Department's energy policies and budgets. Investments in smart energy plans will not only show returns in security and mission success but they will contribute to future cost savings and have a unique opportunity to help foster innovative and diverse energy and clean technologies to strengthen our economy. Reducing our energy consumption is one of the easiest ways we can reduce cost to the DoD and we ask that you both challenge and demand that the Services and every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and Marine accept this responsibility.

We look forward to working with you on this very important issue and await your reply.


Sincerely,


Maurice D. Hinchey, Co-Chair



Roscoe G. Bartlett, Co-Chair


Jack Kingston, Co-Chair





Earl Blumenauer



Lois Capps



John Garamendi



Jay Inslee



Steve Israel



James R. Langevin

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 13, 2011

Committee On Appropriations
Chairman, Agriculture Subcommittee
Defense Subcommittee
Labor HHS and Education Subcommittee

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The Honorable Elizabeth L. King
Assistant Secretary of Defense
Legislative Affairs
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary King,

I am writing this letter to thank you and the Department of Defense for the great working relationship we have had over the years that I have served as a member of Congress. In addition, I would like to request a Defense Legislative Fellow for assignment to my personal staff for the 2012 program. The duties of the fellow would include work supporting legislative decisions that I make as a member of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, advising me on national security and veteran issues, and helping me better understand defense issues within Georgia's First Congressional District.

Georgia's First Congressional District has a rich history with military installations and their service members. All branches of the military are represented in this District. It has been my pleasure to sponsor a military officer as a fellow since 1999. All of these military officers and civilians were outstanding representatives of their respective services. My specific request for this process is to interview a candidate from each of the armed services; however I would prefer to interview a member of the Navy Submarine community first. If practicable, I would also like each of those candidates to have some operational experience as a deployed service member.

Thank you for your distinguished service to our nation and for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

OSD 11009-11



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Panetta:

We would first like to thank you for your leadership of the Department of Defense (DoD) during this difficult operational and budgetary environment. However, we are concerned about a recent decision to omit the customary unfunded priorities list from the Administration's Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) budget request. Since 1985, Congress has had the benefit of the list to assist with its constitutional responsibility to authorize and appropriate funds for the defense of our nation.

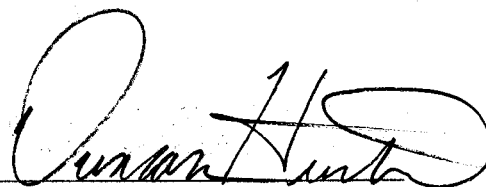
Until this year, the unfunded priorities list has provided Congress, and specifically the committees of jurisdiction, essential and important information about current and emerging programmatic requirements. It also has served as a more recent snap shot of requirements for our Combatant Commanders. The information derived from the list provides important details about which programs can be accelerated or receive reprogrammed funding in order to provide added value to commanders in the field. With additional funds allocated for Defense by the House of Representatives, guidance from the Joint Chiefs of Staff regarding specific capabilities and programs will be helpful in ensuring that the funds will translate into needed capabilities as we move through the FY13 budget process.

We strongly encourage you to reconsider this decision so that we can move forward together with the FY 13 budget during this time of fiscal austerity.

Sincerely,

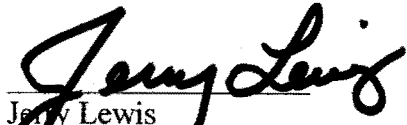



Tom Cole
Member of Congress

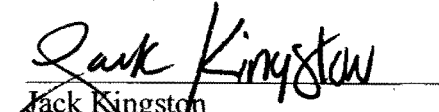


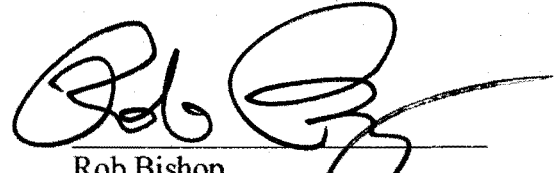
Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress




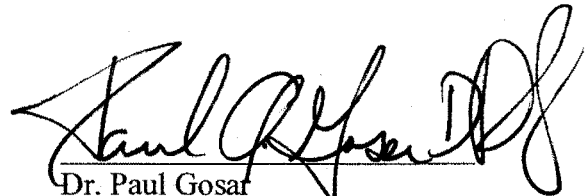

Jerry Lewis
Member of Congress


Trent Franks
Member of Congress


Jack Kingston
Member of Congress


Rob Bishop
Member of Congress


Ken Calvert
Member of Congress


Dr. Paul Gosar
Member of Congress

JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2372 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5831
(202) 226-2269 FAX

BRUNSWICK OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 304
805 Gloucester Street
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912) 265-9010
(912) 265-9013 FAX



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 18, 2012

Committee On Appropriations
Chairman, Agriculture Subcommittee
Defense Subcommittee
Labor HHS and Education Subcommittee

SAVANNAH OFFICE
One Diamond Causeway, Suite 7
Savannah, GA 31406
(912) 352-0101
(912) 352-0105 FAX

BAXLEY OFFICE
P.O. Box 40
Baxley, GA 31515
(912) 367-7403
(912) 367-7404 FAX

VALDOSTA OFFICE
P.O. Box 5264
Valdosta, GA 31603
(229) 247-9188
(229) 247-9189 FAX

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000


Dear Secretary Panetta:

I am writing to express my support for your recent trip to Vietnam and meeting with Vietnamese Defense Minister Phuong Quang Thanh in support of recovery of remains of US service members. There are still thirty Georgians that are unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, including six from the district that I represent. It is important that we continue a focused dialogue with the Vietnamese government as it remains a very important issue for our nation.

I am encouraged by the recent developments and announcement that Vietnam is opening up three key new areas of the country for U.S. forces recovery operations. We have an obligation our fallen and to their families to do all we can to ensure that they return home.

Thank you for your continued support of our fighting forces and their families.

Sincerely,


Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



OSD007409-12

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 2012

Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Panetta,

Religious freedom is an integral component of America's greatness and has been a vital pillar of our nation from the very beginning. Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that the United States Air Force (USAF) has taken a series of steps signaling hostility towards religious freedom. We ask that you investigate this matter and issue clear guidance in writing to formally assure active duty servicemembers and those considering future service that they need not leave their faith at home when they volunteer to serve.

In recent months, the USAF has made various changes regarding the religious freedom of individuals bravely serving in the military. Most of these changes occurred following a September 1, 2011 memorandum issued by General Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the USAF, imposing a stringent policy with regards to religion. The memo stated that Gen. Schwartz expected "chaplains, not commanders, to notify Airmen of Chaplain Corps programs," suggesting that the mere mention of these programs is impermissible. We believe this statement exemplifies the troubling "complete separation" approach that is creating a chilling effect down the chain of command as airmen attempt to comply.

While we agree that leaders should not use their positions to impose their religious beliefs or to extend preferential treatment to those who share their beliefs, the decisions that have been made in reliance upon this policy go beyond what is required by the U.S. Constitution. The First Amendment prohibits the establishment of religion; however, the mere discussion of religion or reference to God certainly does not rise to that level. Censorship is not required for compliance with the Constitution, and should not be required for compliance with military directives.

The USAF repeatedly has succumbed to demands from organizations that seek to remove all references to God and faith in our military. Recent USAF capitulations in this area include:

- Suspending an ethics briefing for nuclear missile officers, due to its discussion of Bible references and St. Augustine's "Just War" theory;
- Removing a Latin reference to "God" from the Rapid Capabilities Office motto;
- Removing an article from a Squadron Officer School distance-learning curriculum because it referenced chapel attendance;
- Removing Bibles from Air Force Inn checklists; and
- Modifying the presentation of the Air Force Academy's involvement with the charity "Operation Christmas Child."



These modifications go beyond the requirements of the Constitution, and appear to have been influenced by the more stringent guidance issued by Gen. Schwartz in September 2011. The changes lend credence to the notion that the Air Force will remove any reference to God or faith that an outside organization brings to its attention.

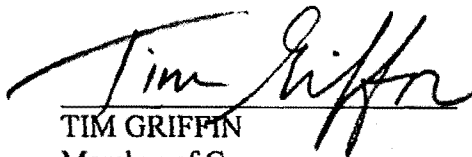
Mr. Secretary, the combination of events mentioned above raises concerns that the Air Force is developing a culture that is hostile towards religion. We request that you investigate what may have led to this series of incidents and issue clear Department of Defense policy guidance, consistent with our Constitution, to preserve the place of religious expression in the military at large. We trust that you will ensure that all analysis of these sensitive issues is being conducted in a deliberative and thoughtful manner, with special respect given to our military's legacy of honoring the place of faith among its members. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to receiving your prompt response.

Sincerely,

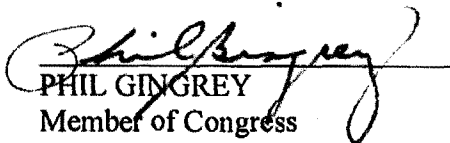

DIANE BLACK
Member of Congress

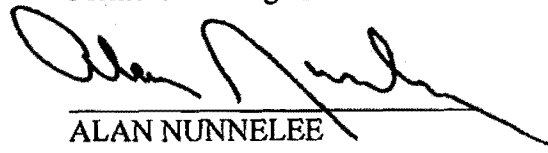

J. RANDY FORBES
Member of Congress


W. TODD AKIN
Member of Congress


TIM GRIFFIN
Member of Congress



DENNIS ROSS
Member of Congress

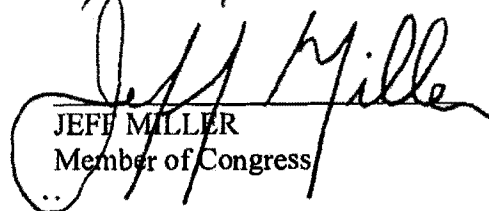

PHIL GINGREY
Member of Congress


ALAN NUNNELEE
Member of Congress


STEVE SCALISE
Member of Congress


JAMES LANKFORD
Member of Congress


GREGG HARPER
Member of Congress

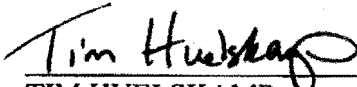

JEFF MILLER
Member of Congress



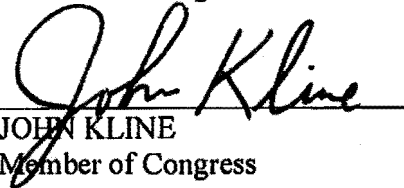
STEVAN PEARCE
Member of Congress



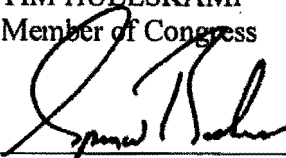
LOUIE GOHMERT
Member of Congress



TIM HUELSKAMP
Member of Congress



JOHN KLINE
Member of Congress



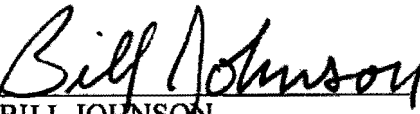
SPENCER BACHUS
Member of Congress



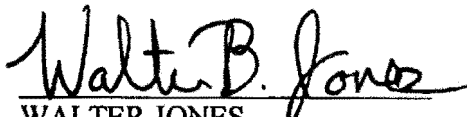
ADRIAN SMITH
Member of Congress




JEFF DUNCAN
Member of Congress



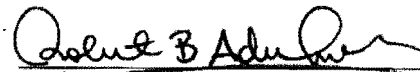
BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress



WALTER JONES
Member of Congress



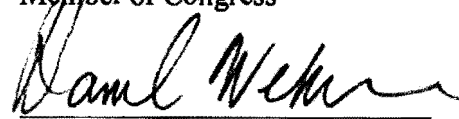
TIM WALBERG
Member of Congress



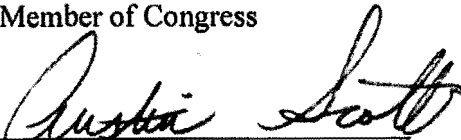
ROBERT ADERHOLT
Member of Congress



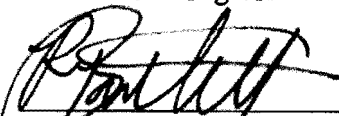
SCOTT GARRETT
Member of Congress



DANIEL WEBSTER
Member of Congress



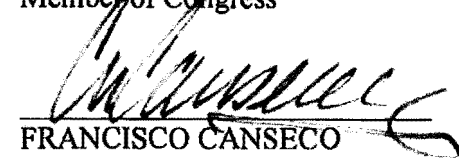
AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress



ROSCOE BARTLETT
Member of Congress



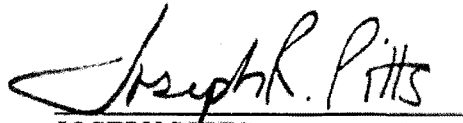
RENEE ELLMERS
Member of Congress



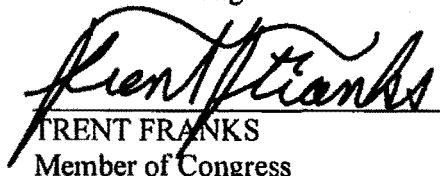
FRANCISCO CANSECO
Member of Congress



MIKE TURNER
Member of Congress



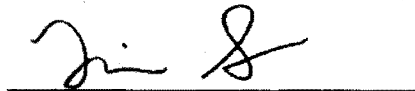
JOSEPH PITTS
Member of Congress



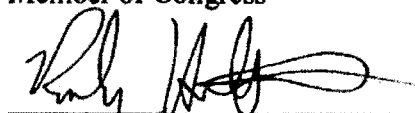
TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress



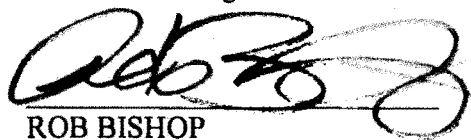
BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
Member of Congress



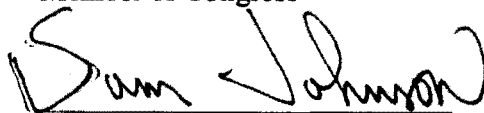
TIM SCOTT
Member of Congress



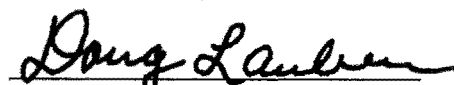
RANDY HULTGREN
Member of Congress



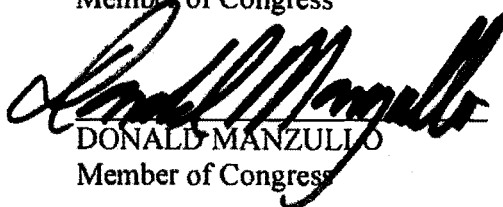
ROB BISHOP
Member of Congress



SAM JOHNSON
Member of Congress



DOUG LAMBORN
Member of Congress



DONALD MANZULLO
Member of Congress



RANDY NEUGEBAUER
Member of Congress



VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress



JOHN FLEMING
Member of Congress



MICHAEL CONAWAY
Member of Congress



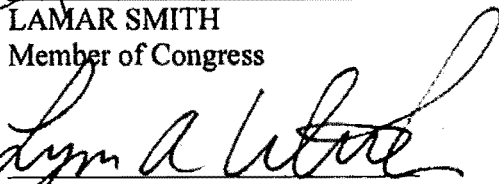
ROBERT WITTMAN
Member of Congress



FRANK WOLF
Member of Congress




LAMAR SMITH
Member of Congress




LYNN WESTMORELAND
Member of Congress




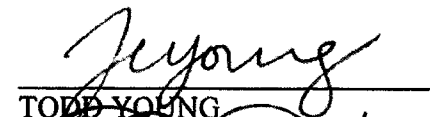
MARSHA BLACKBURN
Member of Congress

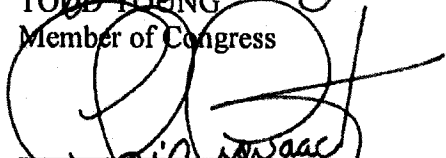

JIM JORDAN
Member of Congress



PHIL ROE
Member of Congress



JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

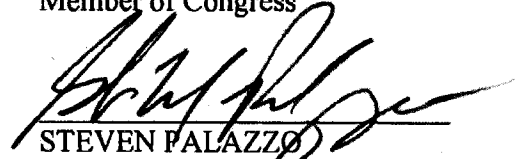

PETE OLSON
Member of Congress

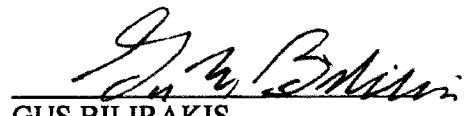

TODD YOUNG
Member of Congress



CHIP CRAVAAK
Member of Congress

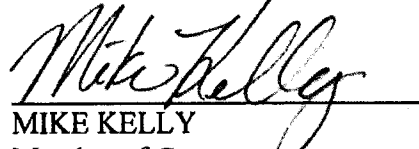

JEFF LANDRY
Member of Congress


ANDY HARRIS
Member of Congress

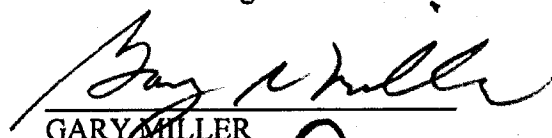

STEVEN PALAZZO
Member of Congress

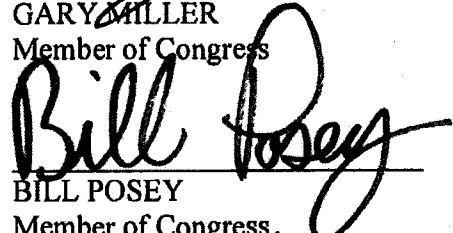

GUS BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress

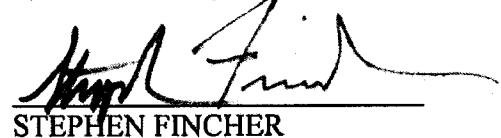

TREY GOWDY
Member of Congress

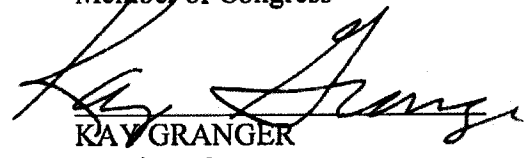

MIKE KELLY
Member of Congress



CLIFF STEARNS
Member of Congress


GARY MILLER
Member of Congress


BILL POSEY
Member of Congress


STEPHEN FINCHER
Member of Congress


KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress


LOU BARLETTA
Member of Congress

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

KEVIN YODER
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2012

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Panetta:

We are writing in regard to our mutual security interests with the government of Yemen. Several Members of Congress were afforded the opportunity to visit the region a few weeks ago, and had the opportunity to meet with Yemeni President Al-Hadi and Ambassador Feierstein. President Al-Hadi pointed to recent successes in our partnership, and we feel that it is important to continue to find ways to continue cooperation with our allies in the shared fight against the AQAP threat in the region.

President Al-Hadi also pressed strongly for assistance in meeting his military airlift requirements; he specifically stated that two C-130 cargo aircraft would contribute greatly to his ability to position his forces in the fight against Al Qaeda and associated elements in Yemen. Recent press reports indicate that discussions may already be occurring on this topic, and we wanted to inquire about the US position on this matter. We are certain we have a common appreciation for the value of our strategic relationship with Yemen. Thank you in advance for sharing your views on this important subject and sharing any additional information you can provide. We know you are giving their requests every appropriate consideration.

Thank you for your continued efforts in the defense of our nation.

Sincerely,



Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2012

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC, 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Panetta:

It has come to our attention that during your recent trip to Vietnam, Vietnamese Defense Minister Phung Quang Thanh pledged to open three new areas to American teams searching for missing war-time soldiers. The new excavation sites are to include two aircraft crash sites in central Vietnam and an area where a US soldier went missing in Kon Tum province bordering Cambodia and Laos.

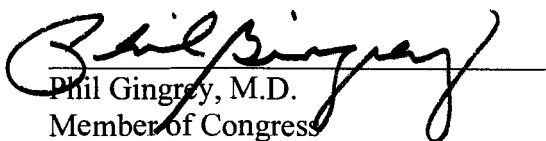
As you may know, the acidic soil in Vietnam accelerates the decay of buried remains, necessitating timely action in exploring and excavating the formerly-restricted areas. The remains of more than 900 Americans killed in the Vietnam War have been recovered since 1973, but more than 1,200 Americans remain missing. Access to the formerly restricted areas allows us a chance to recover more of our brave soldiers before the soil deteriorates the bodies beyond identification.


Vietnam's decision to permit access to previously restricted sites provides the chance to bring closure to relatives of those that are still missing in action. We applaud this important step in recovering the remains of our missing soldiers, and we encourage you to use your position as Secretary of Defense to ensure the availability of these sites and access to them.

As you may know, Vietnam has not always lived up to previous commitments to renew and increase their own efforts to locate and return the remains of our soldiers. The recent exchange of artifacts taken from soldiers during the war demonstrates an important and symbolic milestone, but we urge you to ensure that tangible results stem from the symbolism. We must call upon Vietnam to continue permitting our recovery teams to have access to restricted areas to conduct our recovery operations.

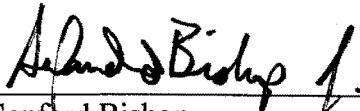
We believe that those brave men and women who served in the past for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our nation's servicemen and women represent the best our country has to offer, and we must not falter in our commitment to them. As we ask these brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and their families—to do more and more, it's only right we continue doing all we can for them.


Sincerely,



Phil Gingrey, M.D.
Member of Congress



John Barrow
Member of Congress




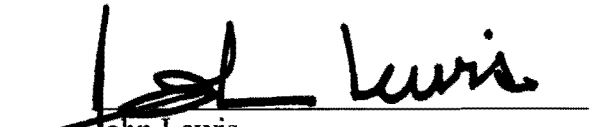

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

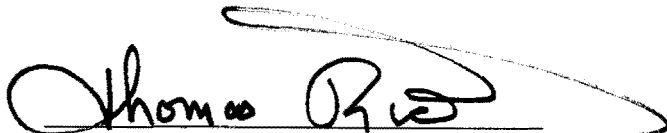

Paul Broun, M.D.
Member of Congress


Tom Graves
Member of Congress



Henry (Hank) Johnson
Member of Congress



Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

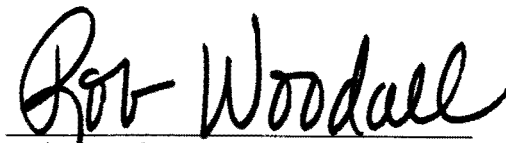

John Lewis
Member of Congress


Thomas Price, M.D.
Member of Congress


Austin Scott
Member of Congress


David Scott
Member of Congress


Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress


Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

cc: The Joint POW/ MIA Accounting Command
Defense POW/ MIA Office
National League of POW/ MIA Families, Lacy Rourke, National Coordinator
USAF General (ret.) Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, American Chairman, US-Russia Joint Commission on
POW/MIAs
U.S. Commissioner and Co-Chairman, Vietnam War Working Group, Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-
GA), US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

July 10, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Panetta,

We write to express our deep concern over the Department of Defense's reported decision to purchase ten additional Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan Security Forces from the Russian state-owned arms dealer Rosoboronexport, a firm that is enabling mass atrocities in Syria. We find this practice completely unacceptable and strongly urge you to reconsider your department's dealings with the firm.

For more than a year now Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has responded to peaceful demonstrations by his own people with a brutal crackdown, which has resulted in gross human rights violations, the use of force against civilians, torture, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary executions, sexual violence, and interference with access to medical treatment. According to U.N. estimates, at least 10,000 people in Syria have been killed since the violence began in March 2011, with some estimating as many as 15,000 have been killed. In the past several weeks the murder of civilians in Syria has sharply escalated, including the massacre of more than 108 people in Houla and at least 78 in Qubair, most of them women and children.

Last year alone, Syria's top arms supplier, Russia, reportedly sold Damascus \$1 billion in weapons thereby greatly enabling the Assad regime's murder of innocent men, women and children. On June 12, 2012, Secretary of State Clinton expressed concern that Russia is sending attack helicopters to Syria.

Yet, your department at the same time has procured 21 Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan Security Forces through a no-bid contract with Rosoboronexport and is now reportedly planning on purchasing ten more helicopters from the firm this year. This has created an untenable situation in which the U.S. Government is criticizing Russia for selling helicopters to Syria while at the same time purchasing helicopters from Russia.

As you know, the Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act recently passed by the House includes a provision that would prohibit the Defense Department from awarding a future contract to supply helicopters to the Afghan Security Forces, directly or indirectly, to any entity controlled, directed or influenced by a state that has supplied weapons to Syria or a state-sponsor of terrorism. It would also require any such contract to be competitively bid.

Members of Congress have raised concerns over the Department of Defense's purchase of Mi-17 helicopters for a number of years and the consistent response from your department is



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that the Mi-17s are the only helicopters Afghan pilots know how to fly, are the ones they want and are the only helicopters capable of meeting mission requirements. We find this position completely unacceptable, particularly in the current environment.

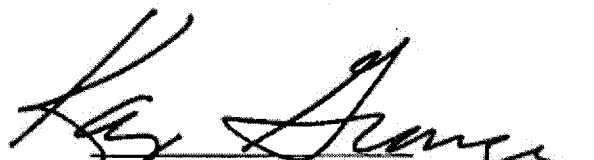
The Department of Defense has not pursued a requirements-based competition to supply helicopters to the Afghan Security Forces. Instead, it has always been dictated that the Mi-17 was the only solution for the mission. We firmly believe there should be an open competition, particularly when there are other available American-made aircraft that have the capability to operate in Afghanistan. The use of such U.S. helicopters would increase interoperability with both U.S. and NATO forces in the region. Moreover, it is our understanding that the Department of Defense recently purchased U.S. made helicopters as new pilot training vehicles and that Afghan pilots are learning to fly and maintain U.S. made helicopters.


We firmly believe that the Department of Defense should not engage in contracts with companies arming the Assad regime in Syria and enabling his mass atrocities against his own people. Moreover, if we are going to spend U.S. taxpayer dollars to provide helicopters to the Afghan Security Forces, U.S. manufacturers should be able to compete for the opportunity to provide such helicopters. We therefore strongly urge you to ban any future contracts with Rosoboronexport, reconsider any future purchase of Mi-17s for Afghanistan or any country, and hold an open competition for the procurement of helicopters based upon valid requirements whereby U.S. manufacturers can compete.


We appreciate your prompt attention and look forward to working with you on this critical matter.


Sincerely,



ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress



KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MORAN
Member of Congress



JACK KINGSTON
Member of Congress

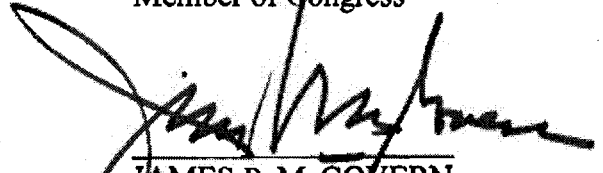

KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress


MARTHA ROBY
Member of Congress


CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress


FRANK R. WOLF
Member of Congress


WALTER B. JONES
Member of Congress


JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 4, 2012

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Panetta:

As you are aware, the House recently voted to allow the Department of Defense to continue to utilize professional sports sponsorships. However, we still have major concerns regarding the effectiveness of professional sports sponsorships to meet the goals outlined in the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act that authorized the pilot program specifically "to improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of Army recruiting activities."

The data that we have been provided regarding the effectiveness of professional sports sponsorships continues to cite the vast number of 'leads' or 'potential recruits', but very few *actual* recruits to show for such a large investment. In 2003, the U.S. General Accounting Office report GAO-03-1005 stated that "DOD cannot show that its increased advertising efforts have been a key reason for its overall recruiting success." We are concerned that nearly 10 years later, this is still the case and have the following questions:


1. Has DOD developed a joint-service model that allows trade-off analyses to determine relative cost-effectiveness?
2. Another factor cited in the GAO report was the lack of DOD-wide guidance. What steps have been taken to ensure that effective coordination occurs between the services when and where appropriate? What are DOD's objectives for its advertising programs?

Our nation is facing unprecedented fiscal challenges, and we know that you share our concern and understand the need to scrutinize every taxpayer dollar spent. We look forward to your response.

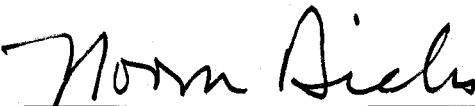
Sincerely,



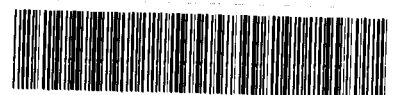
Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Norm Dicks
Member of Congress



JACK KINGSTON
1st District, Georgia

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5831
(202) 226-2269 FAX

BRUNSWICK OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 304
805 Gloucester Street
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912) 265-9010
(912) 265-9013 FAX



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

September 13, 2012

Committee On Appropriations
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee
Defense Subcommittee

SAVANNAH OFFICE
One Diamond Causeway, Suite 7
Savannah, GA 31406
(912) 352-0101
(912) 352-0105 FAX

BAXLEY OFFICE
P.O. Box 40
Baxley, GA 31515
(912) 367-7403
(912) 367-7404 FAX

VALDOSTA OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 218
P.O. Box 5264
Valdosta, GA 31603
(229) 247-9188
(229) 247-9189 FAX

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000


Dear Secretary Panetta:

It has recently come to my attention that language in the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act could be imposing increased costs on the Department of Defense as relates to the transportation of remains of casualties that have died in a theater of combat operations.

Section 562 of the 2007 NDAA mandates that air transportation of remains are made by military aircraft or military-contracted aircraft, whose primary mission must be the transportation of the remains. While the first and foremost consideration is, and should continue to be, maintaining dignity and respect for the deceased as well as the surviving family, I have been informed that this language may prohibit DoD from considering a more cost-effective approach that would still guarantee the proper treatment of our deceased.

I would welcome any information the Department has regarding the costs associated with the transportation of remains, as well as an assessment on whether cost savings could be achieved if other methods that would keep with our extremely high standards of treatment and respect were to be authorized by law.

Sincerely,


Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



OSD011613-12

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 2, 2012

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Panetta:

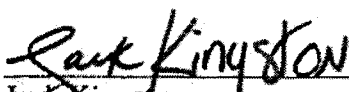
We are very concerned with DoD's apparent non-compliance with the 2009 Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. We agree with the Senate letter dated September 7, 2012 on the same subject, and are troubled by the fact that DoD's own Inspector General (IG) found that Installation Voting Assistance Offices (IVAOs) either did not exist or were not reasonably accessible "...about 50 percent of the time." Yet, in hearing testimony given to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel on September 13, 2012, a DoD witness stated that all of the IVAOs were in place and functioning.

The data from DoD's fiscal year 2012 budget request reflects a request of \$32.4 million for the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP). This is a decrease of more than \$14 million from last years' request. In light of these facts, we have the following questions:

1. Why, in a presidential election year, would DoD decrease the FVAP budget request by over 30%? Understanding that voter assistance is not an 'election-year only' proposition, it stands to reason that the workload would be greatest at that time.
2. The IG concluded that one of the reasons the Services had not established IAVOs was because funding was not available, and officials estimated that an additional \$15-20 million per year would be required to do so. Why were additional funds not requested?
3. DoD's own facts, as stated in the Administration's budget request, show that the military voter participation rate was 54% (compared to 63.6% for the general electorate). What was DoD's plan to address this issue?

The Department of Defense must take action to ensure that our military service members and their families have an equal opportunity to have their votes counted. We look forward to your prompt response and thank you for your service to our nation.

Sincerely,

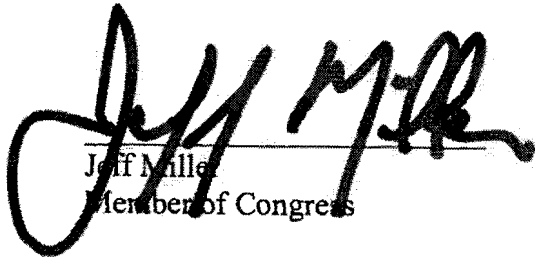


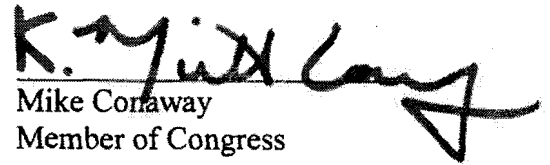
Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress




Jeff Miller
Member of Congress


Mike Conaway
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2013

Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel,

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, signed into law on January 2, 2013, provided specific religious freedom protections for servicemembers generally and chaplains specifically. The provisions require the Armed Forces to accommodate servicemembers' moral and religious convictions, as long as they do not "threaten good order and discipline." The language also prohibits the military from using an individual's beliefs as the basis for adverse personnel action and ensures that chaplains will not be forced "to perform any rite, ritual, or ceremony that is contrary to [their] conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs."

When President Obama signed the NDAA into law he contemporaneously issued a statement criticizing several provisions of the bill, including the religious freedom protections. The President called the protections "unnecessary and ill-advised" and said "The Secretary of Defense will ensure that the implementing regulations do not permit or condone discriminatory actions that compromise good order and discipline or otherwise violate military codes of conduct. My Administration remains fully committed to continuing the successful implementation of the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and to protecting the rights of gay and lesbian service members; Section 533 will not alter that."

It is offensive for the President to suggest that protecting the free exercise of religion safeguarded by the Constitution will result in discriminatory actions that compromise good order and discipline. Labeling servicemembers of faith as discriminatory does a disservice to the countless individuals who bravely serve alongside people of diverse political, religious, and cultural backgrounds. Despite the President's insinuation to the contrary, we are confident that the implementation of the religious freedom protections will not hamper the respect and professionalism displayed by men and women in uniform.

Our primary concern lies with the regulations the Department of Defense (DoD) will issue to implement the NDAA religious freedom protections. The constitutional separation of powers requires that DoD issue implementing regulations that exemplify congressional intent, not the President's personal opinion on the merit of the measure. DoD is responsible for executing the law as written.

Congress included religious freedom protections in the NDAA to ensure that servicemembers of faith are not singled out for intimidation and adverse personnel action because of their religious beliefs; and that chaplains are not forced to participate in actions that violate their consciences. Our request is simply that DoD employ safeguards to ensure that it does not trample these



constitutionally protected religious freedoms in its pursuit of other objectives. We call on DoD to enthusiastically accommodate servicemembers' moral and religious convictions and refrain from using servicemembers' beliefs as the basis for adverse personnel action.

Amidst the aggressive changes made by the Administration, servicemembers of faith must not be demeaned or overlooked. These individuals do not leave their faith at home when they volunteer to serve. We remain committed to ensuring that they are never forced to do so.

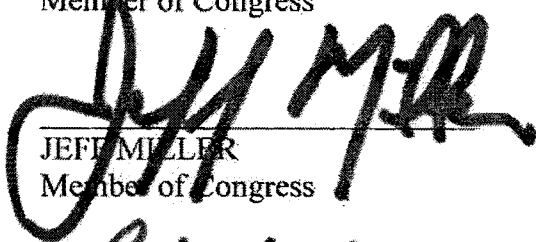
Sincerely,



J. RANDY FORBES
Member of Congress



MIKE MCINTYRE
Member of Congress



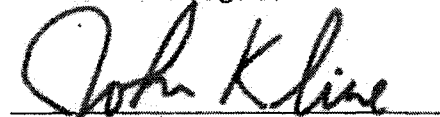
JEFF MILLER
Member of Congress



JOE WILSON
Member of Congress



ROB WITTMAN
Member of Congress



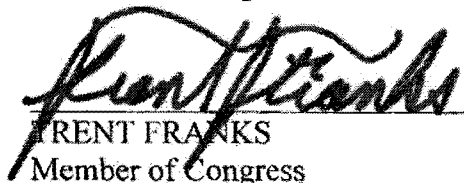
JOHN KLINE
Member of Congress



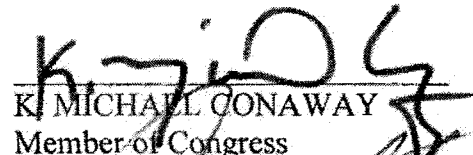
WALTER JONES
Member of Congress



ROB BISHOP
Member of Congress



TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress



K. MICHAEL CONAWAY
Member of Congress



DOUG LAMBORN
Member of Congress



DUNCAN HUNTER
Member of Congress




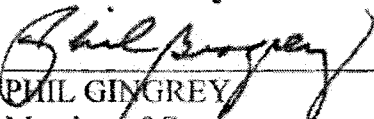
JOHN FLEMING
Member of Congress




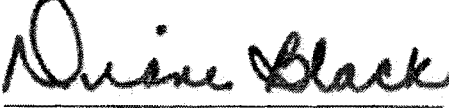
VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress

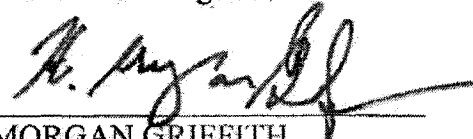

SCOTT GARRETT
Member of Congress



STEVE SOUTHERLAND
Member of Congress



PHIL GINGREY
Member of Congress



RENEE ELLMERS
Member of Congress



DIANE BLACK
Member of Congress



MORGAN GRIFFITH
Member of Congress

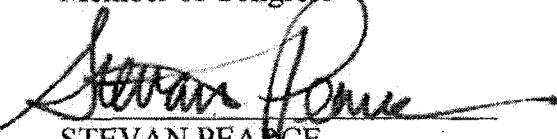

TIM WALBERG
Member of Congress

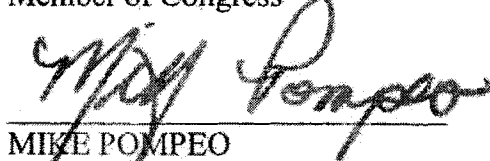

MARSHA BLACKBURN
Member of Congress



RANDY NEUGEBAUER
Member of Congress



ROBERT LATTA
Member of Congress

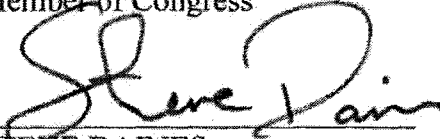

ALAN NUNNELEE
Member of Congress

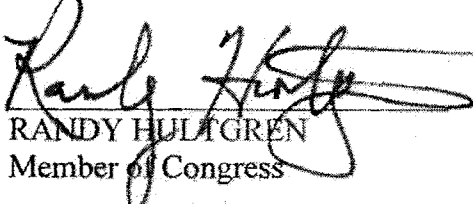

STEVAN PEARCE
Member of Congress

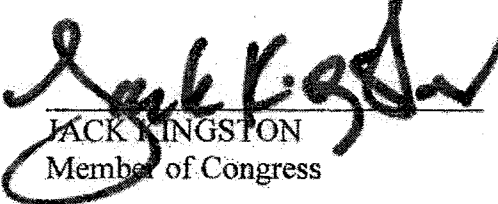

MIKE POMPEO
Member of Congress


MICHELE BACHMANN
Member of Congress


PAUL BROUN
Member of Congress


STEVE DAINES
Member of Congress


RANDY HULTGREN
Member of Congress


JACK KINGSTON
Member of Congress

Austin Scott

AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress

Steve Palazzo

STEVE PALAZZO
Member of Congress

Kristi Noem

KRISTI NOEM
Member of Congress

Jim Bridenstine

JIM BRIDENSTINE
Member of Congress

Jim Jordan

JIM JORDAN
Member of Congress

Jeb Hensarling

JEB HENSARLING
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte

BOB GOODLATTE
Member of Congress

Jason Chaffetz

JASON CHAFFETZ
Member of Congress

Joe Pitts

JOE PITTS
Member of Congress

James Lankford

JAMES LANKFORD
Member of Congress

Gus Bilirakis

GUS BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress

Chris Smith

CHRIS SMITH
Member of Congress

Bill Flores

BILL FLORES
Member of Congress

Robert B. Aderholt

ROBERT ADERHOLT
Member of Congress

Tim Huelskamp

TIM HUELSKAMP
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper

GREGG HARPER
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson

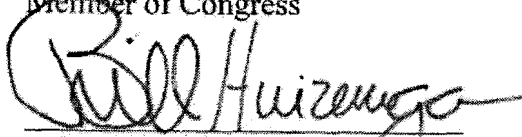
SAM JOHNSON
Member of Congress

Frank Wolf

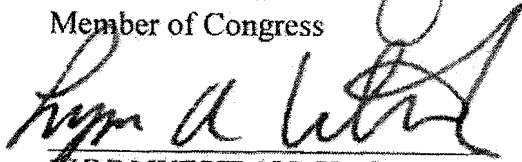
FRANK WOLF
Member of Congress



RANDY WEBER
Member of Congress



BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress



LYNN WESTMORELAND
Member of Congress



STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress



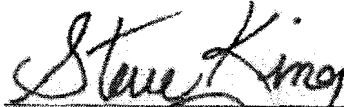
ROBERT PITTENGER
Member of Congress



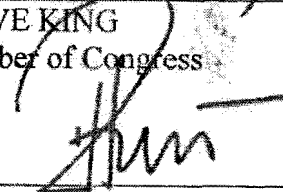
DOUG LAMALFA
Member of Congress



LOUIE GOHMERT
Member of Congress



STEVE KING
Member of Congress



ROBERT HURT
Member of Congress



MARKWAYNE MULLIN
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel,

We write to oppose any continuation of the Department of Defense's (DoD) business relationship with Rosoboronexport, Russia's primary arms exporter and an enabler of the ongoing mass atrocities in Syria. In January, Section 1277 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13 NDAA; P.L. 112-239), which expressly prohibits the use of funds to enter into any contracts or agreements with Rosoboronexport, was enacted into law. Further, during consideration of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved an amendment prohibiting further contracts with Rosoboronexport by a vote of 407-5. We urge you to uphold this law and clear expression of Congressional intent by ensuring that any further DoD procurement of helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces is not conducted through Rosoboronexport.

Russia continues to transfer weapons through Rosoboronexport to the regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria. Since the Syrian uprising began, Russia has continued to serve as the Assad regime's chief supplier of weapons, enabling the mass murder of Syrian citizens at the hands of their own government. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, approximately 70,000 Syrians have been killed since the Syrian conflict began two years ago. Despite the ongoing atrocities, Russia's special envoy to the Middle East, Mikhail Bogdanov, announced on February 13 that Russia would continue to supply weapons to Assad's regime. In addition, Rosoboronexport Director Anatoly Isaikin told reporters that "in the absence of sanctions, we are continuing to fulfill our contract obligations." As you know, it is Russia's veto power as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council that has blocked the imposition of international sanctions on the Syrian regime to this point.

Last summer, DoD notified Congress of plans to exercise an option in an existing contract to purchase additional Mi-17s from Rosoboronexport – plans that Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle and human rights groups opposed. Despite these clear objections, DOD proceeded, and in response Congress enacted Section 1277 of the FY13 NDAA.

Despite this new law, we learned that the Army intends to enter into a new contract with Rosoboronexport in the coming weeks to procure 20 additional helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces. This plan runs in direct contravention to both the spirit of the FY13 NDAA and the clear legislative intent of Congress – to ban further business dealings with



OSD003362-13

Rosoboronexport. In our view, any attempt by DoD to utilize prior-year funds would constitute a direct subversion of existing law.


The United States Government has imposed punishing sanctions on Syria and invested precious diplomatic resources to end the conflict there. The NDAA provision is intended to bolster U.S. policy and ensure that U.S. contracts with Syria's primary arms dealer do not undermine it. In order to make certain that U.S. policy on Syria is clear, consistent, and effective, we strongly urge you to certify that no new contracts are concluded or options acted upon between DoD and Rosoboronexport. Moreover, we urge you to hold an open competition for any further purchases of helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces.


Accordingly, we request that your Department prepare a detailed briefing focusing on the following questions and present it to us before the Army takes any action on the pending contract.

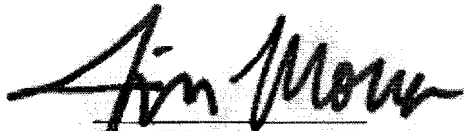
- What steps has DoD taken to ensure compliance with Section 1277 of the FY13 NDAA and to consider alternative suppliers of helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces?
- Section 1277 requires DoD, in order to exercise its waiver authority, to certify to Congress that conducting further business with Rosoboronexport is "in the national security interests of the United States." What is the national security justification of continuing business with Rosoboronexport? Relatedly, last year, DoD notified Congress of plans to purchase 33 Mi-17s from Rosoboronexport for the Afghan National Security Forces. What is the national security justification for the *additional* 20 helicopters this year?
- The Government Accountability Office and the Defense Contract Audit Agency are undertaking a Congressionally mandated examination of the Army's existing contract with Rosoboronexport. How is DoD planning to address and incorporate the review's findings into its practices and protocols?
- What steps is DoD taking to ensure that it does not support – financially or otherwise – enablers of mass atrocities?


Thank you for your serious attention to this request. We appreciate your prompt response.


Sincerely,


ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress



KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress

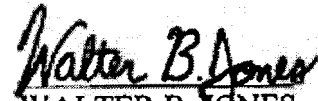

JAMES P. MORAN
Member of Congress



JACK KINGSTON
Member of Congress

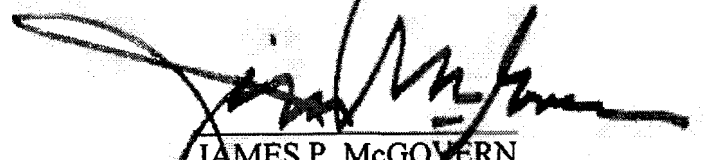

KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress


MARTHA ROBY
Member of Congress


CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress


WALTER B. JONES
Member of Congress


FRANK R. WOLF
Member of Congress


JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress