

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

February 3, 2009

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

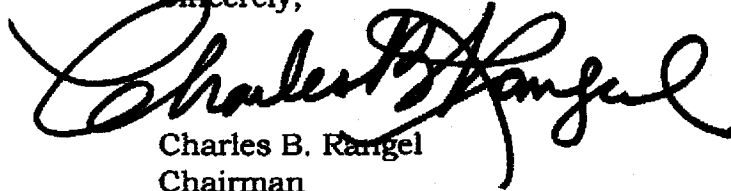
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to authorize Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) to lead the Congressional fact-finding CODEL to India during the time period of Friday, February 13 through Sunday, February 22. The House is not scheduled to be in the session at this time.

The purpose of this fact-finding trip is to join the U.S. Embassy and a variety of Indian officials in commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Corretta Scott King's visit to study the roots of non-violent philosophy and 20th Century freedom movements.

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

Sincerely,



Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 01251-09



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

February 3, 2009

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

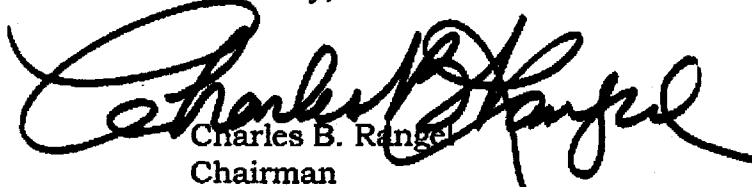
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to authorize Congressmen Pete Stark (D-CA) and Jim McDermott to participate in the Congressional fact-finding CODEL to India during the time period of Friday, February 13 through Sunday, February 22. The House is not scheduled to be in the session at this time.

The purpose of this fact-finding trip is to join the U.S. Embassy and a variety of Indian officials in commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Corretta Scott King's visit to study the roots of non-violent philosophy and 20th Century freedom movements.

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

Sincerely,


Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 01252-09



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ASSISTANT WHIP



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

JERROLD NADLER
 8TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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 2334 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515
 (202) 366-8086
- DISTRICT OFFICE:
 261 VARICK STREET
 SUITE 609
 NEW YORK, NY 10014
 (212) 367-7260
- DISTRICT OFFICE:
 449 NEPTUNE AVENUE
 BROOKLYN, NY 11224
 (718) 373-8198

Web: <http://www.house.gov/nadler>

February 10, 2009

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates
 Department of Defense
 The Pentagon

Dear Secretary Gates,

Please review the attached letter dated February 5, 2009 from Panmedix, a business in my district.

Panmedix specializes in telemedicine screening applications for disorders of the central nervous system, an important medical capability for our modern military. As you can see, their letter details a list of questions they have regarding their work with the Department of Defense dating back to 2001.

The letter raises concerns regarding the work of the Department and its dealings with Panmedix. Please review their letter and provide a response. I would appreciate answers to their questions in the attached letter to the greatest extent possible. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jerold Nadler
 Jerrold Nadler
 Member of Congress

OSD 01402-09



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3102

February 9, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I would like to call to your direct attention that William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas recently announced that Army personnel had used an improper procedure to administer insulin shots from August 2007 to January of this year. This has resulted in over 2,000 persons potentially exposed to blood-borne disease, such as Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B and HIV. As the Congressman from Southern New Mexico, many of whose veterans and military personnel are served by William Beaumont, and as a Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I was very concerned about this incident. According to the hospital, 31 percent of those exposed were veterans who received the shots on an inpatient basis. The Veterans' Clinic in El Paso routinely works with William Beaumont to help treat veterans.

Last week I sent the enclosed letter to William Beaumont Commander Colonel James Baunchalk regarding this incident and requested a response by this Friday, February 13. Commander Baunchalk did quickly acknowledge receipt of my inquiry and I await his response. The purpose of my inquiry is to get to the root of what went wrong at William Beaumont so that we can take appropriate steps to prevent this from ever happening again.

As we learn more about what exactly transpired at the hospital, I look forward to working with you to ensure accountability for the errors made at William Beaumont and to ensure high levels of medical care for our veterans and military personnel.

Additionally, I know you are aware that my district includes several military facilities, including White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, that are of the utmost importance to both our national defense and Southern New Mexico communities. I would very much like to have you visit us in Southern New Mexico to see these installations and the great work in which our service members are engaged.

Sincerely,



Harry Teague
Member of Congress



7. Can you positively identify all patients who may have received insulin shots through the incorrect procedure?
8. It is my understanding that this incorrect procedure began in August of 2007. What happens in the event that you do not have up-to-date contact information for patients who may be at risk?
9. If an individual believes he or she may be at risk due to an insulin shot he or she received at WBAMC, what steps should an individual take to determine whether or not they may need medical testing or treatment?
10. I have been informed that roughly 9% of those affected are residents of New Mexico and may live a great distance from WBAMC. What steps are you taking to facilitate testing and further treatment for patients who live far away from WBAMC?
11. What specific steps is WBAMC taking to ensure that this does not happen again?

I would also like to thank you in advance for your responses to my questions. I look forward to working with you to ensure our veterans receive only the highest level of medical care.

Sincerely,

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

Harry Teague
Member of Congress

GARY G. MILLER
42ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

ASSISTANT WHIP AT LARGE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA CAUCUS,
CHAIRMAN



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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FAX: (714) 257-8242

200 CIVIC CENTER
MISSION VIEJO, CA 92691
TEL: (949) 470-8484

February 5, 2009

Congressional Liaison
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

RE: Coastal Defense Products, Inc.
TIN:

Dear Congressional Liaison:

This letter is on behalf of my constituent, Donald Clark, concerning his business, Coastal Defense Products, Inc, which has a government contract with the United States Air Force. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have not received their progress payments and are therefore unable to make payroll. Mr. Clark also noted that the DCAA has not released the audit to the DCMA to be able to make the payment and they are very concerned about this. What is the status of this situation? Any information or assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

I would be appreciative if you or a member of your staff would review the enclosed documents pertaining to my constituent's case and provide assistance in resolving this situation. Please direct your correspondence to the attention of my staff member, Lisa King, in my Brea office. My fax number is (714) 257-9242.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

GARY G. MILLER
Member of Congress

OSD 01404-09



GENE TAYLOR
4TH DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND
EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

<http://www.house.gov/genetaylor>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2404

February 3, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write to express my concerns about the acquisition and subsequent sale of real property of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) at Gulfport, Mississippi, occurring in 2003.

I have recently received copies of letters sent by former Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Charles S. Abell to the chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees (dated August 6, 2003) notifying them that the AFRH intended to sell "two beachfront properties" located at 1804 and 1814 Beach Drive, Gulfport, Mississippi. For your review, I have attached copies of the aforementioned letters.

Mr. Abell's letters state that the properties "were acquired earlier this year as part of a larger property acquisition." The letters explain that the "original acquisition was for 10.02 acres of land on the eastern border of the Gulfport facility" and that the purchase price for this acreage was "\$5.692 million."

According to Mr. Abell's letters, the "AFRH is currently in receipt of two offers to purchase the property from Messers. Brent Warr and Gene Warr" and he had "decided to accept these offers" which would "result in \$1 million, which will be deposited into the AFRH Trust Fund." The letter, however, distinguishes that the two properties being resold to the Warrs' are "smaller" than the original 10.02 acre parcels.

As I review this transaction, the following questions come to mind:

1. At the time that AFRH purchased the original 10.02 acres, what was the property's total appraised value, including acreage and all structures on the property?
2. What was the size of the "smaller" parcels sold to the Warrs? What, if any, portions were retained by AFRH after the sale?
3. What was the appraised value of the property that the AFRH sold to the Warrs?
4. What was the sale price of the property that the AFRH sold to the Warrs?
5. According to the 2003 letters, "\$1 million was to be deposited into the AFRH Trust Fund." If there was a discrepancy between the sale price and the sum deposited in the AFRH Trust Fund for these properties, what became of the balance?

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LAUREL, MS 39440
(601) 425-3905

412 HWY 90, SUITE 8
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520
(228) 469-8235

OSD 01429-09

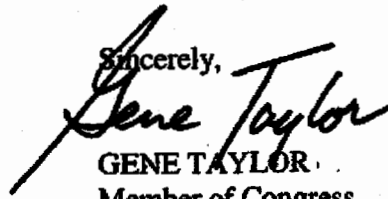


6. Mr. Abell's letter described the parcels that the AFRH sold to the Warrs as beachfront properties. Where are these properties located with respect to the rest of the original purchase? Are these parcels within the boundaries of the 10.02 acres in the original purchase?

I would greatly appreciate if you could furnish answers to the questions posed above and any relevant documents on which they are based including but not limited to appraisals, deeds, financial transactions, property descriptions, sale papers, etc.

I request that you furnish the information within two weeks of receipt of this letter. If you need additional time to provide answers to these questions or have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



GENE TAYLOR
Member of Congress

GT:sp
Enclosures (2)

CC: Hon. Ike Skelton, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
Timothy Cox, Chief Operating Officer, AFRH

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

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

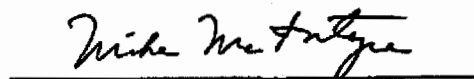
We are informed that Prime Minister Sergey Stanishev of Bulgaria proposed Dr. Passy as a candidate for the Secretary General position during a meeting with President Bush on June 18, 2008.

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

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

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Signed by:

Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL)

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)

Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC)

Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)

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U.S. House of Representatives

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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

February 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As part of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs responsibilities, I authorize Geoffrey Bestor and Arthur Wu, staff on the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, to travel on official government business to Albuquerque, NM during the period of February 17-18, 2009.

The primary purpose of their visit is to observe the joint venture between VA and the Air Force at Kirtland Air Force Base; and to review the Research and Development Cooperative Studies Program operations in Albuquerque.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in New Mexico. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Bernie Dotson of the Committee staff at 202-226-3653.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/tc

OSD 01439-09



DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE



BYRON L. DORGAN
CHAIRMAN

February 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

It is my pleasure to invite you to speak to the Senate Democratic Caucus at our annual weekend issues conference, which will be held the weekend of May 1, 2009 in Bedford Springs, Pennsylvania.

This is the one time each year that Senate Democrats meet outside of Washington to brainstorm and strategize on the most pressing challenges facing our nation. Our Caucus is very interested to hear your strategies for addressing the multiple national security challenges facing the United States.

My staff will work with your office to schedule a time for you to speak, either on Friday afternoon, May 1 or Saturday morning, May 2. President Obama has confirmed his attendance at the conference.

I know my colleagues will be thrilled if you are able to join us. Please let me know whether you will be able to attend, or have your staff contact Chuck Cooper at the Democratic Policy Committee at (202) 224-4637.

Sincerely,

Byron L. Dorgan
Chairman

SECDEF	DESECDEF	SPLASST	EXECSEC	USDP
USDI	DD	CCD	CBLCH	FILE

LA



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

February 5, 2009

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BEVERLY PHEO
TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Ms. Jennifer Miller, Mr. Jeff Shockey and Mr. Tom McLemore, professional staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on official business to Vienna, Austria and Paris, France during the approximate time period of February 15-21, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to review matters relating to the CIA, NSA and counter-terrorism operations and activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial transportation.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01529-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

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

February 3, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHEO
TELEPHONE:
(202) 226-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable John T. Salazar, a Member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Mexico, Nicaragua and Jamaica during the approximate time period of February 16 – 22, 2009. He will be joining a delegation led by the Honorable Eliot Engel, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government and non government officials regarding political and economic developments, and general bilateral relations with each country.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01533-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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 C. W. DELL YOUNG, FLORIDA
 HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
 FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
 JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
 ROONEY F. FREUNDLICH, NEW JERSEY
 TODD TIAHNT, KANSAS
 ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
 TOM LATHAM, IOWA
 ROBERT S. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
 JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
 KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
 MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
 JOHN ADNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
 MARK STEVEN KRIG, ILLINOIS
 ANDER CRENGHAW, FLORIDA
 DENNIS R. REYNOLDS, MONTANA
 JOHN A. CARTER, TEXAS
 RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
 KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
 JO BONNER, ALABAMA
 STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
 TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

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

February 13, 2009

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
 BEVERLY PHOTO
 TELEPHONE:
 (202) 225-3771

The Honorable Robert Gates
 Secretary of Defense
 Washington, DC 20301

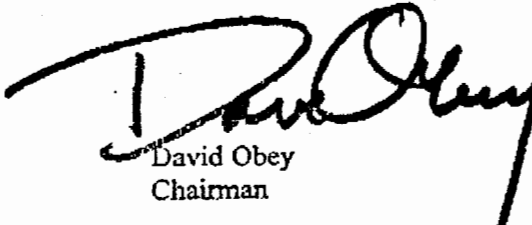
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Adam Harris, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of February 19 - 23, 2009, to Israel. The purpose of this trip is to meet with Intelligence Community personnel to discuss conditions in Israel.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,


 David Obey
 Chairman

OSD 01612-09



LINCOLN DAVIS
4TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

SENIOR WHIP



COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS

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

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

February 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress

LD:TG

OSD 01636-09



410 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6831
FAX: (202) 226-5172

629 NORTH MAIN STREET
JAMESTOWN, TN 38656
(931) 879-2361
FAX: (931) 879-2389

477 NORTH CHANCERY STREET
SUITE A-1
McMINNVILLE, TN 37110
(931) 473-7251
FAX: (931) 473-7259

1064 NORTH GATEWAY AVENUE
ROCKWOOD, TN 37854
(866) 364-3323
FAX: (866) 354-3316

1804 CARMACK BOULEVARD
SUITE A
COLUMBIA, TN 38401
(931) 490-8689
FAX: (931) 490-8675

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2009

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

Dear Dr. Gates:

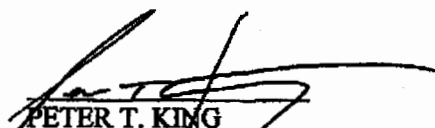
We are writing to express our strong support for the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program and request your consideration of a reprogramming of funds for Fiscal Year 2009. We are aware of significant undesired consequences for the E-2D program as a result of the enacted funding levels for Fiscal Year 2009, and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

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

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

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

Sincerely,


PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

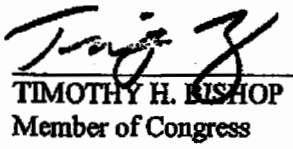

STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress

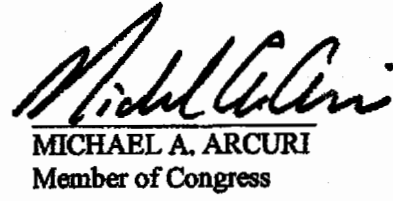
OSD 01644-09




CAROLYN MCCARTHY
Member of Congress


GARY L. ACKERMAN
Member of Congress


TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
Member of Congress


MICHAEL A. ARCURI
Member of Congress

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

BRETT GUTHRIE
SECOND DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
AVIATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 18, 2009

NO. 0712 1. 2
ASSISTANT WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MEMBER, HIGHER EDUCATION, LIFELONG
LEARNING AND COMPETITIVENESS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS
HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your ongoing service and commitment to the defense of our country. I am extremely proud that my Congressional District is home to the Fort Knox military installation.

Located at Fort Knox is Ireland Army Community Hospital. The hospital provides a vital service to the entire community. Built in 1957, Ireland Army Community Hospital (IACH) provides top quality health care to Fort Knox and six surrounding states. IACH serves the Fort Knox community with primary and specialty care providers. In addition to Kentucky, IACH's area of responsibility also includes Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin. The hospital is also home to Camp Memorial Blood Center and an Optical Fabrication Laboratory.

As you know, included in *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (H.R. 1) are substantial funds for infrastructure improvements at Department of Defense facilities. I urge you to give Ireland Army Community Hospital full consideration when deciding how to allocate these infrastructure investment funds.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. Should your staff have any questions or need more information please contact John Connell in my Washington office at (202) 225-3501 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

BRETT GUTHRIE
Member of Congress

OSD 01659-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
 JOHN P. MURTHA, PENNSYLVANIA
 NORMAN D. DICKS, WASHINGTON
 ALAN B. MOLLOHAN, WEST VIRGINIA
 MARCY KAPTUR, OHIO
 PETER J. VISCLOSKEY, INDIANA
 NITA M. LOWEY, NEW YORK
 JOSE E. SERRANO, NEW YORK
 ROSA L. DELAURO, CONNECTICUT
 JAMES P. MORAN, VIRGINIA
 JOHN W. OLVER, MASSACHUSETTS
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 JESSE L. JACKSON, JR., ILLINOIS
 CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK, MICHIGAN
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 SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., GEORGIA
 MARION BERRY, ARKANSAS
 BARBARA LEE, CALIFORNIA
 ADAM SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
 MICHAEL HONDA, CALIFORNIA
 BETTY MCCOLLUM, MINNESOTA
 STEVE ISRAEL, NEW YORK
 TIM RYAN, OHIO
 C.A. "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER, MARYLAND
 BEN CHANDLER, KENTUCKY
 DEBIL WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, FLORIDA
 CIRIO RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
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 JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
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 JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
 ROONEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
 TODD TIHART, KANSAS
 ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
 TOM LATHAM, IOWA
 ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
 JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
 KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
 MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
 JOHN ARNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
 MARK STEVEN KIRK, ARIZONA
 ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
 DENNIS R. REBERG, MONTANA
 JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS
 RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
 JEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
 JO BONNER, ALABAMA
 STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
 TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

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

February 6, 2009

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
 BEVERLY PHOTO

TELEPHONE:
 (202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
 Secretary of Defense
 Washington, DC 20301

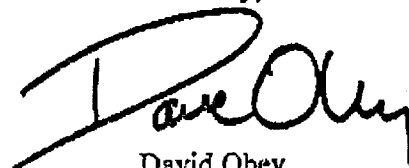
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable John P. Murtha and the Honorable Norman Dicks, member of the Committee on Appropriations, and Paul Juola and Timothy Prince, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of February 15 – 18, 2009, to Seattle, Washington and Colorado Springs, Colorado. The purpose of this trip is to visit Madigan Army Hospital to obtain briefs on military health care and visit wounded Servicemen; to visit and tour Department of Defense and contractor installations in preparation for the fiscal year 2010 budget markup. Authorization is also granted for Mr. Murtha to be returned to Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,



David Obey
 Chairman

OSD 01714-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
 JOHN P. MURTHA, PENNSYLVANIA
 NORMAN D. DICKS, WASHINGTON
 ALAN B. MULLOOLY, WEST VIRGINIA
 NANCY KAPTUR, OHIO
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 NITA M. LOWEY, NEW YORK
 JOSE E. SERRANO, NEW YORK
 ROSA L. DELAURO, CONNECTICUT
 JAMES P. MORAN, VIRGINIA
 JOHN W. OLVER, MASSACHUSETTS
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 DAVID C. PRICE, NORTH CAROLINA
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 PATRICK J. KENNEDY, RHODE ISLAND
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 CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK, MICHIGAN
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 STEVEN R. NOTTMAN, NEW JERSEY
 SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., GEORGIA
 MARICHA BLUNY, ARKANSAS
 BARBARA LEE, CALIFORNIA
 ADAM SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
 MICHAEL HONDA, CALIFORNIA
 BETTY MCCOLLUM, MINNESOTA
 STEVE ISRAEL, NEW YORK
 TIM RYAN, OHIO
 CA. "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER, MARYLAND
 BEN CHANDLER, KENTUCKY
 DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, FLORIDA
 CRO RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
 LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
 JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

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

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
 C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
 HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
 FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
 JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
 RODNEY P. FREILINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
 TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
 ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
 TOM LATHAM, IOWA
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 JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
 KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
 MICHAEL K. SAMPSON, IDAHO
 JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
 MARK STEVEN KIRK, ILLINOIS
 ANDER GREENHAWY, FLORIDA
 OCTAVIUS A. NEHEBERG, MONTANA
 JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS
 RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
 KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
 JO BONNER, ALABAMA
 STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
 TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

February 9, 2009

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
 BEVERLY PHETO
 TELEPHONE:
 (202) 225-2771

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

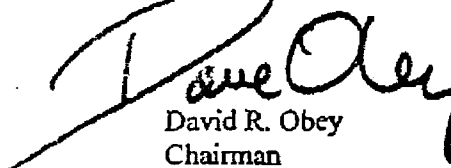
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Sarah Young, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of February 16 - 18, 2009, to Colorado Springs, Colorado. The purpose of this trip is to join CODEL Murtha for his visit to Fort Carson, and to receive briefings on fiscal year 2010 budget and current status of the Missile Defense Agency.

Per diem expenses of not to exceed \$109 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,


 David R. Obey
 Chairman

OSD 01716-09





CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

KEVIN BRADY
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
8TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
SOCIAL SECURITY
TRADE

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

February 9, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to you again to urge the Department of Defense (DoD) to produce a full accounting for each facility in Iraq that was involved or associated with an electrocution death or injury of any U.S. personnel or contractor. Since Congressional attention was focused on this issue, the response from DoD and related departments such as the DoD Office of Inspector General (DoD IG) have been less than satisfactory.

As you know, last year in the 110th Congress, government representatives from DoD, DoD IG, and the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) testified before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee regarding deficient electrical systems in Iraq. During that hearing, I directly asked each agency to identify who was responsible for the installation and maintenance of electrical generator that caused accidental electrocutions of U.S. personnel. One of the deceased was a twenty-three year old Army National Guard soldier, Staff Sgt. Chris Everett of Huntsville, Texas. Staff Sgt. Everett was my constituent, and his untimely death occurred, not because of enemy fire, but because the power-washer that he was using to wash a Humvee was improperly grounded. These are not isolated incidents, as the Army has acknowledged at least 16 possible cases of electrocution.

Moreover, recently I was extremely dismayed to learn that there has been yet another report of an American soldier receiving shocks from facilities installed and maintained by U.S. contractors in Iraq. The Associated Press (AP) reports that Pfc. Justin Shults was rendered unconscious and suffered severe burns while showering in Tarmiyah, Iraq. That these incidents continue to threaten the lives and safety of our fighting men and women are unacceptable.

Mr. Secretary, I believe you are as outraged as I am by these incidents, and I strongly urge that the Department of Defense and its related agencies provide me a detailed



accounting regarding the chain of custody for the operation and maintenance of electrical equipment and facilities that are connected to electrocutions. Also, please provide an estimate as to when this report will be available.

Thank you for your leadership and service to our country, and your prompt attention to this important and tragic issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Brady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and the last name "Brady" clearly distinguishable.

Kevin Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
Eighth District of Texas

Cc: The Honorable Gordon S. Heddell, Acting Inspector General Department of Defense

JOHN R. CARTER
31ST DISTRICT, TEXAS

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE
SECRETARY

REPUBLICAN STEERING COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS'
ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
HOMELAND SECURITY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4331

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
408 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3864
<http://carter.house.gov>

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1717 N. IH-35, SUITE 303
ROUND ROCK, TX 78664
(512) 246-1800

6544-B SOUTH GENERAL BRUCE DRIVE
TEMPLE, TX 76502
(254) 933-1392

February 9, 2009

Hon. Robert Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Hon. Wilkie:

Mr. John Rockey, President of Rockey Enterprises regarding requests a copy of the lease criteria bid for GSA Lease, Solicitation Order 8TX2425A, has recently contacted me. GSA desires to lease approximately 50,000 square feet of office space in San Antonio to accommodate DOD Tricare Management Activity Center. He is concerns why his viable Class B property offering is not considered.

I have enclosed, for your review, copies of the correspondence I received. I would appreciate any information you can provide so that I may pass it along to my constituent. I trust that this case will receive your full consideration.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chcryl, Bell County Office, 6544 B South General Bruce Drive, Temple, TX. 76502, phone 254-933-1392. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John Carter
Member of Congress

JC:ch



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

JOHN P. MURTHA, PENNSYLVANIA
NORMAN D. DICKS, WASHINGTON
ALAN B. MOLLOHAN, WEST VIRGINIA
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ROSA L. DeLAURO, CONNECTICUT
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ED PASTOR, ARIZONA
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CHET EDWARDS, TEXAS
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CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK, MICHIGAN
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CHAKA FATTAH, PENNSYLVANIA
STEVEN R. ROTHMAN, NEW JERSEY
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MARION BERRY, ARKANSAS
BARBARA LEE, CALIFORNIA
ADAM SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL HONDA, CALIFORNIA
BETTY McCOLLUM, MINNESOTA
STEVE ISRAEL, NEW YORK
TIM RYAN, OHIO
C.A. "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER, MARYLAND
BEN CHANDLER, KENTUCKY
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, FLORIDA
CIRO RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

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

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
TOM LATHAM, IOWA
ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
MARK STEVEN KIRK, ILLINOIS
ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
DENNIS R. REHBERG, MONTANA
JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS
RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
JO BONNER, ALABAMA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHEO
TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 17, 2009

Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 12, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Rush Holt, Chairman of the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, and Mr. Adam Harris, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Israel on February 20-23, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with Intelligence Community personnel to discuss conditions in Israel.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to change the dates of travel for the Honorable Rush Holt to February 19-23, 2009, and to February 18-23, 2009 for Mr. Adam Harris.

It will be appreciated if officials of the Department would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


David Obey
Chairman

OSD 01803-09



STEVE KAGEN, M.D.WISCONSIN
8TH DISTRICT**AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**SUBCOMMITTEES:
Livestock, Dairy & Poultry
Department Operations, Oversight,
Nutrition & Forestry
Conservation, Credit, Energy & Research**TRANSPORTATION &****INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**SUBCOMMITTEES:
Aviation
Water Resources & Infrastructure**Congress of the United States****U.S. House of Representatives****Washington, DC 20515**

www.kagen.house.gov

February 16, 2009

1222 LINDWORTH
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515TELE: (202) 225-5665
FAX: (202) 225-6729

WISCONSIN OFFICES:

700 E. WALNUT STREET
GREEN BAY, WI 54301TELE: (920) 437-1954
FAX: (920) 437-1979PAPER VALLEY RAINBOW
333 W. COLLEGE AVENUE
APPLETON, WI 54911TELE: (920) 380-0061
FAX: (920) 380-0051POLY FIBRE IN WISCONSIN
800-773-8579Department of Defense
Attn: Congressional Liaison
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301**RE: Dale Lautenbach – Visions Upholstery and Canvas**

Dear Congressional Liaison.

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Mr. Dale Lautenbach, owner of Visions Upholstery and Canvas, a contractor for the Department of Defense. Mr. Lautenbach contacted my office for assistance with correcting what he believes to be an injustice regarding the acceptance of a recent bid to produce gloves for the DOD.

Mr. Lautenbach sent a bid to the DOD on January 12, 2009, which was the deadline to bid on the project. Unfortunately, the fax was not received and/or processed by the DOD. A hard copy of the proposal was also submitted via U.S. Mail. Mr. Lautenbach has already furnished a copy of his fax history that proves that he sent the proposal on time, however this bid is still being held up by the legal department.

I respectfully request that you look into this matter to determine if the proposal submitted by Visions Upholstery and Canvas can be accepted by the DOD. Mr. Lautenbach wishes to continue his good working relationship with the DOD and also put people back to work here in northeast Wisconsin. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Steve Kagen, MD
Member of Congress

SK/hl

OSD 01849-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 9, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of January 7, 2009, regarding Codel Tanner. Please note that the following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

- The Honorable John Tanner (D-TN) and Mrs. Betty Ann Tanner
- The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and Mr. Ron Gladney
- The Honorable Bart Gordon (D-TN) and Mrs. Leslie Gordon
- The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)
- The Honorable Dennis Moore (D-KS) and Mrs. Stephene Moore
- The Honorable John Boozman (R-AR) and Mrs. Cathy Boozman
- The Honorable Jeff Miller (R-FL) and Mrs. Vicki Miller
- The Honorable Mike Ross (D-AR) and Mrs. Holly Ross
- The Honorable David Scott (D-GA) and Mrs. Alfredia Scott
- The Honorable Charlie Melancon (D-LA) and Mrs. Peachy Melancon
- The Honorable Baron Hill (D-IN)

- Ms. Melissa Adamson, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
- Ms. Kathy Becker, Office of Rep. Tanner
- Mr. Paul Belkin, CRS Detailee to House Committee on Foreign Affairs

(b)(6) USAF
 (b)(6) USAF
 (b)(6) USAF
 (b)(6) USAF
 (b)(6) USAF
 (b)(6) USAF
 (b)(6) Office of the Attending Physician

OSD 01863-09



Please note that Mr. David Hobbs, NATO PA Secretary General, has been invited to travel with the delegation from Paris to Vienna.

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

Sincerely,

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

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 9, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of January 15, 2009, regarding Codel John Lewis. Please note that Turkey, Greece, and the United Arab Emirates have been added to the itinerary. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:


The Honorable John Lewis (D-GA)
The Honorable Spencer Bachus (R-AL) and Mr. Stuart Bachus
The Honorable Jim McDermott (D-WA) and Mrs. Therese Hansen
The Honorable Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX)
The Honorable Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)
The Honorable Al Green (D-TX)
The Honorable Andre Carson (D-IN) and Mrs. Miriama Carson

Mr. Michael Collins, Floor Asst. to the Chief Deputy Democratic Whip
Mr. Michael Staley, Chief of Staff to Rep. Bachus
Ms. Jamila Thompson, Senior Policy Advisor to Rep. Lewis
Ms. Brenda Jones, Communications Director to Rep. Lewis

Please note that Mr. Stuart Bachus will be traveling with the delegation on a reimbursable basis per DOD directive.

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

Sincerely,


NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 01865-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
JOHN P. MURTHA, PENNSYLVANIA
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ROSA L. DELAURO, CONNECTICUT
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LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

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

February 10, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
TOM LATHAM, IOWA
ROBERT S. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
JO ANIN EMERSON, MISSOURI
KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
JOHN ABNEY CALVERTSON, TEXAS
MARK STEVEN KIRK, ILLINOIS
ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
DENNIS R. REHSBERG, MONTANA
JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS
RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
JO BONNER, ALABAMA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BERLELY PHETO
TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representatives C.W. Bill Young, Rodney Frelinghuysen, Mike Simpson, and Ken Calvert, members of the Committee on Appropriations and Tom McLemore, professional staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on a CODEL led by Representative Carolyn Maloney to Naples, Rome, and Venice, Italy and Dublin, Ireland during the approximate time period of April 14-20, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with Defense officials at Aviano Air Force Base and Vicenza Army Base to view operations and discuss resource requirements. In addition, we will meet with US Ambassadors to Italy and Ireland, as well as senior Italian officials for political/operational updates. Spouses are authorized to accompany the Member for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,


David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01867-09



KE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
JOHN SPRATT, SOUTH CAROLINA
SOLOMON P. ORTEZ, TEXAS
GENE TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI
NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HAWAII
SILVESTRE REYES, TEXAS
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MIKE MCINTYRE, NORTH CAROLINA
ELLEN O. TAUSCHER, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
SUSAN A. DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
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JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
JIM MARSHALL, GEORGIA
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GUAM
MARK E. UDALL, COLORADO
DAN BOREN, OKLAHOMA
BRAD ELLSWORTH, INDIANA
NANCY BOYDA, KANSAS
PATRICK J. MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA
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CAROL SHEA-PORTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
DAVID LOEBSACK, IOWA
KRISTEN E. GILLIBRAND, NEW YORK
JOE SESTAK, PENNSYLVANIA
NINI THOMAS, MASSACHUSETTS
GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA
ELLIAM E. CLIMMING, MARYLAND
KENDRICK B. MEK, FLORIDA
KATHY GASTOR, FLORIDA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

February 23, 2009

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JIM SAXTON, NEW JERSEY
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
TERRY EVERETT, ALABAMA
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
HOWARD P. "BLICK" MCKEON, CALIFORNIA
MAC THORNBERRY, TEXAS
WALTER B. JONES, NORTH CAROLINA
ROBIN HAYES, NORTH CAROLINA
W. TODD AHN, MISSOURI
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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As the new Administration prepares its fiscal year 2010 budget request for missile defense, I hope you will make providing our combatant commanders sufficient theater missile defense capability your highest priority within the existing missile defense budget.

The threat from short- and medium-range missiles represents the overwhelming ballistic missile threat to United States interests, its deployed forces, and friends and allies around the world. Our military commanders recognize this point. The Joint Capability Mix Study II (JCM II), conducted by the Joint Staff in 2007 to examine theater upper-tier missile defense requirements, concluded that to meet their minimum warfighting requirements, combatant commanders require nearly twice as many interceptors as the 96 Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptors and 133 Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) interceptors currently planned.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee in 2007, General James Cartwright stated that his priority with regard to missile defense was to expand, "beyond long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles to start to address those that hold at threat our forward deployed forces, or allies and our friends. Those are more in the short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, things that Patriot, Standard Missile-2 and [Standard Missile]-3 will be able to address, and THAAD as it comes on."

Over the past several years, Congress has consistently directed the Department of Defense to devote greater priority within the existing missile defense program toward countering the short- and medium-range ballistic missile threat. Commenting on the JCM II recommendations in the Joint Explanatory Statement that accompanied the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 [Public Law 110-417], the bill's managers stated they were, "deeply disappointed that the Department of Defense has not planned or budgeted for even this minimum requirement, and we believe that achieving this minimum inventory should be the highest priority for the Missile Defense Agency. We expect the Department of Defense to budget accordingly starting with the budget submission for fiscal year 2010."

I fully agree with President Obama's position that we should only deploy missile defenses that have been sufficiently tested and proven to work. Theater missile defense systems, such as Patriot PAC-3,

OSD 01929-09



Secretary Robert M. Gates
February 23, 2009
Page Two

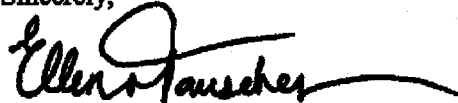
THAAD, and Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (Aegis BMD) meet the President's criteria. The Director of Operational Test and Evaluation's (DOT&E) Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report stated that "the inherent BMDS defensive capability against theater threats increased during the last fiscal year and DOT&E expects this trend to continue." Furthermore, in 2008, the commander of the Navy's operational test and evaluation force declared the Aegis BMD 3.6 system to be operationally effective and suitable.

In addition to the JCM II recommendations, there are other ways to focus our limited investments in mature systems that address near term threats. The Department should examine the feasibility of upgrading additional Aegis cruisers and destroyers to be able to conduct ballistic missile defense operations. Under the current program of record, only 22 Aegis cruisers and destroyers are planned to be upgraded by the Missile Defense Agency. Given the existing operational demands on these vessels, and growing requirement by combatant commanders around the world for ballistic missile defense-capable ships, this assessment should be a priority. I would also encourage you to explore the options for deploying a land-based version of the SM-3 missile. Such a capability has the potential to expand missile defense coverage for U.S. deployed forces and our friends and allies around the world

I recognize that the Administration will likely be forced to make tradeoffs as it develops the fiscal year 2010 defense budget. Given the need to fund other high priority defense programs, reductions to the missile defense program may be required. However, due to the existing threat from short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, the requirements of our regional combatant commanders, and the strong testing record of theater missile defense systems, I believe that addressing the recommendations outlined in the JCM II study (*i.e.*, doubling the number of THAAD and SM-3 interceptors) should be the Department's highest priority within the missile defense budget. I ask that you take this into account as you develop the fiscal year 2010 budget request.

Thank you for your consideration and attention. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Ellen O. Tauscher
Chairman
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Committee on Armed Services

cc: Honorable Peter R. Orszag, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Honorable John Young, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
Honorable Michelle Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
Admiral Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations
General James Cartwright, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
General Kevin Chilton, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command
Lieutenant General Patrick O'Reilly, Director, Missile Defense Agency

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

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DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, FLORIDA
CIRO RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

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

February 4, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
TOM LATHAM, IOWA
ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
MARK STEVEN KIRK, ILLINOIS
ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
DENNIS R. REHBERG, MONTANA
JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS
RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
JO BONNER, ALABAMA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO
TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301


Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Ed Pastor, a Member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Australia and New Zealand, during the approximate time period of February 13-22, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government officials, to review intelligence and energy programs.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,


David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01934-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

JOHN P. MURTHA, PENNSYLVANIA
NORMAN D. DICKS, WASHINGTON
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MARCY KAPTUR, OHIO
PETER J. VISCLOSKEY, INDIANA
NITA M. LOWEY, NEW YORK
JOSE E. SERRANO, NEW YORK
ROSA L. DELAURO, CONNECTICUT
JAMES P. MORAN, VIRGINIA
JOHN W. OLVER, MASSACHUSETTS
ED PASTOR, ARIZONA
DAVID E. PRICE, NORTH CAROLINA
CHET EDWARDS, TEXAS
PATRICK J. KENNEDY, RHODE ISLAND
MAURICE D. HINCHEY, NEW YORK
LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, CALIFORNIA
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JESSE L. JACKSON, JR., ILLINOIS
CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK, MICHIGAN
ALLEN BOYD, FLORIDA
CHAKA FATTAH, PENNSYLVANIA
STEVEN R. ROTHMAN, NEW JERSEY
SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., GEORGIA
MARION BERRY, ARKANSAS
BARBARA LEE, CALIFORNIA
ADAM SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL HONDA, CALIFORNIA
BETTY MCCOLLUM, MINNESOTA
STEVE ISRAEL, NEW YORK
TIM RYAN, OHIO
C.A. "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER, MARYLAND
BEN CHANDLER, KENTUCKY
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, FLORIDA
CIRO RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20515-6015

February 17, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
TOM LATHAM, IOWA
ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
MARK STEVEN KIRK, ILLINOIS
ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
DENNIS R. REHBERG, MONTANA
JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS
RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
JO BONNER, ALABAMA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

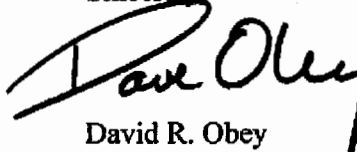
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Sarah Young, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 4 - 6, 2009, to San Jose, California. The purpose of this trip is to receive an overview of the plan that authorizes the creation of a new Enterprise Architecture (EA) to comprehensively resolve persistent electronic health record issues.

Per diem expenses of not to exceed \$109 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01935-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

JOHN P. MURTHA, PENNSYLVANIA
NORMAN D. DICKS, WASHINGTON
ALAN B. MOLLOHAN, WEST VIRGINIA
MARCY KAPTUR, OHIO
PETER J. VISCLOSKEY, INDIANA
NITA M. LOWEY, NEW YORK
JOSÉ E. SERRANO, NEW YORK
ROSA L. DELAURIO, CONNECTICUT
JAMES P. MORAN, VIRGINIA
JOHN W. OLVER, MASSACHUSETTS
ED PASTOR, ARIZONA
DAVID E. PRICE, NORTH CAROLINA
CHET EDWARDS, TEXAS
PATRICK J. KENNEDY, RHODE ISLAND
MAURICE D. HINGHEY, NEW YORK
LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, CALIFORNIA
SAM FARR, CALIFORNIA
JESSE L. JACKSON, JR., ILLINOIS
CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK, MICHIGAN
ALLEN BOYD, FLORIDA
CHAKA FATTAH, PENNSYLVANIA
STEVEN R. ROTHMAN, NEW JERSEY
SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., GEORGIA
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BARBARA LEE, CALIFORNIA
ADAM SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL HONDA, CALIFORNIA
BETTY McCOLLUM, MINNESOTA
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LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
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JOHN ARNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
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RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
JO BONNER, ALABAMA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO
TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 23, 2009

Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

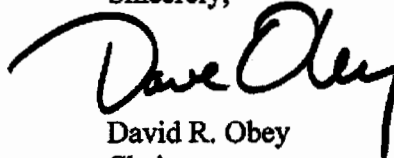
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 10, 2009, granting authorization for members and staff to travel on a CODEL led by Carolyn Maloney, to travel to Naples, Rome, and Venice, Italy and Dublin, Ireland during the approximate period of April 14 - 20, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to additionally authorize Representative Steven LaTourette to travel on this CODEL.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 01936-09



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Last October the United States Congress passed, and President Bush signed into law, the Code Talkers Recognition Act, Public Law 110-420. Senator Inhofe and I were the lead sponsors of this bill in our respective legislative bodies. The purpose of this act is to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to a select group of Native Americans for their heroic service in World War I or World War II.

Found within the legislation is a directive asking the Defense Department, along with the Treasury Department, to help fully identify all individuals who are deserving of this award.

Section 5, subparagraph (b) states:

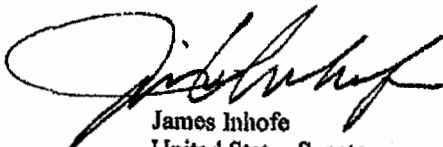
The Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the tribes, shall:

- (1) Determine the identity, to the maximum extent practicable, of each Native American Tribe that had a member of that tribe serve as a Native American Code Talker, with the exception of the Navajo Tribe.
- (2) Include the name of each Native American tribe identified under subparagraph (a) on a list
- (3) Provide the list, and any updates to the list to the Smithsonian Institution for maintenance

Over the last few months our offices have held meetings with officials from the Department of Defense and the Department of the Treasury in an attempt to move this process forward. After speaking with all the parties involved, it is our understanding that the Office of the Army Historian or some other archival department within the Department of Defense has a tentative list of individuals who would be deemed "Code Talkers" within the definitions of the recently passed legislation.

I am writing to ask you to expedite this identification process so that the United States Congress can move forward in honoring these brave soldiers. I will enclose a copy of the public law pertinent to this request for your review. If you have any questions about our expedited request, feel free to contact Tom Wharton (226-2275/Boren) or Clark Peterson (224-4721/Inhofe).

Sincerely,



James Inhofe
United States Senator

Sincerely,



Dan Boren
Member of the House of Representatives

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OSD 01986-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Earl Pomeroy, a member of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Macedonia on official business during the approximate time period of April 4-10, 2009.

The main purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the Kosovo Assembly and the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. In Bosnia, the delegation will meet with members of the national parliament, the national executive, and other leaders to better understand the constitutional reform process and to discuss HDAC efforts within the region. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date. Spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government for protocol purposes only.

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

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi
NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 01987-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of January 22, 2009, regarding Codel Bohner. Please note that the delegation will no longer be traveling to Turkey, but has added Belgium to the itinerary.

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

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 01994-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 2, 2009

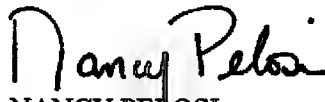
The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of January 22, 2009, regarding Code1 Hoyer. Please note that [REDACTED] has been requested as escort.

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

Sincerely,


NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02074-09



CAROL SHEA-PORTER
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1330 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20615
(202) 225-5456
(202) 225-5822 (FAX)

33 LOWELL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
(603) 641-9536
(603) 641-9561 (FAX)

104 WASHINGTON STREET
DOVER, NH 03820
(603) 743-4813
(603) 743-5956 (FAX)



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2009

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
READINESS
MILITARY PERSONNEL

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
WORKFORCE PROTECTION
HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
INSULAR AFFAIRS, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND
PUBLIC LANDS

www.shea-porter.house.gov

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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

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

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

OSD 02173-09



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

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

Sincerely,

Carl Shea-Porter

Ken A. Wapner

Mozie K. Herono

Steven S. Moore

Rud Holt

Alan

Jim McFraw

John My

John Smith

Wally Wood

Mark Hill

Shane E. Watson

Geord Stauscher

Alan B. Joffe

Jan Schakelberg

Vin Farn

Betty McAllen

Chari Water

John B Larsen

HARRY TEAGUE

2ND DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

1007 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-2365
FAX: (202) 225-9599

<http://teague.house.gov>



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3102

COMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

WATER, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

VETERANS' AFFAIRS
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

HEALTH

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to update you on the situation regarding the improper administration of insulin at William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC) in El Paso, Texas.

On February 5, 2009, I wrote to WBAMC Commander, Colonel James Baunchalk, requesting answers to questions I had about the incident. Last Friday, February 13, 2009, Colonel Baunchalk responded in writing to my list of questions. Those responses are attached for your information. Colonel Baunchalk's staff has also been in contact with my office and has provided me with the following pieces of information:

- Of the 2,114 persons that may have received an insulin injection with the "pen device", 1,188 persons have been contacted.
- 144 persons have died due to conditions unrelated to this incident.
- 630 persons have had blood drawn for testing.
- 33.4% (or 658 of the 1,970 living persons) are veterans.
- 782 (or 39.69%) have yet to be contacted.

In addition, this Saturday, February 13, 2009, I visited WBAMC and viewed the insulin injection device that was improperly used. I received a briefing on the proper procedure for the insulin pen, as well as a tour of the hospital.

200 EAST BROADWAY, SUITE 200
HOBBES, NM 88240
PHONE: (575) 393-0510
FAX: (575) 393-0026

DISTRICT OFFICES:

135 WEST GRIGGS AVENUE
LAS CRUCES, NM 88001
PHONE: (575) 522-3908
FAX: (575) 523-8799

OSD 02175-09



11 SCHOOL OF MINES ROAD
SOCORRO, NM 87801
PHONE: (575) 836-8719
FAX: (575) 836-8931

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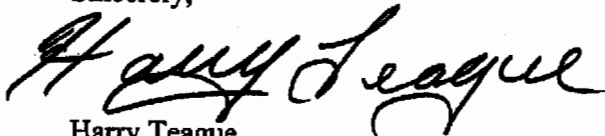
The events that have transpired at William Beaumont are unacceptable. Although I have been informed that investigations are planned, we still do not now have an understanding of how the mistake could have occurred. I believe that WBAMC patients who received the shots face serious health risks, and I have made it clear that I view this situation with the utmost seriousness.

I ask you to closely monitor the situation at WBAMC to make sure affected patients are contacted, tested, and, if necessary, expeditiously treated. Your oversight of the investigations is also important to ensure they are exhaustive and impartial.

I look forward to working with your office on a solution that prevents this from happening again.

If you have any other questions in regards to this matter, please feel free to contact me at 202-225-2365.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry Teague". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Harry Teague
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

Congratulations on your reappointment as our nation's Secretary of Defense. I am extremely appreciative and grateful to you for your outstanding service to our nation as an Air Force officer, senior intelligence official and unyielding advocate for the men and women serving in our nation's Armed Services. In the coming years, I am confident that your leadership will guide the Department of Defense to more actively promote the health and wellbeing of our men and women in uniform.

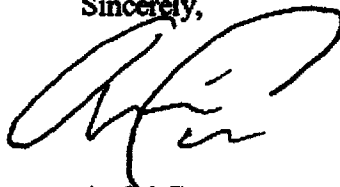
Recently, the United States Army announced that suicide rates among Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard troops reached a record high in 2008, surpassing nationwide civilian rates. While the cause for this dramatic increase is still being investigated, it is evident that greater emphasis needs to be put on the mental health of our men and women in uniform and those retired veterans who preceded them.

Today, we know more about post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and depression than we have at any point in our history. Medical professionals now have the ability to treat or even prevent these disorders if they are addressed quickly. Unfortunately, many sufferers are uninformed of their options, unable to access them or are too embarrassed to seek help.

In light of these rising suicides, Congress and the current Administration have a responsibility to promote and fund initiatives that make mental health care an ongoing process for all military personnel, beginning at enlistment and continuing long after returning from combat. Our troops and veterans should never be made to feel weak or abandoned when seeking professional help. By fully funding and properly prioritizing military and Veterans Administration mental health initiatives, we can counteract the pervasive culture of denial and push a new culture of acceptance and treatment.

In the coming months, I look forward to working with you and your staff in redoubling our efforts to provide quality mental health services to all service members, past and present. Thank you again for all of your efforts and I look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



André Carson
Member of Congress

OSD 02178-09



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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

February 9, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to authorize Juan Lara, Majority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Mike Brinck, Minority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity to travel on official committee oversight business to Sites in Florida from February 16 to February 19, 2009. The purpose of the travel is to visit various Transition Assistance Program Workshops in Jacksonville, MacDill, and Key West.

The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation is authorized by Title 31, U.S.C 1108(g). Travel will be conducted by military and/or commercial aircraft up to business class, including foreign flag carriers when U.S. carriers are not available.

If there are any questions, please have your staff coordinate with Mr. Juan Lara at (202) 226-5491 or Mike Brinck at (202) 226-3668. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER
Chairman

BF/jl

OSD 02181-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of January 8, 2009, regarding my codet to Italy and Southwest Asia. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Speaker of the House, and Mr. Paul Pelosi
The Honorable John Larson (D-CT) and Mrs. Leslie Larson
The Honorable George Miller (D-CA) and Mrs. Cynthia Miller
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
The Honorable William Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ)
The Honorable Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
The Honorable Edward Markey (D-MA) and Dr. Susan Blumenthal
The Honorable Michael Capuano (D-MA) and Mrs. Barbara Capuano

The Honorable Wilson Livingood, Sergeant at Arms
The Honorable Brian Monaghan, Attending Physician
Mr. Michael Sheehy, Senior Policy Advisor to the Speaker
Mr. Nadeam Elshami, Deputy Communications Director to the Speaker
Ms. Stacy Kerr, Special Assistant to the Speaker
Ms. Kate Knudson, Personal Assistant to the Speaker
Ms. Bridget Fallon, Director of Protocol to the Speaker
Mr. Philip DeAndrade, Senior Advisor to the Speaker
Mr. Steve Rusnak, Office of Photography
[REDACTED] DSS Agent

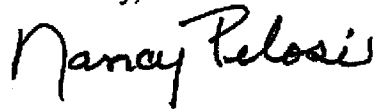
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF

OSD 02183-09



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

Sincerely,

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

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of February 11, 2009, regarding my code
to Italy and Southwest Asia.

Please note that Mr. Liam Wasley, US Department of State, has been invited to
travel with the delegation in Italy.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02207-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Ms. Janice McKinney, Assistant Director of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, to join the Committee on Foreign Affairs Codel Engel to Mexico, Nicaragua, and Jamaica during the approximate period of February 16-22, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to meet with government and non-government leaders in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Jamaica to discuss relations with the U.S., regional security and narco-trafficking, and balateral trade

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02208-09





HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DAVID PRICE
FOURTH DISTRICT
NORTH CAROLINA

March 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I want to flag a matter now before you, the construction of the North Carolina National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters in Raleigh, NC. This facility will not only serve as the nerve center for our state Guard operations; it will also house our State Emergency Operations Center. This project and several million dollars in state funding have been on hold awaiting federal funding.

I understand that a decision to provide funding for the project is now pending in your office; I strongly encourage you to approve the funding. I would be eager to discuss any questions you may have about the project.

*I understand the Nith.
Guard Bureau fully
supports this project.
Thanks for your
attention —*

Sincerely,

DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress

OSD 02209-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 13, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Shelley Berkley, Chairwoman of the Transatlantic Legislator's Dialogue (TLD), to lead a delegation of Members and staff to the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Estonia during the approximate period of April 13-20, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to attend the 66th meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) and to meeting with government officials in each country to discuss bilateral relations, engagement with Russia, Jewish issues, and to observe the implementation of the Visa Waiver Program. For protocol purposes only, spouses may travel at no cost to the government. A list of authorized travelers will follow at a later date.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02211-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Lois Capps, a member of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Haiti on official business during the approximate time period of May 7-12, 2009.

The main purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the Haitian Parliament in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. Meetings with executive branch officials and site visits to USAID/Haiti projects are also envisioned. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date. Spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government for protocol purposes only.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02212-09



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,


Betty Sutton


Frank Lautenberg

OSD 02261-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader, to lead a delegation to Denmark, France, Iraq and Afghanistan on official business during the approximate time period of May 29 – June 5, 2009. The purpose of this trip will be to conduct bilateral discussions on national security and energy issues in Denmark; to meet with government officials regarding national security and human rights challenges in France; and to meet with government officials and US military commanders and troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. A list of authorized Members (approximately 8) and staff will follow at a later date. For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members will travel at no cost to the government.

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

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

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02262-09



KE SHELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
 JOHN SPRATT, SOUTH CAROLINA
 BOLANSON F. ORTE, TEXAS
 GENE TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI
 NEIL ARMSTRONG, HAWAII
 MANTY MEEHAN, MASSACHUSETTS
 SILVESTRE RIVERA, TEXAS
 VIC BRIVIER, ARKANSAS
 ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON
 LORETTA SANDREZ, CALIFORNIA
 MING MANTYRE, NORTH CAROLINA
 ELEN G. TALLEGGER, CALIFORNIA
 ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
 ROBERT ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
 SUSAN A. DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
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 JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
 JIM WAREHALL, GEORGIA
 WADSWORTH E. BORDALLO, UTAH
 MARK E. UDALL, COLORADO
 DAN BORN, OKLAHOMA
 BRAD ELLSWORTH, INDIANA
 MARGY BOYDA, KANSAS
 PATRICK J. MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA
 MARK JOHNSON, GEORGIA
 CAROL SHELDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
 JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
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 JOE BERTAS, PENNSYLVANIA
 GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA
 ELLIAN E. CLUMBERG, MARYLAND
 KENBRICK B. MEEK, FLORIDA
 KATHY CASTA, FLORIDA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

March 4, 2009

DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
 JIM BARTON, NEW JERSEY
 JOHN M. MENSH, NEW YORK
 TERRY EVERETT, ALABAMA
 ROSSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
 ROBERT P. "BOB" MURPHY, CALIFORNIA
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 J. RANDY FORBES, VIRGINIA
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 PHIL GINGRICH, GEORGIA
 MARK ROBERTS, ALABAMA
 TERRY FRANKS, ARIZONA
 THOMAS CRANE, VIRGINIA
 CATHY McHUGH, WASHINGTON
 K. MICHAEL CONNOR, TEXAS
 GEDDY DAVIS, KENTUCKY

BRN C. DONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Barack Obama
 The White House
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

If reports are accurate, it is our understanding that you sent a letter to Russian President Medvedev last month suggesting your Administration would halt the development of a European missile defense system in exchange for Russian assistance to stop Iran from developing nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles. We are concerned that the Administration may be undertaking a surprisingly unilateral action. Though we share your strong devotion to our national security and the security of our allies, we believe it is unwise and premature to offer such a concession. We urge you to clarify your Administration's position and respectfully caution against a policy that relies too heavily on Russian cooperation.

Reports of the letter are disconcerting for a number of reasons. Foremost, the policy does not adequately recognize the threat posed by Iran. Moreover, it rests on a questionable assumption that Russia can effectively curb Iran's nuclear ambitions and weakens our position in future bilateral negotiations. Lastly, it undermines NATO's endorsement of the European missile defense proposal. In particular, it undercuts our allies—the Czech Republic and Poland—who received bipartisan assurances that once they approved the missile defense agreements, the U.S. would provide support and funding.

Russia's actions, particularly in Eastern Europe, give us little confidence that they can be relied upon to follow through with such a commitment. Over the last year, as you know, Russia has pursued a divisive policy to re-exert its Soviet-era sphere of influence. During this time, Russia invaded Georgia, intimidated other nations from joining NATO, and threatened to target Eastern Europe with nuclear missiles should the proposed European missile defense sites be built. Further, amidst a global economic crisis, Russia has disrupted shipments of natural gas to Europe for the second time in three years. Most recently, Russia used financial incentives to persuade Kyrgyzstan to deny the U.S. access to its Manas military base in order to support coalition operations in Afghanistan. Given these events, we seriously question reliance upon Russia's support for a common approach on Iran or missile defense.

Iran has clearly indicated they have no intention of halting their nuclear or ballistic missile programs, and their recent actions substantiate this point. Last month, they launched a satellite into orbit using dual-use, long-range ballistic missile technology. Last weekend, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced that Iran has enough enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon. Two weeks ago, the International Atomic Energy Agency found that Iran underestimated by a third how much uranium it has enriched and noted that Iran has a total of 5,600 centrifuges—an increase from the 3,800 listed in a

SECDEF	DEPSECDEF	SPLASST	EXECSEC	USDP
USDI	ESD	CCD	CBLCH	FILE

LA/

OSD 02301-09



November 2008 report—despite three rounds of United Nations Security Council sanctions.

Despite these developments, Russian leaders have indicated a fundamental disagreement with the West's views on the threat posed by Iran. Simply put, they apparently do not see a threat. Furthermore, Moscow continues to benefit economically from its support of Iran's nuclear program, specifically through the Bushehr nuclear reactor it has helped Iran build. For all these reasons, we remain skeptical that Russia would be in a position to halt Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile ambitions, and cautious of a strategy that relies on that nation's action vis-à-vis Iran to protect us and our allies.

Furthermore, we anticipate bilateral arms control negotiations with Russia this year and are concerned that any concessions promised in this regard may prejudice favorable outcomes. As Robert Kagan recently noted, "If Russian leaders believe that the United States is looking for a way out... they will negotiate accordingly. They might ask why they should make a deal at all." If Russia perceives it can gain U.S. concessions on missile defense now, will it be more likely to demand greater concessions later in negotiations on arms control, nonproliferation, and counter-terrorism?

Lastly, as you know, the European missile defense proposal is a NATO policy. During last year's Bucharest Summit, its leaders endorsed the proposal to place 10 interceptors in Poland and a radar in the Czech Republic, citing its "substantial contribution to the protection of Allies." According to the studies we've seen, this proposal is cost-effective and the technology, which is largely based on systems fielded today in Alaska and California, works. Should the United States jettison this proposal, we risk losing our credibility both in the alliance and as a global leader in building collective security. In today's complex geopolitical environment, our relationship with our allies and friends is paramount to addressing our mutual security concerns. What message does it send to our allies—specifically the Czech Republic and Poland—that the United States may not carry out its security commitments?

We strongly support the goal of preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, and believe it is in Russia's interests to work with the international community to achieve this goal. However, we do not believe that terminating the European missile defense proposal in exchange for Russian assistance with Iran is the best course of action to meet our national security objectives.

Mr. President, in the future, we hope you will choose consultation with the Congress and our allies instead of unilateral action when crafting such important policy proposals. There is bipartisan support in Congress for European missile defense and we look forward to the clarification of your position on this vital issue. As you discuss our collective security challenges with the international community, we encourage you to send a clear, transparent, and consistent message to our allies that we will honor our collective security commitments.

Sincerely,



John M. McHugh
Ranking Member



Michael Turner
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Cc: The Honorable Robert Gates

John Bahner

Phil Singas

Bob Boly

Bill Shuster

Jenna Roman

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February 18, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to authorize Juan Lara, Majority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Mike Brinck, Minority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity to travel on official committee oversight business to sites in Washington from April 6 to April 10, 2009. The purpose of travel is to attend various Transition Assistance Program Workshops in Ft. Lewis AFB, Bremerton AFB, McChord AFB, and Fairchild AFB, Washington.

The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation is authorized by Title 31, U.S.C 1108(g). Travel will be conducted by military and/or commercial aircraft up to business class, including foreign flag carriers when U.S. carriers are not available.

If there are any questions, please have your staff coordinate with Juan Lara at (202) 226-5491 and Mike Brinck at (202) 226-3668. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman

JL/ot

OSD 02328-09



**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
Washington, DC 20515**

February 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to serve as an amendment to the authorization letter for an Agriculture Committee fact-finding Congressional Delegation to be lead by the Tim Holden of Pennsylvania, a member of this Committee, to Senegal, Mali, and Ghana during the period April 3 to April 17, 2009, (reference authorization letter dated December 31, 2008, changing countries from Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and airdrop in Sudan).

I request the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation and military escort, as may be required to facilitate this trip. For purposes of protocol, Members' spouses may attend at no additional cost to the U.S. government. It is anticipated that a minimum of five (5) Members, plus spouses and staff, are expected to join the CODEL. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and of such transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to Title 31, U.S.C. 1108(g).

It would be appreciated if officials of the Department would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel, including transportation. Furthermore, it is requested that the Army Liaison staff be authorized to accompany this CODEL. Thank you very much for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Wynn J Bott in the Committee's office at (202) 225-2171.

Sincerely,



Collin C. Peterson
Chairman

CCP:wb

OSD 02329-09



JOE DONNELLY
2ND DISTRICT, INDIANA

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LAPORTE, IN 46350
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FAX: (574) 288-2825

300 EAST BROADWAY, SUITE #102
LOGANSPORT, IN 46847
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FAX: (574) 753-7615

VIA FAX

March 2, 2009

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Honorable Wilkie:

I am writing on behalf of my constituent Mrs. Kathe Kain. Kathe runs a business, Sports-O-Zone, that manufactures a Decon-Zone machine that reduces the odors, bacteria, viruses, and mold on gear after just one use. It is already in use by the U.S. Marine Corps Bases in Okanawa and Camp LeJeune, by the United States Air Force at Elmendorf Air Force Base and Peterson Air Force Base, by the Asymmetric Warfare Group at Fort Meade and the Total Force Maneuver Support Center at Fort Leonard Wood. With this proven track record, they feel that they have a valuable product for many other bases and units.

I write you to ask that you please grant every consideration consistent with U.S. law and applicable regulation in order to help in this case. If you have any further questions, you can contact my case manager Peter Gehred at peter.gehred@mail.house.gov or call him at (574) 288-2780.

Regards,



Joe Donnelly
Member of Congress

JD:pg

OSD 02379-09



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February 19, 2009

Mr. Christian P. Marrone
 Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs
 U.S. Department of Defense
 1300 Defense – Pentagon
 Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Marrone:


I would like to extend an invitation to you to testify before the Committee on Education and Labor at the hearing entitled *"Renewing America Through National Service and Volunteerism"* to be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 10 a.m. in 2175 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

You will be given 5 minutes to testify. The lighting system located at the witness table will indicate when you can begin your testimony and how much time you have left. The light will turn yellow when you have 1 minute left and red when your time has expired. Once all witnesses have finished their testimony, the Members will have 5 minutes each to comment and ask questions of witnesses.

Also, pursuant to House Rule XI, Clause 2(g), witnesses testifying before the Committee must meet witness disclosure requirements. Please complete the attached "Truth in Testimony" form and return to Tylease Alli of the Committee staff via fax at 202-225-2350. Please provide the following 48 hours prior to the date of the hearing: a brief summary of your testimony, a brief biography, the "Truth in Testimony" form, and 50 copies of your testimony. **Please be advised that this 48 hour deadline for testimony is the absolute deadline. Testimony should be submitted earlier to Alejandra Ceja of the Committee staff if she advises you to do so. If you have any questions regarding deadlines for the submission of testimony please contact Ms. Ceja.** In addition, the Committee would like to make your written testimony available on our webpage, at <http://edlabor.house.gov/>. To do this, we ask that you send an electronic version of your statement in Microsoft Word format as an attachment to an e-mail to Tylease Alli (tylease.all@mail.house.gov). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Alli at 202-226-1848.

I would like to thank you in advance for your time and interest in this matter. I look forward to hearing your testimony.

Sincerely,


 GEORGE MILLER
 Chairman

OSD 02434-09



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March 9, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On Tuesday, March 17, 2009, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs will conduct a hearing on *The Vision Center for Excellence: What Has Been Accomplished in Thirteen Months*. This hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. in room 334 of the Cannon House Office Building.

The Subcommittee invites Ward Cascells, MD, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense, and Colonel Donald A. Gagliano, USA, MD, Director, Military Eye Trauma Vision Center of Excellence, U.S. Department of Defense. Dr. Cascells and Colonel Gagliano will be recognized for five minutes each, and their complete written statement will be made part of the hearing record. Please confirm Dr. Cascell's and Colonel Gagliano's attendance by having staff contact Mr. Todd Chambers at (202) 225-3569.

Please submit 75 copies of written testimony, and a biography, to Mr. Todd Chambers at 337A Cannon House Office Building by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009. To reduce costs and facilitate the inclusion of the written testimony in the printed record of the hearing, please provide one copy of the testimony prepared in accordance with the enclosed formatting requirements.

OSD 02495-09



Honorable Robert M. Gates

March 9, 2009

Page 2

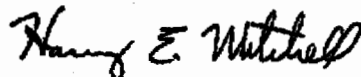
Due to heightened security precautions, please note that all Congressional mail delivery is delayed and commercial delivery services are prohibited. Therefore, you must contact our staff at (202) 225-3569 to make arrangements for a representative from your organization to hand deliver your testimony.

The Committee provides public access to its hearing statements on the Internet through the World Wide Web at the House of Representatives (<http://veterans.house.gov>) and the Library of Congress (<http://thomas.loc.gov>).

To facilitate this public access, please send an electronic copy of your testimony to Mr. Todd Chambers at Todd.Chambers@mail.house.gov. Ideally, the electronic copy should be in Microsoft Word format. Additionally, the hearings are now broadcast live, in real time, over the Internet, and are archived on our Web site so they may be accessed following each hearing.

We look forward to hearing the views of the organization on this matter. Please contact Geoffrey Bestor, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, at (202) 225-3569 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



HARRY E. MITCHELL

Chairman

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

GB/tc

MELVIN L. WATT
12TH DISTRICT
NORTH CAROLINA



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3312

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCIAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

February 24, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-0001

Dear Secretary Gates:

My office is hosting the 12th Congressional District Annual Grants Conference on Monday, June 15, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC. This Conference will provide my constituents throughout the 12th Congressional District an opportunity to meet with representatives from federal agencies and learn about the federal grant application process.

I am writing to request your assistance by providing a representative from your agency to serve as a Conference presenter. Each presenter is asked to provide an overview of your agency's application process and funding programs.

Please confirm your agency's participation by contacting my Grant Conference Coordinator, Tamara Stinson, at (704) 344-9950 or Tamara.Stinson@mail.house.gov by Friday, April 3, 2009. I look forward to your agency's involvement. Thank you for your support of this effort.

Sincerely,

Melvin L. Watt
MLW/ts

OSD 02566-09



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FAX: (704) 344-9971

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SUITE 210
GREENSBORO, NC 27401
(336) 275-9950
FAX: (336) 379-8951

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3225

February 25, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Daniel B. Maffei M.C.

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

CAROL SHEA-PORTER
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515
February 26, 2009

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www.shea-porter.house.gov

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to correct a sentence contained in my letter, co-signed by 18 of my colleagues, which I sent to you on February 17, 2009.

While the letter accurately stated that the Department of Defense Inspector General is currently investigating the electrocution deaths of 18 Americans (16 soldiers and 2 contractors), my office inaccurately stated that all of the electrocutions were "in KBR-maintained facilities." It has come to my attention that some of these incidents did not occur in KBR-maintained facilities. This misstatement does not diminish my concern about a contract involving major electrical work being awarded to a company under investigation for the electrocution deaths of American soldiers.

I hope this clarification resolves any confusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Shea-Porter".

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

OSD 02581-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

February 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable David Price, Chairman of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Mongolia, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste on official business during the approximate time period of May 22-31, 2009.

The main purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the Great State Hural of Mongolia, the House of Representatives in Indonesia, and the National Parliament of Timor-Leste in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date. Spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government for protocol purposes only.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02582-09

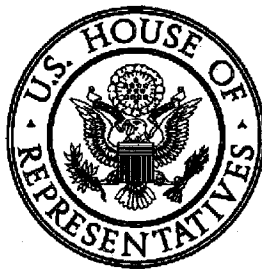


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kendrickmEEK.house.gov



CONGRESSMAN KENDRICK B. MEEK

February 25, 2009

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FAX: (954) 450-8768

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

In October of 2008, President Bush signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009. An essential part of that Act was the establishment of the Military Leadership Diversity Commission. Creation of this commission is the fruit of numerous meetings between senior members of the Pentagon, including former Undersecretary Gordon England and each of the Service Chiefs, former General Officers, and members of the Congressional Black Caucus dating back to October of 2007.

We share the goal of making sure that our military and its senior leadership reflects our larger American society, and to that end I have been looking forward to the Commission beginning its task : "conducting a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of policies that provide opportunities for the promotion and advancement of minority members of the Armed Forces, including minority members who are senior officers."

The work of this Commission will give Congress a better idea of how to address the continuing issues hampering our senior military service members. The simple fact is that minorities are overrepresented at the enlisted level and underrepresented at the officer level. This discrepancy becomes more acute at the General and Flag Officer level. We all understand that given the nature of longevity and time in grade requirements that rectifying this discrepancy will be by definition a slow process. It will take time to grow today's junior officers into tomorrow's senior leaders. That is all the more incentive to act now and to act rapidly to ensure that military leadership 30 years from now more accurately reflects our society.

The NDAA set a deadline for appointment the Commission's members of not later than 60 days after the date of enactment for the Commission's establishment; it is my understanding that only very recently did you receive nominations from all relevant services and that now the Commission awaits your approval of these nominees. To me,

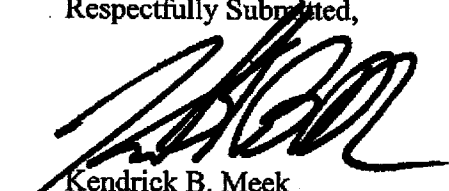
OSD 02584-09



the issue of diversity is also an issue of national security as we are better served by the wide range of talents, experiences and capabilities that each group can bring to the table. The U.S. military has long been at the forefront of maximizing diversity in our nation, but we must continue to build on past successes. I know that the effort to build upon that diversity is a goal that you and I share, and I look forward to your response and to the timely forming of the Military Leadership Diversity Commission.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my staff for support, advice or recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kendrick B. Meek
Member of Congress

ROBERT E. ANDREWS
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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BUDGET COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3001

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- 63 NORTH BROAD STREET
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WEBSITE:

www.house.gov/andrews

February 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are contacting you today in support of a public-private partnership being developed between Stevens Institute of Technology and McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey that is successfully working to ensure our military becomes independent of foreign oil and fossil fuels. In addition, this work will foster new technologies, create jobs and spur economic development throughout Southern New Jersey, and we urge you to consider committing \$3.5 million worth of defense funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to this important initiative.

As alternative energy technology matures, it is imperative that new concepts of renewable energy production are tested and proven in the field. Military bases are ideally suited to serve as national test beds for the development of affordable alternative energy. Stevens Institute of Technology, in collaboration with the private sector, has developed innovative carbon neutral technologies that can be implemented now in the field to validate the concept of operations for distributed alternative energy systems that can meet a major portion of the demand of military bases. McGuire Air Force Base is committed to becoming a model base where alternative energy technology is tested at full scale and its efficacy is proven. The funding we are requesting would be used to install, operate and test proven biofuel alternative energy technology at McGuire Air Force Base.


This program will demonstrate the efficiency and affordability of biofuel technology to our Nation's military bases, create hundreds of jobs in Southern New Jersey over the next two years, foster a new industry that creates thousands of jobs nationwide, and become the kernel of innovation that can transfer best practices to the rest of our military establishments for years to come. We have attached additional information regarding this project to this letter for your consideration.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Our offices are prepared to provide you with any additional information you may require or answer any questions you may have about this initiative.

Cc: Wayne Amy, Undersecretary for Defense Installations and Environment

Sincerely,


Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress


John Adler
Member of Congress

OSD 02588-09



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February 27, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to authorize Juan Lara, Majority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Mike Brinck, Minority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity to travel on official committee oversight business to sites in Washington from April 6 to April 10, 2009. The purpose of travel is to attend various Transition Assistance Program Workshops in Bremerton Naval Base, Ft. Lewis AFB, McChord AFB, and Fairchild AFB, Washington.

The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation is authorized by Title 31, U.S.C 1108(g). Travel will be conducted by military and/or commercial aircraft up to business class, including foreign flag carriers when U.S. carriers are not available.

If there are any questions, please have your staff coordinate with Juan Lara at (202) 226-5491 and Mike Brinck at (202) 226-3668. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bob

BOB FILNER
 Chairman

JL/ot

OSD 02637-09



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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

March 10, 2009

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to call your attention to the requirement that the Department of Defense (DoD) conduct a space-based interceptor study as mandated by the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 110-329).

After the Appropriations bill became law, there appeared to be disagreement as to whether or not the DoD has the legal authority to obligate and expend funds for a space-based interceptor study. The Congressional Research Service (CRS) delivered a memorandum to Senator Kyl on October 31, 2008, which concluded, "The Department of Defense appears legally required to obligate and expend \$5 million for this space-based interceptor study because section 8006 of the full-year Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2009, which was enacted as Division C of P.L. 110-329, states that the obligation and expenditure of funds for projects for which amounts appropriated exceed amounts requested in the budget are required by law to be carried out in the manner provided in the tables to the same extent as if the tables were included in the text of the Act."

In addition to the clarification provided by the CRS, we learned that in December of 2008, the Director of the Missile Defense Agency, Lieutenant General Patrick O'Reilly, in a letter to Chairman Skelton, then Ranking Member Hunter, Chairman Murtha, Ranking Member Young, Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran, affirmed that the DoD must, upon the advice of the DoD General Counsel, conduct the study. MDA proposed to award a contract to a Federally Funded Research and Development Center in the near future and anticipated the study would be completed as early as summer 2009. We have also learned that Undersecretary of Defense John Young assured Senator John Kyl in a December 2008 letter, "the Department will comply with the statutory requirement and proceed with the study." Finally, the DoD General Counsel issued his opinion that the Department is legally required to conduct the study in a letter to Chairman Skelton dated February 10, 2009.

OSD 02641-09



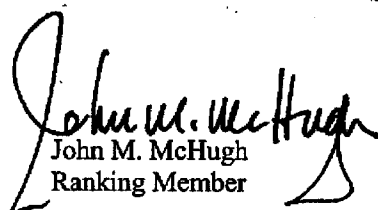
Secretary Gates
March 10, 2009
Page 2

Despite the legal requirement to conduct the study and the aforementioned correspondence from Department officials that they plans to proceed with the study and award a contract, we have been recently informed that due to political pressure, the DoD has postponed proceeding with the study. We will not debate the merits of space-based interceptors in this letter because our political opinions on the matter are irrelevant at this juncture. The purpose of the study is to explore the feasibility and advisability of the concept. The Congress has already debated the issue and the bill appropriating funds for the study has been voted on by both chambers of Congress and enacted into law. The Department should not stall its plans for conducting the study due to political pressures and any such action would be perceived as such.

This study was important to former Ranking Member Hunter and Strategic Forces subcommittee Ranking Member Everett, and this request continues their work. With a solid legal foundation, we see no reason to delay proceeding with the study in accordance with the Department's original plans and intent. We request that you provide us with the timeline for which the Department plans to obligate and expend the \$5 million to conduct the study and the intended recipient of the study contract.

We are happy to discuss any questions related to this matter.

Sincerely,


John M. McHugh
Ranking Member


Michael Turner
Member of Congress


Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress


Trent Franks
Member of Congress


Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

DEAN HELLER
2ND DISTRICT, NEVADA

1023 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2802

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

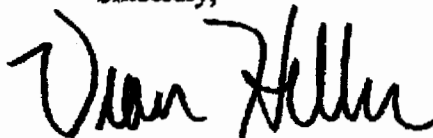
I appreciate the work the Department of Defense does in providing employment to people with severe disabilities through service contracts under the AbilityOne Program. I have the pleasure of working with Opportunity Village, a community rehabilitation program in southern Nevada that has been providing job training and employment services in southern Nevada.

For more than 35 years, Opportunity Village has supported the airmen and women at Nellis Air Force Base. Currently, Opportunity Village has a food service attendant contract and postal service center contract with Nellis. As a result, 43 people with severe disabilities are employed under these contracts.

This partnership has provided valuable services at Nellis AFB, and has assisted people with disabilities. Given this information, I ask that the Department of Defense reaffirm its commitment to not enter into contracts or agreements that will result in the loss of jobs created by the Randolph Sheppard Act, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, or small business programs. The AbilityOne Program should be part of the Air Force job creation efforts, and I urge the Department of Defense to coordinate with AbilityOne representatives to develop a policy solution that encourages job creation through both the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program and the AbilityOne Program.

Thank you for your prompt attention to my concerns and please feel free to contact me for further information. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



DEAN HELLER
Member of Congress

OSD 02653-09



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March 3, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman Michael H. Michaud to lead a delegation of Members and staff from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs on a fact-finding visit to Afghanistan and Germany from April 13 to April 18, 2009. The delegation will include, in addition to Congressman Michaud, Congresswoman Deborah L. Halvorson of Illinois; Congressman Glenn C. Nye of Virginia; Congressman Thomas S. P. Perriello of Virginia, and Congressman David P. Roe of Tennessee; Cathy Wiblemo, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Health; and Dolores Dunn, Republican Staff Director for the Subcommittee. In addition, Vice Admiral Adam Robinson, Surgeon General of the Navy, and Lieutenant General Eric Schoomaker, Army Surgeon General, will be in attendance.

The Delegation is currently planning to travel to visit medical facilities in the chain of care of OEF service members and see first-hand the level and quality of health care being provided to active duty service members in Afghanistan. Participants will also speak directly with key medical personnel at these facilities in order to better understand the challenges of combat health care in Afghanistan. They request briefings and updates from Defense officials knowledgeable on medical evacuation procedures and policy.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in the countries to be visited. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be

OSD 02657-09



Honorable Robert M. Gates
March 3, 2009
Page 2

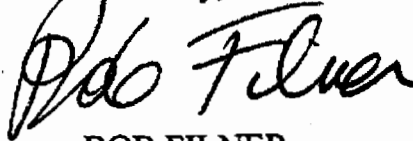
required, including transportation, to facilitate this fact-finding visit. The expenditure of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to Title 31, U.S.C., Section 1108 (g).

I would also like to request military escorts from the Army Legislative Liaison Office be authorized to accompany the delegation for administrative and logistical support.

The CODEL will be authorized to travel on foreign commercial airline carriers when there has been a determination that a U.S. flag carrier not available to meet the scheduling requirements of the traveler consistent with the "Fly America Act."

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jian Zapata of the Committee staff at 225-9756.

Sincerely,

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

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
20TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

303 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4320

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20302-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:


I write with respect to the recent Federal Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling in the case of *Rothe Development Corp. v. Department of Defense and Department of the Air Force*. I am concerned how the Department of Defense (DOD) will now conduct its contracting processes and how this determination will affect small businesses in the 20th Congressional District of Texas.

In 1998, Rothe Development Inc., a woman owned small business, filed a lawsuit against DOD claiming it had lost a contract, for which it submitted the lowest bid, because of the racial set-aside program. The case called into question the DOD's entire minority-owned small business set-aside contracting program. On November 4, 2008, the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that this contracting program, which sets aside 5 percent of DOD contracts, is unconstitutional because of a lack of evidence that minority companies had ever suffered from racial discrimination in the DOD contracting process.

Small businesses in my district have been asking what this decision will mean for the DOD minority-owned small business set aside contracting program. I represent a community with a strong military presence and with a great number of minority-owned small businesses that hold contracts with all the service branches. Therefore, DOD's contracting process has a huge impact on business owners I represent. My constituents need guidance now on how DOD intends to move forward in light of this ruling.

I respectfully request a meeting with senior officials to discuss how DOD intends to address this matter and when new guidance can be expected from the agency. To arrange for the meeting, please contact Jayne Ann Wolsey, my scheduler, at 202-225-3236. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,


Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress

CAG: am

COMMITTEE ON
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CONSUMER PROTECTION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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OSD 02660-09



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Congress of the United States
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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHEO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 5, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

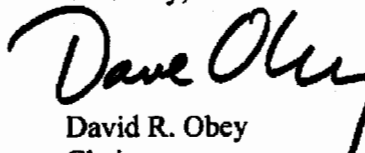
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee, Committee on Appropriations, and The Honorable Kay Granger, The Honorable Jesse Jackson, Jr., The Honorable Adam Schiff, and The Honorable Ben Chandler, Members of the Committee, to travel during the approximate time period of April 13th-19th, 2009, to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Ireland. The purpose of this trip is to review U.S. policies and programs in the region, and to meet with government officials.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial and military aircraft.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 02662-09



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress
Third District, New York

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For Suffolk County:
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peter.king@ny11.house.gov
www.ny11.house.gov



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3203

March 11, 2009

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
RANKING MEMBER

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING

The Honorable BJ Penn
Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment)
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1000

Dear Mr. Penn:

I am writing to you regarding the recent environmental investigation in and around the Naval Weapons Reserve Plant (NWIRP) in Bethpage, NY. As you know, this investigation has identified the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in several homes. While I applaud the Navy's pro-active efforts in sampling certain homes and educating the community by holding public meetings, I believe more needs to be done. That is why I am joining with Nassau County Legislator Edward Mangano in requesting the Navy take the following actions:

1. Provide immediate, free testing to all homeowners residing south of NWIRP
2. Expedite in-home remediation
3. Expedite an on-site remediation system
4. Designate funding to compensate affected homeowners
5. Expand the radius of neighborhood street testing and continue testing until redundant non-detected results are confirmed

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I would appreciate the Navy keeping me regularly informed of new developments regarding Bethpage.

Sincerely,

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

Cc: Dr. Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense
Mr. Donald Winter, Secretary of the Navy

OSD 02673-09



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BILL SHUSTER
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MEMBER
RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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

March 5, 2009

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

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SEAPOWERS AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
TERRORISM AND UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS
AND CAPABILITIES

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE:
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

RURAL HEALTH CARE COALITION

CONGRESSIONAL
SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

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

Secretary Gates:

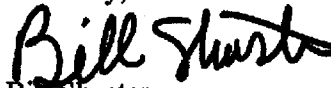
As you know, on September 9th, 2004 President Bush took an unprecedented step when he recognized that the atrocities occurring in Darfur constituted genocide. More than four years later, the genocide continues. In 2008 alone at least 300,000 people were displaced and there have been 43 reported aerial attacks by the Government of Sudan.

The United States should work with our allies to ensure that the United Nations mission in Darfur has the critical resources it requires. I urge you to renew efforts to secure the helicopters which the UN mission needs if it is to save lives, create an environment amenable to the peace negotiations, and ensure uninterrupted humanitarian operations.

Without helicopters, the current UN peacekeeping force's ability to respond quickly to events and fulfill its mandate to protect civilians is severely compromised. More than 20 countries have surplus aircraft that could be made available for the mission. It is my understanding that the six countries best placed to provide transport helicopters, Italy, Ukraine, India, Spain, Romania and the Czech Republic, between them have an estimated 71 helicopters available, four times the requirement.

Thank you for your leadership and your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

cc: General Jim Jones, National Security Advisor
Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

OSD 02735-09



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(814) 696-6318
FAX: (814) 696-6726

647 PHILADELPHIA STREET
SUITE 304
INDIANA, PA 15701
(724) 463-0616
FAX: (724) 463-0618

118 WEST MAIN STREET
SUITE 302
SOMERSET, PA 15501
(814) 443-3918
FAX: (814) 443-6373

100 LINCOLN WAY EAST
SUITE 8
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201
(717) 264-8308
FAX: (717) 264-0289

ANDRÉ CARSON
7TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RESEARCH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1407

March 5, 2009

2455 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1407
(202) 225-4011

DISTRICT OFFICE
300 E FALL CREEK PKWY N DR. #300
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206
(317) 283-6518

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

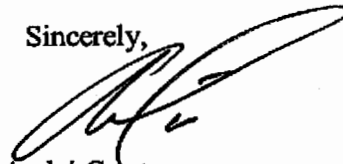
I am writing to express my strong support for the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program, and request your consideration of a reprogramming of funds for Fiscal Year 2009. I am aware of significant undesired consequences for the E-2D program, as a result of the enacted funding levels for Fiscal Year 2009, and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

As you know, the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program is the cornerstone of the Navy's Net-Centric Warfare concept, and is imperative for protection against theater air and missile threats. Unfortunately, since the Defense Appropriations Bill was not considered in regular order, there was little time to address misunderstandings and major issues before the final conference report was complete. This produced an appropriations mark that left the program at a level inadequate to sustain it in transition from development to low rate production. In addition, the current FY09 funding level might produce a delay in Initial Operating Capability (IOC) by two or more years. This is especially disappointing when the Advanced Hawkeye program continues to meet and exceed both cost and schedule goals, and is needed to address urgent threats.

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

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your strong support for prioritizing reprogramming of Fiscal Year 2009 funding for the E-2D program.

Sincerely,



André Carson

Member of Congress

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

OSD 02738-09



LEONARD L. BOSWELL
3rd DISTRICT, IOWA

OFFICES:
1427 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3806

300 EAST LOCUST STREET
SUITE 320
DES MOINES, IA 50309
(515) 282-1909

TOLL FREE IOWA NUMBER
1-888-432-1984

<http://boswell.house.gov>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1503

March 5, 2009

COMMITTEES:
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DAIRY AND POULTRY

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, HUMAN
INTELLIGENCE, ANALYSIS AND
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

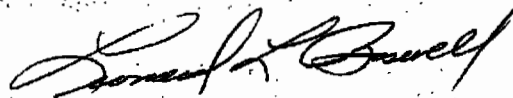
I write to urge you to act immediately to protect the jobs of people with severe disabilities working on Department of Defense (DoD) service contracts under the AbilityOne Program. Specifically, I ask that you:

1. Reaffirm the moratorium on conversions set forth in the December 29, 2004, Memorandum wherein Under Secretary of Defense Chu states, *DoD NAFLs shall not enter into contracts or agreements with DoD elements or other Federal Departments, Agencies or instrumentalities for the provision of goods and services that will result in the loss of jobs created pursuant to the Randolph Sheppard Act, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, or small business programs until a policy solution can be reached that encourages job creation;*
2. Request that the AbilityOne Program be part of the Air Force solution; and,
3. Provide notification that responses to date from Arthur Myers, Principal Director, Military Community and Family Policy, do not fully address the above two issues.

I support the DoD Food Transformation effort where it results in higher quality and efficiency to service members and lower costs. However, given the potential impact this challenge could have on the employment of thousands of people with severe disabilities in the AbilityOne Program, I strongly urge the DoD to coordinate with AbilityOne representatives to develop a policy solution that encourages job creation through both the MWR and the AbilityOne Programs. This is a crucial step to incorporate the best thinking to resolve this issue, particularly when jobs for people with severe disabilities are so rare, reflecting an unemployment rate unparalleled by any other demographic sector of our society.

Thank you for your early consideration of this urgent request. If you have any questions on this issue, please feel free to contact me or my staff, Katy Siddall, at 202-225-3806.

Sincerely,



Member of Congress

LB:ks

OSD 02741-09



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

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

February 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to evaluate current policies regarding trade and commerce with Cuba, and to examine and promote proposals to initiate cultural, academic, and health exchanges with the U.S.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority of 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

The travel will be conducted via military aircraft. It would be appreciated if officials of the Department would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 02742-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
March 5, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable John Tanner, Chairman of the House NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) group, to lead a delegation to Germany, France, Lithuania, Ukraine, Georgia, and Belgium during the approximate period of April 2-9, 2009. The purpose of this trip will be to attend meetings with government officials in each country in conjunction with the mission of the Assembly. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable John Tanner (D-TN)
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)

Ms. Melissa Adamson, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

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

Please also note that Mr. David Hobbs, Secretary General of the NATO PA, has been invited to travel with the delegation in-theatre.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 02743-09



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

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March 9, 2009

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby given to Representative Kay Granger, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 27-28, 2009, to Leon, Mexico. The purpose of this trip is to participate in the US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce "A Vision for North America" Conference.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,



David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02744-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

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

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHIETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby given to Representative Kay Granger, member of the Committee on Appropriations and Anne Marie Chotvacs, professional staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on a CODEL led by Representative Nita Lowey during the approximate time period of April 13 - 19, 2009, to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Ireland. The purpose of this trip is to review U.S. policies and programs in the region, and to meet with government officials.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,



David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02745-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

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

March 10, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 226-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Celes Hughes, Matthew Washington, and B.G. Wright, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 27 – April 3, 2009, to Qatar, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The purpose of this trip is to review programs supporting the announced U.S. troop build-up in Afghanistan.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial and military aircraft.

Sincerely,



David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02746-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

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LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

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

March 10, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
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JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
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TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Celes Hughes, Matthew Washington, and B.G. Wright, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 27 – April 3, 2009, to Qatar, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The purpose of this trip is to review programs supporting the announced U.S. troop build-up in Afghanistan.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial and military aircraft.

Sincerely,



David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02746-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20515-6015

March 11, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

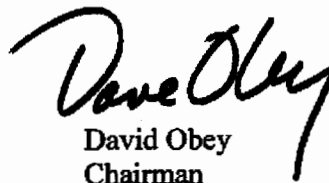
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Ed Pastor, the Honorable Maurice Hinchey, the Honorable Tim Ryan, the Honorable Ciró Rodriguez, the Honorable John R. Carter, the Honorable Rodney Alexander, and the Honorable John T. Salazar members of the Committee on Appropriations, and Taunja Berquam and Terry Tyborowski, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on official business to Puerto Rico, and Brazil, during the time period of April 3 – April 10, 2009. The Honorable James Clyburn will travel under separate authorization. The purpose of the trip is to inspect sustainable biomass plantations, renewable energy laboratories, hydropower production, flex-fuel, and hybrid vehicle manufacturing processes, and water infrastructure. They will also be meeting with officials and the Brazilian government to discuss national energy strategies and other issues of mutual interest.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It would be appreciated in the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation, to facilitate this trip. It would also be appreciated if the Department of the Army (SAFM-BUL) could be assigned to escort the delegation.

Sincerely,


David Obey
Chairman

OSD 02747-09



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

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TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 20, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize spouses to accompany Members for reasons of protocol at no additional expense to the government.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 02748-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

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LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

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

March 11, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
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ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
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JO BONNER, ALABAMA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Adrienne Ramsay, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 27, 2009, to Rochester, New York. The purpose of this trip is to visit facilities to review the design and production capabilities and receive briefings on subsystems and payloads for national security space systems.

Per diem expenses of not to exceed \$109 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 02749-09



WALTER B. JONES
3D DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

ROOM 2333
RAVALLIN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3416

COMMITTEE:
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1105-C CORPORATE DRIVE
GREENVILLE, NC 27608
(252) 531-1000
(800) 361-1097

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to request that the Department of Defense (DoD) finalize the inclusion of TRICARE Retail Pharmacy Program in federal procurement of pharmaceuticals proposed rule (73 Fed. Reg. 43394 (July 25, 2008)); 32 CFR Part 199 (DoD-2008-HA-0029; 0720-AB22) as soon as possible. According to the proposed rule, making this regulation final will save DoD \$2.4 billion in Fiscal Years 2009-2011. In addition to providing badly needed savings to the DoD, the finalization of this rule ends the need for current or future TRICARE policies that favor the TRICARE Mail Order Program (TMOP) over the TRICARE retail pharmacy network.

In Fiscal Year 2006, America's retail pharmacies dispensed over 55 million TRICARE prescriptions, more than any other pharmacy practice setting. TRICARE beneficiaries, particularly retirees, have demonstrated a clear preference to obtain their prescription drugs and pharmacy services from retail pharmacies, despite the fact that there are already incentives in the TRICARE program to encourage beneficiaries to use mail order. They are our nation's current and retired armed services personnel and their families, and we need to honor them by providing them with quality, accessible health care. I believe the choice of where to obtain prescription medications is best left to them.

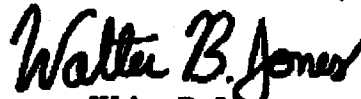
Implementing the proposed rule would bring to fruition the sensible policy that the DoD, with the support of the Government Services Administration, has pursued for years. A final rule will give full effect to the intent and plain language of Section 703 of NDAA-2008[1][1] by placing retail pharmacies on an equal footing with other TRICARE pharmacy programs. Section 703 was signed into law one year ago, and as we await issuance of the final rule, DoD loses hundreds of millions of dollars of savings because manufacturers are not paying required statutory discounts on TRICARE prescriptions dispensed by retail pharmacies. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimated savings of \$3.2 billion over the five-year period, including \$719 million in FY 2009.

OSD 02751-09



I respectfully request that you quickly promulgate and implement a revised final rule that reflects the intent of Congress and DoD to achieve significant savings and enable TRICARE beneficiaries to choose where to obtain their prescription medications. This result will best honor TRICARE beneficiaries, promote quality health care, and preserve scarce government resources. Thank you for your continued service to our country, and for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter B. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

GREG WALDEN
SECOND DISTRICT, OREGON
DEPUTY WHIP

ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
RANKING MEMBER

ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT
COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY,
AND THE INTERNET

E-mail via Webstar
mailto:greg.walden@house.gov



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3702
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847 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 400
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TELEPHONE (541) 776-1646
TOLL FREE: (800) 533-3300

1051 NW BOND STREET, SUITE 400
GRAND, OR 97701
TELEPHONE (541) 329-4408

1211 WASHINGTON AVENUE
LA GUARDA, OR 97850
TELEPHONE (541) 824-2400

March 13, 2009

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

Lieutenant General Clyde A. Vaughn
Director, Army National Guard
NGB-ARNG
111 South George Mason Drive
Arlington, VA 22204

Dear Secretary Gates and Lieutenant General Vaughn:

I write today to urge you to direct money from the \$50,000,000 allocated for Army National Guard Military Construction in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (PL 111-5) towards construction of The Dalles Armory located in The Dalles, Oregon. According to their FY2010 appropriations request, the Oregon Military Department indicated that their federal request for this project is \$17,023,000. It is my hope that this project can be funded through the money available in PL 111-5 to allow construction to begin immediately.

The Oregon Military Department has indicated that this project is ready to execute now and will help the local and state economy by providing jobs in construction and maintenance during the period of construction and supporting the local economy after construction. They estimate that construction projects of this scope average a total of 62 sub-contracts with an average of 12 employees per contract. The total number of construction related jobs is estimated to be between 750 and 1,000.

This project is vital to the community in The Dalles because it is a unique partnership between the Oregon Military Department and Columbia Gorge Community College and will provide prolonged benefit to the local economy as part of the community college campus with classrooms available to the college during the week.

It is important that this project is completed as expeditiously as possible. I can think of no better way to create jobs, stimulate the state and local economy, and also advance the mission of the men and women who have dedicated themselves to protecting our country. Thank you for your time and full and fair consideration consistent with applicable law, rules, and regulations. I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Greg Walden
Member of Congress

OSD 02768-09



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March 18, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE - 703-695-1219

The Honorable Robert Gates
 Secretary
 U.S. Department of Defense
 The Pentagon
 Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Marcia L. Fudge to travel on a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) led by the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to evaluate current policies regarding trade and commerce with Cuba, and to examine and promote proposals to initiate cultural, academic, and health exchanges with the United States.

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

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Clifton Ronald St. Clair Williams III at 202-225-7032. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


 GEORGE MILLER
 Chairman

GM:ejh



GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

8TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

1728 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2542

DISTRICT OFFICES:

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1861 NORTH SWAN, SUITE 112
TUCSON, AZ 85712
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COCHISE COUNTY OFFICE
77 CALLE PORTAL, SUITE B-160
SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85635
(520) 459-3115



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0308

March 10, 2009

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIR AND
LAND FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY READINESS

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SPACE AND AERONAUTICS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense, Pentagon - Room 3E970
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

Dear Sect. Gates:

I write regarding two studies mandated by the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (NDAA), PL-110.417, which were recently due to be submitted to Congress but have not yet been received. These studies of the Department of Defense's renewable energy pursuits, such as the use of solar power, are vital to progress on developing a comprehensive strategy on reducing the Department's operational energy consumption.

Section 333 of the 2009 NDAA requires your office to conduct a study examining the feasibility of using solar and wind energy to provide electricity for expeditionary forces. In particular, the study must examine the potential for solar and wind energy to reduce the fuel supply; the extent to which such reduction will decrease the risk of casualties associated with convoy operations; the overall costs and benefits of using these technologies; the sustainability and operating requirements of solar and wind energy systems; and potential opportunities for experimentation within current training environments. The report was due on 11 February, 2009, 120 days after enactment of the 2009 NDAA, however the report has not yet been submitted to Congress.

The second report, due 1 March, 2009, was required by the House Report accompanying the 2009 NDAA. It directed your office to report on technologies that are suitably mature to be integrated into reset and recapitalization programs that, if deployed, could reduce energy consumption. Likewise, this report has not yet been received.

I respectfully request that copies of these studies are immediately furnished to the Congress as they are likely to provide important insights for potential action during this year's defense authorization cycle. I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress

OSD 02986-09



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AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
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BETSY MARKEY
4TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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FAX: 202-225-5870

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123 N. COLLEGE AVE., SUITE 220
FORT COLLINS, CO 80524
970-221-7110
FAX: 970-221-7240

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to express my outrage at the Army's use of funds to purchase land to expand the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site in direct violation of clearly stated Congressional intent.

In 2008, Congress passed the Military Construction Appropriations Act with an amendment stating "*None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used for any action that is related to or promotes the expansion of the boundaries or size of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado.*" The clear intent of this measure was to prevent the appropriation of funds for the proposed expansion of the Pinon Canyon site used by the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado.

It has come to my attention that the Army has recently completed a deal with a Colorado landowner for the acquisition of approximately 70,000 acres of land near the existing Pinon Canyon facility. This acquisition comes less than six months after members of Congress expressed their intent to impose a ban on expansion.

The expansion of the Pinon Canyon site has been adamantly opposed by Colorado Members of Congress as well as the farmers and ranchers in Southern Colorado because a larger training facility will result in the condemnation of private property, decreased land values, a devastating impact on the local economy, and on the environment.

The Pinon Canyon site has always been a bane for the local communities. When the initial land was purchased, some landowners complained of strong-arm tactics and fears of condemnation. When the site was to open, the Army heralded construction jobs and long-term employment, but after twenty years the site has not helped the local economies. Additionally, many were led to believe that the site would not allow live-fire exercises, but that promise was also broken.

Today, I am troubled that the Army has decided to not only violate the trust of the local community but has also decided to skirt clearly defined Congressional intent that this facility not be enlarged. In January 2009, the Government Accountability Office released a report on the Department of Defense justifications for the expansion of Pinon Canyon. This report recommended that the Army provide more information to Congress before further action be

OSD 02991-09



taken. Not only was no further information provided, it now appears that the Army has decided to disregard Congress' intentions altogether. Please advise me on why the Army is progressing forward on the purchase. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Betsy Markey
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



NORM DICKS
Member of Congress



TODD TIAHRT
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States
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BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 16, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated March 9, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Kay Granger, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, to travel to Leon, Mexico during the approximate period of March 27-28, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize travel during the approximate time period of March 27-29, 2009.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03053-09



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<http://veterans.house.gov>

March 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman Michael H. Michaud to lead a delegation of Members and staff from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs on a fact-finding visit to Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Germany from April 13 to April 18, 2009. The delegation will include, in addition to Congressman Michaud, Congresswoman Deborah L. Halvorson of Illinois; Congressman Glenn C. Nye of Virginia; Congressman Thomas S. P. Perriello of Virginia, and Congressman David P. Roe of Tennessee; Cathy Wiblemo, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Health; and Dolores Dunn, Republican Staff Director for the Subcommittee. In addition, Vice Admiral Adam Robinson, Surgeon General of the Navy, and Lieutenant General Eric Schoomaker, Army Surgeon General, will be in attendance.

The Delegation is currently planning to travel to visit medical facilities in the chain of care of OEF service members and see first-hand the level and quality of health care being provided to active duty service members in the countries to be visited. Participants will also speak directly with key medical personnel at these facilities in order to better understand the challenges of combat health care.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in the countries to be visited. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be

OSD 03054-09



Honorable Robert M. Gates

March 11, 2009

Page 2

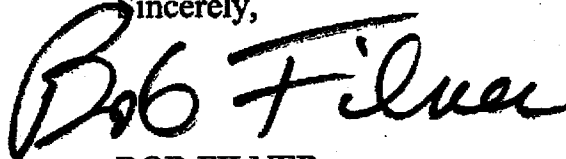
required, including transportation, to facilitate this fact-finding visit. The expenditure of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to Title 31, U.S.C., Section 1108 (g).

I would also like to request military escorts from the Army Legislative Liaison Office be authorized to accompany the delegation for administrative and logistical support.

The CODEL will be authorized to travel on foreign commercial airline carriers when there has been a determination that a U.S. flag carrier not available to meet the scheduling requirements of the traveler consistent with the "Fly America Act."

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jian Zapata of the Committee staff at 225-9756.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Filner". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

BOB FILNER
Chairman

MS/jz

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As a member of the United States House of Representatives, it is an honor to recommend Dr. Solomon Passy for the position of the next Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). We ask that you give this request your full consideration.

NATO as an institution is an important vehicle for keeping peace and stability in the region. With the expected return of France to the military organization will open a window of opportunity for major and profound reforms in the Alliance and a new NATO-EU, Euro-American cohesion. Therefore, we trust that a person like Dr. Passy, bringing the inspiration of New Europe, may synergize best with this momentum.

Dr. Passy's credentials are very impressive. In 1990, as a member of parliament, he launched his idea for Bulgaria to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact to join NATO. At the time this goal was only supported by 15% of the population. The network he created, the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria, succeeded in its goal to reverse popular opinion: in 2004 when Foreign Minister Passy raised the Bulgarian flag at NATO Headquarters, he gained the support of 80% of the Bulgarian people. Also, he successfully negotiated and signed the Accession Treaty of Bulgaria with the European Union in 2005. Both ventures have made him one of the most popular ministers in Bulgarian history.

Another highlight of Dr. Passy's distinguished career was his leadership during Bulgaria's term on the United Nation's Security Council, which lasted from 2002 to 2003. During his tenure, he was able to demonstrate a remarkable ability to develop relationships in a way that permitted the passage of numerous resolutions and other important acts highlighting Bulgaria's successful term on the Council.

Also worth mentioning is his extensive experience in Afghanistan working closely with President Hamid Karzai on election and economic issues that impact the nation as a whole. As Chairman-in-Office for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), he directed the first exporting of an election observation team to Afghanistan to monitor the 2004 presidential election. Given the growing

OSD 03084-09



narcotics concern that has developed out of Afghanistan, he has worked diligently on assisting the people of Afghanistan to replace poppy crops with that of roses—A Bulgarian treasure.

Dr. Passy has a proven track record in foreign relations. He has been one of the main instruments of his country's successes and there is no one better with his knowledge and experience to work in this capacity.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact either of our offices.

Sincerely,



JOE WILSON
Member of Congress



MADELEINE BORDALLO
Member of Congress

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

March 20, 2009

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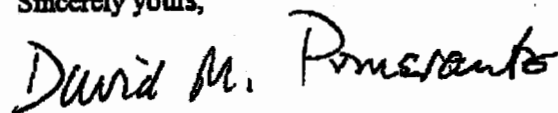
The Honorable Robert M. Gates
 Secretary of Defense
 1000 Defense Pentagon
 Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 202(b), Public Law 601, 79th Congress (codified at 2 U.S.C. §72 a (b)), this Staff has been directed by the Committee on Appropriations to make an inquiry of the affect of stop loss on servicemembers.

Please designate an appropriate point of contact to arrange for obtaining the data pertinent to this inquiry and notify my office by telephone within five business days of the receipt of this letter. If there are any questions regarding this matter, I can be contacted on (202) 225-3881.

Sincerely yours,



David M. Pomerantz
 Director
 Surveys and Investigations Staff
 House Committee on Appropriations

cc - Comptroller of the Department of Defense
 cc - Secretary of the Army



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March 18, 2009

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The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
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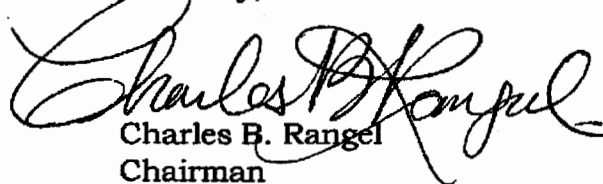
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI) to participate in the CODEL being led by Senator Robert Casey (D-PA), to Brussels and Belgium. This travel will take place during the period of Thursday, March 19, through Monday, March 23, 2009; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The purpose of this trip is to attend the 2009 Brussels Forum on transatlantic economies. Rep. Kind will also speak at the Forum and will meet with officials from European Parliament and the European Commission.

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

Sincerely,


Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 03130-09



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

March 23, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to call to your attention the need to revise your Department's policy on outsourcing. Over the past eight years the Administration has misused the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, the policy which governs public-private competitions to potentially outsource work to the private sector. A-76 became a mandate for pushing more and more work into the private sector, even work that is closely associated with inherently governmental functions, in order to meet arbitrary competition goals.

The last Administration's push to outsource resulted in hundreds of billions of expenditures with little to no oversight from the Department of Defense (DoD). In fiscal year 2008, DoD obligated about \$200 billion for contractor-provided services, more than doubling the amount it spent a decade ago when measured in real terms. Yet the Defense Department is unable answer basic questions such as: how many contractors and subcontractors there are, what is their average salary, and precisely what work are they doing? The responsibility for acquiring services within DoD is spread among individual military commands, weapon system program offices, or functional units on military bases with no central oversight. The DoD Inspector General (IG) recently reported that your office pressured the Military Services to conduct outsourcing studies, and recently revealed to my subcommittee that contractors grant civilians access to military bases, including in highly sensitive areas like Iraq and Afghanistan, without evidence of appropriate background checks.

OSD 03190-09



Honorable Robert Gates
March 23, 2009
Page Two

The House Appropriations Committee has attempted for years to impose oversight of contract services and shift away from what has become an over reliance on contractors. The Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes a one year government-wide moratorium (section 737) on beginning or announcing any A-76 studies. I was heartened by President Obama's recent Memorandum on government contracting in which he states "Government outsourcing for services also raises special concerns." OMB must "... clarify when governmental outsourcing for services is and is not appropriate..." However, I found it disappointing when I learned of a response from your office to twenty members of Congress who had expressed concern about a particular A-76 study; the response suggests that the concerns about outsourcing expressed by this subcommittee and by the President have not been understood by your office. The same official who had advocated outsourcing during the Bush administration stated in a letter (attached) dated March 9, 2009, that "Public Private competition under OMB Circular-76 is a proven management tool that improves business efficiencies while generating significant savings to the taxpayer."

In light of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, I advise you to cease to initiate or announce new A-76 studies. I also suggest that you halt A-76 studies pending OMB review of the A-76 program.

I request a prompt response to this letter.

Respectfully,



John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

Attachment
As stated

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 THE INTERNET
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 (781) 398-2900

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 (508) 875-2900

<http://markey.house.gov>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515-2107

March 23, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
 Secretary
 Department of Defense
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to urge you to appoint former U.S. Representative [REDACTED] to serve on the Defense Policy Board.

I have known [REDACTED] since I first arrived in Congress in 1976, and I worked closely with him during the 1980s and early 1990s on numerous arms control and defense policy legislative initiatives. During his service in the House, Les was widely regarded as one of the most thoughtful and effective national leaders on arms control issues. He used his position on the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee to advance several successful arms control initiatives, including authoring a successful effort to ban the testing of anti-satellite weapons in space. In addition, [REDACTED] was one of the key House leaders of the effort to cut funding ill-advised "Star Wars" strategic ballistic missile defense programs, and a strong proponent of efforts to secure a strategic nuclear arms reduction treaty with the Soviet Union. In addition to these initiatives, Les was also a longstanding advocate for smart defense procurement and realistic testing of new conventional weapons systems.

In his post-Congressional career, [REDACTED] has continued to be active in Democratic politics and in policy discussions on arms control and national security issues. As our nation moves forward to grapple with issues relating to recent Chinese tests of anti-satellite weapons, what to do about proposed missile defenses in Europe, and how to restart the arms control process with the Russians, I believe that [REDACTED] would provide the Defense Department with frank and insightful advice and counsel. I believe that Les AuCoin would be an invaluable addition to the Defense Policy Board, and I strongly urge you to consider naming him to this important position.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
 Member of Congress

SECDEF	DEPSECDEF	SPLASST	EXECSER	USDP
USDI	ESD	CSD	CBLCH	FILE

Co: Don Gips LA ✓

OSD 03222-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Dr. Kay King, Director of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, to join the Committee on Foreign Affairs Codel Carnahan to Egypt, Ethiopia, Cyprus, and Lebanon during the approximate period of April 3-11, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to attend the 120th meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and to meet with government officials in each country.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03243-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Ms. Catlin O'Neill, Floor Assistant to the Speaker, to accompany Codel Tauscher (authorized by the House Armed Services Committee) to Israel and Egypt during the approximate period of April 5-10, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to review Israeli Missile Defense Operations and participate in bilateral discussions with key allies in the Middle East.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03245-09



EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
CHAIRMAN

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Mod. No. 2009-201-1051
Mod. No. 2009-201-1070

March 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. President:

We would like to ensure that the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is included in the Administration's Congressional briefings related to the results of the strategic review of U.S. efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan you have commissioned.

As you are well aware, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives and has broad oversight jurisdiction as set forth in House Rule X. Pursuant to Committee Rule 8(a)(5), the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs has jurisdiction encompassing oversight of national security, homeland security, and foreign affairs. Our Committee has the significant role of oversight of interagency activities in the national security arena.

Beyond manifest jurisdictional oversight interests, our Subcommittee has devoted significant time and energy on the oversight of U.S. policy, programs, and resources related to our efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Over the past two years, our Chairman has personally led three Congressional delegations to Afghanistan and Pakistan. During that same period, the Subcommittee has held eight related hearings.¹

Last month, we held a hearing on the U.S. mission to train and equip the Afghan police and army with a focus on the accountability of arms and other sensitive military equipment. Over the last two weeks, we have held a public hearing and hosted a classified briefing on the nature of the complex threat environment within Afghanistan and Pakistan. We are currently planning oversight hearings on the proposed troop

¹ For more information on these activities, please go to: <http://nationalecurity.oversight.house.gov>.

OSD 03246-09

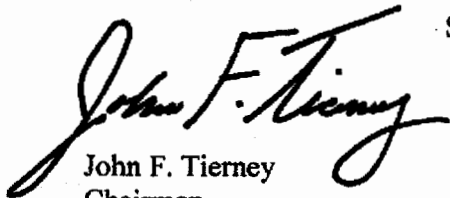


buildup and civilian surge in Afghanistan, as well as on regional players and considerations that are fundamental to U.S. efforts in South Asia.

Our work on this subject, both in the hearing room and on the ground, has allowed the Members of this Subcommittee the opportunity to acquire a depth of understanding on the nature of the security threat in Afghanistan and Pakistan. We stand committed to continue constructive oversight of U.S. plans and activities in this strategically important, and troubled, region.

We appreciate your timely attention to this matter and look forward to working with you as we move forward in creating more effective foreign policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan, while making sure that every dollar entrusted to us by the American taxpayers is wisely spent.

Sincerely,



John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs



Jeff Flake
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

cc: Vice President Joseph R. Biden
Secretary Hillary Clinton
Secretary Robert Gates
National Security Advisor James L. Jones
Special Envoy Richard Holbrooke
Under Secretary Michele Flournoy
Mr. Bruce Riedel, Brookings Institution

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

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CIRO RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS

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

March 19, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
ROB NABORS
TELEPHONE:
(202) 226-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 20, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize the Honorable Michael Honda, also a member of the committee, to participate in this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03247-09



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2009

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

Dear Mr. President:

We write to voice our support for the VH-71 presidential helicopter replacement program.

The Marine One presidential helicopter is more than just a symbol of the office or a simple means of transport; it is integral to the safety and security of our president and thus our nation. That is why we urge you to resist any attempt to politicize the VH-71 presidential helicopter program by singling it out among the large number of major programs that have exceeded their original budgets. This program is too important to be derailed by politics.

We share your strong commitment to increasing accountability in the use of tax dollars and applaud your promise to reform the broken defense acquisition system. In recent years, too little attention has been paid to ensuring the wise management of major defense priorities. In many cases, excessive requirements are packed into programs at enormous expense and with little ultimate value to the warfighter.

However, we are alarmed by the political controversy surrounding the VH-71 program and fear it could lead to a decision that jeopardizes the security of our Commander in Chief and wastes valuable taxpayer money. There is little doubt that the need to replace the aging legacy fleet of presidential helicopters is real, urgent, and thoroughly documented. The current fleet has been in service more than 35 years and it is time for an upgrade to best protect the President and his family. This country cannot afford its President to be vulnerable or cut off from communications in a time of emergency.

VH-71 was initiated by the White House in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks and was awarded to the current industry team in 2005 after one of the most rigorous and scrutinized competitions in history, which was not protested by the losing contractor. Congress has repeatedly noted that excessive requirements coupled with unrealistic price and schedule estimates have driven current cost projections for the program's second phase beyond what is reasonable. Nevertheless, we believe canceling the program entirely would be irresponsible and self-defeating.

To date, \$3 billion has been invested in the VH-71 program and yielded notable results. Eight of the nine aircraft comprising the first phase of the program, Increment 1, have achieved flight and are meeting or exceeding all performance parameters. The fiscal year 2009 House Defense Appropriations bill noted that Increment 1 is a "marked improvement" that "exceeds the



performance of the current fleet in virtually every respect." Based on the outstanding performance of this aircraft, we urge you to consider expanding the Increment 1 fleet to make it the long-term solution if the more advanced Increment 2 aircraft cannot be procured in a cost-effective manner.

Furthermore, we believe the Navy could purchase a full fleet of 23 Increment 1 helicopters within the original budget profile. Doing so would send an important message that security and fiscal responsibility are compatible when it comes to our national defense. Without question, simply canceling VH-71 at this advanced stage would be the least responsible alternative both for the safety of your office and the investment of the American taxpayer.

Marine One is an important national security asset serving the Office of the President and is directly linked to the security of our nation. The VH-71 Marine One program was initiated by a previous administration, will enter service during your administration, and will serve future presidents for decades to come. You will have our complete support - and the support of the American people - as you move forward with this critical program.


Sincerely,

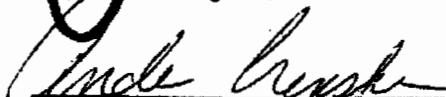

Rep. Patrick J. Murphy


Rep. Bill Shuster

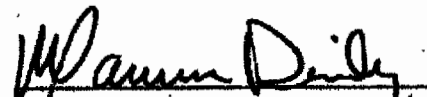

Rep. Robert Brady


Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger


Rep. Jeff Miller


Rep. Ander Crenshaw


Rep. Dan Maffei



Rep. Maurice Hinchey


Rep. Jo Bonner


Rep. Roscoe Bartlett


Rep. Michael Arcuri


Rep. Doug Lamborn


Rep. Chris Carney

Cc:



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

The Honorable BJ Penn
Acting Secretary of the Navy

The Honorable Rahm Emanuel
White House Chief of Staff

Gregory B. Craig
White House Counsel

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LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

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

March 19, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHEO
TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20520

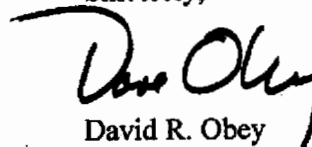
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representative Ken Calvert and Ms. Jennifer Miller, and Mr. Jeff Shockey, professional staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on official business to Stuttgart, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt, Germany and Vienna, Austria during the approximate time period of April 4-10, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to review matters relating to the CIA, NSA and counter-terrorism operations and activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial transportation.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03249-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

March 19, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
ROB NABORS
TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Sam Farr, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to join a CODEL led by the Honorable Eliot Engel, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, to Trinidad and St. Vincent on April 17-21, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to attend the Fifth Summit of the Americas and meet with government and non-government officials regarding political and economic developments, and general bilateral relations with each country.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority of 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

The travel will be conducted via military aircraft. It would be appreciated if officials of the Department would assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03250-09





Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

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

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

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

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

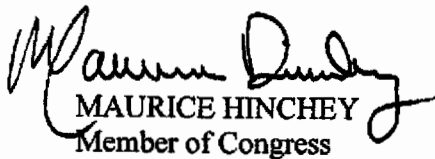
OSD 03251-09



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

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

Sincerely,


MAURICE HINCHEY
Member of Congress


JOHN HALL
Member of Congress

CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS
JOINT COMMITTEE
ON TAXATION
CHAIRMAN



GEORGE A. DALLEY
CHIEF OF STAFF

JAMES E. CAPEL
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 3, 2009

Mr. Christian Marrone
Acting Assistant Secretary / Legislative Affairs
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Marrone:

To carry out my Congressional duties in the area of national defense, I am seeking your assistance in receiving information regarding the stationing of U.S. troops at U.S. military installations overseas.

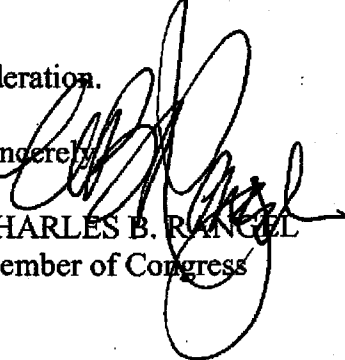
In view of plans for changes in troop deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan announced by President Obama, this information would be helpful to me in understanding the President's plans in the larger worldwide context.

Therefore, I would appreciate a comprehensive report from DoD listing all military bases abroad where U.S. troops are stationed, the number of troops at each installation, and the cost of maintaining each of these bases.

In view of the urgency of this request, I would appreciate a personal response as soon as possible. If the information cannot be made public, I would be willing to schedule a personal classified briefing in an appropriate venue on Capitol Hill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

CBR/em

OSD 03255-09



WASHINGTON OFFICE
2354 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3215
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4365
FAX: (202) 225-0816

PLEASE RESPOND TO OFFICE CHECKED

DISTRICT OFFICE
183 WEST 125TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10027
TELEPHONE: (212) 663-3900
FAX: (212) 663-4277

JEFF MILLER
1ST DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,
UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS AND CAPABILITIES
RANKING MEMBER

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<http://jeffmiller.house.gov>
Toll Free: 1-888-307-1614

March 17, 2009

The Honorable William Lynn
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Lynn,

I am writing to you regarding the need for an overpass on State Road (SR) 85 at Eglin Air Force Base, near the 7th Special Forces Group (SFG) cantonment area. SR 85 is the only highway connecting southern Okaloosa County with northern Okaloosa County. Today's daily commute traffic is already at the top end of capacity. The Air Force decision for beddown of the BRAC-mandated move of the 7th SFG results in unacceptable degradation of traffic flow.

I have been advised that the Army, Air Force, SOCOM, and the 7th Special Forces Group all have identified the need for this overpass. In addition, I am told that no Service has programmed for this overpass in the Future Year's Defense Plan (FYDP). This is especially disappointing given that it will take emergency programming action if we are to have any hope of completing this BRAC related requirement by the fall of 2011.

I've written the relevant officials in the Army, Air Force and SOCOM and I hope that you are able to direct these officials to coordinate so that emergency programming action for the SR 85 overpass is generated as soon as possible. As of now, the Services cannot agree on a plan, and your involvement in this issue is necessary and would be much appreciated.

With warm personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,


Jeff Miller
Member of Congress

OSD 03325-09



CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
New York



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CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 13, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to offer my highest possible recommendation of [REDACTED] for a political appointment in your Department. She has a wealth of experience in the Department of Defense. (b)(6) is most interested in, and has a background that qualifies her highly for positions in the areas of personnel policy, small business utilization, diversity management and equal opportunity. (b)(6) combined Federal government and Political Appointee career spans more than 20 years in the Department of Defense (DoD), serving in Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Department of the Air Force (resume enclosed).

I have known [REDACTED] since 1998 when she joined my Washington Congressional office as a Brookings Institution Legislative Fellow through a highly competitive program while employed in DoD, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness). At that time she served as Equal Employment Manager, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Equal Opportunity). Upon leaving my office she returned to the Department as a political appointee, serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Civilian and Military Equal Opportunity.

As you can see, [REDACTED] has had a long and distinguished career. Her professional credentials and experience in the Department of Defense, specifically, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, supports and ensures that she could hit the ground running, immediately assuming important and critical duties within the Department.

230 Non-Career

(13 March)

OSD 03333-09



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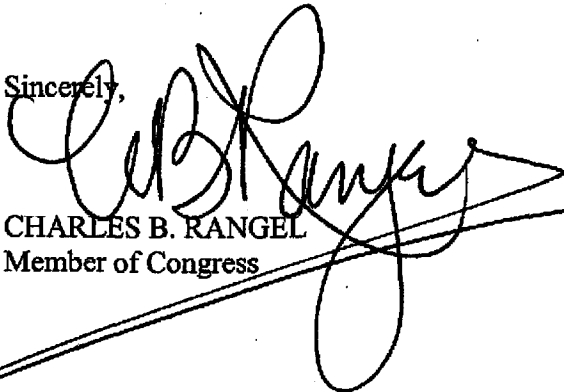
PLEASE RESPOND TO OFFICE CHECKED

Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
March 13, 2009
Page 2

I cannot speak highly enough of [REDACTED]. She has been at times advisor and coordinator of The Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program, now institutionalized in the State Department. As a result of her work currently 30 Fellows are now assigned as Foreign Service Officers to U.S. Embassies around the world, and will soon be joined by another 30 Fellows who are completing their graduate school studies, and in the pipeline for service in the diplomatic corps.

It is [REDACTED] record that makes me so confident of the great job she has done for your Department and would do again, upon returning to the Department of Defense. I've personally seen her in action. Nothing would make me more proud than to see her serve again as a contributing member of your DoD team.

Sincerely,



CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

Enclosure:
Resume

cc: Mr. Don Gips
Assistant to the President
& Director of Presidential Personnel

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

March 20, 2009

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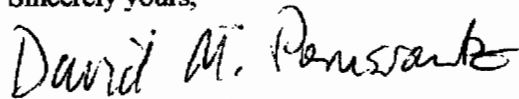
The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 202(b), Public Law 601, 79th Congress (codified at 2 U.S.C. §72 a (b)), this Staff has been directed by the Committee on Appropriations to make an inquiry of the Department of Defense to determine if the Antideficiency Act was violated when it requested funds within the Army.

Please designate an appropriate point of contact to arrange for obtaining the data pertinent to this inquiry and notify my office by telephone within five business days of the receipt of this letter. If there are any questions regarding this matter, I can be contacted on (202) 225-3881.

Sincerely yours, -



David M. Pomerantz
Director
Surveys and Investigations Staff
House Committee on Appropriations

cc - Comptroller of the Department of Defense
cc - Secretary of the Army

OSD 03334-09



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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

You are invited to designate a witness or witnesses to testify before the House Armed Services Committee on Measuring Value and Efficiency: How to Assess the Performance of the Defense Acquisition System on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 7:30 AM in room 2212 Rayburn House Office Building.

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 120 copies of your prepared statement be delivered to room 2120 Rayburn House Office Building by the morning of Monday, March 30, 2009. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. This request may be satisfied by a transmittal via e-mail to Alicia Haley at alicia.haley@mail.house.gov.

I appreciate your willingness to designate a witness or witnesses to appear before the committee and look forward to your department's testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Andrew Hunter on the committee staff at (202) 225-6703 or at Andrew.Hunter@mail.house.gov.

Very truly yours,



ROBERT ANDREWS
Chairman

IS:cd

OSD 03490-09



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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 26, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

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

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

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

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

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

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



Secretary Gates
March 26, 2009
Page 2

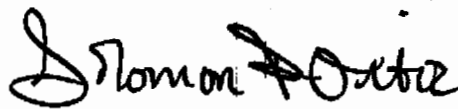
We are aware that the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Installations and Environment) in a letter to many members of Congress, reaffirmed the competitive sourcing policy that was set in place by the 2001 President's Management Agenda; this is the same official who advocated so strongly for competitive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

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

We request a prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely,


IKE SKELTON
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee


SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
Chairman
Readiness Subcommittee



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Ms. Jennifer Stewart, Senior Policy Advisor to the Republican Leader, to travel with Senate Codel Kyl to Israel, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkey during the approximate period of April 4-13, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to address issues of terrorism, defense, and national security.

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

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

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03520-09



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

March 19, 2009

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The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20520

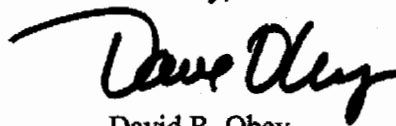
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representative Ken Calvert and Ms. Jennifer Miller, Mr. Jeff Shockey and Mr. Tom McLemore, professional staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on official business to Stuttgart, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt, Germany and Vienna, Austria during the approximate time period of April 4-10, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to review matters relating to classified programs and counter-terrorism operations and activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial transportation.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03522-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Dr. Kay King, Director of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, to join the Committee on Foreign Affairs Codel Berman to India, Pakistan, Cyprus, and Italy during the approximate period of April 13-21, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to engage dialogue with Pakistani and Indian officials regarding counter-terrorism, foreign assistance, and nuclear cooperation.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03551-09



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

March 24, 2009

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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

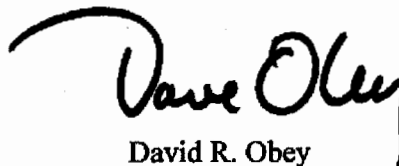
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Christopher White and Linda Pagelsen, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of March 31 – April 1, 2009, to Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. The purpose of this trip is to conduct intelligence oversight on classified programs.

Per diem expenses of not to exceed \$109 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via automobile.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03553-09





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

March 30, 2009

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

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Gates and Secretary Shinseki:

The establishment of a Vision Center of Excellence (VCE) for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of military eye injuries was authorized by the FY2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) (PL100-181 Section 1623). This legislation established the VCE as a joint Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program to improve the care of American military personnel and veterans affected by combat eye trauma and to aid those suffering from vision loss and vision anomalies.

Despite the legislative mandate, bureaucratic problems have hindered any significant progress toward the establishment of the VCE. A Director for the VCE, Colonel Donald Gagliano, and a VA Deputy Director of VCE, Dr. Claude Cowan, were belatedly appointed as recently as November 2008. Currently, these two officials are working with virtually no office space, few resources, limited staffing, no organizational charter, and inadequate funding.

According to the initial DoD/VA estimates, approximately \$5 million is needed to establish the VCE. According to March 17, 2009 testimony to the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, only \$3 million had been identified by DoD for the VCE in FY2009. To date, only \$7,000 has been spent on the VCE by DoD since November 2008.

There is an ever increasing prevalence of combat eye trauma and TBI visual dysfunction among service members, as well as increasing numbers of battle wounded who have penetrating direct eye trauma and/or TBI-related visual complications. Review of DoD medical diagnostic reports demonstrates that approximately 4,970 Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom servicemembers were diagnosed with direct eye injuries between September 2001 and October 2008. Data from the Defense

OSD 03557-09




Veterans Brain Injury Center estimates that 70% of all TBI wounded servicemembers screened at Walter Reed Army Medical Center reported visual complaints.

The prompt implementation of the VCE would allow our visually impaired wounded warriors to receive coordinated specialized treatment and rehabilitation specifically tailored to traumatic injury to the eye and visual nervous system. We therefore respectfully request that both DoD and VA address this as a priority issue as soon as possible.

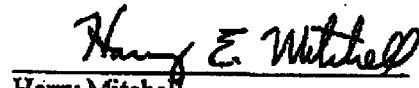
This requires a concentrated effort by the DoD and VA to get the VCE on track. Most immediately, the DoD and VA must provide the \$5 million in funding for the remainder of FY2009. Furthermore, the DoD and VA must oversee approval of the organizational structure and charter for the VCE and provide the appropriate staffing, joint office space, and resources to begin full implementation of VCE operations.

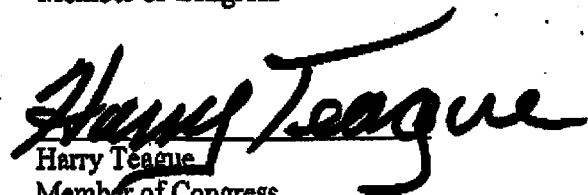
The establishment of the VCE is an unparalleled opportunity to dramatically improve eye care services for our nation's servicemembers and veterans. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you in the future in support of our wounded servicemembers and veterans.

Sincerely,

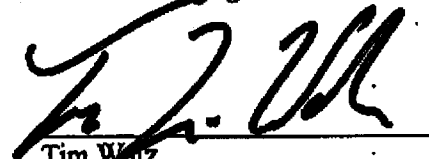

Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress


John Boozman
Member of Congress


Harry Mitchell
Member of Congress


Harry Teague
Member of Congress


Zack Space
Member of Congress


Tim Wartz
Member of Congress


Glenn Nye
Member of Congress

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

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

March 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representative Steve Israel, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of April 6, 2009 to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The purpose of this trip is to meet with Fort Bragg leadership to discuss wounded warrior care, suicide prevention, and mental health care.

Per diem expenses of not to exceed \$109.00 per day, or the rate specified for High Cost Geographical Areas, whichever is higher, plus transportation and other authorized costs, shall be paid from appropriations available under Public Law 83-207 (31 U.S.C. 1108(g)) for examination of appropriations estimates in the field.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial and/or military aircraft.

Sincerely,



Dave Obey
Chairman

OSD 03566-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

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LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

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

March 25, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHEO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

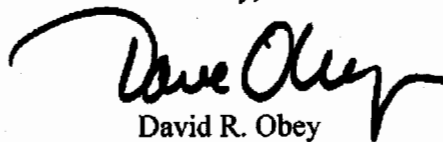
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated March 11, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Ed Pastor and other Members of the Committee on Appropriations to travel to Brazil on April 3-10, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize spouses to accompany Members for reasons of protocol at no additional expense to the government.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03568-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

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LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

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

March 26, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
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FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

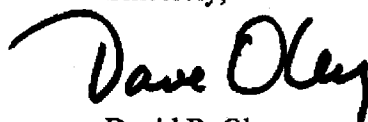
I make reference to my letter dated March 5, 2009, authorizing a delegation led by the Honorable Nita Lowey, to travel to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Ireland during the approximate time period of April 13-19th, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize the Honorable Steven Rothman, a Member of the Committee, as well as Nisha Desai-Biswal, Anne Marie Chotvacs, Kirstin Brost, and Alex Gillen, staff on the Committee, to travel with the delegation.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making necessary arrangements for this travel. The travel may be conducted via commercial and military aircraft.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03572-09



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 DALE E. KILDEE, MICHIGAN, Vice Chairman
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 ROBERT E. ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
 ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, VIRGINIA
 LYNN C. WOOLSEY, CALIFORNIA
 RUBEN HINOJOSA, TEXAS
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 DAVID WU, OREGON
 RUSH HOLT, NEW JERSEY
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 TIMOTHY K. BISHOP, NEW YORK
 JOE BERTAK, PENNSYLVANIA
 DAVID LOEBBACK, IOWA
 MAZIE HIRONO, HAWAII
 JASON ALTMIRE, PENNSYLVANIA
 PHIL HARE, ILLINOIS
 YVETTE D. CLARKE, NEW YORK
 JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
 CAROL SHEA-PORTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
 MARCIA L. FUDGE, OHIO
 JARED POLIS, COLORADO
 PAUL TONKO, NEW YORK
 PEDRO R. PIERLISI, PUERTO RICO
 GREGORIO HILDI CANSACHO SABLAN,
 N. MARIANA ISLANDS
 DINA TITUS, NEVADA



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 2181 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

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 Senior Republican Member
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 JUDY BISHOP, ILLINOIS
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 DUNCAN D. HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
 DAVID P. ROE, TENNESSEE
 GLENN THOMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA

March 31, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE - 703-695-1219

The Honorable Robert Gates
 Secretary
 U.S. Department of Defense
 The Pentagon
 Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Mazie K. Hirono to travel on a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) issued by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, led by Congressman Russ Carnahan to Egypt, Ethiopia, Cyprus and Lebanon on April 2-11, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to participate in the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) 120th session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The IPU's work focusing on human rights including ILO labor rights for organizing and collective bargaining and women's issues including non-discrimination in employment and equal work. And the IPU mobilizes parliamentary action on a wide range of global issues, including HIV/AIDS, migration, and development cooperation.

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

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact David Beraka, Foreign Affairs Committee, at 202-226-3328. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


 GEORGE MILLER
 Chairman

GM:ejh

OSD 03575-09



Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-4000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We strongly support moving forward with a pending rule addressing TRICARE reimbursement rates to hospitals serving military servicemen and women in rural areas, and we encourage the Department of Defense to once again take up consideration of this matter as soon as possible.

We have a strong interest in maintaining access to the highest quality health care for active military personnel, veterans, and their dependants. This is especially important for those who require access to care in rural areas. While TRICARE payment policies generally follow Medicare payment formulas, TRICARE reimbursements to Medicare Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) have been historically lower than those of Medicare and Medicaid, in some cases nearly 20 percent lower. Critical Access Hospitals serve rural areas across the country, and this payment disparity is hindering their ability to continue providing care to their patients.

A 2008 draft rule promulgated by the Department of Defense would increase TRICARE reimbursements to CAHs so that they are on par with current Medicare reimbursement rates. This change would bring relief to all Critical Access Hospitals, and particularly those that serve a large number of military personnel, veterans and their dependents. Maintaining access to care in rural areas is of critical importance at a time when our servicemembers are returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. We also note, however, that the rule omits several critical aspects of Medicare's reimbursement policy for CAHs. We urge the Department of Defense to adopt Medicare's exact methodology for determining CAH reimbursement for inpatient and outpatient care, including an exemption from the "lesser of costs or charges" principle and mechanisms to provide interim payments and cost settlement.

The Critical Access Hospitals Proposed Rule on Reimbursement was published in the Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 87) on May 5, 2008, and the public comment period closed on June 4, 2008. It is our understanding that the Department of Defense finalized the rule and sent it to Office of Management and Budget in October, but that no further action has been taken. In a memorandum issued by White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel on January 20, 2009, the heads of Executive departments and agencies were instructed that:

"no proposed or final regulation should be sent to the Office of the Federal Register (the "OFR") for publication unless and until it has been reviewed and approved by a department

OSD 03602-09

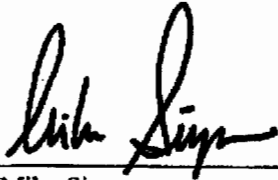


or agency head appointed or designated by the President after noon on January 20, 2009, or in the case of the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Defense.”

We recognize that the new Administration has an interest in reviewing those proposed regulations currently under consideration. However, we believe publishing the final Critical Access Hospitals Rule on Reimbursement, with the critical modifications described above, is important to ensuring the health of rural Americans. We ask the Department of Defense to act expeditiously to move this rule forward.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



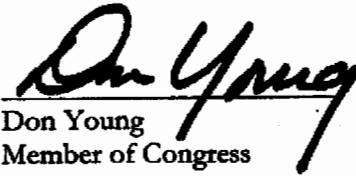
Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



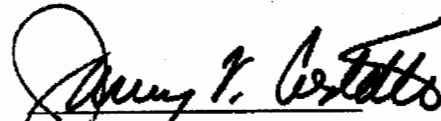
Charlie Wilson
Member of Congress



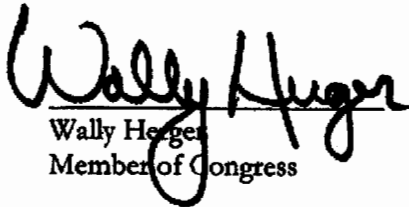
Don Young
Member of Congress



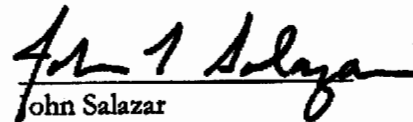
Rich Boucher
Member of Congress



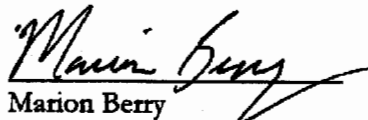
Jerry Costello
Member of Congress



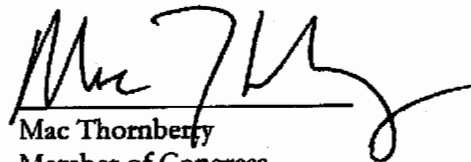
Wally Herger
Member of Congress



John Salazar
Member of Congress

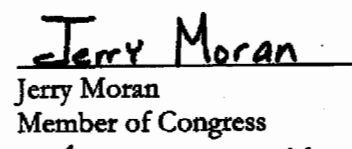


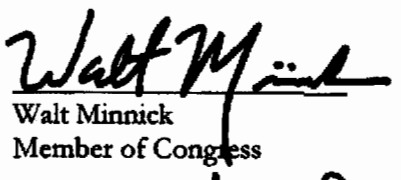
Marion Berry
Member of Congress

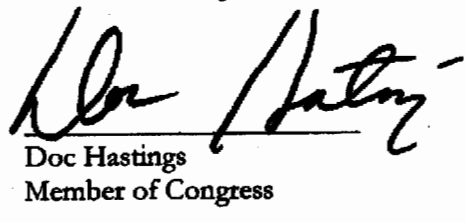


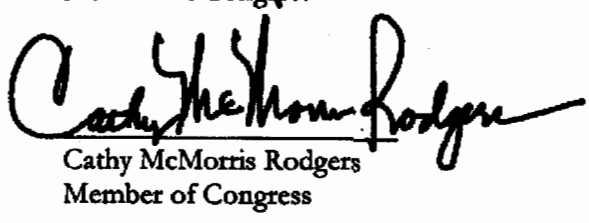
Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

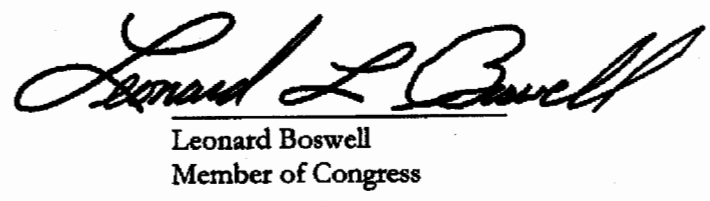

Zack Space
Member of Congress

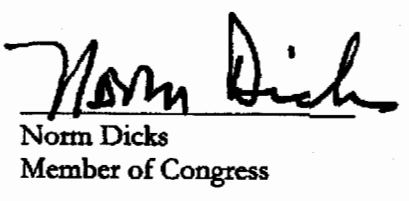

Jerry Moran
Member of Congress

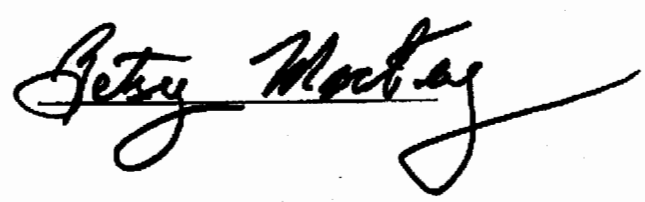

Walt Minnick
Member of Congress


Doc Hastings
Member of Congress


Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress


Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress


Norm Dicks
Member of Congress



cc: The Honorable S. Ward Casscells, M.D., Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs

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

March 23, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

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

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

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

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

OSD 03624-09



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

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

Sincerely,



Norm Dicks
Member of Congress



Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



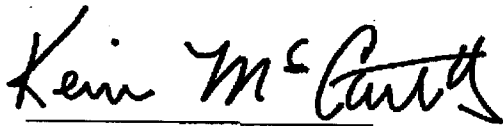
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Todd Akin
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Buck McKeon
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Kevin McCarthy
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

March 31, 2009

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

As you are aware, recent news reports suggest that North Korea is imminently close to launching a long-range Taepodong ballistic missile that could reach the United States. The commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific recently testified before our committee, "We're ready to defend U.S. territory, our allies and our national interests if the president so directs." However, it remains unclear whether the administration has made any decision, based upon comments made by your Secretary of Defense this weekend where he said the administration is, "not prepared to do anything about it." We respectfully encourage you to authorize our military commanders to employ our nation's missile defense system, should the United States or our allies be put at risk.

These reports suggest, and senior officials within your administration have confirmed, that North Korea is loading a Taepodong rocket on its east coast launch pad. However, there is a great deal of uncertainty as to the purpose of this launch. Last week, the Director of National Intelligence said, "they're trying to use the rationale of a legitimate space launch for a missile, which is in its foundation a military missile." Adding to this uncertainty, three of our nation's top military commanders recently testified before our colleagues in the Senate that they couldn't be sure whether North Korea plans to launch a communications satellite or test an offensive missile.

The uncertainty surrounding this imminent launch is deeply disturbing considering the Taepodong missile has the potential range to strike Okinawa, Guam, Alaska, and Hawaii. Equally disturbing are reports that North Korea's progress in ballistic missile technology is benefiting Iran, as demonstrated in Tehran's recent satellite launch last month. The only certain issue is that North Korea continues to engage in missile proliferation. Furthermore, any such launch would explicitly violate United Nations sanctions and pose a provocative and destabilizing threat to the region and the American people.

While we support diplomatic efforts by your administration to prevent such a launch from occurring, we also believe prudent steps can be taken to make use of our missile defense capabilities should the United States or our allies be put at risk. Our nation's top military generals recently testified before Congress that they believe our missile defense system is "effective" and has a "high probability" of intercepting an incoming missile if they were commanded to do so.

OSD 03626-09





At present, our global, integrated missile defense system consists of satellites, radar tracking sensors, ground-based interceptors in Alaska and California, Aegis missile defense ships, and Patriot batteries. We have worked closely with our Japanese and South Korean allies to leverage our respective missile defense capabilities for the joint protection of our countries and deployed forces. The military commander responsible for the defense of our homeland recently said, "If we felt the North Koreans were going to shoot a ballistic missile at us today, I am comfortable that we would have an effective system that would meet that need." The military commander responsible for defending our forward-deployed forces and allies in the Pacific said we have an "effective ballistic missile-defense system."

Recent reports suggest that Japan has authorized its military to shoot down any debris from the North Korean rocket that might fall toward its territory. Given the confidence our military commanders have expressed in our missile defense system, we respectfully encourage you to make a similar decision. We also ask for your response as to what plans and preparatory measures your administration is taking should the North Korean rocket endanger the United States or our allies.

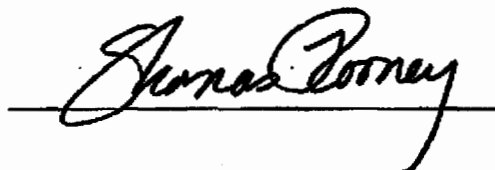
Mr. President, we appreciate your attention to this serious matter. Our nation is faced with a challenging set of circumstances and we believe that by leveraging all tools of national power we can increase the safety and security of the American people and our allies.

Sincerely,

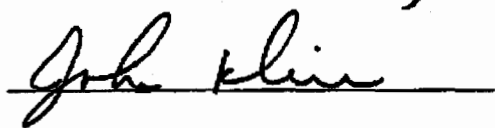

John M. McHugh
Ranking Member


Michael Turner
Member of Congress

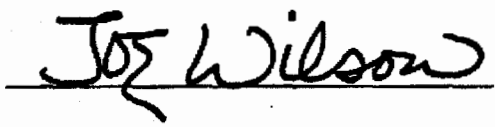












cc: Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates ✓
Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
Admiral Michael Mullen

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Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

April 1, 2009

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

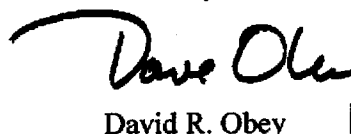
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 20, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Barbara Lee and the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize John Blazey, a staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to participate in this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03675-09



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

March 30, 2009

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(202) 225-2771

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

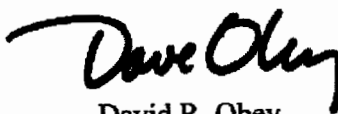
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 20, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Barbara Lee and other Members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Cuba on April 3-8, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize the use of a commercial chartered plane between Miami, FL and Cuba, if military aircraft is unavailable.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03677-09



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
14TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

2391 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3214
(202) 225-7844

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April 1, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing to request an update on the current status of the implementation of the Defense Incident-Based Reporting System (DIBRS). Specifically, I am interested in knowing whether the Department of Navy Criminal Justice Information System (DONCJIS) is finally operational and reporting to DIBRS.

I am sure you will agree that the collection of statistics and data is crucial to learning how many sexual assaults and other crimes are occurring in the United States military. Despite the clear need for a well-functioning system for reporting such crimes, implementation of DIBRS is long overdue. As you know, Congress enacted the Uniform Federal Crime Reporting Act (P.L. 100-690) in 1988, which requires federal agencies and departments, including DoD, to report crime data to the Justice Department. The law also created the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). In 1996, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness issued Directive 7730.47, concerning the creation of DIBRS. However, twenty one years have passed since the passage of the Uniform Federal Crime Reporting Act and DIBRS has yet to be completed.

This issue has been a concern of mine for some time, and I am disappointed by the ongoing delay of such an important system. At a meeting on November 19, 2004, with then Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Program Integration Jeanne Fites and John Awtry, Director of OUSD Law Enforcement Policy and Support, I was told that all the services would be integrated into DIBRS by mid-2005. On August 9, 2005, I received a letter from Under Secretary Fites informing me that because the Navy was transitioning to a new Department of Navy Criminal Justice Information System (DONCJIS), DIBRS would not be fully operational until Fall 2006. That target was then pushed back to June and then October 2007. The last information I received stated that a new date had been set for December 1, 2008, but that date has passed as well.

To date, the transition to DONCJIS by the Navy has seemed to be the main problem slowing the full operation of DIBRS. As the Department of the Navy's budget estimate for FY09 includes requests for funding for a contractor to support, develop, test, train, deploy, and

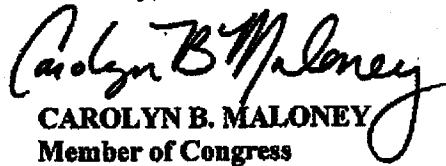


implement the system, it seems that these tasks are still in the process of being completed. Therefore, I would like to know when the Navy is now expected to be fully reporting to DIBRS, and what you will do to ensure that the Navy meets this new deadline.

This issue assumes greater urgency in light of the latest statistics on sexual assault from the DoD's annual report for FY08. The analysis documented 2,923 reports of sexual assault in FY08, representing roughly an 8% increase from the previous year. It is extremely vital that the DoD, policymakers, servicemen and women, and all stakeholders know the true story about crime in the military. Only when there is an accurate accounting of the crimes that may be occurring in the U.S. military can the DoD hope to institute effective policies for preventing such increases in the future. I fear that additional delays will hamper the DoD's ability to assemble an accurate accounting of criminal activities, and may in fact prevent the full implementation of DIBRS indefinitely. Such an outcome would be unacceptable to me and many of my colleagues who have long been concerned about the safety of all servicemen and women. I look forward to hearing about your efforts to ensure the completion of DIBRS.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States
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Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

March 30, 2009

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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Linda Pagelsen, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of April 6 - 16, 2009, to Japan and South Korea. The purpose of this trip is to tour facilities and receive briefings on U.S. Forces Korea, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and intelligence activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,


David Obey
Chairman

OSD 03721-09



Congressional Hispanic Caucus

United States Congress

Washington, DC 20515

CHAIRWOMAN

NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

12TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

March 31, 2009

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

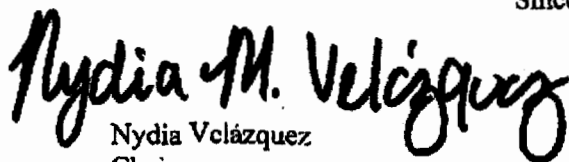
Dear Secretary Gates:

Congratulations upon being selected by President Obama to continue to serve as our nation's Secretary of Defense. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) applauds your work thus far in leading the Department of Defense. The CHC is identifying individuals who we feel are outstanding candidates for positions in the Administration. In an effort to help bring the diversity to the Executive Branch that President Obama has sought, we are forwarding you the name of one of those candidates.

Today, we write to inform you that the CHC has endorsed Pedro Rustan Jr. to serve as the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). He currently serves as the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office's Ground Enterprise Directorate. Prior to that he was the Director of the Advanced Systems and Technology Director there. He has a strong history as a consultant to NASA, Institute of Defense Analysis, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and many other corporations. Furthermore, he has over 15 years of service to our nation's military, in various capacities, including Research Scientist for the Air Force and Program Manager for the Defense Nuclear Agency. For these reasons, and his desire to serve the Obama Administration, we endorse Pedro Rustan Jr. for this role that is vital to our nation's advancement.

Again, we are eager to work with you to promote our shared goals of diversity. If there is any way we can be of assistance during this critical time, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Nydia Velázquez
Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Charles A. Gonzalez
Chair
CHC Nominations Ad Hoc Task Force

CC: Don Gips, Director of White House Personnel
Michael Camuñez, Special Assistant to the President, Presidential Personnel

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MEMBER OF CONGRESS
8TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

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Secretary Robert Gates
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

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April 2, 2009

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FARMINGTON, MO 63640
(573) 755-9755

35 COURT SQUARE
SUITE 300
WEST PLAINS, MO 65776
(417) 255-1515

Dear Secretary Gates:


A matter of great importance has come to my attention. Rare earth minerals and materials play an essential role in highly sophisticated electronic devices used for the defense of our nation. The National Minerals Advisory Board has specifically identified rare earth elements and alloys as "strategic and critical" to the defense of our country.

At the present time, the United States imports 100% of rare earth minerals and alloys; the primary source of rare earth minerals being China. Even if the United States begins mining these minerals, there are no domestic refining facilities to create the alloys used for these sophisticated electronic devices. If the flow of these minerals and alloys were to be interrupted, the nation would face extreme challenges in the development and creation of electronic devices which could be detrimental to the nation's defense.

With the United States dependent upon other nations for these rare earth minerals and alloys, are there any plans within the Department of Defense to develop a strategy to address this disparity? Are you contemplating a comprehensive strategy that would involve the domestic mining, refining, and a stockpile of these elements? If there is not a strategy to address the disparity, what is the present plan of action if the supply of rare earth minerals and alloys is interrupted?

Thank you for examining this matter and I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,


JO ANN EMERSON
Member of Congress



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015
March 30, 2009

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(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

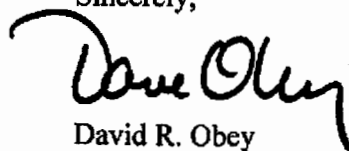
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable James P. Moran, Member of the Committee, to travel during the approximate time period of April 13-April 21, 2009, to Cyprus, India, Pakistan, and Italy. He will be joining the CODEL led by the Honorable Howard Berman. The delegation will meet with government leaders in Cyprus, India, and Pakistan. The purpose of the trip is to discuss issues affecting global commerce, the Middle East, and military security issues.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03765-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

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

March 30, 2009

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The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

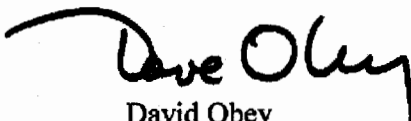
Dear Secretary Gates:

Authorization is hereby given to the Honorable Harold Rogers, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel with a Congressional Delegation led by Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This trip is during the approximate time period of April 3 – April 13, 2009, to Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Italy. The purpose of this trip is to review transportation, defense, and homeland security issues with government officials.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the Member for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,



David Obey
Chairman

OSD 03766-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

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JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

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

March 30, 2009

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The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

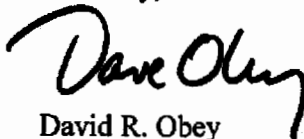
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Ben Chandler, a member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of April 2-April 11, 2009, to Egypt, Ethiopia, Cyprus, Lebanon, and Ireland. He will be joining the CODEL led by The Honorable Russ Carnahan. The purpose of this trip is to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Union's 120th meeting being held in Addis Ababa, to assess USAID programs, and to meet with government officials from each country.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Spouses are authorized to accompany the members of this delegation for reasons of protocol at no expense to the government.

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 03767-09



ERIC J.J. MASSA
28TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

1208 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: 202-225-3161
FAX: 202-225-6589

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
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HOMELAND SECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3229

1 GROVE STREET, SUITE 101
PITTSFORD, NY 14534
PHONE: 585-218-0040
FAX: 585-218-0053

89 WEST MARKET STREET
CORNING, NY 14830
PHONE: 607-654-7566
FAX: 607-654-7568

317 NORTH UNION STREET
CLEAN, NY 14760
PHONE: 716-372-2080
FAX: 716-372-2889

11 March 2009

The Honorable William J Lynn
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Secretary Lynn,

We write to express our concern surrounding the Army's impending Single Channel Ground-to-Air Radio systems (SINCGARS) contract. The Army plans to award a total of \$636M of FY07-FY09 funds on this contract. It is our understanding that this technology is legacy, will not provide the communications capability needed by the Army in the coming years, and could be replaced by newer and more robust radios. The Army continues to move forward with the Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) program, which will ensure that FCS-equipped, combat, and support units are able to exchange information and network on the battlefield. It is essential that all radios and communication devices are multi-band and JTRS compliant to ensure a seamless transition into this program. It is our feeling that the Army has not only not taken the proper action to ensure procurement of state-of-the art, JTRS compliant radios, but that the further purchase of SINCGARS radios will lessen the planned need for JTRS radios, increasing their unit cost. Congress has been expressing its concerns over this program and procurement for years. Specifically, in FY07 the defense appropriations committee requested the Secretary of the Army provide a report to the congressional defense committees that included an evaluation of the SINCGARS capable commercial off the shelf tactical radios that can meet operational needs. The Secretary of the Army agreed to hold \$175M of program funds until the Army was able to conduct a review of the SINCGARS operational requirements document (ORD). This report was never delivered to congress. In the FY2009 Defense Appropriations Bill the entire SINCGARS request was fenced off pending a certification from Secretary of Defense that any such procurement of SINCGARS radios will utilize full and open competition that will provide best value for Army radio requirements including consideration of multi-band, JTRS capable solutions. This certification has not been received by the defense committees.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) that was released by the Army in December of 2008 encourages industry to offer solutions that include JTRS functional capabilities, but did not require them. The ORD, which was originally drafted in 1974, was not, in our opinion, revised or updated appropriately for this solicitation. It doesn't make sense to use a ten year old requirement document for such an important and evolving program, especially considering its connection to the multi-billion dollar JTRS program.

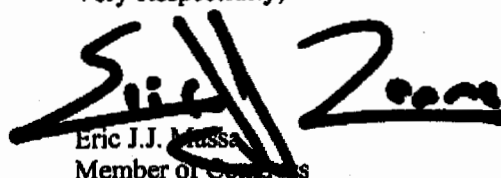
The SINCGARS procurement is just one example of the increasing need for acquisition reform. If the ORD had been revised or re-written it could have created the opportunity for additional contractor bids and more product functionality. The Army could have moved forward with a technology that exists today and would be compliant with future Army programs. We are spending millions of dollars on a product that we know we will have to replace in the near future despite knowledge that a better solution could be engineered to the Army's exact needs. A CBO report dated 11 Feb 2009 states that if the Army decides to replace SINCGARS radios with the more flexible and capable JTRS ground mobile radio

OSD 03796-09



(GMR) it would increase its current planned purchase by six fold. The Army's current \$15B estimate for buying GMR would increase accordingly. If the Army were to re-allocate the \$636M set aside for SINCGARS toward a JTRS-compliant radio today, they could save the program future funds. In this instance, the acquisition process is blatantly wasting taxpayer's money while simultaneously outfitting our military with sub-standard equipment. We urge you to look at the long term negative implications of the acquisition process on the capability of our Armed Services. We strongly encourage you, as you carefully review future plans for this program, to ensure that future procurements of radios and communications devices will use an updated set of requirements, tailored for the needs of our future force.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J.J. Massa". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a large "E" and "M".

Eric J.J. Massa
Member of Congress

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
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GENE TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI
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ERIC J.J. MASSA, NEW YORK
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 2, 2009

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

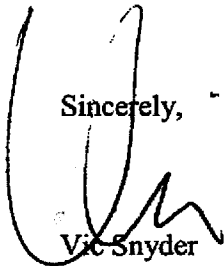
Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to ask that you provide a witness to testify before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on the overall state of the Department of Defense's acquisition workforce and the Department's implementation of acquisition workforce-related provisions in the annual defense authorization legislation for the past four years, including, in particular, the implementation of the Acquisition Workforce Development Fund, the use of any special hiring authorities, and Section 834 of the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act. This hearing will take place on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at 1:00 PM in room 2212 Rayburn House Office Building. For your information, I am also requesting witnesses from the Services and the Government Accountability Office.

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 50 copies of your prepared statement be delivered to room 2120 Rayburn House Office Building by the morning of Friday, April 24. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. These materials may be transmitted via e-mail to Suzanne.McKenna@mail.house.gov or provided on disk.

I appreciate your willingness to assist the subcommittee and look forward to the Department's testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Suzanne McKenna on the committee staff at (202) 225-5050.

Sincerely,


Vic Snyder
Chairman

VFS:ak

OSD 03798-09



CHARLES B. RANGEL, NEW YORK,
CHAIRMAN

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JANICE MAYS,
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

1102 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-3625

Washington, DC 20515-6348

<http://waysandmeans.house.gov>

March 30, 2009

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PAUL RYAN, WISCONSIN
ERIC CANTOR, VIRGINIA
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DEAN HELLER, NEVADA
PETER J. ROSKAM, ILLINOIS

JON TRULL,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

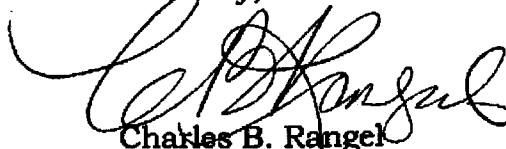
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Kendrick Meek (D-FL) to participate on the CODEL being led by Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY), to Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This travel will take place during the time period of Friday, April 17 through Tuesday, April 24; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The purpose of this fact-finding trip is to attend the Fifth Summit of the Americas and meet with government and non-government officials regarding our bilateral and plurilateral trade agreements with nations in the region, trade preferences and more generally, how best to shape trade to promote economic development, stability and prosperity.

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

Sincerely,



Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 03812-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of March 26, 2009 regarding Codel Hoyer. Please note that the Honorable Richard Neal is no longer traveling. The Honorable Aaron Schock (R-IL) is authorized to travel instead.

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

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03813-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 31, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of February 13, 2009, regarding Codel Berkley to the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Estonia during the approximate period of April 13-20, 2009. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Shelley Berkley (D-NV) and Dr. Larry Lehrner
The Honorable John R. Carter (R-TX) and Mrs. Erika Carter
The Honorable Steve Cohen (D-TN)
The Honorable Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and Mr. Tom Foxx
The Honorable Phil Gingrey (R-GA) and Mrs. Billie Gingrey
The Honorable Bart Gordon (D-TN)
The Honorable Paul E. Kanjorski (D-PA) and Mrs. Nancy Kanjorski
The Honorable Ron Klein (D-FL) and Mrs. Dori Klein
The Honorable Cliff Stearns (R-FL)
The Honorable Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)

Ms. Amanda Sloat, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. Riley Moore, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Sarah Preisser, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. Richard Urey, Chief of Staff to Representative Berkley

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: **The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk**
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03882-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

March 26, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of January 22, 2009 regarding Codel Hoyer. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Majority Leader
The Honorable Roy Blunt (R-MO)
The Honorable Joseph Crowley (D-NY) and Mrs. Kasey Crowley
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and Mr. Edward Allard
The Honorable Gregory Meeks (D- NY)
The Honorable Elijah Cummings (D-MD) and Dr. Maya Rockeymoore
The Honorable Adrian Smith (R-NE)
The Honorable Gerry Connolly (D-VA)
The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Mr. Steve Schultz
The Honorable Richard Neal (D-MA)
The Honorable Norman Dicks (D-WA) and Mrs. Suzanne "Suzie" Dicks

Ms. Mariah Sixkiller, Office of the Majority Leader
Mr. Brian Diffell, Office of the Republican Leader
Ms. Katie Grant, Office of the Majority Leader

The delegation will be accompanied by:

(b)(6) USN
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) USAF
(b)(6) DSS Agent

OSD 03883-09



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

Sincerely,

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

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
March 31, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of March 5, 2009, regarding Codel Tanner to Germany, France, Lithuania, Ukraine, Georgia, and Belgium during the approximate period of April 2-9, 2009.

Please note that the Lithuanian Minister of Defense, Rasa Jukneviene, has been invited to travel with the delegation from Strasbourg to Vilnius on Saturday, April 4, 2009.

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

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 03884-09



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April 8, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE - 703-695-1219

The Honorable Robert Gates
 Secretary
 U.S. Department of Defense
 The Pentagon
 Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Judy Biggert to travel on a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) led by Congresswoman Susan Davis to Georgia, Afghanistan, and the Czech Republic on May 7-12, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to observe and gain an on-the-ground perspective of President Obama's new strategy in Afghanistan. And while in country, the delegation will meet with a host of U.S. and Afghanistan nationals, including several non-profit organizations that have been establishing and improving schools and educational programs.

It is requested that the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation is authorized pursuant to Title 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Travel will be conducted by military and/or commercial aircraft up to business class, including foreign flag carriers when U.S. carriers are not available. The CODEL requests the U.S. Marines give support to this Delegation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jackie Abba at 202-225-3515. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE MILLER
 Chairman

GM:ejh

OSD 03953-09



ROBERT E. ANDREWS
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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BUDGET COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3001

March 13, 2009

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WEBSITE:

www.house.gov/andrews

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As a friend of Taiwanese Americans in my New Jersey district, and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I write to you today about an issue of importance to me and ask that you clarify the United States and our position vis-a-vis our high-level military contacts with Taiwan.

Taiwan today is a bastion of democracy in Asia. Its vibrant democracy of 23 million produces an annual GDP of over \$320 billion, making it the world's 18th largest economy. Taiwan is the 8th largest trading partner of the United States, and a strong ally, sharing with the United States the ideals of freedom, democracy, and self-determination.

While Taiwan has made a remarkable peaceful transition to democracy over the past decades, I have noticed a discrepancy with the international accolades Taiwan has received (and receives) for these democratic and economic achievements - especially from the United States.

One of the fields we can improve in is in our high-level military contacts with Taiwan. I believe that we place unnecessary restrictions on our military-to-military ties with Taiwan. Indeed, it strikes me as counterproductive that we cling to these self-imposed restrictions on our exchanges with Taiwan of U.S. generals, admirals, and senior defense officials to Taiwan.

In order to develop an appreciation for Taiwan's specific military needs and, in turn, to spell those needs out to American policymakers, U.S. generals and flag officers have to be able to visit Taiwan and see its military in action. Although visits by expert teams of U.S. captains and colonels to Taiwan are helpful, these lower-ranking officers lack the authority and the "joint" command experience of general officers necessary to have an effective exchange with Taiwan's senior military leaders. And anyone familiar with the ways of Washington knows that having a well-informed general or admiral make a case for a new initiative is vital if it is to be given a respectful hearing by senior military and civilian decision-makers.

Similarly, it is difficult for Taipei and Washington to discuss contingency responses to

OSD 03963-09



possible Chinese aggression when U.S. generals and flag officers are not able to meet regularly with their Taiwanese counterparts.

I look forward to receiving from you a clarification on the status, guidelines, and rules that regulate our interaction with Taiwan and our high-level military contacts with Taiwan.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress

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<http://www.house.gov/judiciary>

April 8, 2009

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

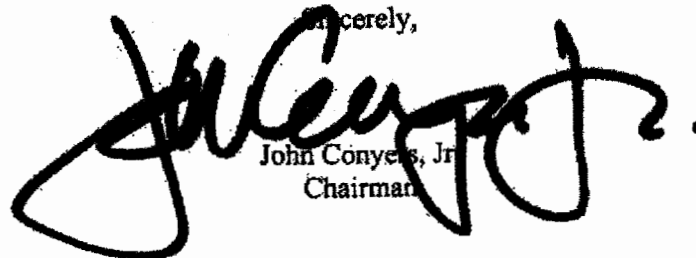
Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to request authorization for Representative Daniel Lungren, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, to lead a delegation of Members to Guantamino Bay, Cuba. Mr Lungren will be accompanied by Representative Tom Rooney, and Committee Counsels Sam Sokol and Sean McLaughlin. The date of travel for this delegation is Friday, May 1, 2009.

It will be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation and escort, to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for payment of actual and necessary expense and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. § 1108.

If you have any questions concerning this travel, please contact Teresa Vest with my Committee staff at 202-225-3951. Your assistance with this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman

OSD 03988-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Ms. Patrice Willoughby, Staff Director of the Congressional Black Caucus, to accompany Codel Lee/Kilpatrick (authorized by the House Appropriations Committee) to Cuba during the approximate period of April 3-8, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to evaluate current policies regarding trade and commerce with Cuba, and to examine and promote proposals to initiate cultural, academic, and health exchanges with the U.S.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04003-09



ROBERT E. ANDREWS

FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3001

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WEBSITE:

www.house.gov/andrews

April 7, 2009

William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
United States of America
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1010

Dear Mr. William J. Lynn III,

I would like to request a meeting with [REDACTED] CIH, CSP, [REDACTED] and other key individuals to discuss the implementation of a program for BreathScan alcohol detection and safety devices. I feel that the implementation and progression of this program would make all of our military personnel safer. I would also like to note how this program aligns with one of the key FY 2010 budget recommendations, "institutionalizing and properly funding the critical and permanent nature of the wounded", that Secretary Gates will be making to President Obama. It is my understanding that various Department of Defense entities have already expressed a strong desire to obtain a significant number of the BreathScan Alcohol and Safety devices. I would like to learn more about the demand for this program as well as obtain recommendations on what can be done to expedite the progress and progression of this program.

BreathScan devices have been used successfully in the past to help prevent drunk driving and alcohol-related incidents. These devices have been successfully used by the military for the past seven years and I strongly believe that they can be used as a means to help soldiers control their alcohol intake and help prevent many of the problems associated with alcohol abuse.

An article in the Journal of the American Medical Association, dated August 13, 2008, highlighted the problems of binge drinking and other types of alcohol abuse experienced by returning combat veterans, especially in Reserve Component units. Extensive documentation in the form of articles and press releases is available to illustrate the success of the BreathScan program in preventing these problems from occurring throughout the military. In fact, it is my understanding that the Army Substance Abuse Program now views BreathScan as part of an extensive and holistic program that

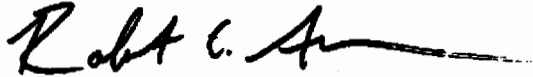
OSD 04111-09



they wish to deploy. It is also my understanding that Reserve Component units are also extremely interested in this program.

Therefore, I would like to schedule a meeting with the relevant Department of Defense personnel that need to be involved to move this request forward. Please contact my scheduler, Kristin Janco at 856-546-5100 or Kristin.Janco@mail.house.gov for scheduling information or contact my military legislative assistant, Nathaniel Bell 202-225-6501, Nathaniel.Bell@mail.house.gov for substantive information or background pertaining to this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Andrews", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress

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<http://veterans.house.gov>

April 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

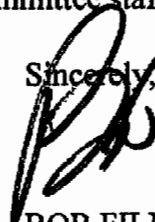
I authorize Congressman John J. Hall to travel on official government business to Iraq and Afghanistan during the period of April 4-11, 2009.

Mr. Hall will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, member of the House Committee on Armed Services. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to gauge troop morale, listen to their concerns, and formulate ideas and remedies to the problems they are facing once they leave military service.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in Iraq and Afghanistan. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Bernie Dotson of the Committee staff at 202-226-3653.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER
 Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 04180-09



BILL SHUSTER
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

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

April 7, 2009

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

President Obama,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

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

OSD 04292-09



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FAX: (814) 443-6373

100 LINCOLN WAY EAST
SUITE B
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201
(717) 264-8308
FAX: (717) 264-0289

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

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

The GAO report reached several disturbing conclusions:

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

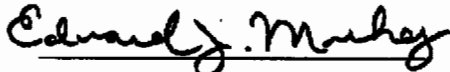
We believe that the Department should immediately enter into the appropriate Interagency Agreements and expedite the cleanup of these sites. We request that you provide us with a detailed description of your plans to do so, including:



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

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

Sincerely,



Rep. Edward J. Markey



Rep. Gene Green

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN
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 BEN CHAMBLER, KENTUCKY
 DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, FLORIDA
 GREG RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS

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

April 15, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
 ROS NABORS
 TELEPHONE:
 (202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter to you dated March 20, 2009, concerning whether the Army violated the Anti-deficiency Act when funds were transferred from the Defense Working Capital Fund, Army to Military Personnel, Army. This investigation includes a review of all controls Army employs to assure development of information needed to provide accurate and timely adjustments to payroll, bonuses, special and incentive pays, permanent change of station, and other entitlements. This inquiry would benefit from viewing similar controls and underlying systems used by the Navy and Air Force for pay management.

It is requested that the Air Force and the Navy designate an appropriate point of contact to arrange for obtaining the data pertinent to this inquiry and notify my office by telephone within five business days of the receipt of this letter. If there are any questions regarding this matter, I can be contacted on (202) 225-3881.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Pomerantz

David M. Pomerantz
 Director
 Surveys and Investigations Staff
 House Committee on Appropriations

- 1 - Secretary of the Air Force
- 1 - Secretary of the Navy

OSD 04359-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 7, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of March 30, 2009 regarding Codel Hoyer. Please note that H.E. Maria Carolina Barco Isakson, Ambassador to the United States from Colombia, and Ms. Sylvia Constain Rengifo, Assistant to the Ambassador, are invited to travel with the delegation Cartagena to Medellin, Colombia.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04367-09



JEFF FLAKE
6TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 15, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Pursuant to a March 31 meeting with officials from the Department of Defense, I am writing to formally request information regarding specific earmarks outlined in the conference report language of the FY 2008 Defense Appropriations bill.

At the meeting with Defense Department officials, I was informed that all funding for projects managed by the Department is awarded in a manner consistent with the federal regulations for competitive bidding – including all projects earmarked by Members of Congress. As such, please provide relevant information on the competitive bidding process for each of the projects listed on the enclosed spreadsheet, including any relevant Justification and Approvals (J&As). Each of these projects was a congressionally directed earmark in the FY 2008 Defense Appropriations bill (H.R. 3222; P.L. 110-116). The spreadsheet contains all of the relevant information that might be of assistance in locating the J&As.

A timeframe of when I can expect to see this information would be appreciated. In addition, to expedite the delivery, I would appreciate receiving information as it becomes available. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact my Legislative Director, Mr. Chandler Morse, or my Legislative Assistant for defense matters, Ms. Colleen Gilbert, at (202) 225-2635.

Sincerely,

JEFF FLAKE
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Blaine F. Aaron
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Budget and Appropriations Affairs



Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

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

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

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

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

OSD 04513-09



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

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

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


ERIC MASSA
Member of Congress

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

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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AARON SCHOCK, ILLINOIS

April 15, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

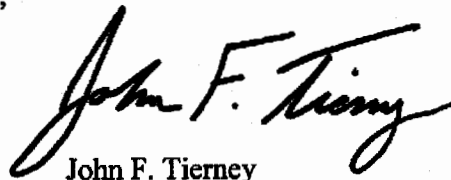
The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and its Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs hereby request your testimony at a joint hearing entitled, "Afghanistan and Pakistan: Oversight of a New Interagency Strategy." The hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2009, at 10:00 AM in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

Please contact Andy Wright or Steve Gale at (202) 225-2548 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Edolphus Towns
Chairman
Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform



John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

cc: Darrell Issa
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Jeff Flake
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs

OSD 04514-09



JIM GERLACH
6TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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MATERIALS
LAND CONSERVATION CAUCUS, CO-CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3806

April 3, 2009

Mr. Robert L. Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Wilkie:

Knowing of your interest in veterans issues, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on a letter recently sent to President Obama regarding the status of disabled veterans health care.

As you may know, President Obama recently stated he desired to institute a policy to save the federal government revenue by shifting some of the health care burden from the federal government to private insurance companies related to the care of service-connected and disabled veterans. If this policy were to be instituted, it would have a disastrous set of consequences related to health care for disabled veterans. Not only would this plan absolve the federal government of its responsibility to these veterans by potentially requiring veterans to pay for their own care, this plan would also harm the quality of that care.

In response to this plan, a number of my Republican colleagues and I sent a letter urging President Obama to remove the proposal from the Fiscal Year 2010 budget and continue to provide service-connected and disabled veterans the care they deserve. Instead of looking for ways to save money by burdening our veterans, I believe that the President should ensure the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has the resources it needs to fulfill its mandate to treat service-connected injuries and disabilities. I believe the needs of these servicemembers should take national priority over partisanship and cost reduction initiatives.

As a result of the outcry against this proposal, I am happy to let you know that President Obama has stated that he will no longer seek approval of this plan. This decision ensures that service-connected and disabled veterans will continue to receive the health care they need and deserve. Furthermore, please rest assured that I will continue to urge Congressional leadership to provide increased funding for health care services to treat service-connected injuries and disabilities.

I appreciate your interest in veterans issues and will continue to do what I can to not only protect existing benefits and programs, but also seek ways to improve them. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,


Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress

JG: DM

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WYOMISSING, PA 19610
(610) 376-7630
FAX: (610) 376-7633

CHESTER COUNTY
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EXTON, PA 19341
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OSD 04535-09



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FAX: (610) 409-7988

JOHN R. CARTER
31ST DISTRICT, TEXAS

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SECRETARY

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS
HOMELAND SECURITY
TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4331

April 21, 2009

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TEMPLE, TX 76502
(254) 933-1392

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

The people of Central Texas proudly support the Active Duty (AD) and Active Duty Family Members (ADFM) assigned to Fort Hood, Texas. Metroplex Adventist Hospital is located within 1 mile of an entrance to Ft Hood and works very closely with Darnall Army Medical Center in the coordination and support of health care service delivery to our soldiers and their families. Metroplex has become one of the nation's largest community providers to TRICARE beneficiaries and is essential for military readiness and support.

Metroplex is in a unique position relative to its ongoing provision of health care services to the AD and ADFM of Ft. Hood in the following ways:

Ft. Hood has approximately 50,000 soldiers assigned to the post;

Metroplex derives 72% of its patient service revenue from government programs with 29% being from TRICARE specifically;

TRICARE outpatient volume at Metroplex accounts for more than 37% of its total outpatient revenue; and,

In 2008, TRICARE outpatient visits at Metroplex totaled 39,400, of which 10,300 were emergency room visits.

Most hospitals affected by the reimbursement cuts imposed by TRICARE's Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) will be able to recover lost revenue from other payment sources; however, Metroplex will not due to its extraordinary dependence on government payment sources for revenue.

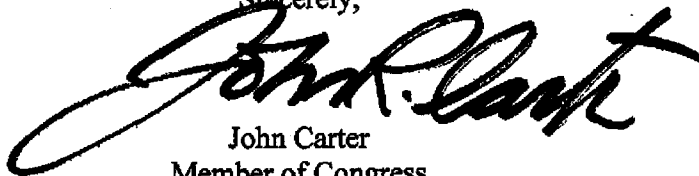
Metroplex is working diligently with the TRICARE Regional Office-South and officials from Humana Military in seeking an exception to the planned reimbursement cuts that will result from OPPS implementation. They have requested this exception in order to remain a vital part of the community network of health care service providers.

OSD 04560-09



For the reasons stated above, I urge you to exempt Metroplex from the OPPS rule, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

John Carter
Member of Congress

CIRIO D. RODRIGUEZ
2450 WESTBOLT, TEXAS

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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

April 21st, 2009

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND
RELATED AGENCIES
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE
HEALTH
DISABILITY ASSISTANCE
AND MEDICAL AFFAIRS

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to you in reference to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law as Public Law 111-5 on February 17th, 2009. Specifically, I am requesting information on the Department of Defense's implementation plans for Section 1001 of that law.

Section 1001 allows for homeowner assistance to wounded members of the Armed Forces and for assistance to military members permanently reassigned during the specified mortgage crisis, among others. It authorizes the Secretary of Defense "to acquire title to, hold, manage, and dispose of, or, in lieu thereof, to reimburse for certain losses upon private sale of, or foreclosure against, any property improved with a one- or two-family dwelling situated at or near a military base or installation" providing the member meets listed criteria.

Additionally, please provide information on what office at any given base should a service member be referred to for specific information, criteria, and processing procedures with reference to this provision.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. I look forward to hearing the Department's implementation plans on this section. Please contact my Military Legislative Assistant with any concerns or questions at (202) 225-4511 or Norm.Cannon@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Cirio D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress



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210-541-6622 FAX

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West Palm Beach District Office
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Fort Worth District Office
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Fort Worth, TX 76102
817-508-3978 TEL
817-508-3981 FAX

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Rep. John Carter (TX-31)



Rep. Sam Johnson (TX-03)



Ralph M. Hall
Rep. Ralph Hall (TX-04)

Joe Barton
Rep. Joe Barton (TX-06)

Kay Granger
Rep. Kay Granger (TX-12)

Lamar Smith
Rep. Lamar Smith (TX-21)

John Culberson
Rep. John Culberson (TX-07)

Kevin Brady
Rep. Kevin Brady (TX-08)

Kenny Marchant
Rep. Kenny Marchant (TX-24)

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Rep. Ted Poe (TX-02)

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Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX-01)

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

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TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

April 3, 2009

Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 10, 2009, granting authorization for members and staff to travel on a CODEL led by Carolyn Maloney, to travel to Naples, Rome, and Venice, Italy and Dublin, Ireland during the approximate period of April 14 - 20, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to additionally authorize Kevin Jones, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations to travel on this CODEL.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 04684-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

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MARION BERRY, ARKANSAS
BARBARA LEE, CALIFORNIA
ADAM SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL HONDA, CALIFORNIA
BETTY MCCOLLUM, MINNESOTA
STEVE ISRAEL, NEW YORK
TIM RYAN, OHIO
C.A. "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER, MARYLAND
BEN CHANDLER, KENTUCKY
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, FLORIDA
CIRO RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20515-6015

April 7, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
TOM LATHAM, IOWA
ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
MARK STEVEN KIRK, ILLINOIS
ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
DENNIS R. REHBERG, MONTANA
JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS
RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
JO BONNER, ALABAMA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

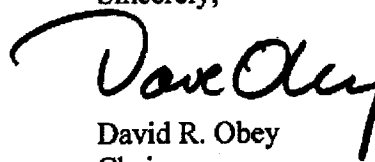
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 10, 2009, granting authorization for members and staff of the Committee on Appropriations to travel to Italy and Ireland on April 14-20, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize travel and per diem expenses incurred by post personnel traveling outside of their duty station in support of CODEL travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 04685-09



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2009

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

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

Dear President Obama:

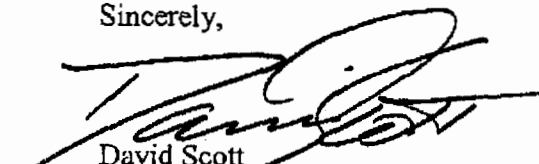
We are gravely concerned regarding recently announced plans to cap production of the F-22A Raptor at 187 aircraft. Simply put, this number is insufficient to meet potential threats to America and to guarantee our nation's air superiority decades into the future. Over 30 air campaign studies completed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

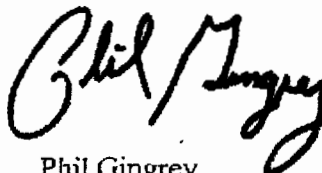
Secretary Gates indicated his commitment to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter as America's 5th generation fighter jet. While the JSF is a very capable platform, it is designed for multi-role strike missions and not optimized for the air dominance missions of the F-22. Moreover, it is several years away from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

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

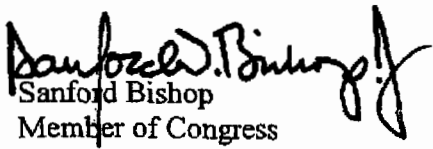
Mr. President, in light of these concerns and in consideration of the importance of the F-22 program to both American national and economic security, we strongly urge you to reconsider this decision and to certify that continued production of this vital asset is indeed in the national interest of the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

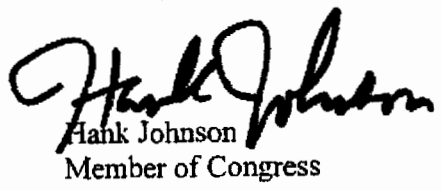
Sincerely,

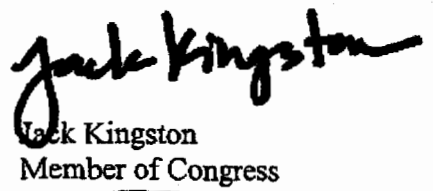

David Scott
Member of Congress

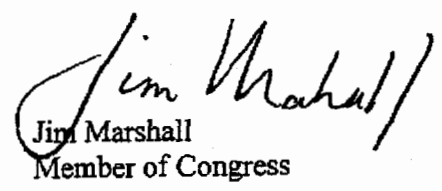

Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress

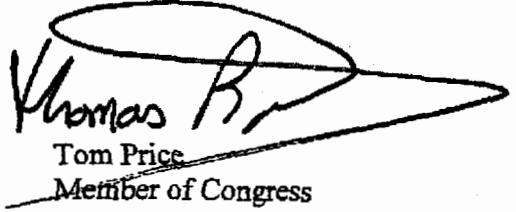



Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

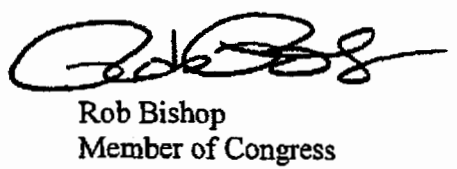

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

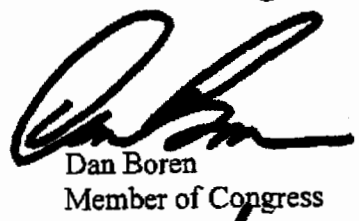

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

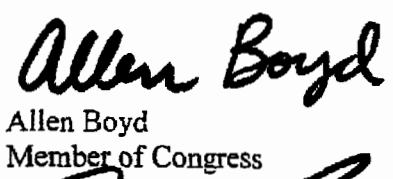

Jim Marshall
Member of Congress

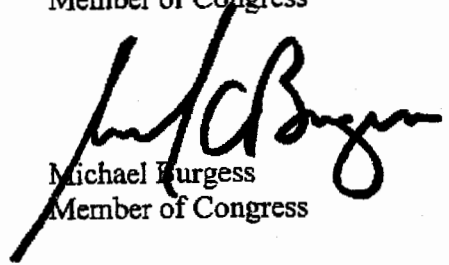

Tom Price
Member of Congress

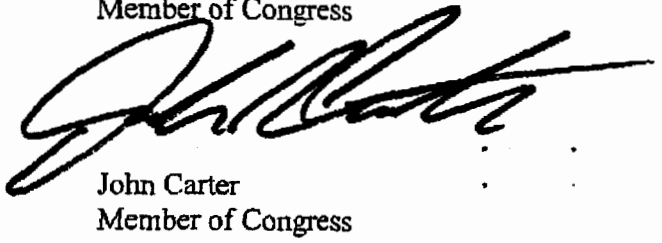

Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress

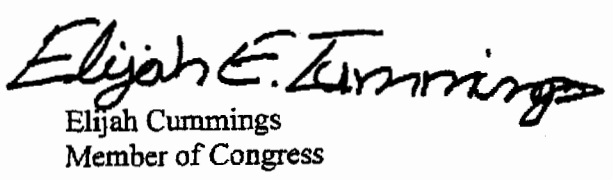

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

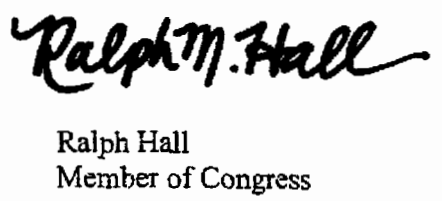

Dan Boren
Member of Congress

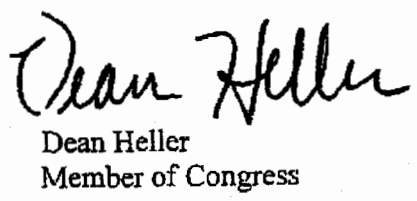

Allen Boyd
Member of Congress

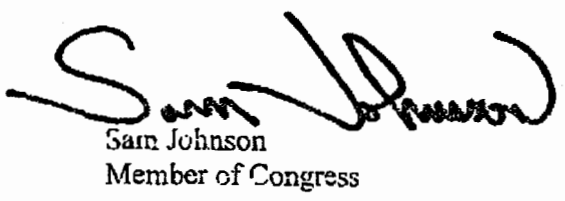

Michael Burgess
Member of Congress

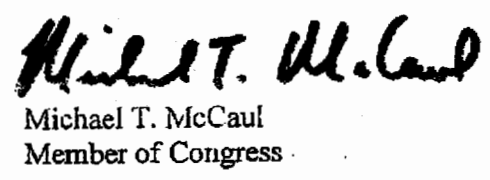

John Carter
Member of Congress

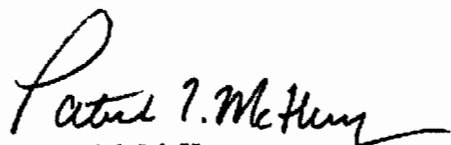

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress


Ralph Hall
Member of Congress


Dean Heller
Member of Congress


Sam Johnson
Member of Congress


Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



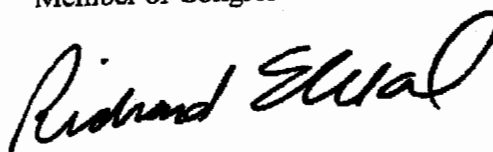
Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress



Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress



Kendrick Meek
Member of Congress



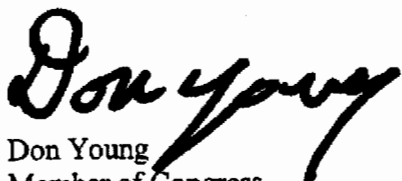
Richard Neal
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Bill Shuster
Member of Congress



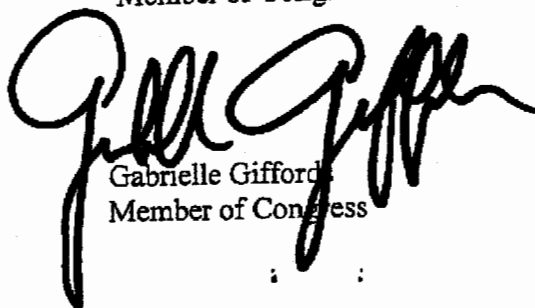
Don Young
Member of Congress



Paul Broun
Member of Congress



Howard "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress



Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress

STEVEN R. ROTHMAN
9TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

2303 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6061
FAX (202) 225-5851

DISTRICT OFFICES:

25 MAIN STREET
COURT PLAZA
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601-7089
(201) 646-0808
FAX (201) 646-1944

130 CENTRAL AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306-2118
(201) 798-1365
FAX (201) 798-1725

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

April 13, 2009

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE,
FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND
RELATED PROGRAMS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SPACE AND AERONAUTICS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT
WEBSITE AND E-MAIL ACCESS:
<http://www.house.gov/rothman>

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As a supporter of the Obama Administration's Iraq withdrawal plan, I would ask that, as practicable, the Department of Defense withdraw National Guard troops prior to any other military personnel.

The National Guard has a well established history of keeping our homeland safe. Their deployment in Iraq places states in difficult situations. States are more likely to be impaired when responding to an emergency because of the small number of personnel available and the absence of essential equipment. The personal and financial strain placed on the National Guard and their families are particularly difficult due to the fact that the majority of National Guard men and women work full-time jobs in addition to their military service.

In my home state of New Jersey, pending before the State Senate is a resolution declaring that the Congressional Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) of October 16, 2002, has expired, and urging the President to return all New Jersey National Guard troops. New Jersey is not alone in this sentiment. States such as Oregon, New Mexico, Maryland, Vermont, and many others have similar measures pending in their state legislatures.

Our soldiers deserve the most thoughtful and sound plan to return home. I respectfully request that, as soon as practicable, the Department of Defense prioritize the withdrawal of National Guard troops from Iraq before other military personnel. I look forward to your kind and prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress

SRR:ag

OSD 04713-09



IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
JOHN SPRATT, SOUTH CAROLINA
SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, TEXAS
GENE TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI
NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HAWAII
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VIC SNYDER, ARKANSAS
ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON
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MIKE MCINTYRE, NORTH CAROLINA
ELLEN O. TAUSCHER, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
SUSAN A. DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
JAMES R. LANGEVIN, RHODE ISLAND
RICK LARSEN, WASHINGTON
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JIM MARSHALL, GEORGIA
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GUAM
BRAD ELLSWORTH, INDIANA
PATRICK J. MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA
HANK JOHNSON, GEORGIA
CAROL SHEA-PORTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
DAVID LOEBACK, IOWA
JOE SESTAK, PENNSYLVANIA
GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA
NKKI TSONGAS, MASSACHUSETTS
GLENN NYE, VIRGINIA
CHELLIE PINGREE, MAINE
LARRY KISSELL, NORTH CAROLINA
MARTIN HEINRICH, NEW MEXICO
FRANK M. KRATON, JR., MARYLAND
ERIC J.J. MASSA, NEW YORK
BOBBY BRIGHT, ALABAMA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
HOWARD P. "BUCK" MAKEON, CALIFORNIA
MAC THORNBERRY, TEXAS
WALTER B. JONES, NORTH CAROLINA
W. TODD Akin, MISSOURI
J. RANDY FORBES, VIRGINIA
JEFF MILLER, FLORIDA
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
FRANK A. LOBIONDO, NEW JERSEY
ROB BISHOP, UTAH
MICHAEL TURNER, OHIO
JOHN KLINE, MINNESOTA
MIKE ROGERS, ALABAMA
TRENT FRANKS, ARIZONA
BILL SHUSTER, PENNSYLVANIA
CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, WASHINGTON
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS
DOUG LAMBORN, COLORADO
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MARY FALLIN, OKLAHOMA
DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
JOHN C. FLEMING, LOUISIANA
MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO
THOMAS J. RODNEY, FLORIDA

ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 17, 2009

Mr. Christian P. Marrone
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs (Acting)
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Marrone:

I am writing to request that Mr. Steven R. Miller, Director of Operations Analysis Procurement Planning Division for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Cost Analysis Improvement Group, and Mr. Joshua T. Hartman, Director of the Space and Intelligence Capabilities Office and Senior Advisor to the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, testify before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces on space system acquisitions and the industrial base on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at 1:00 PM in room 2212 Rayburn House Office Building.

Over the past decade, most national security space acquisition programs have experienced significant cost growth and schedule delays. The subcommittee requests your testimony on the causes of these problems, and on the capacity of the space industrial base to deliver satellites in a timely and cost-effective manner. Specifically, the subcommittee would ask that you address the following questions: What are the root causes of cost growth and schedule delays in the acquisition of national security space systems? Are plans for national security space acquisitions properly balanced with the industry's capacity to deliver? What recommendations should the Congress or the executive branch consider for addressing these problems?

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 35 copies of their prepared statements be delivered to Mr. Zach Steacy in room 2216 Rayburn House Office Building by the morning of Tuesday, April 28, 2009. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. This request may be satisfied by a transmittal via e-mail to zachary.steacy@mail.house.gov or disk.

OSD 04724-09



Mr. Christian P. Marrone
April 17, 2009
Page Two

I appreciate your assistance and look forward to Mr. Miller and Mr. Hartman's testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Bob DeGrasse on the committee staff at (202) 225-2191.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen O. Tauscher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER
Chairman
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

EOT:bd

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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

April 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee is investigating government-wide vulnerabilities related to information security, particularly in the area of cyber security.

Today, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that computer spies may have infiltrated the Department of Defense's Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program, which is reportedly the most expensive weapons program ever managed by the Department.¹ Citing both current and former government officials as a source, the article reports that cyber attackers were able to copy data related to the design and electronics system of the F-35 Lightning II by infiltrating the computer systems of contractors involved with the JSF Program.² Further, the article reports that these attacks may have originated from a foreign source.

If true, these allegations are serious and potentially far-reaching. Given the potential national security implications of this matter, we hereby request that the Department provide Committee staff with a briefing regarding the events alleged in the above article. After receiving this briefing, the Committee may request additional briefings and/or information from the Department.

¹ "Computer Spies Breach Fighter-Jet Project," *The Wall Street Journal* (April 21, 2008), p. A1.

² See *id.*

OSD 04830-09

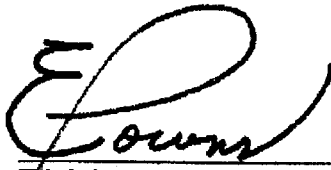


The Honorable Robert M. Gates

Page 2

To arrange the briefing, please have your staff contact Christopher Knauer or Kevin Barstow with the Majority staff at (202) 225-5051 and Christopher Bright with the Minority staff at (202) 225-5074. In the meantime, if you have any questions related to this request, please do not hesitate to contact us directly or have your staff contact Committee staff. The allegations raised in this article are serious and we appreciate your understanding of the urgency of this request.

Sincerely,



Edolphus Towns
Chairman



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member

BARNEY FRANK
4TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

2252 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2104
(202) 225-5931

28 CRAFTS STREET
SUITE 376
NEWTON, MA 02458
(617) 332-3920

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

558 PLEASANT STREET
ROOM 309
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740
(508) 999-6462

THE JONES BUILDING
29 BROADWAY
SUITE 310
TAUNTON, MA 02780
(508) 822-4796

April 21, 2009

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

Dear Mr. President,

I have told people that I think it is reasonable to wait on the question of repealing the anti-gay military policy until you have put the Iraq policy in place and some dust has settled with the military. Specifically, I've argued that we should be doing hate crimes and a nondiscrimination bill this year, and deal with the military policies for next year. But the recent statement by Secretary Gates suggesting that it isn't clear that we're ever going to do this is not only very disappointing to me personally, but a source of significant unhappiness among people who supported you very strongly. I realize that this was Secretary Gates' musing and not your position, but given the fact that he is the Secretary of Defense and said it, I think it is important, and I have told this to both Rahm and Greg, that you make it clear that this is not your administration's policy and that you do intend to get to it in this Congress.


BARNEY FRANK





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 22, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to inform you of my intention to lead a delegation to Jordan, Qatar, Iraq, and the United Kingdom during the approximate time period of May 6-12, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government officials in each country to discuss issues of mutual concern. For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date.

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

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

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Nancy Pelosi in cursive script.
NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04854-09



FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER—COMMERCE-JUSTICE-
SCIENCE

TRANSPORTATION-HUD

CO-CHAIR—TOM LANTOS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 24, 2009

241 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4610
(202) 225-5136

13873 PARK CENTER ROAD
SUITE 130
HERNDON, VA 20171
(703) 709-5800
(800) 945-9663 (IN STATE)

110 NORTH CAMERON STREET
WINCHESTER, VA 22601
(540) 867-0990
(800) 850-3463 (IN STATE)

wolf.house.gov

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
US Department of Defense
The Pentagon Room 3E 880
Washington DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to strongly recommend that you read Andrew Krepinevich's book, 7 Deadly Scenarios: A Military Futurist Explores War in the 21st Century, which was published by Bantam earlier this year, at your earliest convenience.

Drawing on his extensive research as a consultant to several secretaries of defense, the CIA, the Homeland Security Council, and the Joint Forces Command, Mr. Krepinevich offers a grave assessment of seven critical global trends and their potential to develop into security crises for the United States. He paints a stark picture of the enormous security challenges we will experience should Pakistan collapse, dirty bombs be detonated inside the U.S., or the world experience a global pandemic, to name a few.

7 Deadly Scenarios has received acclaim from Sens. Jack Reed and Joe Lieberman as well as national security journalists, such as Tom Ricks. I have enclosed a summary of the book, key reviews, and his full biography for your reference.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:tc

Best Wishes

OSD 04871-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 25, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to inform you of my intention to lead a delegation to China during the approximate time period of May 22-31, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government officials in each country to discuss issues of mutual concern. For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 04882-09



IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
 JOHN BRATT, SOUTH CAROLINA
 SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, TEXAS
 GENE TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI
 NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HAWAII
 SILVESTRE REYES, TEXAS
 VIC SNYDER, ARKANSAS
 ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON
 LORETTA SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
 MIKE ANUNTYRE, NORTH CAROLINA
 ELLEN O. TAUSCHER, CALIFORNIA
 ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
 ROBERT ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
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 JAMES R. LARGO, RHODE ISLAND
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 JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
 JIM MARSHALL, GEORGIA
 MADELINE Z. BORDALLO, GUAM
 BRAD ELLSWORTH, INDIANA
 PATRICK J. MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA
 HANK JOHNSON, GEORGIA
 CAROL SHEA-PORTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
 JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
 DAVID LOEBACK, IOWA
 JOE SESTAK, PENNSYLVANIA
 GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA
 MIKI THOMAS, MASSACHUSETTS
 GLENN NYE, VIRGINIA
 CHELLIE PINGREE, MAINE
 LARRY KISSELL, NORTH CAROLINA
 MARTIN HEINRICH, NEW MEXICO
 FRANK A. KRATOCHVIL, JR., MARYLAND
 ERIC L.J. MASSA, NEW YORK
 BOBBY BRIGHT, ALABAMA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

April 28, 2009

JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
 ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
 HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON, CALIFORNIA
 MAC THORNBERRY, TEXAS
 WALTER B. JONES, NORTH CAROLINA
 W. TODD AKIN, MISSOURI
 J. RANDY FORBES, VIRGINIA
 JEFF MILLER, FLORIDA
 JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
 FRANK A. LUCONDO, NEW JERSEY
 ROB BISHOP, UTAH
 MICHAEL TURNER, OHIO
 JOHN KLINE, MINNESOTA
 MIKE ROGERS, ALABAMA
 THOM FRANKS, ARIZONA
 BILL BRUSTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
 CATHY McHORNIS RODGERS, WASHINGTON
 K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS
 DOUG LAHORN, COLORADO
 ROB WITTMAN, VIRGINIA
 MARY KALLIN, OKLAHOMA
 DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
 JOHN C. FLEMING, LOUISIANA
 MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO
 THOMAS J. ROONEY, FLORIDA

BRIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

In your April 6, 2009 press conference on fiscal year 2010 major budget issues you announced a series of key defense program equipment decisions that you had recommended to the President.

In support of your view that the American people deserve "to learn of these recommendations fully and in context," we would very much appreciate being provided, by the time the fiscal year 2010 budget is submitted to Congress, the background materials that led to your decisions.

We ask that the materials provided by the services to your office in supporting their recommendations be provided, as well as the analysis completed, the options considered, the supporting rationale for your final decision, and the detailed recommendation you made to the President for the F-22, Combat Search and Rescue-X, F-35, Joint Cargo Aircraft, Future Combat Systems, KC-X, and the Next Generation Bomber. The requested detailed information for each program of interest is provided in attachments.

Sincerely,

Neil Abercrombie

Neil Abercrombie
 Chairman,
 Air and Land Forces
 Subcommittee

Roscoe Bartlett

Roscoe Bartlett
 Ranking Member,
 Air and Land Forces
 Subcommittee

NA/RB: bg
 Enc.

OSD 04888-09



KC-X

Written recommendations made and supporting materials provided by the Department of the Air Force for the FY 2010 budget and Future Years Defense Program for the quantity and budget for the KC-X program.

The analysis completed by your office; the options considered; the supporting rationale for your final decision; and the detailed recommendation made to the President.

Subsequent to your April 6 press conference, you were quoted by two news organizations as saying that the program costs of two KC-X variants would be an additional \$7-14 billion. Please provide the analysis and data that supports how \$14 billion was determined to be the upper limit of the estimate.

Concerning cost and schedule, how did you arrive at your decision to conduct a competition that would result in the down select to only one winner?

Next Generation Bomber (NGB)

Written recommendations made and supporting materials provided by the Air Force for the FY 2010 budget and Future Years Defense Program for the quantity and budget for the NGB program.

The analysis completed by your office; the options considered; the supporting rationale for your final decision; and the detailed recommendation made to the President.

Given the current phase of the NGB acquisition program, please provide your specific concerns, issues and aspects of the acquisition program that support your statement "we will not pursue a development program...until we have a better understanding of the need, the requirement, and the technology."

Please provide the amount and status of any previous or current fiscal year funds authorized/appropriated, obligated and expended for the NGB program.

Please provide the status of any NGB acquisition program contracts awarded and the estimated termination liability costs associated with each.

Please provide a detailed description of the public and/or private sector workforce impacts and risks involved with preservation of industrial base capabilities associated with termination of the NGB program.

DUNCAN HUNTER
330 DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR



1425 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0528
(202) 225-5072
FAX: (202) 225-0528
1670 CONDELL COURT, #209
EL CAJON, CA 92020
(619) 444-5701
FAX: (619) 448-2281

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

May 1, 2009

Honorable Roberts M. Gates
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing this letter to respectfully request that you restrict any military personnel from leaving the United States and crossing into Mexico. I urge that you take immediate action of this important matter.

As you know, the recent spread of the "Swine Flu" has caused many to fall gravely ill in the United States. This morning, officials at Marine Base Camp Pendleton confirmed that two Marines have "Swine Flu" and are currently hospitalized and recovering in quarantine. In addition, a third Marine at Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms has been infected. He is currently in isolation along with 30 of his fellow Marines that he came in contact with.

While there have been limited deaths in the U.S. related to this illness, it is imperative that we are proactive in preventing our men and women in uniform from contracting this deadly virus. In order to maintain combat effectiveness and prevent the spread of this sickness to other members of our military and their families, we must temporarily prohibit the travel of U.S. military personnel into Mexico which is highly infected with the "Swine Flu." Furthermore, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an April 27 notice recommending that American citizens avoid all nonessential travel to Mexico at this time. It would be reckless and irresponsible if we did not heed this warning and continued to allow our service personnel to cross into Mexico.

Sincerely,

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress

OSD 04915-09



IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
JOHN SPRATT, SOUTH CAROLINA
SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, TEXAS
GENE TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI
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BOBBY BRIGHT, ALABAMA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

April 30, 2009

JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, CALIFORNIA
MAC THORNBERRY, TEXAS
WALTER B. JONES, NORTH CAROLINA
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JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
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DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
JOHN C. FLEMING, LOUISIANA
MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO
THOMAS J. ROONEY, FLORIDA

ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable William J. Lynn III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Secretary Lynn:

You are invited to testify before the House Armed Services Committee on The Department of Defense at High Risk: The Chief Management Officer's Recommendations for Acquisition Reform and Related High Risk Areas on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 10:00 AM in room 2118 Rayburn House Office Building.

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 120 copies of your prepared statement be delivered to room 2120 Rayburn House Office Building by Monday, May 4, 2009. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. This request may be satisfied by a transmittal via e-mail to Caterina Dutto at caterina.dutto@mail.house.gov.

I appreciate your willingness to appear before the committee and look forward to your testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Andrew Hunter on the committee staff at (202) 225-6703 or at andrew.hunter@mail.house.gov.

Very truly yours,



IKE SKELTON
Chairman

IS:cd

OSD 04947-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Ed Pastor, Chairman of the House delegation to the US-Mexico Interparliamentary Group, to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Seattle, Washington during the approximate period of June 5-7, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to attend the annual meeting of the US-Mexico Interparliamentary Group. For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government. A list of authorized travelers will follow at a later date.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05023-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of February 23, 2009, regarding Codel Hoyer.

Please note the new dates of May 26-29, 2009, and that the delegation will only be traveling to Denmark.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05024-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Rush Holt, a Member of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Macedonia, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina on official business during the approximate time period of May 25 – June 2, 2009. The main purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the Kosovo Assembly and of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. In Bosnia, the delegation will meet with members of the national parliament, the national executive, and entity leaders regarding the status of Bosnia's governance. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date. Spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government for protocol purposes only.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05025-09



MIKE COFFMAN
5TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

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(202) 225-7882

DISTRICT OFFICE:
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SUITE 220
LOVE TREE, CO 80124
(720) 263-9772

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0606

April 15, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

President Obama,

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

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

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

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

OSD 05026-09



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

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

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

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

Sincerely,


Mike Coffman, M.C.

CC: The Honorable Robert Gates

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

J. R. Forke
Barrett
Jeff Miller
W. Cade Atkin

Robert J. Wittman
Mark Rubin
John Fleming
Frank Pianta

John A. LeBourd

Howard O. Buck

Joe Wilson



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
April 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable John Tanner, Chairman of the House NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) group, to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Norway, Sweden, and Finland during the approximate period of May 22-31, 2009. The purpose of this trip will be to attend the NATO PA's Spring Session and to meet with government officials in each country in conjunction with the mission of the Assembly. For protocol purposes only, spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date.

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

Please also note that Mr. David Hobbs, Secretary General of the NATO PA, has been invited to travel with the delegation in-theatre.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05208-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

April 23, 2009

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

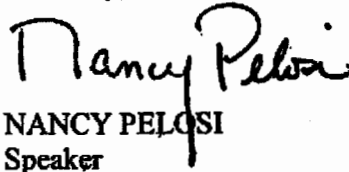
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Richard E. Neal, Chairman of the US-Ireland Interparliamentary Group, to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United Kingdom during the approximate period of June 26 – July 5, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to express the United States' strong support for the new power-sharing government in Belfast and to meet with government officials in both countries to discuss issues of mutual concern. For protocol purposes only, spouses may travel at no cost to the government. A list of authorized travelers will follow at a later date.

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

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

Sincerely,


NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: **The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk**
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05209-09



IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
JOHN SPRATT, SOUTH CAROLINA
SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, TEXAS
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JOE SESTAK, PENNSYLVANIA
GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA
NIKI TSONGAS, MASSACHUSETTS
GLENN NYE, VIRGINIA
CHELLE PINGREE, MAINE
LARRY KISSELL, NORTH CAROLINA
MARTIN HEINRICH, NEW MEXICO
FRANK M. KRATOVIL, JR., MARYLAND
ERIC J.J. MASSA, NEW YORK
BOBBY BRIGHT, ALABAMA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

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JOHN C. FLEMING, LOUISIANA
MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO
THOMAS J. ROONEY, FLORIDA

ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

May 6, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

You are invited to testify before the House Armed Services Committee on the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Budget Request from the Department of Defense on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 10:00 am in room 2118 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

Committee Rule 13 provides that witness statements must be delivered to the committee at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to facilitate distribution to the members. Therefore, it is requested that 120 copies of your prepared statement be delivered to room 2120 Rayburn House Office Building by the morning of Monday, February 4, 2008. In addition, consistent with the House rules requirement to make materials from hearings electronically available to the general public, Committee Rule 13 requires that witness statements be provided to the committee in electronic form. This request may be satisfied by a transmittal via e-mail or disk.

I appreciate your willingness to appear before the committee and look forward to your testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Andrew Hunter on the committee staff at (202) 225-6703 or at Andrew.Hunter@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Ike Skelton
Chairman

IS:cd

OSD 05301-09



TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON
15TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS



REPLY TO:
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
 1207 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2371

AGRICULTURE
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
AND RISK MANAGEMENT

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1315



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BLOOMINGTON, IL 61704
(309) 663-7049
 655 WEST LINCOLN
UNIT 8
CHARLESTON, IL 61920
(217) 348-6759
 1001 MARKET STREET
SUITE 102
MOUNT CARMEL, IL 62863
(618) 262-8719

April 23, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am writing you today to lend my support for Cbana Labs, Inc and their STTR Phase II funding for the Micro-burner based flame Ionization Detectors for Micro-scale Gas Chromatographs.

Cbana Labs is a cutting edge company that currently is working on vapor and particle sampling vacuums, handheld explosive detectors in addition to the ionization detectors. Their work will have a wide range of uses and could prove very useful in National Security and for Military personnel.

I ask that Cbana Labs, Inc be given any and all consideration for STTR Phase II funding. If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me at (217) 403-4690.

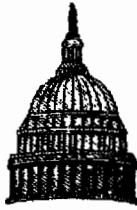
Sincerely,

Timothy V. Johnson
Member of Congress

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OSD 05307-09





HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

ROBERT WEXLER
19TH DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

April 27, 2009

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

Dear Robert:

I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to you as you begin serving as Secretary of Defense. Your appointment to this position is indicative not only of your qualifications to serve, but of your commitment to President Obama's message of change and your desire to lead our nation through the many challenges we face.

At this trying time in our nation's history, I have no doubt that your leadership in the U.S. Department of Defense will be a benefit to all who serve with you, and I look forward to working with you and President Obama as we lead our nation in a new direction. Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime I may be of assistance to you as you work with President Obama, Vice President Biden, and the Executive Cabinet to accomplish these goals.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert", written in a cursive style.

Robert Wexler

OSD 05308-09



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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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HVC-304, THE CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7690

MICHAEL J. DELANEY
STAFF DIRECTOR

JAMES M. LEWIS
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

May 5, 2009

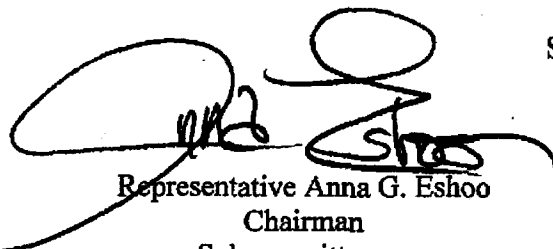
The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Office of the Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

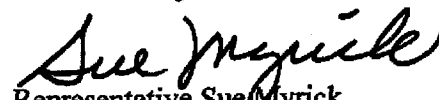
The Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will hold an open hearing on the Government Accounting Office's upcoming report on Personnel Security Clearance Reform from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. We invite you or your designee to testify at this open session.

In March of 2008, our Subcommittee requested that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) evaluate the joint ODNI-DOD reform effort, relative to best practice standards that GAO has used to evaluate other government reform efforts. The Committee also asked GAO to review the criteria that the Administration is using to assess the effectiveness of its efforts. The day of the hearing, GAO will release its report on those reform efforts. We request that you be prepared to respond to GAO's findings at the upcoming hearing.

Please provide your statement for the record by May 14, 2009. Please limit oral testimony to ten minutes. Questions regarding this hearing may be directed to Ms. Mieke Eoyang, Subcommittee Staff Director, at 202-225-7690.


Representative Anna G. Eshoo
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Intelligence Community Management

Sincerely, and gratefully,


Representative Sue Myrick
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Intelligence Community Management

OSD 05356-09



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May 6, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE - 703-695-1219

The Honorable Robert Gates
 Secretary
 U.S. Department of Defense
 The Pentagon
 Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan to travel on a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) led by Congressman James Langevin to Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, and Germany on May 24th through June 2nd, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to visit Leadership and service members and to visit the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Also, members will meet with U.S. Agency for International Development and State Department representatives to discuss education programs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is requested that the Department of Defense to furnish such assistance, including transportation, as may be required to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation is authorized pursuant to Title 31 U.S.C. 1108(g). Travel will be conducted by military and/or commercial aircraft up to business class, including foreign flag carriers when U.S. carriers are not available. The CODEL requests the U.S. Air Force give support to this Delegation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Becky Cruz Lizama at 202-225-2646 or Mr. Craig Greene at 202-225-4151. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

 GEORGE MILLER
 Chairman

GM:ejh

OSD 05386-09



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 AND CHIEF COUNSEL

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

April 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman Timothy J. Walz to travel on official government business to Israel, the West Bank, Egypt, and Turkey during the period of May 24-May 31, 2009.

Mr. Walz will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Senator Robert Casey, Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to meet with regional leaders to discuss the potential progress on the Middle East Peace Process, the regional response to Iran's nuclear program, and Turkey's integration with its neighbors. Mr. Walz will bring to bear in discussions a focus on the quality of life of military personnel and future veterans

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in Israel, the West Bank, Egypt, and Turkey. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C., Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Bernie Dotson of the Committee staff at 202-226-3653.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER
 Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 05449-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 4, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of April 22, 2009, regarding the delegation I am leading May 6-12, 2009. Please note that the following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Speaker, and Mr. Paul Pelosi
The Honorable Rush Holt (D-NJ)

The Honorable Wilson Livingood, House Sergeant at Arms
The Honorable Brian Monaghan, Attending Physician
Mr. John Lawrence, Chief of Staff, Speaker Pelosi
Ms. Wyndee Parker, Senior Policy Advisor, Speaker Pelosi
Mr. Drew Hammill, Communications Director
Ms. Bridget Fallon, Chief of Protocol for the Speaker

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05456-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 6, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of February 13, 2009, regarding Codel Capps to Haiti. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Lois Capps (D-CA)
The Honorable David Dreier (R-CA)
The Honorable Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
The Honorable Gwen Moore (D-WI) and Mr. Adesolu Omokunde

Mr. John Lis, Staff Director, House Democracy Assistance Commission
Ms. Margarita Seminario, Professional Staff Member, HDAC
Mr. Tommy Ross, Legislative Director, Office of Rep. David Price
Ms. Rachael Leman, Policy Director, House Rules Committee
Ms. Muftiah McCartin, Committee Staff Director, HRC (Majority)
Mr. Brad Smith, Committee Staff Director, HRC (Minority)
Mr. Clay Wellborn, Deputy Assistant Director, CRS (authorized by HCFA)
Ms. Maureen Taft Morales, Senior Analyst, CRS (authorized by HCFA)

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

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05458-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 6, 2009

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

This letter will authorize the Honorable Charles B. Rangel (D-NY) to lead a delegation of Members and staff to the funeral of the late Honorable Jack F. Kemp.

It is requested that the Department of Defense provide bus transportation and Air Force escort as needed to support the movement of current Members of Congress, former Members of Congress, and Congressional staff between the U.S. Capitol and Washington National Cathedral on Friday, May 8, 2009. Spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government for protocol purposes only. A complete list of Members and staff authorized to travel will follow at a later date.

Authorization for the expenditure of funds should be made pursuant to 31 USC 1108 (g)

Thank you in advance for your prompt assistance with the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05463-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 7, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Mr. John Sullivan, Parliamentarian of the House, to accompany Codel Kosmas (authorized by the House Committee on Science and Technology) to Florida during the appropriate period of May 11, 2009.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05465-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 7, 2009

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

This is in further reference to my letter of May 6, 2009 regarding Codel Rangel (D-NY) to the funeral of the late Honorable Jack F. Kemp. The following persons are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel (D-NY)
The Honorable Jerry Lewis (R-CA)
The Honorable Dan Lungren (R-CA) and Mrs. Bobbi Lungren
The Honorable James Moran (D-VA)
The Honorable Mike Pence (R-IN) and Mrs. Karen Pence
The Honorable Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ) and Mrs. Marie Smith
The Honorable Frank Wolf (R-VA) and Mrs. Carolyn Wolf

The Honorable Dan Beard, Chief Administrative Officer

The Honorable E. Thomas Coleman (Former Member) and Mrs. Coleman
The Honorable James Courter (Former Member)
The Honorable Gary Franks (Former Member)
The Honorable Robert Livingston (Former Member)
The Honorable Robert Michel (Former Member)
The Honorable Donn Anderson (Former Officer of the House)

Mrs. Cheryl Sensenbrenner
Mrs. Vicky Tiaht

Thank you in advance for your prompt assistance with the matter.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05466-09



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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

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ERIN C. COMATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

May 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Last Thursday, Congress received the Department of Defense's portion of the President's Fiscal Year 2010 budget submission. I understand that the detailed justification of budget estimates will be provided this week. Concurrent with the submission of the budget details, I had also expected the Department to submit the report required by law regarding F/A-18 procurement and the 30-year aviation force structure report. As you know, section 123 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417) requires you to submit a report comparing costs of F/A-18 multi-year versus annual procurement options, not later than March 1, 2009. Further, section 231a of title 10, United States Code, requires you to submit an annual aircraft plan and certification along with the submission of the President's budget.

Unfortunately, Committee staff has been told by the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) that these reports may not be submitted, or, at best, the F/A-18 multiyear report will be delayed and a "notional" thirty-year aviation plan might be submitted. If this is the case, I respectfully ask that you reconsider and transmit the two reports in a manner that is consistent with both the statute and the spirit of the law. The information requested in the required reports is critical to our Subcommittee's oversight responsibilities and for budget transparency.

I look forward to working closely with you as we move through the authorization and appropriation process this year.

Sincerely,



W. TODD AKIN
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Seapower
and Expeditionary Forces

OSD 05492-09



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ZOE LOFGREN, California
SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Texas
MAXINE WATERS, California
WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT, Massachusetts
ROBERT WEXLER, Florida
STEVE COHEN, Tennessee
HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., Georgia
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DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Florida
"VACANT"

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RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

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TED POE, Texas
JASON CHAFFETZ, Utah
THOMAS ROONEY, Florida
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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-3951

<http://www.house.gov/judiciary>

May 7, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On April 21, 2009, Ranking Member Lamar Smith and I introduced H.R. 1983, a bill to enact certain laws relating to small business as title 53, United States Code, "Small Business." The bill restates the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, along with related provisions in other Acts, as a new positive law title of the United States Code. The new positive law title replaces the existing provisions, which are repealed by the bill.

I am writing to invite you, as the head of an agency with responsibility for administering laws that will be included in title 53, to review the bill, and to share it with other interested parties as appropriate. I ask that you and others bring any questions or suggestions to the attention of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel and, if you wish, to the attention of the Judiciary Committee as well.

The bill was prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives as part of its ongoing responsibility under 2 U.S.C. §285b to prepare, and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary one title at a time, a complete compilation, restatement, and revision of the general and permanent laws of the United States.

All changes in existing law made by the bill are purely technical in nature. The bill was prepared in accordance with the statutory standard for codification legislation, which is that the restatement of existing law shall conform to the understood policy, intent, and purpose of Congress in the original enactments, with such amendments and corrections as will remove ambiguities, contradictions, and other imperfections.

OSD 05506-09



Hon. Robert M. Gates
May 7, 2009
Page Two

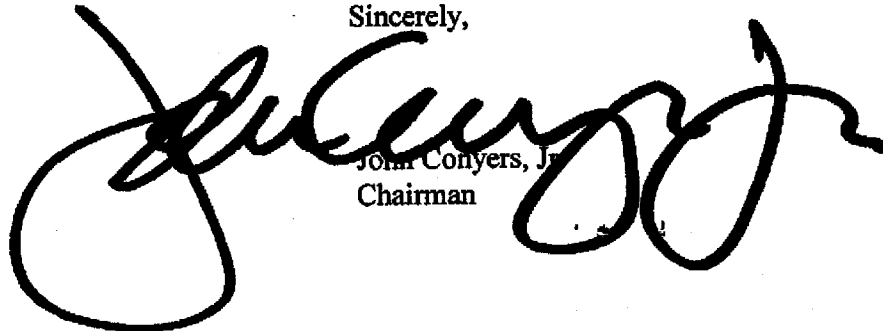
Please note that the bill is not intended to make any substantive changes in the law. As is typical with the codification process, a number of non-substantive revisions are made, including the reorganization of sections into a more coherent overall structure, but these changes are not intended to have any substantive effect. Nor would changes of a substantive nature be within the scope of this bill. Rather, we are asking you and others to review the bill from a technical perspective, to help make sure that the bill does not inadvertently make changes that could be construed to have substantive effect, and that it does not create or maintain any ambiguities that can be clarified or contradictions that can be corrected.

I would appreciate it if all comments could be received no later than November 3, 2009, after which time the Committee will proceed to consider the bill and move it to the floor as expeditiously as possible.

The bill, along with a detailed section-by-section explanation of the bill, can be accessed on the internet site of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel (<http://uscode.house.gov/>). Persons interested in obtaining a printed copy of the bill and explanation, and persons interested in submitting comments on the bill, should contact Tim Trushel, Senior Counsel, Office of the Law Revision Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2-308 Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515. The telephone number is 202-226-9058, and the email address is Tim.Trushel@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "John Conyers, Jr.".

John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman



**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515**

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

David Keyesfeld, Chief of Staff
Ward W. McCarragher, Chief Counsel

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

May 18, 2009

Mr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
1300 Defense Pentagon
Wash DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I would like to invite you or your representative to testify before the Committee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation regarding **Piracy Against U.S.-Flagged Vessels: Lessons Learned**. The hearing will take place on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 2167 of the Rayburn House Office Building (HOB).

Witnesses must have 50 copies of written testimony hand-delivered to Room 507 Ford HOB, to the attention of Ianta Summers, by close of business on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. In addition, 50 copies of testimony must be hand-delivered to 2165 Rayburn HOB, to the attention of Jimmy Miller, by close of business on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. Name, mailing address, organization represented, and telephone number must appear on the face of the testimony.

For the purpose of complying with House Rule XI, clause 2(e)(4), requiring each committee to make its publications available in electronic form to the maximum extent practicable, each witness is strongly urged to submit testimony in Microsoft Word format (i.e. copy on disk).

Witnesses are recommended to limit their testimony to a five-minute oral summary of their statements. The full statement will be included in the printed record of the hearing.

If you need special accommodations, please contact Jimmy Miller at (202) 225-4472 at least four days before the hearing.

OSD 05507-09



Secretary Gates
Page Two

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact John Cullather, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, at (202) 226-6861. His facsimile number is (202) 226-8068.

I look forward to your testimony.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chair

Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime
Transportation

DAVID WU
1ST DISTRICT, OREGON

2339 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3702
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-0855

520 SOUTHWEST MAIN STREET
SUITE 808
PORTLAND, OR 97205
TELEPHONE: (503) 325-2901
(800) 422-4003

<http://www.house.gov/wu>



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3701

May 18, 2009

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COMPETITIVENESS
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon Way
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to invite you to the groundbreaking of the "Remember Me" Rose Garden in Washington, DC in order to honor the spirit of the men and women whose lives were lost on September 11, 2001. This rose garden in Washington, DC will honor the victims of the Pentagon attack, including the crew and passengers of American Airlines Flight 77.

The "Remember Me" Rose Garden will break ground on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 10:00 AM at the LaSalle-Backus Education Campus (501 Riggs Rd. NE, Washington, DC 20011). Backus Middle School, which has since merged with LaSalle Elementary School, was one of three Washington, DC schools that had students and teachers perish on Flight 77. These students and teachers, along with staff members from the National Geographic Society, were on their way to California on a National Geographic Society study program.

"Remember Me" Rose Garden is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Portland, Oregon—the "City of Roses." A rose garden will be created on or near each of the three sites of the September 11 tragedy. The gardens are meant to uplift and renew the spirit of our nation and provide a beautiful sanctuary where the families and friends of all who died can come to seek comfort and peace.

It would be a great privilege and distinct honor if you would be able to attend the "Remember Me" Rose Garden groundbreaking ceremony in Washington, DC. If you are unable to attend, a member of your staff would be most welcome. If you have questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Sue Casey, the founder of the "Remember Me" Rose Garden: 503-453-3352 (o); 503-539-7531 (c); sue@remember-me-rose.org.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

With warm regards,

David Wu
Member of Congress

OSD 05513-09



JAMES P. MORAN
8TH DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 14, 2009

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333 N FAIRFAX STREET
SUITE 201
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
(703) 971-4700
FAX: (703) 922-9436

www.moran.house.gov

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E718
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I thank you for your continued dedication to the nation's men and women in uniform and for your own service to our nation.

The current prohibition on allowing gay men and lesbians to serve openly in the military, known commonly as "don't ask, don't tell" is a policy that should be rescinded. There continues to be evidence that the discriminatory policy costs the Department of Defense hundreds of millions in wasted expenditures, thousands of men and women are prevented from serving their country in uniform, and hundreds of military specialists are discharged annually, all to the detriment of our national security. Public opinion is shifting as a majority of the American public and growing numbers in the military community support a change in policy. Moreover, during his candidacy, and now reiterated in statements made by his Administration, President Barack Obama has asserted it is his intention to end the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

I understand that during this time the nation, and the Department of Defense in particular, faces many challenges. Nevertheless, I feel that every day that the "don't ask, don't tell" policy remains law our military is disadvantaged and good soldiers are unable to serve. To increase transparency on the effects the "don't ask, don't tell" policy is having on our military, I request that the Office of the Secretary of Defense provide monthly reports on the number of military personnel discharged because of this policy. Since January, I have made similar requests of the Army for discharge data. However, so as not to single out one service branch, disclosure across the entire Department would be a more appropriate way to assess the impact of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The servicemembers and civilians working for the Department of Defense reflect the very best our nation has to offer. I look forward to working with the President and the Department on repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy so that our military can be even stronger. I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

James P. Moran

JPM/hdb

OSD 05551-09



MAY. 20. 2009 5:45PM

HON. JEFF FLAKE

NO. 1099 P. 2

JEFF FLAKE

6TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

240 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE (202) 225-2635
FAX (202) 226-4385

DISTRICT OFFICE:

1640 SOUTH STARLEY DRIVE
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MESA, AZ 85204
PHONE (480) 893-0092
FAX (480) 833-0314

WESTERN CAUCUS
VICE CHAIRMAN



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 20, 2009

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NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In a letter sent to you on April 15, I requested information related to the competitive bidding process that preceded the awarding of earmarks in the conference report language of the FY 2008 Defense Appropriations bill. Specifically, I asked you to provide me with all relevant information on the competitive bidding process for a selected list of earmarks, including any relevant Justifications and Approvals (J&As).

Since that time my staff has been working productively with the Office of the Comptroller, which is the office initially tasked with completing this request. However, it is my understanding that the assistance and cooperation of the Office of Acquisition, Technology and Logistics is crucial to the collection of this information.

I respectfully request that action be taken at the appropriate level to task the Office of Acquisition, Technology and Logistics jointly with this request. The initial meeting initiating this request took place on March 31. I am very anxious to see this information before the Congress begins work on appropriations for the next fiscal year. Should you need further guidance, please contact my Legislative Director, Mr. Chandler Morse, or my Legislative Assistant for defense matters, Ms. Colleen Gilbert, at (202) 225-2635.

Sincerely,

JEFF FLAKE
Member of Congress

OSD 05646-09



TED POE
2ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

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FOUNDER OF CONGRESSIONAL
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FAX: (281) 446-0252

BEAUMONT
805 ORLEANS
SUITE 100
BEAUMONT, TX 77701
PHONE: (409) 212-1997
FAX: (409) 212-8711

May 13, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am disturbed to have learned from a recent news report that some of our troops based in Iraq were not adequately provided with enough rations of drinking water nor the use of safe potable water. It is my understanding the Defense Department contracted these services and the processes to provide these basic services did not work; leading to several health problems as a result such as dehydration, dysentary, and kidney infections.

I would like to obtain a prompt response from you on how this problem was addressed once it was learned, what has been done to ensure safe water supplies are never compromised again, and how the Department is treating the affected troops as a result of this failure.

I have visited Iraq many times and understand the extreme conditions our troops operate in. As the hot summer months approach and as we begin to enhance operations in Afghanistan, I'm sure you agree with me that providing our troops in harms way with all they need to keep them safe and focused on their important missions is priority number one. I appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to your timely reply.

God and Texas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Poe', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

TED POE
Member of Congress
TEXAS



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2009

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

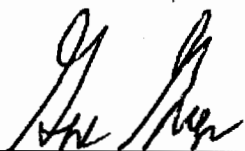
Dear Secretary Gates:

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

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

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

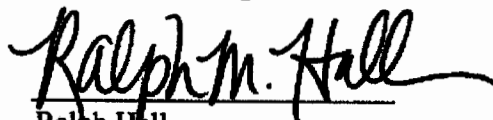
Sincerely,



Gene Green
Member of Congress



Solomon Ortiz
Member of Congress



Ralph Hall
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Ron Paul
Member of Congress



ERIC J.J. MASSA
29TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
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COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3229

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FAX: 585-218-0053

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CORNING, NY 14830
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FAX: 607-654-7568

317 NORTH UNION STREET
OLEAN, NY 14760
PHONE: 716-372-2090
FAX: 716-372-2868


13 May 2009

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

~~Secretary Gates,~~
Sir,

Attached please find a Congressional Research Service report that outlines the major contractual and programmatic milestones in the history of the Army's SINCGARS radio program which began with an ORD in December of 1974. It also includes the historical information of the Joint Service's JTRS radio program. I would like to meet with you personally to discuss my concerns with this program. I find it outrageous that DoD is still investing taxpayer dollars into this outdated technology, especially given that newer, more capable radio technology exists. The Army intends to spend in excess of \$700Mil this FY on outdated technology. What the attached report does not include is information on the FY09 NDAA which fenced off \$87Mil pending SecDef certification. That certification has not been made to my knowledge so I'd like to know how DoD plans to go forward with their planned procurement. There are serious questions surrounding this entire program and the spending of taxpayer money associated with it.

Very Respectfully


Eric J.J. Massa
Member of Congress

Sir,

*I strongly believe that
this \$750 million spending plan is in
direct opposition to the goals of FCS.*

OSD 05659-09



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<http://veterans.house.gov>

May 11, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman Timothy J. Walz to travel on official government business to Israel, the West Bank, Syria, and Turkey during the period of May 24-May 31, 2009.

Mr. Walz will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Senator Robert Casey, Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to meet with regional leaders to discuss the potential progress on the Middle East Peace Process, the regional response to Iran's nuclear program, and Turkey's integration with its neighbors. Mr. Walz will bring to bear in discussions a focus on the quality of life of military personnel and future veterans

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in Israel, the West Bank, Syria, and Turkey. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jian Zapata of the Committee staff at 202-225-3036.

Sincerely,

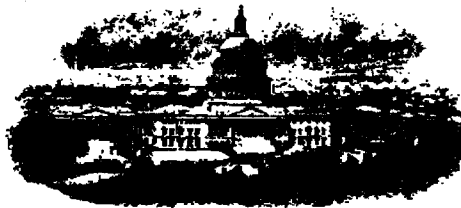
 BOB FILNER
 Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 05661-09



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



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

COMMITTEE ON
RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION
REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE

May 12, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

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

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

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

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

OSD 05662-09



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
[HTTP://DONYOUNG.HOUSE.GOV](http://donyoung.house.gov)

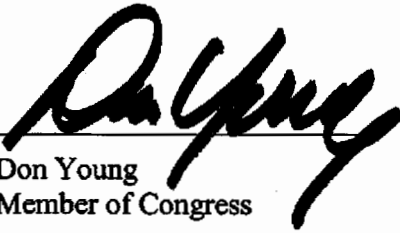
510 L STREET
SUITE 580
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
907-271-5978

101 12TH AVENUE
BOX 10
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
907-456-0210

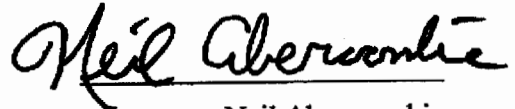
612 W. WILLOUGHBY AVENUE, SUITE B
P.O. BOX 21247
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802
907-586-7400

CALL TOLL-FREE
1-866-990-5979


Sincerely,



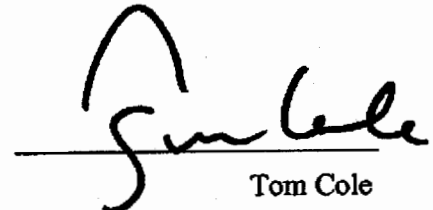
Don Young
Member of Congress



Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress

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May 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On Thursday, June 4, 2009, the Subcommittee on Health of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs will conduct a Hearing on "*Meeting the Needs of Family Caregivers of Veterans.*" The Subcommittee would like to assess how the VA meets the needs of family caregivers of veterans and to identify any gaps in supportive services for family caregivers. This hearing will be held at 10:00 A.M. in room 334 of the Cannon House Office Building. We request you or your designee to present testimony on behalf of the U.S. Department of Defense

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Jeff Burdette through email at jeff.burdette@mail.house.gov. You will be recognized for five minutes to make an oral statement; however, your complete written statement will be made a part of the hearing record. Please submit 75 copies of written testimony prepared in accordance with the enclosed formatting requirements to the Subcommittee on Health at 338 Cannon House Office Building by 6:00 P.M. on Monday June 1, 2009. Moreover, please include a brief biography with your testimony.

Due to heightened security precautions, please note that all Congressional mail delivery is delayed and commercial delivery services are prohibited. Therefore, you must contact our staff at (202) 225-9154 to make arrangements for a representative from your organization to hand deliver your testimony.

The Committee provides public access to its hearing statements on the Internet through the World Wide Web at the House of Representatives (<http://veterans.house.gov>) and the Library of Congress (<http://thomas.loc.gov>). To facilitate this public access, please send an electronic Microsoft Word copy of your statement to Jeff Burdette at jeff.burdette@mail.house.gov. Additionally, the hearings are now broadcast live, in real time, over the Internet, and are archived on our Web site so they may be accessed following each hearing.

OSD 05667-09



Honorable Robert M. Gates
May 14, 2009
Page 2

Please contact Jeff Burdette, Legislative Assistant to the Subcommittee on Health, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs, at (202) 225-9154 or jeff.burdette@mail.house.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

Enclosure

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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AARON SCHOCK, ILLINOIS

May 14, 2009

The Honorable Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Geren:

I am writing to request that the Army provide a briefing to discuss the circumstances surrounding the award of a sole source contract to acquire 22 Russian Mi-17 helicopters for the Iraq military. It is my understanding that the Army's Threat Systems Management Office (TMSO) is responsible for the award of this contract.

According to information brought to the subcommittee's attention, spanning from July 2008 to as recently as April 2009, this contract was awarded – with no competition – to an American company, ARINC, that has minimal background brokering helicopter sales. It was reported that, through subcontracts, the eventual supplier of the helicopters is a Russian company called Kazan. Kazan is supplying the helicopters as commercial items to another company in the United Arab Emirates called Airfreight Aviation Limited. That company is converting those helicopters for military use before they are delivered to Iraq. Both Kazan and Airfreight Aviation Limited are linked to a Russian agency that is banned from doing business with the U.S. That Russian agency was accused in 2006 of violating the Iran and Syria Nonproliferation Act.¹ Of further interest is the report that the full \$322 million of the contract has been paid, but no helicopters have been delivered to date.

If these reports are true, I am concerned that this situation creates the appearance that the Army may have circumvented the law and/or was biased in the award of a contract to one supplier without full consideration of other suppliers through a transparent process. As part of our ongoing oversight responsibilities, I would like to offer the Army the opportunity to address the allegations raised in these reports by means of a thorough

¹ Pub. L. No. 106-178; 50 U.S.C. § 1701 note (2005). The Act was updated in 2006 to include North Korea, as well. (Pub. L. No. 109-353).



written response, official supporting documentation, and related briefing to our Subcommittee. Specifically, I request that the Army provide clarification on the following:

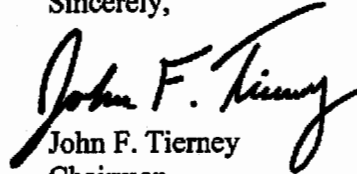
1. Please identify the relevant contract(s), and parties and subcontractors thereto, at issue in the helicopter transaction. Additionally, please provide copies of all documents related to the negotiation, pricing data, and costs of the contract.
2. Is it true that the contract award was made through a U.S. company to a supplier that is owned by a Russian company that is banned from doing business with the U.S. under the Iran-Syria Nuclear Non-proliferation Act? If true, at what point was the Army, the Department of Defense, or any components thereof aware of that fact?
3. Is it true that the contract was awarded with no competition? If so, in an environment in which defense contract cost overruns have reached historic levels, why did the Army decide to award a contract for these helicopters without conducting any competition? Are there any other helicopter suppliers who could have fulfilled this contract? Is it true that other American companies would have been in a position to broker this sale? Please explain the Army's decision and official documentation that supports the rationale for this decision.
4. Is it true that the U.S. company that received the no bid contract has no history of dealing with helicopter sales? What analysis did the Army undertake to determine that this particular company was qualified to receive a no bid contract in an area outside of its specific expertise? Please provide documentation that depicts the rationale for the decision to award the contract to this company.
5. Is it true that the total contract award of \$322 million has been paid but no helicopters have been delivered to date? Further, does the Army know how much of the contract funds each entity in the supplier chain has received? If so, please provide this information to the Subcommittee.
6. Is it true that the cost-per-unit of each of the helicopters under this contract (almost \$15 million) is significantly higher than the perceived market rate for this model of helicopter, which otherwise currently costs between \$6 and \$8 million? Please provide an explanation of these costs and rationale for why the per-unit costs are higher in this case.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives and has broad oversight jurisdiction as set forth in House Rule X. Pursuant to Committee Rule 8(a)(5), the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs has jurisdiction encompassing oversight of national security, homeland security, and foreign affairs. In order for the Subcommittee to conduct appropriate and constructive oversight of these matters, it is important that we

receive appropriate clarification and explanation of the issues noted above, and others as relevant.

Please contact Brendan Culley, Scott Lindsay, or Andy Wright of the Subcommittee staff at (202) 225-2548 to coordinate the briefing and document production. The Subcommittee requests that the document production and briefing occur on or before July 1, 2009. Thank you for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,

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

John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

cc: Rep. Jeff Flake
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense

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Parker Griffith, M.D.
Congress of the United States
Fifth District, Alabama
May 15, 2009

417 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-4801
202-225-4392 fax

DISTRICT OFFICES:
2101 Clinton Avenue West, Suite 302
Huntsville, Alabama 35805
256-551-0190

Morgan County Courthouse
Box 668
Decatur, Alabama 35602
256-355-9400

The Beville Center
1011 George Wallace Boulevard
Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674
256-381-3450

<http://griffith.house.gov>

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

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

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

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

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

OSD 05670-09

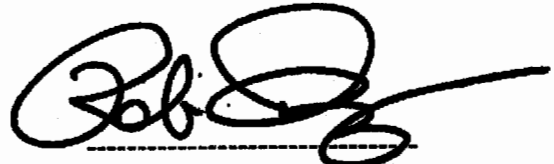


We strongly urge you to rescind the KEI stop work order and to continue toward culmination of the 2009 booster flight. We look forward to working with the Department in the FY10 budget cycle to best determine the way ahead for this vital boost and early engagement capability resident in the KEI program.

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

Sincerely,

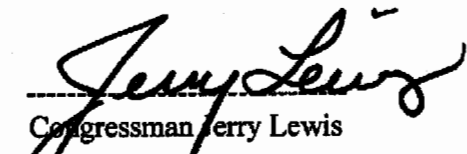

Congressman Parker Griffith


Congressman Rob Bishop


Congressman Ed Pastor


Congressman Lincoln Davis


Congressman Trent Franks


Congressman Jerry Lewis

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JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20515-6015

May 20, 2009

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HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
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RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
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STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO
TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On April 6th you announced your recommendation to terminate the VH-71 Presidential helicopter program. You further stated that the Increment I aircraft would not be suitable to become operational for the long term as the Navy's estimated service life of the airframe is only about ten years. However, the Navy's estimate was based on a test which only concluded that the airframe was suitable to last until the proposed Increment II would have been completed. Further testing would prove that the service life of the Increment I aircraft could well exceed the 10,000 hour mark.

I recommend that you reconsider the recently imposed "stop work" order for Increment I aircraft and determine whether Increment I aircraft would be suitable as a replacement for the entire Presidential rotary wing aircraft fleet. I believe that the cancellation proposal could create serious risks for the fleet, and possibly for Presidential security.

Many aircraft in the current fleet are approaching forty years of service. The Navy has invested \$3.2 billion in development costs for the Increment I version and of the five Increment I Pilot Production vehicles, four are completed and require only one additional year of flight testing before entering service.

The Increment I aircraft is far superior to all rotary wing aircraft in the current fleet of Presidential helicopters. It is prudent to make use of the aircraft that have been produced at such a high cost to the taxpayer. A follow-on program

OSD 05679-09



The Honorable Robert Gates
May 20, 2009
Page Two

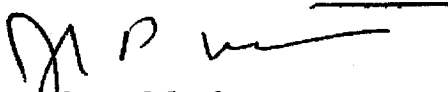
to begin in fiscal year 2011 will only disguise the immediate need, and significantly delay development. The options for potential competitors will remain much the same in 2011.

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

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

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

Sincerely,



John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

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CHAIRMAN

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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AARON SCHOCK, ILLINOIS

May 21, 2009

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

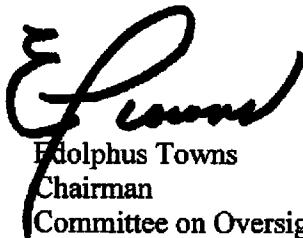
Dear Secretary Gates:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs hereby request your testimony, or the testimony of one of the following designees at a hearing entitled, "**Afghanistan and Pakistan: Oversight of a New Interagency Strategy**": Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Michele Flournoy, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen or Commander of U.S. Central Command General David H. Petraeus. Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke will also be testifying.

The hearing is scheduled for **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2009, in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building**. This letters revises the invitation designating the hearing as originally scheduled for April 19, 2009.

Please contact Scott Lindsay or Andy Wright at (202) 225-2548 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Edolphus Towns
Chairman
Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform



John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs



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 AND CHIEF COUNSEL

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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

May 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

This letter is to authorize Juan Lara, Majority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Orfa Torres, Majority Staff Legislative Assistant of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; Mike Brinck, Minority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; and; William Gibson Minority Military Fellow, to travel on official committee oversight business to sites in Washington from June 8 to June 12, 2009. The purpose of travel is to attend various Transition Assistance Program Workshops in Ft. Lewis Army Base, McChord AFB, Whidbey Island NAS, and Bangor NAS, Washington.

The expenditure of funds for payment and actual expenses and transportation is authorized by Title 31, U.S.C 1108(g). Travel will be conducted by military and/or commercial aircraft up to business class, including foreign flag carriers when U.S. carriers are not available.

If there are any questions, please have your staff coordinate with Juan Lara at (202) 226-5491 and Mike Brinck at (202) 226-3668. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER
 Chairman

JL/ot

OSD 05949-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 8, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of May 6, 2009, regarding Codel Capps to Haiti. Please note that this is now Codel Hirono as Representative Capps is no longer able to travel. In addition to the previously listed travelers, the Honorable Jim McDermott (D-WA) and the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP) are authorized to travel with the delegation.

Please also note that Mr. Brad Smith is no longer traveling.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05950-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 14, 2009

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

This is in further reference to my letter of May 7, 2009 regarding Codel Rangel (D-NY) to the funeral of the late Honorable Jack F. Kemp. The following persons are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Jane Harman (D-CA)
The Honorable Hank Johnson (D-GA)
The Honorable Paul Ryan (R-WI)

The Honorable Robert Garcia (Former Member) and Mrs. Jane Garcia
The Honorable Bill Lowery (Former Member)
The Honorable David Martin (Former Member)
The Honorable Norm Minetta (Former Member)
The Honorable Marty Russo (Former Member)

Mrs. Leisha Pickering
Mrs. Amy Upton

Mr. Ted Daniel, Office of the Sergeant at Arms
Mr. Robert Fitzpatrick, Office of the Sergeant At Arms
Mr. Jack Looney, Office of the Sergeant at Arms
Mr. Jay Pierson, Republican Cloakroom

Thank you in advance for your prompt assistance with the matter.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05951-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of April 23, 2009, regarding Codel Oberstar. Please note that the following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable James L. Oberstar, Chairman (D-MN) and Mrs. Jean Oberstar
The Honorable Cliff Stearns (R-FL)
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
The Honorable Bart Stupak (D-MI)
The Honorable Candice Miller (R-MI)
The Honorable Daniel Lipinski (D-IL) and Mrs. Judy Lipinski

Mr. Peter Quilter, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Robyn Wapner, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Shanna Winters, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Mary McVeigh, Staff Associate, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Mr. Jason Lamote, Professional Staff, Committee on Transportation
Dr. Kay A. King, Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
Mr. Carl Ek, Analyst, CRS, Detailee to Committee on Foreign Affairs

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

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05952-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

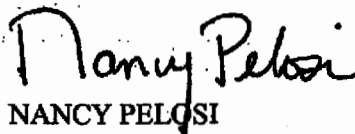
This is in further reference to my letter of April 25, 2009, regarding my upcoming delegation to China. Please note that the following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Speaker, and Mr. Paul Pelosi
The Honorable James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI) and Mrs. Cheryl Sensenbrenner
The Honorable John B. Larson (D-CT) and Mrs. Leslie Larson
The Honorable Edward J. Markey (D-MA) and Dr. Susan Blumenthal
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Mr. Jonathan Blumenauer
The Honorable Jay Inslee (D-WA) and Mrs. Trudi Inslee
The Honorable Jackie Speier (D-CA)

The Honorable Wilson Livingood, Sergeant at Arms
The Honorable Brian Monaghan, Attending Physician
Ms. Stacy Kerr, Office of the Speaker
Mr. Jonathan Stivers, Office of the Speaker
Mr. Brendan Daly, Office of the Speaker
Ms. Bridget Fallon, Office of the Speaker
Ms. Karen Wayland, Office of the Speaker
Mr. Michael Long, Office of the Speaker
Mr. Steve Rusnak, Office of Photography

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

Sincerely,


NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05953-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of April 23, 2009, regarding Codel Tanner. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable John Tanner (D-TN), Chairman, and Mrs. Betty Ann Tanner
The Honorable John Shimkus (R-IL)
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and Mr. Ron Gladney
The Honorable Dennis Moore (D-KS) and Mrs. Stephene Moore
The Honorable John Boozman (R-AR) and Mrs. Cathy Boozman
The Honorable Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Mrs. Cheryl Flake
The Honorable Jeff Miller (R-FL) and Mrs. Vicki Miller
The Honorable Mike Ross (D-AR) and Mrs. Holly Ross
The Honorable Ben Chandler (D-KY) and Mrs. Jennifer Chandler
The Honorable Kendrick Meek (D-FL) and Mrs. Leslie Meek
The Honorable David Scott (D-GA)
The Honorable Mike Turner (D-OH)

Ms. Melissa Adamson, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Kathy Becker, Office of Rep. Tanner
Mr. Vince Morelli, CRS Detailee to Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Marilyn Owen, Professional Staff, Committee on Foreign Affairs

Please also note that Mr. David Hobbs, Secretary General of the NATO PA, and H.E. Benson Whitney, U.S. Ambassador to Norway, have been invited to travel with the delegation in-theatre.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05954-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Mr. Roland Daigle and Mr. David Adams, staff of the Honorable James R. Langevin (D-RI) to join the Committee on Armed Services Code of Conduct during the approximate period of May 24 – June 2, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to conduct oversight duties in conjunction with Mr. Langevin's position as a member of the Armed Services Committee.

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

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

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: **The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk**
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05955-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of May 14, 2009, regarding my upcoming delegation to China. Please note that in addition to the previously authorized travelers, the following staff members are authorized to travel:

Mr. Gerry Waldron, Professional Staff Member, Select Committee on Energy
Mr. Thomas Schreiber, Office of Rep. Sensenbrenner

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05956-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 21, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of May 20, 2009, regarding my upcoming delegation to China. Please note that in addition to the previously authorized travelers, the following staff member is authorized to travel:

Ms. Wyndee Parker, Office of the Speaker

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 05957-09



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2009

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

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

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

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

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



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

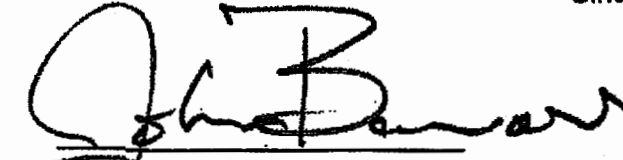
We believe adding the 46th BCT in the Army to Fort Stewart would enhance the immediate operational effectiveness of the 3rd Infantry Division at the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Air Field. When taking into consideration the emerging Center of Maneuver Excellence at Fort Benning and the growing presence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

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

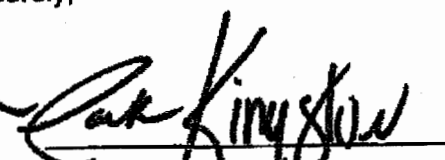
Accordingly, it is our request that the Department continue as originally planned to expand growth at Fort Stewart through the assignment of the additional BCT without adversely affecting the alignment of the current forces stationed at Fort Stewart and Fort Benning. We urge you to meet with Fort Stewart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

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

Sincerely,



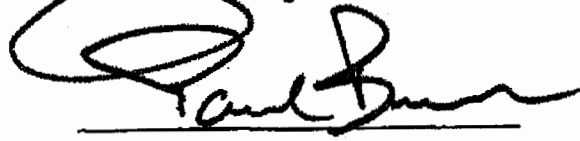
 John Barrow



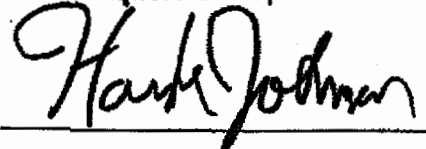
 Jack Kingston



 Sanford Bishop



 Paul Broun



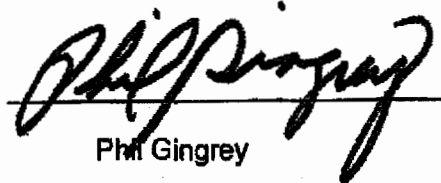
 Hank Johnson



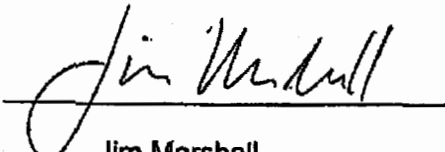
 Nathan Deal



 John Lewis




 Phil Gingrey



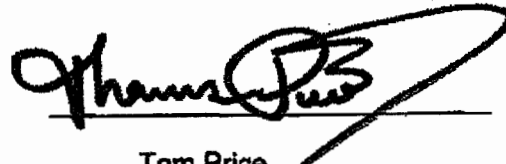
 Jim Marshall



 John Linder



 David Scott



 Tom Price



 Lynn Westmoreland

GERALD E. CONNOLLY
11TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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FEDERAL WORKFORCE, POSTAL SERVICE,
AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATION,
AND PROCUREMENT

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4611

May 19, 2009

327 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-1492

FAIRFAX OFFICE:

4115 ANNANDALE ROAD
SUITE 103
ANNANDALE, VA 22003
(703) 256-3071

PRINCE WILLIAM OFFICE:

4308 RIDGEWOOD CENTER DRIVE
WOODBIDGE, VA 22192
(703) 670-4989

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear President Obama,

I am writing in the hope that you can clear up some confusion regarding the possible placement of detainees currently held at Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp. First of all, I would like to applaud your decision to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay. Because of the actions of the previous Administration, Guantanamo has become a lightning rod for anti-U.S. criticism. Your decision to close the facility sends a signal that will restore U.S. credibility and build goodwill across the globe, give a boost to our diplomatic efforts abroad, and make Americans safer.

Of course, your decision to close the facility will require that some difficult choices be made regarding the placement of the 241 detainees currently held there. Like many of my colleagues, I want to be sure that those decisions are made with our national security interests placed above all others. That is why I supported an amendment to the FY2009 Supplemental Appropriations Bill prohibiting the use of funds to transfer detainees to the United States until the Administration submits to Congress a comprehensive plan detailing the disposition of each individual and certifies to the Governor and legislature of each state that the detainees do not pose a security risk.

Some members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation have claimed that your Administration has a plan to house detainees at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Stafford, VA, a facility neighboring my district. As you are aware, MCB Quantico does maintain a detention facility. I am sure, however, that you share my view that it is not the appropriate place to house detainees awaiting trial or incarcerate those convicted and sentenced in the future.

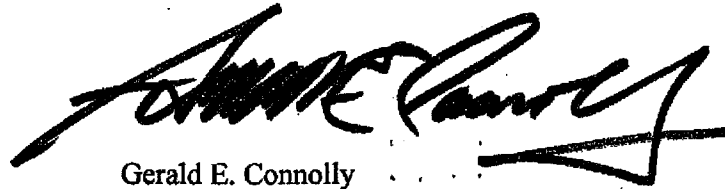
MCB Quantico is a Level I secure facility with a maximum potential capacity of about 90 inmates. It is not equipped to house inmates for longer than 90 days and is generally used to temporarily hold inmates awaiting transfer to a larger facility. Level I is the lowest tier in the military correctional system. Level I facilities are sometimes the equivalent of a local jail. There are at least nine major military prison facilities more secure and with more capacity than MCB Quantico. Furthermore, MCB Quantico is an open base located just miles from residential neighborhoods and, unlike some of our Level II and Level III facilities, does not have a history of detaining enemy combatants or high-level terrorism suspects. I am sure that your Administration has already determined that a Level I facility such as MCB Quantico is not the appropriate location for these detainees.

OSD 06067-09



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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Connolly". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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

GC/HA

cc: Secretary Robert Gates

Attorney General Eric Holder, Jr.

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
GUAM

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<http://www.house.gov/bordallo>



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS,
OCEANS AND WILDLIFE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

May 21, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

I write to respectfully request that you convene a meeting of the Economic Adjustment Committee (EAC) at the earliest possible convenience and in accordance with a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report recommendation from April 9, 2009. Additionally, I would request an opportunity to address the EAC to present issues related to the military build-up on Guam.

As was stated in the GAO report, more can be done by the Department of Defense (DoD) to help find ways to address Guam's civilian infrastructure improvement needs. Furthermore, the report stated that senior DoD leadership needed to engage at the appropriate levels to help facilitate a successful military build-up. I believe that the DoD, through the EAC, can better leverage the cooperation of other federal agencies to plan and budget for civilian infrastructure needs on Guam because of senior and executive level involvement in the committee. I appreciate the DoD's continued support and recognition of the importance of this program and I want to continue working closely with the Department to ensure that this build-up is a success for our entire community.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any further questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Matthew Herrmann at matthew.herrmann@mail.house.gov or at 202-225-1188.

Sincerely,


MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

OSD 06072-09



ERIC J.J. MASSA
29TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3229

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FAX: 585-218-0053

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CORNING, NY 14830
PHONE: 607-654-7566
FAX: 607-654-7568

317 NORTH UNION STREET
CLEAN, NY 14760
PHONE: 716-372-2090
FAX: 716-372-2869

May 21, 2009

Secretary Robert M. Gates
Secretary of War
United States of America
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-0001

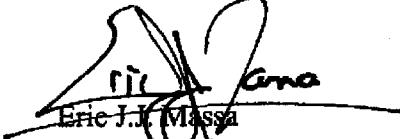
Dear Secretary Gates: *Sir,*

It has recently come to my attention from multiple sources, including reports from returning American military personnel, that we have purchased Russian-made helicopters for the Afghan military. I have been further informed that emergency supplemental funding may have been used, in addition to annual budgetary funding.

I further understand that this program is a Defense or Department of State-administered initiative.

Unless advised to the contrary by you, I intend to publicly discuss what I consider to be an exceptionally misguided and inappropriate use of United States government funding. Therefore, I ask to hear from you as quickly as possible.

Very Respectfully,


Eric J.J. Massa
Member of Congress

OSD 06091-09



CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS
JOINT COMMITTEE
ON TAXATION
CHAIRMAN



GEORGE A. DALLEY
CHIEF OF STAFF

JAMES E. CAPEL
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

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

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

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

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

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

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2354 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3215
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4366
FAX: (202) 225-0816

PLEASE RESPOND TO OFFICE CHECKED

DISTRICT OFFICE
163 WEST 125TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10027
TELEPHONE: (212) 683-3900
FAX: (212) 683-4277



Honorable Robert M. Gates
May 14, 2009
Page 2

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

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

Sincerely,


CHARLES B. RANGEL
Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means

CBR/kvj
Enclosure:

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

*I had dinner
meeting
Call me if I can
be of any help*

WE SWILTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
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 SOL MONSON, P. ORTIZ, TEXAS
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

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 MARK COFFMAN, COLORADO
 THOMAS J. RODNEY, FLORIDA

SEN. COORDINATOR, STAFF DIRECTOR

May 21, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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

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

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

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


OSD 06110-09



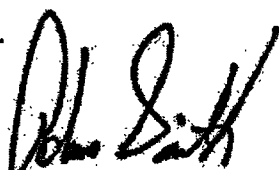
Defense Health Program budget, the Acting Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the Chief Information Officer failed to provide any additional insight into the cost of the proposed solution.

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

Very truly yours,


Susan Davis
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Military Personnel


Joe Wilson
Ranking Member


Adam Smith
Chairman
Subcommittee on Terrorism
Unconventional Threats and Capabilities


Jeff Miller
Ranking Member

SD/AS/JW/JM:dk

MIKE COFFMAN
6TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

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ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0606

June 2, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Room 3E880
Washington DC. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Last week I had the opportunity to visit with our military and civilian leaders in both Iraq and Afghanistan. I was able to spend time talking to some of our troops and with members of our diplomatic corps as well. I was deeply impressed with the unwavering dedication of all of our young men and women who serve our nation during such difficult times and under such challenging circumstances.

This was my first trip back to Iraq since having served with the United States Marine Corps in al Anbar province from August 2005 to March 2006. No doubt, I was deeply impressed with the progress that has been made and I'm confident that we are now on our way to bringing our direct involvement in Iraq to a just conclusion.

However, I am deeply disturbed by what I saw in Afghanistan. There is little question that the focus of the main effort, since 2003, has been with Iraq and that we are only now shifting our attention to Afghanistan.

In neglecting Afghanistan, the radical elements of the Afghan Taliban have regained a strong foothold in the country. They have been able to deny the government of Afghanistan the security necessary for the political process to move forward and have caused much of the population to lose faith with their nascent representative government.

Mr. Secretary, we've made enough mistakes already in Afghanistan that have allowed the once-defeated enemy to reemerge and dominate whole provinces. It's time we were honest with the American people about the true cost of what it will take to win this war.

I'm reminded of how we reversed the situation in Iraq. General David Petraeus is credited with devising and executed a strategy commonly referred to as the "surge." The surge had two primary components that were at the heart of the strategy. The first part was increasing U.S. troop strength from 140,000 to 160,000 and the second was a redeployment of our forces from

OSD 06359-09



the larger more secure base camps, located outside of Iraqi population centers, to smaller forward operating bases within their communities. The surge provided enough security to allow the political process to move forward and thus gave Iraq a level of stability that now permits the United States and our coalition partners to proceed with a phased withdrawal from the country.

Afghanistan has no history of effective governance, has a larger and equally diverse population than Iraq, is physically a larger county than Iraq, and has a determined resurgent enemy. Yet when you add together our projected troop strength, military advisors and trainers (68,000) along with the contributions from our coalition partners in Afghanistan (32,000), it all comes out to a number that is far less than the commitment we made in Iraq during the surge in 2007 when Coalition Forces in Iraq totaled 168,000 plus 14,000 from our coalition partners. Equally troubling is the current plan's increase in Afghan security forces, both police and army, to 216,000 which is far less than the 615,000 total that is currently serving in Iraq.

While the Pakistan Army is now launching offensive operations against their indigenous Pakistani Taliban, they have shown little enthusiasm, if any, for confronting the Afghan Taliban on their side of the border who enjoy a safe haven critical to their success.

When I questioned you and Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee about the projected resources dedicated to Afghanistan, Admiral Mullen answered that once we get into the mission, we will have an opportunity to reassess what we need.

Mr. Secretary, I think that it is obvious that there are not sufficient resources dedicated to winning the war in Afghanistan and that each day we move forward without a sufficient plan is a day that prolongs this war and unnecessarily increases the number of our young men and women who are either killed or wounded.

My guess is that senior officials within the Department of Defense probably already know that the plan is inadequate but they are fearful that it will be unpopular to put out larger requirements and reverse the goal of giving our troops a longer dwell time between deployments. It would also force reconsideration of the three additional Army brigade combat teams that were initially planned for but were cut out of the Administration's new Defense budget.

Mr. Secretary, again, by not putting in the necessary resources to win in Afghanistan, we are continuing the same old policies of dragging out a war that has already gone on for too long and has cost too many lives.

The right thing to do may not be the best decision politically for the Administration, but it is the best decision on behalf of those whom we are asking to serve in Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Coffman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line that extends to the right.

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

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



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

COMMITTEE ON
RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION
REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE

June 1, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As you continue your visits to Elmendorf Air Force Base and Ft. Greely I write to urge you to reconsider funding the construction of Missile Field Two and the fielding of the final fourteen Ground Based Interceptors at Ft. Greely, Alaska and to continue funding procurement of the F-22 Raptor until final publication of the next Mobility Capability Study and the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review.

We are sending the wrong message to our enemies by stopping the placement of these interceptors. North Korea continues to build its missile capabilities and is now able to launch a missile capable of hitting any place in the United States. As they showed by threatening to hold more nuclear and missile tests, North Korea's test of a two stage Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) on April 5th of this year was only the beginning. They have begun to restore their nuclear reactor, tested numerous short range missiles and a nuclear weapon and are preparing to test another ICBM. All of this has occurred since your announcement that we would not finish fielding the Ground Based Interceptors at Ft. Greely.

While thirty interceptors may be enough to counter the current threat from North Korea, it is clear that it will not be enough in the future and these interceptors will need to be fielded to ensure our ability to counter all missile threats from Rogue Nations. Before capping Missile Field Two, it is important that the realities of construction in the Interior of Alaska be taken into consideration. Due to the Arctic climate, permafrost and extreme temperatures, the construction season is significantly shorter in Alaska than it is in the Lower 48 States. Putting off construction now may not leave enough time to complete construction of Missile Field Two when it is needed.

OSD 06360-09



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907-456-0210

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CALL TOLL-FREE
1-866-990-5979

Also, as you have seen at Elmendorf Air Force Base, the F-22 Raptor is and will continue to be an important platform for ensuring air dominance for our military. For that reason, I believe it is a mistake to cap the number of F-22s purchased by the Air Force at 187. Having seen the F-22 fighters stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, I believe the F-22 is the best fighter in the world now and will remain the best fighter for the next twenty years. It is the only 5th Generation fighter that has been fielded. And there are already situations in which a 4th Generation fighter like the F-15 or F-16 would be unable to operate in due to sophisticated and lethal air defense systems like the SA-20 and S-300/400. Stopping production now, when the first F-35 squadrons won't be fully formed until 2013, will leave a critical vulnerability in the Air Force's ability to provide air dominance.

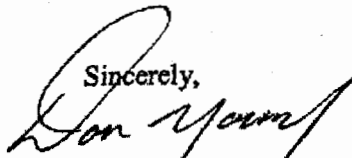
Of course, I understand that fighters with the capabilities of the F-22 are expensive, which is why it makes sense to field a fleet made up of both F-22s and the less expensive F-35s. Prior to lowering the number of F-22s due to the budget crunch caused by the Global War on Terror, the Air Force was going to purchase 381 F-22s and approximately 1,800 F-35s. While the F-35 does not have the capabilities of the F-22, it is still more than capable of forming the backbone of the fighter fleet with the help of the F-22. The F-22 is the advanced, clearing force and the F-35 is the holding force and their capabilities and procurement numbers reflect that. It is not an either/or situation—both planes are necessary for the Air Force to continue to control the skies.

Even with a proper mix, however, a fleet of 183 F-22s is not enough to deter or meet the potential threats facing our country. Once training, maintenance and tests are factored in to that number, it leaves only 100 fighters available. There have been over 30 air campaign studies over the last 15 years that showed a requirement for far more than 183 F-22s to replace a fleet of over 800 F-15s. And with so few F-22s, the planes will be used more often, they will age quickly and they will not be available for all of the missions which they could be used for. And since the production line will be shut down, the Air Force will have to choose between using planes that aren't as well suited for missions or restarting production at significant costs. That situation will, more likely than not, leave the United States in the same vulnerable position it is in now, with rapidly aging planes and an Air Force that is unable to establish air dominance with minimal loss of planes and people the way it has over the past 50 years.

Assuming that we will not face threats which will require the capabilities of the F-22 to meet is a dangerous decision that we will regret. By procuring 243 F-22s, the amount that most Air Force threat studies have shown to be necessary, we will ensure that we will not only have enough F-22s to meet all threats, but we will prevent threats from becoming reality by ensuring that many countries decide that fighting the United States is not worth the drastic losses our Air Force will inflict.

Thank you again for taking the time to come to Alaska and tour our military installations. The men and women that serve in Alaska are among the best in the world and I am proud to represent them in Congress. I hope you will continue to do everything in your power to provide them with the necessary equipment and support for them to continue to protect our country everyday and I look forward to working with you in the future to ensure our military remains the best the world has ever seen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

DON YOUNG
Congressman For All Alaska

Jun-03-09 11:08am From:HON WALTER J JONES

+2022259206

T-151 P.002/002 F-604

WALTER B. JONES
3rd DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

Room 2233
RAYBLAN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
Telephone: (202) 225-3415

COMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1106-C CONGRESS DRIVE
GREENVILLE, NC 27638
(362) 831-1003
(800) 351-1887

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

June 3, 2009

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

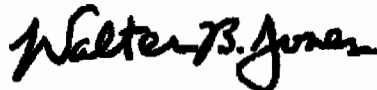
Secretary Gates:

Last year I had the pleasure of introducing the leadership of Camp Lejeune to Caroline Canines for Service. Together, they have successfully implemented a program that utilizes the inmates at the brig to train dogs to assist wounded personnel returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. This program benefits the rehabilitation of both the inmate and the wounded Marine.

Care for our wounded veterans may take many forms. The program at Camp Lejeune may train these animals to perform up to 80 functions. Dogs may also be trained to provide mobility to the disabled and bring a degree of normalcy to an individual's life. In addition, these dogs give unconditional love and loyalty to the people they serve.

The program at Camp Lejeune's brig is unique and has gained the attention of many around the nation. I believe the Department of Defense would benefit from replicating this program at other appropriate installations. I would encourage you to determine if this effort could be expanded to other bases.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Thank you!

OSD 06364-09



PAUL C. BROWN, M.D.
10TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON OFFICE
325 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-4101
FAX: (202) 225-8778

WEB: BROWN.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1010

June 3, 2009

Ms. Elizabeth King
Assistant Secretary of Defense
Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

VIA Facsimile (703-693-5530)
URGENT MEMBER REQUEST

Dear Ms. King:

In 1985, Public Law 99-145 created the National Science Center to stimulate interest and increase the math and science proficiency of our nation's students. Beginning as a partnership between the U.S. Department of the Army and the National Science Center Inc., funding has been allocated until fiscal year 2010, discontinuing at that point due to budget constraints.

The Tenth Congressional District of Georgia, which I represent, is home to the only National Science Center Discovery Academy in the nation. Without continued funding, the mission of the Center, to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education throughout the nation, will become extremely difficult to fulfill. As a ranking member on the Committee on Science and Technology and as a physician, I understand the importance of educating our children in these crucial subjects and stand in support of the Center's mission.

With this, I am requesting the assistance of your agency in finding funding avenues available to assist the National Science Center. Specifically, the Center is interested in grants and public-private partnership opportunities. I would appreciate your written response as to the manner in which your agency can assist the Center. This initiative is of the highest importance to my office and I would greatly appreciate an expedited response to this matter. I am enclosing documents which further describe the mission and history of the National Science Center. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my Grants Coordinator, Nicole Acevedo, at 706-447-3857.

Warm Regards,



Paul C. Brown, M.D.
Member of Congress

Encl. as stated

TOCDDA
184 REMSDALE STREET
TOCDDA, GA 30877
PHONE: (706) 886-1008
FAX: (706) 886-1008

AUGUSTA
P.O. BOX 211681
AUGUSTA, GA 30817
4246 WASHINGTON ROAD
SUITE 6
EVANS, GA 30809
PHONE: (706) 447-3857
FAX: (706) 886-8754

ATHENS
8706 ATLANTA HIGHWAY
SUITE 3B
ATHENS, GA 30606
PHONE: (706) 548-8588
FAX: (706) 548-8588

OSD 06530-09



BOB ETHERIDGE
2ND DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
June 4, 2009

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www.house.gov/etheridge

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to you regarding a recent decision by Dr. Shirley Miles, the Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), to increase middle school class sizes and remove kindergarten classroom aides throughout DoDEA schools. I urge you to reexamine this policy and move to ensure our students get the attention they need for success in the 21st Century. Study after study has demonstrated that smaller classes improve learning and increase academic achievement, especially in the early grades. Military children, in particular, need special attention to address the challenges of frequent moves and parents who are deployed. It is unacceptable to shortchange our students by increasing class size.

As the only former state schools chief serving in Congress, I know firsthand how important it is to have quality teachers who can address the needs of each individual child. Education is the key to the future for our children, and class size is a critical component of making sure that our schools provide the best possible learning environment for our students. According to the research by the U.S. Department of Education, reducing class size is one of only four reforms that have been shown to increase student achievement. There are also health, safety, and socialization benefits to smaller class sizes and reduced pupil-to-teacher ratios (PTR). Yet the DoDEA's decision moves our schools in the opposite direction, increasing the student-to-adult ratio in kindergarten from 14.5:1 to 18:1, and increasing the PTR for middle school from 16:1 to 25:1. This plan shortchanges our students and will reduce our schools' effectiveness.

Eight elementary schools and one junior high school in my district would be affected by these changes. Albritton Junior High School stands to lose 12 teachers. While the elementary schools would gain 8 teachers on paper, the elimination of dedicated teacher's aides for kindergarten classrooms means a significant reduction in classroom oversight and effective pupil-to-teacher ratios. This is the wrong direction for our schools to be going, and it contradicts both good pedagogy and parent and student needs. In DoDEA's recent customer service survey, parents and students both indicated their belief that lowering class sizes was one of the most important things that could be done to improve DoD schools.

OSD 06536-09



Secretary Robert Gates

May 29, 2009

Page 2

Research shows that in the early years classes with 13 to 17 students achieve better results. The Federal goal is to have class sizes no larger than 18, and best practices for kindergarten call for class sizes to be limited to 12. I urge you work towards this goal in DoD schools and ensure that our military children get the attention they need in the classroom. Thank you in advance for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Etheridge", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Etheridge
Member of Congress

BE:dw

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
GUAM

427 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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(202) 225-1188
FAX: (202) 226-0341

DISTRICT OFFICE:
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(671) 477-4272
FAX: (671) 477-2587

<http://www.house.gov/bordallo>



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

June 2, 2009

The Honorable William J. Lynn, III
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E944
Washington, D.C. 20301

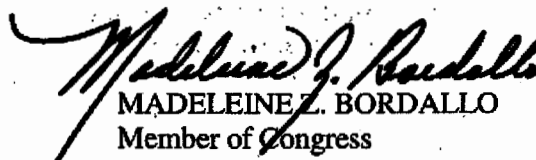
Dear Secretary Lynn,

I write to respectfully request that a meeting of the Economic Adjustment Committee (EAC) be convened this month to help address the pressing civilian infrastructure requirements and other budget concerns relating to the implementation of the military build-up on Guam.

I urge you and senior officials at the Department of Defense (DOD) to move forward in scheduling and planning this next EAC meeting without delay. A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report dated April 9, 2009, recommends that DOD regularly convene meetings of the full executive-level EAC to coordinate interagency planning and assistance for the Government of Guam. As stated in the GAO report, DOD concurred with this recommendation. Much work remains under an aggressive and constrained timeline for the military build-up on Guam to be implemented successfully. A meeting of the EAC this month is important for timely and improved coordination among federal agencies with the Government of Guam. This coordination is needed to successfully budget for and satisfy identified program requirements.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

OSD 06540-09



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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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AARON SCHOCK, ILLINOIS

June 5, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write to raise an issue with you regarding the efforts of my Subcommittee staff to schedule a briefing with the Department of Defense. The staff has been attempting for over two months to schedule a briefing with the appropriate Department officials to gather information about U.S. global defense posture. To date, they have not received a satisfactory response. Please accept this letter as a formal request for your assistance in facilitating this briefing.

My staff is seeking information on both past and future plans for U.S. overseas basing strategy. Specifically, I have tasked the Subcommittee staff with reporting on:

- management of the U.S. global defense posture;
- the total size, shape, and cost of the U.S. overseas military footprint;
- recent activity related to realignment or redeployment of overseas forces; and
- future plans to review the global defense posture, particularly in the context of the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review.

It is my understanding that the Office of the Under Secretary for Policy and the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Installations and Environment are the most relevant offices for this inquiry.

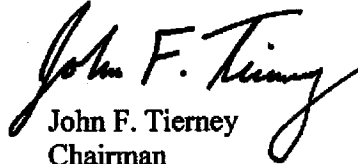
At my direction, my staff initiated contact with the Department on this issue on March 31, 2009. After contacting the Department again on April 17, 2009, the assigned action officer within the Office of Legislative Affairs informed them that the Department needed an additional two weeks to address the request, due to the need to focus on hearings being held by other congressional committees. After honoring that request, the



staff contacted the Department at least five times both by phone and by email between May 13 and May 26, 2009. In each of these communications the Department simply requested more time.

I do not believe this to be an unreasonable request, but my Subcommittee staff has expended an incredible amount of effort to facilitate this briefing. At this point, I feel compelled to request your attention to this matter in the interest of expediting a response. I request a response from the Department no later than Friday, June 12, 2009. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



John F. Tierney
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs

cc: Rep. Jeff Flake
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security
and Foreign Affairs



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 1, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of April 30, 2009, regarding Codel Pastor to Seattle, Washington during the approximate period of June 5-7, 2009. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Ed Pastor, Chairman (D-AZ) and Mrs. Verma Pastor
The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords, Vice Chairman (D-AZ)
The Honorable Devin Nunes (R-CA)
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
The Honorable Silvestre Reyes (D-TX) and Mrs. Carolina Reyes
The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ)
The Honorable Henry Cuellar (D-TX)
The Honorable Jared Polis (D-CO)

Mr. Peter Quilter, Professional Staff, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Dr. Kay A. King, Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
Mr. Jim Farr, Finance Clerk, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Samantha Goldstein, Staff Assistant, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

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

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06660-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of June 1, 2009, regarding Codel Pastor to Seattle, Washington during the approximate period of June 5-7, 2009. In addition to those previously listed, the following persons are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Bob Filner (D-CA) and Mrs. Jane Merrill

In addition, the following persons have been invited to travel with the delegation:

Ms. June Beittel, CRS detailee to House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ms. Irene Bruno, Interpreter, Department of State
Ms. Teresa Willett, Interpreter, Department of State
Ms. Isabel Mangan, Interpreter, Department of State
Ms. Olivia Reinshagen-Hernandez, Interpreter, Department of State
Ms. Barbara Phillips, Interpreter, Department of State

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

Sincerely,


NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06661-09



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

June 2, 2009

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FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
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BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to Representatives C.W. Bill Young, Rodney Frelinghuysen, and Jo Bonner, members of the Committee on Appropriations and Tom McLemore, professional staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on a CODEI, led by Parker Griffith to Paris and Normandy, France during the approximate time period of June 12-15, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to attend the Paris Air Show and meeting with government and business executives to discuss aerospace and defense issues of mutual interest and to attend a wreath laying ceremony.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,


David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 06662-09



RANKING MEMBER:
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

<http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/minority/republicans.htm>
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
19TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

May 11, 2009

Mr. Robert Wilkie
Assistance Secretary of Defense for
Legislative Affairs
1300 Desense Pentagon
Washington D.C. 20301

In reply refer to: 2064549mg

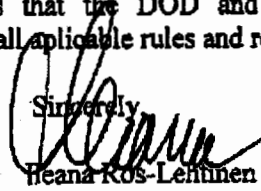
Dear Mr. Wilkie:

Mrs Gladys Valdes has contacted my Congressional district office regarding her need to have the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Small Business Administration review and certify her company solicitations as soon as possible.

Mrs. Valdes states that she is the owner of Ibiley Manufacturing Corporation, a small Hispanic business located in Miami, Florida. Her company has been manufacturing military uniforms for the DOD since September of 2001. Presently, most of her solicitations, and specifically SPM1CI-09-R0033 and M6785409R3000, have not yet been certified. As soon as these solicitations are assigned to her, she could bring back to work 120 of her employess who are currently receiving unemployment. I am enclosing a copy of Mrs. Valdes' correspondence which contains details regarding this case.

Mrs Valdez respectfully requests that the DOD and the SBA certify her solicitations without delay, consistent with all applicable rules and regulations.

Sincerely,


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

IRL/mg

cc: Mr. Guy Torres, Director
SBA, HUB-Zone
409 3 St. Sw 8th Floor
Washington D.C. 20416.

cc: Ms. Gladys Valdes
Ibiley Manufacturing Corporation
1927 West Flager St.
Miami, Florida 33135

PLEASE RESPOND TO:
2470 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0918
 (202) 225-3931
FAX: (202) 225-5620
<http://www.house.gov/ros-lehtinen>

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SUITE 208
MIAMI, FL 33155
(305) 668-2285
FAX: (305) 668-6970

MONROE COUNTY:
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 MIAMI BEACH AREAS:
(305) 934-9441

OSD 06664-09



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House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

June 4, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

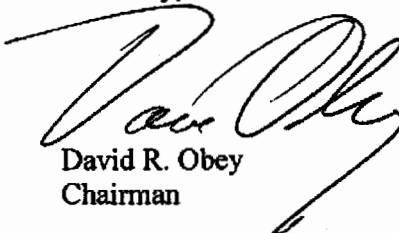
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby granted to The Honorable Adam Schiff and The Honorable Steve Israel, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of June 26, 2009 – July 3, 2009, to Ireland, Jordan, Algeria, and Tunisia. The Honorable Cliff Stearns, The Honorable Solomon Ortiz, The Honorable Darrell Isa, The Honorable Gene Green, and The Honorable Donald Manzullo will participate in the CODEL under separate authorization. The purpose of this trip is to meet with government and non-government officials, assess aid programs and policies, and discuss security issues facing the region.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via military aircraft.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 06668-09



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

June 9, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

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

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

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

OSD 06687-09



Honorable Robert Gates

June 9, 2009

Page Two

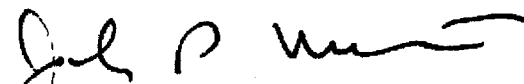
“overhead” could wrongly and unfairly result in the outsourcing of workload. However, DoD has recently used OMB A-76 to push more and more work into the private sector. Indeed, in fiscal year 2008, DoD more than doubled spending for contractor provided services compared to the amount it spent a decade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

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

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

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

Respectfully,



John P. Murtha
Chairman

Defense Subcommittee

JOHN D. DINGELL
15TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

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COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

CO-CHAIR
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MEMBER

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2215

June 11, 2009

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SUITE 306
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(734) 481-1100

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary

Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing with regard to media reports on the actions of Defense Department (DOD) contractors in Afghanistan. Of particular concern is an alleged incident involving employees of Paravant, a subsidiary of the private security contractor currently known as Xe, formerly known as Blackwater Worldwide. Paravant is owned by Erik Prince, founder, owner, and former Chief Executive Officer of Blackwater. It has been widely reported that on May 5, 2009, four off-duty Paravant employees opened fire on Afghan civilians. One of the Afghans died and two others were injured in the shooting.

On May 19, 2009, U.S. military spokesman, Lt. Col. Chris Kubik, stated that Paravant violated the terms of its contract with DOD, which bars contractors' employees from carrying the types of firearms used in the shooting and from possessing any firearms outside of training settings. The employees allege that Paravant supplied them the guns, which also violated the terms of the contract.

The State Department decided not to renew its contract with Blackwater Worldwide (now Xe) after the Iraqi Government, in January 2009, refused to renew its operating license. The Iraqi government cited the company's involvement in a 2007 shooting incident in Baghdad in which 17 innocent civilians were killed as a reason for its decision. Fallout from that incident prompted Mr. Prince to resign from Blackwater Worldwide in March 2009 and change the company's name to Xe. Collectively, five of the contractors involved in the September 2007 Baghdad shooting have been charged by the U.S. Department of Justice with 14 counts of manslaughter, 20 counts of attempted manslaughter, and one count of using a machine gun to commit a crime of violence. A sixth Blackwater employee pleaded guilty in December of 2008 to charges of voluntary manslaughter and attempt to commit manslaughter.

In light of the serious nature of the alleged crime on May 5, 2009, and other reports on Blackwater/Xe's recklessness in the use of force against civilians, I believe DOD may wish to review its contract with Paravant. The following questions relate to the ability of DOD to terminate its contract with Paravant and to review the past performance of a contractor and its employees in determining the award of a future contract under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). Please provide answers to the following questions by July 8, 2009:

1. The FAR sets forth the policies and procedures for termination of federal contracts for default or for the convenience of the government. 48 CFR § 49.000 *et seq.* "The Government has a contractual right to completely or partially terminate a contract for default because of the contractor's actual or anticipated failure to perform its contractual obligations." 48 C.F.R. § 49.401 (a). Should the government wish to terminate the contract for default, it "is not liable for the contractor's costs on undelivered work and is entitled to the repayment of advance and progress payments, if any, applicable to that work." 48 CFR § 49.402-2 (a).

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OSD 06709-09



Given the failure of Paravant to comply with the terms of its contract, does DOD plan to terminate Paravant's contract for default?

2. The government may also terminate a contract for convenience when it is not in default but has failed to perform due to causes beyond the control or fault of the contractor, or when continued performance by the contractor is no longer in the best interest of the government. 48 C.F.R. § 49.401 (b). Termination for the convenience of the government spares the contractor financial hardship by providing fair compensation "for the work done and the preparations made for the terminated portions of the contract, including a reasonable allowance for profit." 48 C.F.R. § 49.201 (a).

If DOD will not be terminating Paravant's contract for default, does it plan to terminate Paravant's contract for convenience?

3. Subpart 9.000 of the FAR "prescribes policies, standards, and procedures for determining whether prospective contractors and subcontractors are responsible." The FAR's policy states that the Government may only enter into contracts with responsible companies. 48 C.F.R. § 9.103 (a) For the contract to be awarded, the contractor must "affirmatively demonstrate its responsibility, including, when necessary, the responsibility of its proposed subcontractors." 48 C.F.R. § 9.103 (c). Determination of whether a contractor is responsible is based on several criteria, including the contractor's having a satisfactory performance record, 48 C.F.R. § 9.104-1 (c), and having a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics. 48 C.F.R. § 9.104-1 (d).

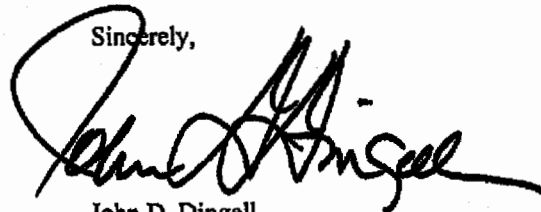
Agencies may consider the past conduct or performance of key employees of prospective contractors when assessing whether contractors have satisfactory performance records, or satisfactory records of integrity and business ethics, in making responsibility determinations. Comp. Gen. Dec. B-165915, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-248572, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-211353, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-210390, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-205602, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-204928; Comp. Gen. Dec. B-202325, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-270849, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-251533.

Given the past performance of Blackwater/Xe's CEO and owner, and its employees, why did DOD find Paravant sufficiently responsible to be awarded a contract?

On April 6, 2009, you released a statement in which you called for reshaping the way the Pentagon does business, including an overhaul of its approach to contracting. In addition to questioning the Pentagon's contract with a specific private security contractor, I believe this letter provides a strong case for reevaluating the Pentagon's relationship with private security contractors overall. Thank you in advance for your attention to the matter. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Erica Fein at (202) 225-4071.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

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JANICE MAYS,
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

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<http://waysandmeans.house.gov>

June 12, 2009

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MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

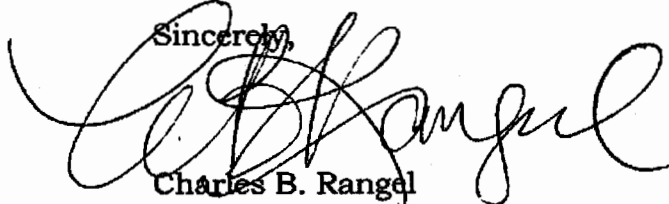
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Geoff Davis (R-KY) to participate on the CODEL being led by Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA), to Moscow, Russia. This travel will take place during the period of Saturday, June 27 through Wednesday, July 1, 2009; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The purpose of this trip is to meet with government and non-government officials to discuss the future of U.S.- Russia bilateral trade relations, energy, as well as examine current domestic politics.

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

Sincerely,



Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 06713-09



KAY GRANGER
12TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER,
STATE AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

MEMBER, DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 29, 2009

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Honorable William Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington D.C.

Dear Secretary Gates,

One of the unfortunate and enduring legacies of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) is the fragile psychological health of our returning servicemembers. Traumatic stress, both physical and psychological may not manifest itself for many months or years, and yet its latent symptoms can negatively affect soldiers, their families, and their communities long after their return from deployment. The psychological health of our returning servicemembers will continue to result in a serious undercurrent of health care demands to the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The North Texas region has both urban areas and vast rural areas. We have an unusually large number of returning servicemembers and are beginning to experience serious gaps in the responsiveness of the health care system to their known and future needs. In the Ft Worth and Dallas metropolitan area we have seen families and servicemembers in crisis who are coming to the Tarrant County private and public university-based mental health clinics, emergency departments, and hospitals. As you know, a recent RAND Corp study estimates that 1 in 5 servicemembers who served in OEF and OIF have PTSD, but only 1 out of 2 who are in need of behavioral health care seek it, so we know firsthand that a large challenge looms in our region.

There are several challenges to our servicemembers, their families and the psychological health care system in the North Texas region. As we enter the eighth year of OEF and OIF, we cannot wait any longer to provide comprehensive solutions to these challenges so that we can begin to integrate and assimilate our returning warriors and their families back into civilian life. The challenges faced include:

Lack of education and outreach to the community so that returning servicemembers and their families understand the range of services available and how to access them;

EMAIL ME BY VISITING KAYGRANGER.HOUSE.GOV/CONTACTME

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OSD 06762-09



Lack of access to behavioral health care providers. TRICARE coverage is often limited and difficult to navigate, some providers accept TRICARE while others do not, and many insurance policies cover only a limited number of visits, which are often too few to address deep seated, potentially life threatening conditions that need longer treatment protocols to resolve;

A lack of regional data on the size and scope of the challenge in our area, which is critical to help financially strapped municipalities and organizations properly allocate resources to help public university-based, county, and rural- based mental health clinics, emergency departments, and hospitals;

The lack of education for our primary care physicians, who are our first line of defense and referral in the community and who need to be educated in the nuances of military life as well as understanding the symptoms of stress disorders, separation anxiety, depression and hostility;

And finally and most importantly, the huge lack of behavioral health care providers (psychiatrists, psychologists, etc) in DOD and VA. This is without question the most critical issue in the care and psychological treatment of our returning servicemembers and their families. This is the one challenge which the DOD and VA will not (and cannot) solve in the near future. As the Acting Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs stated before the House Department of Defense Appropriations Subcommittee on March 3, 2009, there are simply not enough psychological health professionals available in DOD and the VA to treat the number of service members and families that have been impacted by both wars

Forseeing these challenges, the Congress inserted language in the FY 2009 Department of Defense Appropriations bill that directed the Department to, "... make funds available for projects and programs throughout the United States that (1) serve a high population of returning service members (2) encompass large urban and rural areas (3) have an existing infrastructure that utilizes a combination of local mental health associations, community support networks, private sector mental health care provider networks, and universities for purposes of enhancing the local access, delivery, education and outreach of mental health services for returning service members and their families...".

In the past 20 months, Congress has provided over \$1 Billion to the Department of Defense for the psychological health care of our servicemembers and their families. I have the utmost respect and admiration for the good men and women at the Department who are doing their best to provide treatment to our soldiers under difficult circumstances. But the Department faces a task which calls for solutions now, not in the distant future. Seminars, websites and webinars are simply not a substitute for direct one-on-one contact with professional behavioral health care providers.

In the North Texas region, we have developed precisely the model that was identified in the FY 2009 DoD Appropriations legislation. This initiative led by the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) in Fort Worth, (which has one of the

largest behavioral health care programs in the state) has the psychological health professionals already in place to handle the challenges for our region. UNTHSC and its team have partners and contracts throughout the North Texas region for training health and behavioral health professionals, providing mental health services to the communities, and has a large network of referral sources across both urban and rural areas. UNTHSC has affiliations with the VA and other military organizations, as well as with private and public hospital and outpatient providers. In fact, UNTHSC has provided to me an excellent proposal to rapidly address the growing issues of education, outreach and training as well as providing screening, treatment and referral services to our returning servicemembers and their families. This proposal has also been reviewed by the Department but no action has been taken.

Mr. Secretary, I request that, in accordance with the language in the FY 2009 Appropriations legislation, that funding be provided to entities in the north Texas region as soon as possible so that we may immediately begin the critical work of providing our returning warriors and their families with the access to psychological care they need to ease and support their transition back to civilian life. I can think of no obligation that the federal government has that is more important than this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kay Granger', written in a cursive style.

Kay Granger
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

On Tuesday, September 15, approximately 400 business leaders from our respective congressional districts in North Carolina will come to Capitol Hill for "The Washington Perspective" Economic Development seminar hosted by myself, Rep. Larry Kissell, Rep. G.K. Butterfield, Rep. Bob Etheridge, Rep. Walter Jones, Rep. Melvin Watt, Rep. Virginia Foxx, Rep. Patrick McHenry, and Rep. Heath Schuler.

We would be honored to have you join us as a speaker at this important event. This seminar has been held annually for more than a decade and has been covered by C-SPAN. In the past, we have been honored to have had esteemed speakers such as: Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, former Director of Office of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns, Senator Joe Biden, *New York Times* Op-Ed Columnist David Brooks, and ABC News Correspondent George Stephanopoulos.

We are hosting this seminar in an effort to give the businessmen and women of North Carolina an opportunity to meet with federal government officials and political analysts to discuss issues that may affect their livelihood. Your thoughts and views on the many issues which impact the business community would offer these individuals a unique perspective on how federal policies and laws are formed.

The seminar will be held in the Congressional Auditorium in the new Capitol Visitor Center. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. and the program will last from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. We are aware of the constraints on your time and would be happy to accommodate your schedule. Please contact Kara Spencer in Congressman Mike McIntyre's office at (202)225-2731 or email her at kara.spencer@mail.house.gov to let her know if you can participate.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mike McIntyre

Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress



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COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

TIM RYAN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
17TH DISTRICT, OHIO

June 8, 2009

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

Dear Mr. President:

As Ohio Members of Congress, we are especially proud of an industry that is of vital importance to our state and the nation. Ohio is a leader in the production of strategic materials critical to our national security, like titanium and other high-performance "specialty metals." We strongly support laws that ensure that the United States will remain a world leader in the production of specialty metals and a key supplier to the Department of Defense.

We write to draw your attention to a pending DoD regulation on use of specialty metals for defense products that will likely undermine the Specialty Metals Amendment, 10 U.S.C. 2533b, which requires use of domestic specialty metals in major defense articles such as ships, aircraft, and tanks. We believe that two aspects of this proposed rule will benefit offshore sources for these critical metals at the expense of domestic manufacturers, who are the only guaranteed source of these materials so essential to our national defense.

First, the proposed regulation adopts an overly-broad exception to the specialty metals laws for so-called "commercial-off-the-shelf-items" (COTS). We agree that COTS items should not be subject to unique DoD contracting rules. However, DoD's proposed definition of "COTS" allows for drastic modifications of items for military applications, after which they bear no resemblance to the sorts of items available in the commercial marketplace. This proposed rule ignores a long-standing statutory definition of "COTS", meaning items *"offered to the Government, without modification, in the same form in which it is sold in the commercial marketplace."*

Second, DoD's rule uses an overly-broad definition of what it means for metals to be "produced" in America, abandoning a long-standing requirement that specialty metals must be melted in the U.S. Under DoD's proposed definition of "produced," simple heat treatment -- a low-cost, late stage process -- converts foreign metals into "domestic" metals. We understand that this questionable definition may have been adopted to address certain metal product shortages, but such problems are more honestly addressed through existing waivers and exceptions. To define something as "produced in America" despite such limited contribution by domestic workers sets a terrible precedent.

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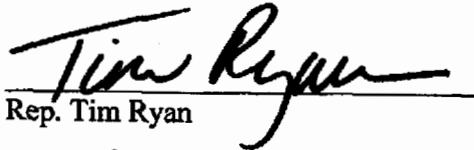


Before the pending regulation was published and during the previous legislative cycle, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) took the extraordinary step of drafting language in its Committee Report on the FY 2009 Defense Authorization Act. In its report, the HASC expressed its displeasure regarding these same two critical issues. Despite the Committee's clear statements, the proposed rule issued in July 2008 ignored legislative intent.

We are concerned that the DoD rule is indicative of a larger issue; that is, a lack of emphasis on preserving the domestic industrial base for strategic materials. One example is the December 2008 report by DoD's Strategic Materials Protection Board (established to protect domestic strategic materials production) stating: "specialty metals, as defined in 10 U.S.C. 2533b, are not 'materials critical to national security' for which only a U.S. source should be used; and there is no national security reason for the Department to take action to ensure a long term domestic supply of these specialty metals." We disagree and urge DoD to adopt a clear and consistent position that recognizes the importance of strategic materials like titanium, nickel-alloys, specialty steel, beryllium, and high-performance magnets.

The specialty metals laws provide the incentive our metals suppliers need to innovate and ensure that our military has ready access to the safest and most reliable equipment needed in combat. We join Senator Sherrod Brown in asking that your Administration consider these matters in the course of its regulatory review.

Sincerely,


Rep. Tim Ryan


Rep. Marcy Kaptur


Rep. John Bocchieri


Rep. Marcia Fudge


Rep. Charlie Wilson

cc: The Hon. Robert Gates
The Hon. Ike Skelton
The Hon. Sherrod Brown



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 9, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable David Price, Chairman of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Hungary, Mongolia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste on official business during the approximate time period of June 25 – July 5, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the parliaments in each country in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date. Spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government for protocol purposes only.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06778-09



DANA ROHRBACHER
46th District, California

Committees:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Ranking Republican, Subcommittee on
International Organizations, Human
Rights and Oversight

Subcommittee on
Asia, the Pacific, and
the Global Environment

Subcommittee on the
Middle East and South Asia

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Subcommittee on
Space and Aeronautics



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0546
(202) 225-2415 FAX: (202) 225-0145

DISTRICT OFFICE:
101 Main Street, Suite 380
Huntington Beach, CA 92648-8118
(714) 960-6483 FAX: (714) 960-7806

South Bay: (310) 377-9493
<http://rohrbacher.house.gov>

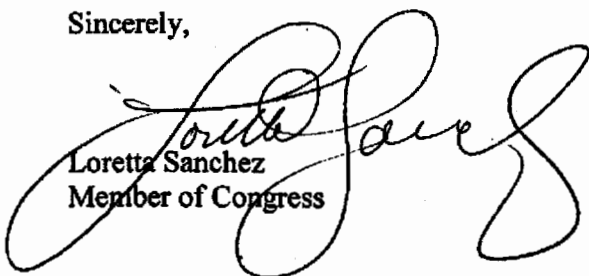
June 10, 2009


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

Dear Secretary Gates,

You have received an invitation to ride in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade & Celebration. We would highly recommend that you accept this offer and share with us this wonderful celebration of Independence Day. Should you decide to be a part of the parade you might consider riding with the two of us. It would be a truly bi-partisan vehicle on a truly non-partisan day. Should you decide to participate in the parade but ride in a vehicle on your own rather than with us, don't worry, we will not take offense. Your participation in anyway would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,


Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress


Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress

OSD 06779-09



DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

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ADAM SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL HONDA, CALIFORNIA
BETTY MCCOLLUM, MINNESOTA
STEVE ISRAEL, NEW YORK
TIM RYAN, OHIO
C.A. "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER, MARYLAND
BEN CHANDLER, KENTUCKY
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, FLORIDA
CIRO RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

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

June 9, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
ZACH WAHRT, TENNESSEE
TOM LATHAM, IOWA
ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
MARK STEVEN KIRK, ILLINOIS
ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
DENNIS R. REBERG, MONTANA
JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS
RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
JO BONNER, ALABAMA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated June 4, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Adam Schiff and the Honorable Steve Israel, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Ireland, Jordan, Algeria, and Tunisia during the approximate time period of June 26, 2009 - July 3, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize John Blazey, a staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to participate in this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 06781-09



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

June 15, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write to applaud your decision to terminate the troubled VH-71 presidential helicopter replacement program. A program that does not meet requirements in terms of capability and schedule, and is twice the original cost after only four years, is a program that should be canceled if we are going to keep defense programs accountable for their projected budgets and timelines.

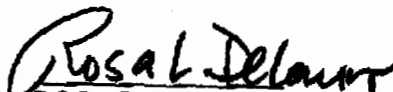
Nevertheless, we do have serious concerns over the sunk costs of the program. Projected to be nearly \$3.2 billion, this cost represents a real investment by the taxpayer that should not to be ignored. We believe it would be prudent to move forward with the program in a way that does not waste this substantial taxpayer investment.


One solution might be to award the contract to the only other qualified competitor, Sikorsky's H-92 helicopter, and team Sikorsky with the incumbent systems integrator, Lockheed Martin. As you know, Sikorsky, the prime contractor for the Marine One since the 1950s, has fulfilled its contracts on time and on budget. This solution offers the dual benefit of "saving" some of the previously sunk costs, particularly jobs in both New York and Maryland, and creating additional American jobs by having those aircraft manufactured in the United States. At a time of severe economic crisis, this solution seems ideal.

You correctly identified the need to terminate a program with costs that grew from an estimated \$6.5 billion to over \$13 billion, but also made clear that there is a need to develop a follow on option. It is our understanding that the Sikorsky H-92 is currently qualified to meet the mission requirements and is currently more "fail-safe" than the VH-71 Increment I aircraft. By teaming Sikorsky with Lockheed Martin, the Navy can develop a helicopter that can safely transport the president while not only providing the best value for the taxpayer, but also maintaining and creating American jobs.

Thank you for the consideration of this request and we look forward to your response.


Sincerely,



ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress


JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

OSD 06786-09




JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress


CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Raymond Mabus
Secretary of the Navy

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

JOHN P. MURTHA, PENNSYLVANIA
NORMAN D. DICKS, WASHINGTON
ALAN B. MOLLOHAN, WEST VIRGINIA
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JAMES P. MORAN, VIRGINIA
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ED PASTOR, ARIZONA
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BARBARA LEE, CALIFORNIA
ADAM SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL HONDA, CALIFORNIA
BETTY McCOLLUM, MINNESOTA
STEVE ISRAEL, NEW YORK
TIM RYAN, OHIO
C.A. "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER, MARYLAND
BEN CHANDLER, KENTUCKY
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, FLORIDA
CIRO RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
LINCOLN DAVIS, TENNESSEE
JOHN T. SALAZAR, COLORADO

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

June 12, 2009

JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
TOM LATHAM, IOWA
ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
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MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON, TEXAS
MARK STEVEN KIRK, ILLINOIS
ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
DENNIS R. REHBERG, MONTANA
JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS
RODNEY ALEXANDER, LOUISIANA
KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
JO BONNER, ALABAMA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PIETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter dated June 4, 2009, granting authorization to the Honorable Adam Schiff and the Honorable Steve Israel, members of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel to Ireland, Jordan, Algeria, and Tunisia during the approximate time period of June 26, 2009 – July 3, 2009.

The purpose of this addendum letter is to authorize Shalanda Young and Clelia Alvarado, staff members of the Committee on Appropriations, to participate in this travel.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 06873-09



Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, *Maryland*
Chairman

Sen. Sam Brownback, *Kansas*
Ranking Minority Senator

Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, *Connecticut*
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, *Rhode Island*
Sen. Tom Udall, *New Mexico*
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, *New Hampshire*
Sen. Saxby Chambliss, *Georgia*
Sen. Richard Burr, *North Carolina*
Sen. Roger F. Wicker, *Mississippi*

Fred L. Turner, Chief of Staff



Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, *Florida*
Co-Chairman

Rep. Christopher H. Smith, *New Jersey*
Ranking Minority House Member

Rep. Edward J. Markey, *Massachusetts*
Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter, *New York*
Rep. Mike McIntyre, *North Carolina*
Rep. G. K. Butterfield, *North Carolina*
Rep. Joseph R. Pitts, *Pennsylvania*
Rep. Robert B. Adair, *Alabama*
Rep. Darrell E. Issa, *California*

June 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I am writing to authorize Representative Darrell Issa to travel on an official delegation led by Representative Rahall, CODEL Rahall. Representative Issa will travel to Lebanon, Cyprus, and Egypt from July 9 to 13, 2009. The delegation will meet with newly elected leadership of the Lebanese government, observe the democratic institutions forming in Lebanon, and discuss the regional economic, security and energy concerns in Lebanon, Cyprus, and Egypt.

The delegation has requested Marine Corps military support and military transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you for your assistance in the matter.

Sincerely,


Alcee L. Hastings, M.C.
Co-Chairman

OSD 06874-09



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 16, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We appreciate your interest stated during the May 13, 2009 House Armed Services Committee hearing to protect child custody rights for our men and women in uniform.

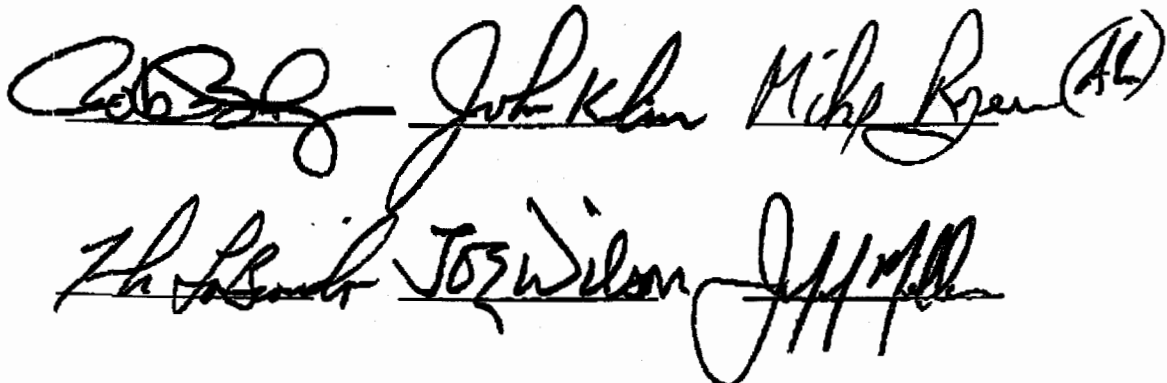
As you know, legislative language addressing this issue has already passed the House of Representatives three times. First, as Section 577 of the House passed FY2008 National Defense Authorization Act (HR1585). Additionally, portions of this legislation were also included in Section 584 of the final House passed version of the FY2008 NDAA (HR 4986). Finally, last year this language passed the House as a stand-alone bill (HR 6048) and was attached to the FY2009 NDAA. Nearly 60 members from both sides of the aisle signed on to HR 6048 as co-sponsors.

Today, the House Armed Services Committee passed their FY2010 NDAA. This bill contains similar language that would protect custody rights for military parents. As we move forward with the current legislative session and consideration of the FY2010 NDAA, we look forward to your continued interest in addressing this important issue to ensure that our men and women in uniform have their parental rights protected.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Rob Byrd John Kline Mike Ryan (AL)
Zoe Lofgren Tom Wilson Jeff Miller



Gladys Fals Walter B. Jones Boyd

Buck Mc Doug Blattman

Mary Tallin Frank Frank

Jph Fleming 2004 Law Sebak Mil Abercrombie

W. K. Coffey Edward Joe Courtney

R. H. G. Tru 10-2 W. G. G. P. G. G. PA-8

J. G. G. 10-5 Jim 0A8 Brud Edwards Jul-8

Gene Taylor W. G. G. T. G. G.

Paul W. G. G.

Eric Perre Medicine Kendall Paul Savely
L Krause Shirley Jim Langewies

My John Don Berg Fl 16

Bobby Bright Ch. Brown Mr. T. H.

Carol Stee-Pocce Robert E. K. Frank Johnson

Aman A. Davis Falk R. White Wm

Scott Murphy Viki Vongos Jim W. Smith

Janet J. Hall Je. Le. Le. Le. Vin. Snyder

Richard Ch. R. H. Alan Smith



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 16, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of June 9, 2009, regarding Codel David Price June 25 – July 5, 2009. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable David Price, Chairman, (D-NC) and Mrs. Lisa Price
The Honorable Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and Mrs. Sandy Buchanan
The Honorable Jim McDermott (D-WA)
The Honorable Jim Cooper (D-TN) and Mrs. Martha Cooper
The Honorable Phil Gingrey (R-GA) and Mrs. Billie Gingrey
The Honorable Bob Etheridge (D-NC) and Mrs. Faye Etheridge

Mr. John Lis, Staff Director, House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC)
Ms. Margarita Seminario, Professional Staff Member, HDAC
Mr. Brad Smith, Professional Staff Member, Committee on Rules
Ms. Rachael Leman, Professional Staff Member, Committee on Rules
Ms. Janice McKinney, Assistant Director, Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
Mr. Clay Wellborn, CRS (authorized by HCFA)
Mr. Bruce Vaughn, CRS (authorized by HCFA)
Ms. Sherry Shapiro, CRS (authorized by HCFA)
Mr. Will Tuchrello, Library of Congress – Jakarta-Dili (authorized by HCFA)
Mr. Yadi Yasin, Library of Congress (Dili) (authorized by HCFA)

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

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06915-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 16, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable David Price, Chairman of the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), to lead a delegation to Colombia, Paraguay, and Peru on official business during the approximate time period of August 15-23, 2009. The purpose of this trip is to conduct meetings with members of the parliaments in each country in conjunction with the mission of the Commission. A list of authorized Members and staff will follow at a later date. Spouses of Members may travel at no cost to the government for protocol purposes only.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06945-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of April 23, 2009, regarding Codel Neal June 26 – July 5, 2009. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Richard E. Neal (D-MA)
The Honorable Tim Murphy (R-PA)
The Honorable Jerry Costello (D-IL)
The Honorable Mike Doyle (D-PA)
The Honorable Tim Holden (D-PA)
The Honorable Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL)
The Honorable Donald M. Payne (D-NJ)
The Honorable Nydia M. Velasquez (D-NY)

Mr. William Tranghese, Office of Rep. Neal
Ms. Susan Mosychuk, Office of Rep. Murphy

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

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 06981-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 19, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize the Honorable Alcee Hastings, Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and a delegation of Members and staff to accompany Codel Cardin to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Belarus, Lithuania and Greece during the approximate period of June 26 – July 3, 2009. The purpose of the trip is to meet with government officials in each country and to attend the 18th Annual Session of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA). For protocol purposes only, spouses may travel at no cost to the government. The following Members and staff are authorized to travel:

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), Co-Chairman, CSCE
The Honorable Christopher Smith (R-NJ) and Mrs. Marie Smith
The Honorable Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Mr. Robert Slaughter
The Honorable Mike McIntyre (D-NC) and Mrs. Dee McIntyre
The Honorable G.K. Butterfield (D-NC)
The Honorable Robert Aderholt (R-AL) and Mrs. Caroline Aderholt
The Honorable Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Mrs. Kathy Issa
The Honorable Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) and Mrs. Libby Doggett
The Honorable Gwen Moore (D-WI)

Mr. Fred Turner, Chief of Staff, CSCE
Mr. Bob Hand, Policy Advisor, CSCE
Ms. Shelly Han, Policy Advisor, CSCE
Mr. Ed Joseph, Policy Director, CSCE
Mr. Cliff Bond, Senior Advisor, CSCE
Mr. Alex Johnson, Policy Advisor, CSCE
Mr. Winsome Packer Policy Advisor, CSCE
Mr. Neil Simon, Communications Director, CSCE
Mr. Daniel Redfield, Office Manager, CSCE
Mr. Josh Shapiro, Staff Assistant, CSCE

OSD 06983-09



Please note that Chairman Hastings and Ms. Janice Helwig, Policy Advisor, CSCE, are also authorized to travel to Albania en route to Lithuania. For that portion, it would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate this mission, as well as Air Force escort. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Codel Cardin has requested Navy escort and military air transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds for the actual and necessary expenses should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

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

Sincerely,

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

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

JARED POLIS
2ND DISTRICT, COLORADO

501 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0602
(202) 225-2161
(202) 226-7840 (FAX)

website and email:
<http://polis.house.gov>



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 18, 2009

COMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR
SUBCOMMITTEES:
EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION
HIGHER EDUCATION, LIFELONG LEARNING
AND COMPETITIVENESS
HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE ON RULES
COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
STEERING AND POLICY

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

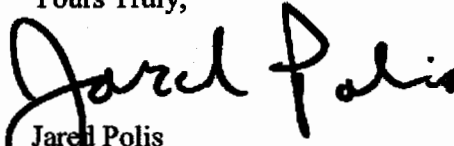
Dear Secretary Gates:

My partner, [REDACTED] accompanied me on the Dodd/Pastor Codel on June 5-7, 2009 pursuant to a waiver issued by Speaker Nancy Pelosi. In her June 4 letter notifying you of her waiver, the Speaker asked that you in turn use your waiver authority to facilitate [REDACTED] participation.

Given that [REDACTED] is my domestic partner and is designated by Congress as my Congressional spouse, with a spouse pin and Congressional ID, I request that you waive the requirement that I have to reimburse \$1,140.40 to the military for [REDACTED] travel, which is not required of Congressional spouses.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter, and I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Truly,


Jared Polis
Member of Congress

OSD 07053-09



BOULDER OFFICE
4770 BASELINE ROAD, SUITE 220
BOULDER, CO 80303
303-484-9596
303-568-9007 (FAX)

DISTRICT OFFICE:
MOUNTAIN OFFICE
101 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1010
FRISCO, CO 80443
970-668-3240

THORNTON OFFICE
1200 EAST 78TH AVENUE, SUITE 105
THORNTON, CO 80229
303-287-4159



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 9, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter will authorize Mr. John Sullivan, Parliamentarian of the House, to accompany Codel Kosmas (authorized by the House Committee on Science and Technology) to Florida during the appropriate period of June 12-13, 2009.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07074-09



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUITE 2320 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301
(202) 225-6375
TTY: (202) 226-4410
<http://science.house.gov>

June 12, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Adrian Smith, a member of the Committee on Science and Technology, to travel with CODEL Thompson to Guantanamo Bay on June 15, 2009.

The delegation will meet with U.S. military leaders on a fact-finding mission to gather information about the issues surrounding Guantanamo Bay prison. As this is an issue Congress will be considering in the coming months, it is important that Members learn about as much as possible about the situation at Guantanamo Bay in order to carefully consider any policy implications.

I request the expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses such as transportation and military escorts as may be required as authorized by 31 USC 1108(g).

I would appreciate the Department of Defense, specifically the United States Army, furnishing such assistance as may be required. Travel will be conducted by military air.

If you have any questions please contact Leigh Ann Brown at (202) 226-8669. Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,



BART GORDON
Chairman

OSD 07075-09



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U.S. House of Representatives

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

June 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have authorized Congressman David P. Roe to travel on official government business to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on June 15, departing and returning on the same day.

Mr. Roe will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Congressman Mike Thompson, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis, and Counterintelligence of the Select Committee on Intelligence. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to visit with service members stationed at Guantanamo Bay and view first-hand the conditions these service members have been working under.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jian Zapata of the Committee staff at 202-225-3036.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER
 Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 07077-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 3, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of June 2, 2009, regarding Codel Pastor to Seattle, Washington during the approximate period of June 5-7, 2009. In addition to those previously listed, please note that Mr. Marlon Reiss has been invited to travel with the delegation.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07078-09



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

June 9, 2009

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TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Robert Aderholt, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel with CODEL Kosmas on June 12-13, 2008, to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The purpose of this trip is to attend the launch of Space Shuttle Endeavour, STS-127 and the accompanying NASA briefings.

I request the expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses such as transportation and military escorts as may be required as authorized by 31 USC 1108(g).

I would appreciate the Department of Defense, specifically the United States Air Force, furnishing such assistance as may be required. Travel will be conducted by military air.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 07079-09



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

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June 17, 2009

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHEO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Authorization is hereby given to Elizabeth Dawson, staff member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel during the approximate time period of June 27- July 3, 2009, to France and Belgium. The purpose of this trip is to review Department of Defense activities.

Necessary expenses and other authorized costs in connection with this travel shall be paid from appropriations available for examination of estimates in the field under authority 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

It will be appreciated if you will have personnel from the Department assist in making whatever arrangements are necessary for this travel. The travel will be conducted via commercial aircraft.

Sincerely,



David Obey
Chairman

OSD 07097-09



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Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

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June 25, 2009

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MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

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

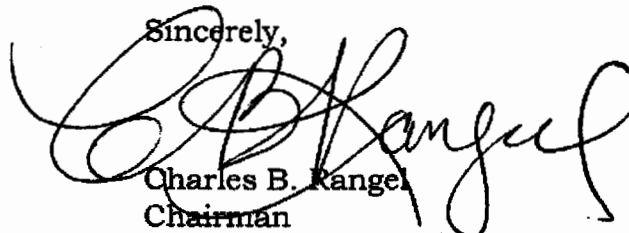
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to inform you that I will be leading a Congressional Delegation to Nairobi, Kenya, during the approximate time period of Saturday, August 1 through Saturday, August 8, 2009; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The primary purpose of this trip is to attend the eighth annual United States-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum ("AGOA Forum") being held in Nairobi at that time.

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

Sincerely,



Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/gsm

OSD 07122-09



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2009

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

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your actions to eradicate our nation's use of torture. We agree that the use of torture, under any circumstance, is simply wrong. Within hours of taking office, you began the process of restoring a standard of moral behavior on this issue. We are proud to have a President who works to provide for the common defense of our nation's land and people along with the common defense of our nation's values.

As veterans who now serve our country in the House of Representatives, we know that the use of torture not only degrades the values we served to protect, but that it endangers servicemen and women on the front lines today. Internationally acceptable interrogation standards honor our own forces by ensuring that, when they are asked to fight for justice and the rule of law, they will not be asked to abrogate the rule of law or besmirch their own sense of justice.

Recalling the controversy surrounding enhanced interrogation techniques and the legal justifications for torture offered by the Bush Administration, we request clarification on a few issues that have been raised about your Executive Order 13491, *Ensuring Lawful Interrogations*.

First, the Order does not define armed conflict. Since this is a central concept to the Order, given that all interrogations must comply with Army Field Manual 2-22.3 (Manual) if an individual is under our nation's control due to armed conflict, how do you define armed conflict?

Second, are there individuals currently under the control of the United States on whom your Administration does not confer the protections of the Manual's interrogation standards?

Third, if there are individuals under the control of the United States who are not afforded the protections of the Manual, do those individuals – regardless of how the United States



classifies them – receive the benefit of the Detainee Treatment Act (the McCain Amendment), specifically protection from “cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment?”


Fourth, to what, if any, criminal sanctions would an agent of the United States government be subject for breaking the provisions of the Detainee Treatment Act?

Fifth, the current Manual provides reasonable examples of prohibited actions, e.g., waterboarding, electric shocks, and deprivation of food. What prevents the U.S. Army from changing the Manual and altering the defined prohibited activities?

Again, we sincerely appreciate your efforts on this vital matter and would welcome clarification of these issues. Your Order takes the United States in the right direction by providing protection from torture; however, we feel that positive law both to prohibit torture or cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment by our agents and to define a baseline of what constitutes this type of treatment is essential to our democracy. We ask for your support in this endeavor.

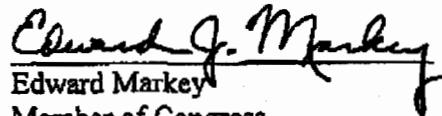
We look forward to working with you to help our nation restore its standing as a fair and humane world power.

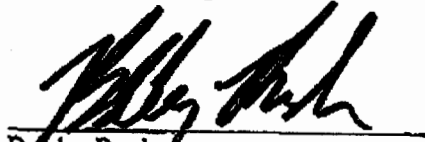
Sincerely,


Jim McDermott
Member of Congress


John Conyers
Member of Congress


Pete Stark
Member of Congress


Edward Markey
Member of Congress


Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

CC: Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense
Eric Holder, Attorney General of the United States
Dennis Blair, Director of National Intelligence

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June 22, 2009

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Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon, Rm. 3D921
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

I understand that my Legislative fellow, [REDACTED] has applied for the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense-Crisis Management and Defense Support to Civil Authorities. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response of the House Homeland Security Committee, I would like ask for your support and offer my strong endorsement of [REDACTED] for the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense- Crisis Management and Defense Support to Civil Authorities

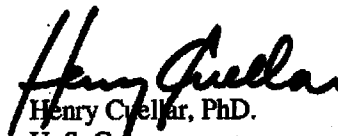
[REDACTED] has spent the last 28 years serving his country and specifically the last 8 years working at the forefront of Homeland Defense/Security and Emergency Preparedness and Response issues. He has been involved at the beginning of every major issue facing our post 9/11 environment. He was decorated for his actions on 9/11, he managed the Defense Departments efforts to secure our airports and borders as the TSA and newly reorganized CBP and ICE organizations were stood up and he authored the first ever Defense Intelligence Strategy, a seminal document designed to provide guidance and clarity to our Defense Intelligence organizations.

Continuing to serve as a Volunteer Advanced Life Support provider in Fairfax County, Va. [REDACTED] is well versed in both emergency preparedness and response as well as having a through understanding of the intricate relationship between the Executive and Legislative branches. Combining this experience with his defense expertise, he would provide the Defense Department with political expertise and an understanding and ability to talk the language of the local officials that the Civil Support mission requires.

Please consider this as my strong endorsement of [REDACTED] as a leading candidate for Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense- Crisis Management and Defense Support to Civil Authorities.

If selected, he will be a credit to the Administration and the Department.

Sincerely,


Henry Cuellar, PhD.

U. S. Congressman
28th District of Texas

OSD 07190-09



LAREDO
602 EAST CALTON ROAD
SUITE 7
LAREDO, TX 78041
PHONE: (956) 725-0639
FAX: (956) 725-2647

SAN ANTONIO
615 EAST HOUSTON STREET
SUITE 451
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78205
PHONE: (210) 271-2851
FAX: (210) 277-6671

SEGUIN
100 SOUTH AUSTIN STREET
SUITE 1
SEGUIN, TX 78155
PHONE: (830) 401-0457
FAX: (830) 379-0984

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320 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 221
MCALLEN, TX 78501
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FAX: (956) 631-4251

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100 NORTH F.M. 3167
RIO GRANDE CITY, TX 78582
PHONE: (956) 487-3603
FAX: (956) 488-0952

**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

(202) 225-2011
June 4, 2009

Mr. Eric Fanning
Department of Defense Legislative Liaison
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

COMMITTEES:
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AND PENSIONS
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FINANCE AND TAX
CONTRACTING AND TECHNOLOGY
REGULATION, HEALTH CARE AND TRADE

RE: Letter of Recommendation, Rear Admiral Richard A. Buchanan, US Navy (Ret)

Dear Mr. Fanning,

It is my distinct pleasure to most strongly recommend Rear Admiral Richard A. Buchanan, US Navy (Ret) for a non-career position in the Obama-Biden Administration. His Presidential Appointment Application has been submitted, and I am most pleased to be able to provide a detailed letter as a listed reference in his application.

Admiral Buchanan has an extensive and distinguished career in the military service and in the private sector. He has proven his outstanding leadership, tremendous business acumen and creative strategic mind in a number of challenging and responsible positions as outlined on his attached resume.

Specifically, I want to bring to your attention that his extraordinarily diverse military experience as Commanding Officer of USS Parche SSN 683, as Commander Submarine Group Two and as the Director of Operations and Logistics at United States Strategic Command makes him particularly suited for Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, for Under Secretary of Energy in the Department of Energy and as the Principal Deputy Director for the Director of National Intelligence.

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of the United States Navy Memorial Foundation, he has a true appreciation for and is especially well informed about personnel issues that affect the Defense Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs. His extensive experience and enthusiasm for the importance of high quality men and women to serve in our military today and for those individuals to be supported, as veterans, after their service is complete is remarkable. His background in these areas of interest supports his nomination as Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness or Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits.

It has been my pleasure to know of Admiral Buchanan's outstanding leadership skills, personal ambition and charismatic leadership personally and by reputation throughout his active duty military career and in his private sector career with EDS supporting Navy Marine Corps Intranet; at Raytheon where his responsibilities for Navy programs gave him great insight into contracting and program management as well as the financial responsibilities in the for-profit business world; and at the Navy Memorial Foundation where his creative and strategic vision inspired



significant improvements in the recognition for the men and women who serve in the Navy and the Sea Services.

I can unequivocally support Admiral Buchanan as a candidate for any of the Obama- Biden Administration positions identified in the enclosed list. Thank you for considering this outstanding candidate for service in our government.

*A Tremendous,
selfless public
servant &
leader!
One best!*

Warmly,

Joe Sestak
Joe Sestak
Member of Congress

Enclosures:

- Potential Presidential Appointments
- Resume for Rear Admiral Buchanan

JOE SESTAK
7TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

(202) 225-2011

June 30, 2009

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HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR
AND PENSIONS
SMALL BUSINESS
VICE CHAIRMAN
FINANCE AND TAX
CONTRACTING AND TECHNOLOGY
REGULATION, HEALTH CARE AND TRADE

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Room 3D844
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates,

In the FY 2009 Defense Appropriation Bill (the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act) was a \$1.2 million dollar appropriation for a project requested through my office. That project, which was brought to my attention by Data View, Inc., a small business in my District, was for a key component of the Pentagon's Advanced Emergency Response Integrated Environment (AERIE), the use of uncomplicated visualizations that rapidly convey complex incident or event situation information to incident command and agency leadership. Today I was informed that these funds may not be used for this purpose, but rather to fund the development and implementation of a notification system. This is unacceptable, and I request your assistance in either clarifying the situation or rectifying it.

During a process to oversee the expenditure of appropriated funds which I requested, my staff called the Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA) and was informed that they would be provided a status update. This morning the Executive Director for Data View, Inc. contacted my office to say he has been notified by the PFPA that his project was not going to be funded this year, despite the appropriation. Rather, funding for the project would be revisited in FY2010. I have asked Data View, Inc. to put together a more detailed chronology of its contacts with PFPA, which is enclosed.

Data View, Inc. is a small company with limited contract work. They will be unable to maintain their staff through to FY2010 on the potential for funding in that fiscal year. They have also informed me that if the project could at least be partially funded in FY09 and then further funded in FY10, that would allow them to maintain their staffing and intellectual resource levels.

As a former Three Star Admiral with thirty-one years experience in the Navy, having worked both in the White House and the Pentagon, I am fully aware of the financial constraints faced by agencies such as PFPA. But I am also aware of the difficulties faced by small businesses attempting to provide contract work within the Defense Department. (The chronology highlights the false starts and changes of direction just on this project.)

OSD 07223-09

The Honorable Robert Gates
June 30, 2009


I requested these appropriated funds for a project that would provide needed added security to the Pentagon and could be done by an innovative and hardworking small business. The concept of dynamic visualization in this project has significant potential in improving communications and coordination of inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional issues. And I believe that PFFA, and in particular the Integrated Emergency Operations Center, is an ideal candidate to be a showcase for this type of collaborative tool with its mission to rapidly comprehend situational awareness and communicate actionable information in context.

Mr. Secretary, I request that the \$1.2 million dollars, or at least a significant portion of that funding appropriated in the FY09 Defense budget be used, as intended, to implement a system that utilizes uncomplicated visualizations that rapidly convey complex incident or event situation information to incident command and agency leadership as a key component of the Pentagon's Advanced Emergency Response Integrated Environment (AERIE).

I look forward to your assistance in this matter. I can be reached through my Chief of Staff, Bibiana Boerio, at 202-225-2011.

Thank you for your service to our Nation.

Sincerely,



Joe Sestak
Member of Congress

Cc: Paul Juola, Subcommittee Clerk, House Defense Appropriation Subcommittee
Mr. Stephen Calvery, Director of Pentagon Force Protection Agency
Mr. Mark Wallace, Director of the Pentagon Integrated Emergency Operations Center

Enclosure

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

June 29, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO
TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your letter of June 22, 2009, regarding the Presidential Helicopter Replacement Program.

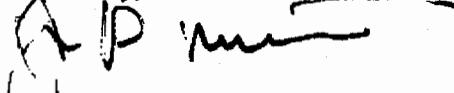
While I appreciate your concerns about controlling the costs of this program, I am deeply concerned about the lack of value that the nation has to show for the substantial investment made to date. It is the Congress, and the Appropriations Committee in particular, that will end up carrying the burden of accommodating the changes in judgment and past missteps associated with this program.

I understand that from the period December 2003 through the present the Department of Defense has spent \$3.2 billion on this program and has acquired a total of 9 aircraft 5 of which could be put to operational use.

I firmly believe that we must be able to demonstrate some value from the investment made in this program. Therefore I strongly encourage you to make use of those VH-71 helicopters that could be placed into operational service as soon as possible.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

OSD 07354-09



BOB FILNER
51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
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TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
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FAX: (619) 422-7290

1101 AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE D
IMPERIAL, CALIFORNIA 92251
TEL: (760) 355-8800
FAX: (760) 355-8802

website: www.house.gov/filner

July 2, 2009

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

Dear Secretary:

On June 30, 2009, Seaman August Provost was found dead in a Camp Pendleton guard shack. The press is reporting that the body was burned. The death of Mr. Provost is suspected as a homicide and possible hate crime. I am writing to urge you to begin a full and detailed investigation on the death of Mr. Provost.

Mr. Provost made the selfless and courageous decision to serve his country, and regardless of his sexual orientation, he should be treated with honor and respect.

I trust and hope the military will investigate this homicide and possible hate crime in a professional manner. I am requesting full disclosure in this matter.

I look forward to your timely response. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 619-422-5963.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/wl
2515414

OSD 07389-09



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CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

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June 26, 2009

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JON TRAUB,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

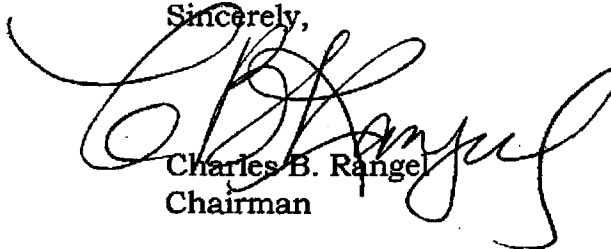
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congressman Charles Boustany, Jr. (R-MD) to participate on the CODEL being led by Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) to Lebanon, Cyprus, and Egypt, with a short stop to refuel in either Ireland or Germany. This travel will take place during the period of Saturday, June 27 through Wednesday, July 1, 2009; the House is not scheduled to be in session during this time.

The purpose of the trip is to meet with government and non-government officials to discuss economic security, trade, and energy concerns of these countries, as well as meet with the newly elected leadership for the Lebanese government.

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

Sincerely,



Charles B. Rangel
Chairman

CBR/jg

OSD 07441-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of June 19, 2009 regarding Rep. Alcee Hastings and Codel June 26 – July 3, 2009. In addition to the previously mentioned travelers, please note that the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) is authorized to travel.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07455-09



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U.S. House of Representatives

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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

June 22, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I authorize Congressman Joe Donnelly to travel on official government business to Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Afghanistan, and Germany during the period of June 26-July 3, 2009.

Mr. Donnelly will be accompanying the Congressional Delegation headed by Congressman Brad Ellsworth, member of the House Committee on Armed Services. The primary purpose of the Delegation's visit is to meet with our troops and future veterans on the ground to better gauge troop morale, listen to their concerns, and formulate ideas and remedies to the problems they are facing once they leave military service.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in the countries to be visited. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C, Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Bernie Dotson of the Committee staff at 202-226-3653.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER
 Chairman

MS/jz

OSD 07456-09





Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

June 23, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in further reference to my letter of June 18, 2009, regarding Codel Neal June 26 – July 5, 2009. Please note that the following people have been invited to travel with the delegation in country: Jami Papa; Sighle Doherty, Gráinne Ní Néill, and Orla O'Hanrahan.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07457-09



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 25th, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

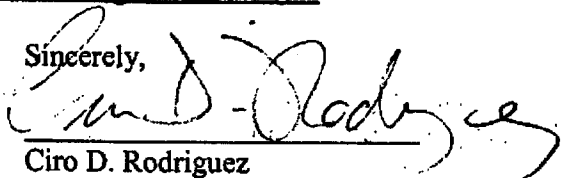
We are writing to request a briefing with reference to the Department of Defense School of Nursing. The DoD School of Nursing provision was passed by the House of Representatives as part of HR 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for 2010. It directs the Department to establish a DoD School of Nursing that will graduate not less than 100 nurses per year with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree by 2015.

The purpose of this briefing will be to brief Representatives Rodriguez, Smith, Gonzalez, and Cuellar of the San Antonio delegation, and our staffs, on the Department's efforts and plans to establish a DoD School of Nursing per PL 110-181, the National Defense Authorization Act for 2008, Section 955, and discuss initial thoughts on appropriate locations for such a school.

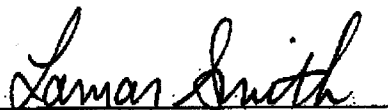
Specifically, we would like to discuss preliminary basing options and the viability of Fort Sam Houston, Lackland AFB, or other area assets as homes for the DoD School of Nursing, including the potential for partnerships with the Department of Veterans Affairs and locations of poly-trauma centers to aid in the education and training of nurse candidates.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to hearing from you promptly on a possible meeting date. Please feel free to contact us directly or Representative Rodriguez's Military Legislative Assistant, Norm Cannon, with any concerns or questions at (202) 225-4511 or Norm.Cannon@mail.house.gov.

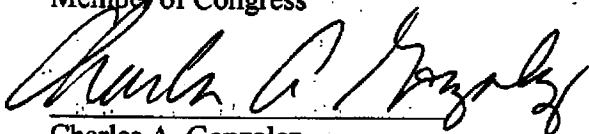
Sincerely,



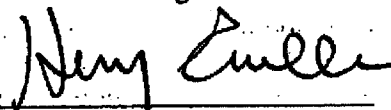
Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress



Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
18th District, Texas

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
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Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3816

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The George "Mickey" Leland Federal Building
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 655-0050

ACRES HOME OFFICE:
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Houston, TX 77019
(713) 691-4862

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

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CHILDREN
CONGRESSIONAL CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000
VIA FAX: 703.571.8951

REFERENCE: NAVY SEAMAN AUGUST PROVOST III

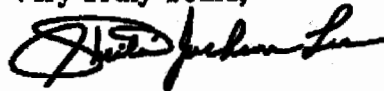
Dear Secretary Gates,

I am requesting a Congressional Inquiry into possible allegations surrounding the murder of Seaman Provost who was found dead Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, north of San Diego that require the full attention of the Armed Services Committee. Seaman Provost was a resident of the TX 18th Congressional District and a constituent of mine.

On behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, I met with the family of Twenty-nine year-old Houston native Navy Seaman August Provost III last Friday evening. The family was told that Seaman Provost was shot three times, had his hands and feet bound, his mouth gagged, and his body may have been burned. I have committed to the family that a full investigation into the murder of Seaman Provost will take place.

We have the greatest respect of the U.S. Military. It is the backbone of our Democracy. However, those who serve in the U.S. Military should be able to serve without concern of violence between military personnel. I look forward to a positive response so that I can report back to the family.

Very Truly Yours,



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

OSD 07499-09



RUSH HOLT
Twelfth District, New Jersey

1214 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-5801
Fax 202-225-6025

50 Washington Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550
609-750-9365
Fax 609-750-0618

<http://holt.house.gov>



Congress of the United States

Chair
Select Intelligence Oversight Panel
Committee on Appropriations

Committee on Education
and Labor

Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence

Committee on Natural Resources

July 2, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to inform you that the delegation I was going to lead to Macedonia, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina during the time period of May 25-June 2, 2009 was cancelled.

Thank you very much for your time and assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

OSD 07517-09



**Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515**

July 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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

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

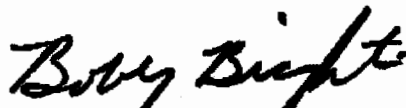
As you may recall, during your testimony before the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense on June 8, 2009, you stated that you would "share the draft RFP here in Congress as being a transparent process."

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

Sincerely,



Jo Bonner
United States Representative
First District - Alabama



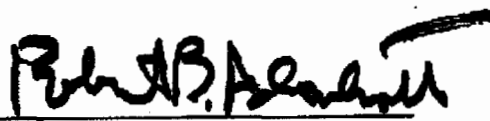
Bobby Bright
United States Representative
Second District - Alabama

OSD 07706-09





Mike Rogers
United States Representative
Third District - Alabama



Robert Aderholt
United States Representative
Fourth District - Alabama



Parker Griffith
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Artur Davis
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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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FAX: (704) 367-0852
- 197 WEST MAIN AVENUE
GASTONIA, NC 28052
(704) 861-1976
FAX: (704) 864-2446

July 7, 2009

William J. Lynn
Deputy Secretary
Public Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Lynn:

I write to personally invite you to join me and top government officials for a summit of moderate American Muslim leaders on July 20, 2009. The meeting will take place from 3:00-5:00 pm in the Congressional Room North, located in the US Capitol Visitors Center. You are also welcome to stay for a second session when these leaders meet with Members of Congress.

Over the past several years, many Members of Congress have had great concerns about the groups with which government agencies meet and use for outreach to the American Muslim community. This meeting seeks to link government officials with often-overlooked, moderate Muslim leaders.

During the meeting, moderate Muslim leaders I have invited will talk about their organizations and their programs. In addition, they will discuss issues important to the Muslim community here in America and analyze several international issues. You will be able to ask them questions about their work and obtain their opinions about issues of interest to you and your office. I have personally met with these leaders and worked with their groups on many projects; I am confident you will find this time with them very valuable.

If for some reason you cannot attend, I ask that you please send a representative from your office. However, it is my hope that you can attend this very important summit on July 20.

For more information, please contact my staffer, Andy Polk, at Andy.Polk@mail.house.gov or 202-225-1976. Please RSVP to him by July 16, 2009.

Sincerely,

Sue Myrick
Member of Congress

OSD 07741-09



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

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
BEVERLY PHETO

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

July 6, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to authorize Congresswoman Kay Granger, member of the Committee on Appropriations, to travel on July 10-11, 2009, to Marinette, Wisconsin and return to Ft. Worth, Texas. The purpose of this trip is to attend a keel laying for the new USS Fort Worth at the Marinette Marine Shipyard.

I request the expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses such as transportation and military escorts as may be required as authorized by 31 USC 1108(g).

I would appreciate the Department of Defense, specifically the United States Air Force, furnishing such assistance as may be required. Travel will be conducted by military air.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


David R. Obey
Chairman

OSD 07694-09



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U.S. House of Representatives

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

July 7, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

As part of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs responsibilities, I authorize Cathleen Wiblemo, Director of the Subcommittee on Health, and Martin Herbert, Director of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, to travel on official government business to Chicago, IL and Hines, IL during the period of August 11-13, 2009. In addition, Sidath Panangala, Analyst on Veterans Policy with the Congressional Research Service will accompany Ms. Wiblemo and Mr. Herbert as a detailee.

The primary purpose of their visit is to gain further information and monitor the progress made by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Navy in partnering to implement a jointly administered medical facility in North Chicago, IL. In conduct of this effort, they will visit the North Chicago VA Medical Center and the Great Lakes Naval Health Clinic. Additionally, they will visit the Hines VA Medical Center in Hines, IL and the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago, IL to gain a greater understanding of the work being done at these facilities.

The actual cost of lodging is authorized in Illinois. It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as may be required, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditures of funds for payment of actual and necessary expenses and transportation as may be required is authorized pursuant to title 31, U.S.C. Section 1108(g).

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have further questions, please contact Jeff Burdette of the Committee staff at (202) 225-9154.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER
 Chairman

CW/jb

OSD 07879-09



BILL SHUSTER
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

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

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SUBCOMMITTEES:

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TERRORISM AND UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS
AND CAPABILITIES

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

RURAL HEALTH CARE COALITION

CONGRESSIONAL
SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

June 26, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am contacting you to request that you review the Department of Defense's continued application of congressionally authorized exceptions to the Berry Amendment relating to the procurement of para-aramid fibers and yarns, as well the procurement of fire-resistant rayon fiber, from foreign sources. The materials are used in the manufacture of body armor and fire-resistant uniforms, respectively.

As you know, the Berry Amendment requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to give preference in procurements to domestically produced, manufactured, or home-grown products – notably food, clothing, fabrics, and specialty metals. Exceptions to this amendment allowing DOD purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns, as well the procurement of fire-resistant rayon fiber, from foreign sources may no longer warranted owing to the availability of suitable materials in today's U.S. marketplace. The recent use of these exceptions is having an adverse impact on U.S. manufacturers and has undercut our policy of maintaining a strong and viable defense industrial base.

In 1998, partially due to limited domestic competition and a reliance on sole-source contracts, a statutory exception was created to the Berry Amendment to allow for purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns from foreign sources. The statutory exception is only applicable when the Department makes a determination that procurement of para-aramid fibers and yarns from domestic sources will result in sole-source contracts or subcontracts. As a result of the exemption, the Department's purchases of para-aramid fibers and yarns have become increasingly dependent on foreign suppliers over the last decade. The marketplace has changed significantly in the last decade, however, and a variety of suitable materials now exist domestically.

Similarly, in 2008 a statutory exception was created for fire-resistant rayon fiber for the production of uniforms. This exception allowed the Department to procure fire-resistant rayon fiber for uniforms from foreign suppliers if a determination was made that either fire-resistant rayon fiber was not available domestically, or procuring such fiber domestically would result in sole-source contracts.

OSD 07890-09



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FAX: (814) 696-6726

827 Water STREET
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INDIANA, PA 15701
(724) 463-0516
FAX: (724) 463-0518

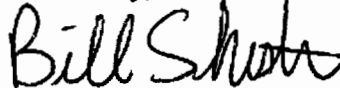
118 WEST MAIN STREET
SUITE 104
SOMERSET, PA 15501
(814) 443-3918
FAX: (814) 443-6373

100 LINCOLN WAY EAST
SUITE B
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201
(717) 264-8308
FAX: (717) 264-0269

In the short period during which this provision has been in effect, foreign suppliers have dramatically increased their market share. Currently, 90 percent of the fielded Flame Resistant Army Combat Uniforms are constructed of imported fiber. While environmental and other concerns have caused domestic sources to forego production of fire-resistant rayon fiber for uniforms, there are a variety of other fire-resistant fibers in today's domestic marketplace—some of which have out-performed rayon in evaluations for Army uniforms. As a result, the "rayon" exception is not relevant and should not apply to future procurements.

Congress has given the Secretary of Defense discretion to determine whether either exception should be used. However, current law mandates an annual review by the Secretary of Defense. I look forward to working with you to advance a more balanced policy that both promotes competition and preserves our ability to maintain and grow our domestic defense capabilities. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Shuster". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

TODD TIAHRT
4TH DISTRICT, KANSAS

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AND EDUCATION
RANKING MEMBER
DEFENSE

Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-1604

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(202) 225-8216 • FAX: (202) 225-3489

WICHITA:
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WICHITA, KS 67202
(316) 262-8992 • FAX: (316) 262-5309

E-MAIL VIA WEB SITE:
WWW.TIAHRT.HOUSE.GOV

July 14, 2009

The Honorable Ashton Carter
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics
Department of Defense
Pentagon, Room 3E673
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Carter:

It has come to my attention that the United States Air Force and United States Navy are currently negotiating a Memorandum of Agreement to proceed to Phase 2 of a demonstration program called Imminent Fury. While I am an advocate for the development of an irregular warfare capability, I am deeply concerned that this program will ignore domestic manufacturers in favor of foreign competitors.

Originally a Navy demonstration program under the direction of Secretary Donald Winters, Imminent Fury was designed to provide information on the benefits of a light attack aircraft to the warfighter. An Embraer Super Tucano aircraft was leased by the Navy for this program. Throughout Phase 1 of the demonstration program, the Navy insisted that is agnostic with regards to the specific aircraft used. Given that a similar domestic aircraft was still under development, the Navy made the argument that the lease of a foreign aircraft was required for Phase 1.

As the Navy now along with the Air Force move forward with Phase 2, it is my understanding that the domestic Hawker-Beechcraft AT-6B, will be available for testing and evaluation. (The AT-6B is a derivative of the T-6, which is the widely-used joint primary training platform for the United States military.) Throughout the concept development and demonstration phase, acquisition best practices necessitate the evaluation of alternatives, especially within the domestic market. Furthermore, the Air National Guard (ANG) will be conducting similar evaluation activities using a Hawker-Beechcraft AT-6B, an option clearly available to the Navy and Air Force.

The United States Government has invested \$8.4 million into the Air National Guard evaluation of the AT-6B and will likely invest additional resources in FY2010. For the Department to ignore this investment and continue testing a foreign aircraft is the wrong

OSD 07908-09



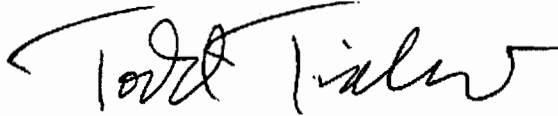
approach, especially when the T-6 has served as the joint primary training platform for the DOD for the past eight years.

In addition, Brazil, the home of Embraer, is not an exempt country under DFARS 225.872-1. As you know, this means that the Department of Defense is required to evaluate the availability of domestic products prior to contract award to a company from a non-qualifying country.

Based on all this information, I strongly recommend that the Department examine the ANG demonstration program and develop a strategy for Imminent Fury that utilizes domestic aircraft. To continue to lease the Embraer, when a similar domestic product is reasonably available, is inappropriate.

I look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Tiaht". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Todd Tiaht
Member of Congress

cc:

A black rectangular redaction box covering a name.

The Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy

The Honorable Michael Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

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

July 15, 2009

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CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
 BEVERLY PHEO
 TELEPHONE
 (202) 225-2771


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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to ask you to immediately begin a thorough review of the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) and to provide a complete list of all proposals pending as of July 20 for CERP projects in excess of \$1,000,000. For years, this Committee has questioned the use and management of CERP funds, totaling more than \$10 billion since 2004. I understand the value of this program for our combatant commanders. However, the Army and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) have failed to justify ever-growing CERP requests or to execute proper management or oversight of these funds, most of which are today being spent on the kind of infrastructure and development projects more appropriately executed and administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development. A fundamental review of CERP, its purpose, use and scope, is overdue.

Recent press reports and information from officials in-theater indicate intense pressure on Provincial Reconstruction Teams and combatant commanders to "rush to spend" hundreds of millions of dollars in CERP funds remaining for fiscal year 2009. Proposals for multi-million projects are being thrown together with less thought given to the urgency or usefulness of the project than to a desire to ensure all funds are spent. This practice could conflict with section 8004 of the fiscal year 2009 Defense Appropriations Act, which prohibits more than 20 percent of the appropriations in that Act limited for obligation in the current fiscal year from being obligated in the last two months of the year.

The original purpose of CERP was to provide combatant commanders a resource for responding to "small-scale, urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction" needs in their area of operation to immediately assist the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, a majority of CERP funds are spent on road construction and other "bricks and mortar" projects that, while important, far-exceed the intended scale and scope of the urgent projects CERP was intended to support. Furthermore, the pressure to spend CERP funds, which naturally drives commanders toward large-scale construction projects, is squeezing out the small-scale humanitarian projects identified by company-grade and Special Forces troops as providing an immediate benefit both to local nationals and to the safety and security of our own forces.

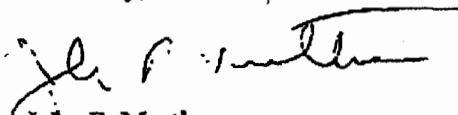
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The Honorable Robert M. Gates
July 15, 2009
Page Two

Over the last five years, CERP has grown from an incisive counter-insurgency tool to an alternative U.S. development program with few limits and little management. It is well-past time for better oversight of this program from the Department of Defense. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,



John P. Murtha
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

While we strongly support our defense facilities and recognize that we need a robust acquisition workforce, we are writing to express a concern that has been brought to our attention regarding the method the government is currently using to increase the size of its defense acquisition workforce. It is our understanding that on April 6, 2009, you announced your goal to "increase the size of the defense acquisition workforce by converting 11,000 contractors and hiring an additional 9,000 government acquisition professionals by 2015."

We would like to call your attention to an unintended consequence this policy is causing. We are hearing from our small businesses that the policy is directly responsible for a significant loss of employees to government positions. This action results in the contractor losing a valuable resource they have trained at considerable cost-- sometimes specifically to meet government requirements -- as well as revenue the contractor would have earned.

Our small businesses, such as the ones negatively impacted by the recent announcement, are the driving force of our economy. Many small, defense contractors have suffered this past year as a direct result of this tough economy. This has contributed to increases in unemployment across the nation.

We want to do everything possible to help, not hinder, our small businesses. Moving forward, we would like to work with you and the Department of Defense to create a balanced policy that would achieve your goal of strengthening our defense, without harming our small businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

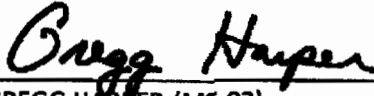




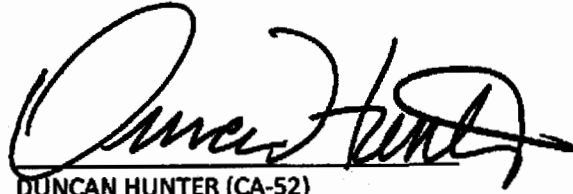
STEVE AUSTRIA (OH-07)
Member of Congress



JASON CHAFFETZ (UT-03)
Member of Congress



GREGG HARPER (MS-03)
Member of Congress



DUNCAN HUNTER (CA-52)
Member of Congress



ROBERT LATTA (OH-05)
Member of Congress

CONGRESSWOMAN
CHELLIE PINGREE

1ST DISTRICT
MAINE



COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATION

COMMITTEE ON RULES

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 6th, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your recent visit to Bath Iron Works (BIW) and for taking the time to meet some of the hard working and dedicated Mainers who contribute to the shipyard and our nation's defense. As Admiral Gary Roughead said, BIW is a "national treasure", and I am glad you were able to see the facility firsthand.

Maine has a long and proud history of contributing to the armed forces in unique and diverse ways. In 1815, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) in Kittery, Maine, built its first ship for the United States, the USS WASHINGTON. Today, PNSY is preparing to work on next generation of nuclear submarines, the VIRGINIA class. Bangor International Airport in Bangor, Maine, is the primary departure and arrival point for the troops serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Each day, a group of dedicated veterans known as the "Troop Greeters" welcome our brave men and women returning from combat and bid farewell to those departing for duty.

As you probably know, Maine is home to literally hundreds of small businesses who are Department of Defense subcontractors. Many of these small businesses provide the DOD with innovative research, products and materials to make our country stronger and more secure. I hope you will come back to Maine to see more of how our state including these small business contractors who are contributing to our national defense.

Thank you for considering this request, and I look forward to seeing you in Maine soon.

Sincerely,

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

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

OSD 08012-09



1037 LONGWORTH BUILDING
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KINGSTON E. SMITH
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

July 16, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
The Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On Wednesday, July 29, 2009, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs will conduct a hearing titled "Meeting the Needs of Injured Veterans in the Military Paralympic Program." This hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. in room 334 Cannon House Office Building.

The Committee invites you, or your designee, to testify at the hearing to discuss the number of seriously injured service members who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan in the past three years; what the Department of Defense is doing to assist our seriously injured returning service members with their rehabilitation and what their experience has been with the U.S. Paralympic Program or similar programs; how many programs the Department of Defense currently has in place; and, what partnerships the Department of Defense has formed to provide rehabilitation services to returning service members.

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Ms. Debbie Smith at (202) 225-6389. You will be recognized for five minutes to make an oral statement; however, your complete written statement will be made a part of the hearing record. Please submit 70 copies of written testimony to Ms. Debbie Smith at 335 Cannon House Office Building by 10:00 a.m. on July 27, 2009. To reduce costs and facilitate the inclusion of the written testimony in the printed record of the hearing, please provide one copy of the testimony prepared in accordance with the enclosed formatting requirements.

OSD 08162-09



July 16, 2009

Page 2

The Committee provides public access to its hearing statements on the Internet through the World Wide Web at the House of Representatives (<http://veterans.house.gov>) and the Library of Congress (<http://thomas.loc.gov>).

To facilitate this public access, please send an electronic copy of your testimony to Ms. Debbie Smith at debbie.smith@mail.house.gov. Additionally, the hearings are now broadcast live, in real time, over the Internet, and are archived on our Web site so they may be accessed following each hearing.

I look forward to hearing your views. Please contact Juan Lara, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, at (202) 225-9756 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Filner', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

BOB FILNER
Chairman

JL/ds