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**Sent:** Friday, August 24, 2012 9:45 AM  
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**Subject:** SA - Info Copy: Congressional, OSD010356-12, CMD Tasking, Action Agency: USP ,  
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**Attachments:** OSD010356-12\_505567-Incoming.pdf

Notification Type: New INFO COPY task has been assigned

Importance: Low

Control Number: OSD010356-12  
Originator: MOC YOUNG, T  
Recipient: SECDEF  
Subject: PLAN TO MITIGATE THREAT AGAINST TROOPS AND TRAIN AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES

Correspondence Type: Incoming  
Date of Receipt: 8/21/12  
Action Agency: USP  
Response Type: RD  
Coordinate With: LA JCS  
Info Copy To: ES DSD GC SAF SA SN  
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COMMITTEE ON  
 ARMED SERVICES  
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 THE BUDGET

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
 Washington, DC 20515  
 August 22, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Panetta,

Thank you for the time and dedication the Department of Defense has expended in recent weeks and months communicating to Congress our updated strategic defense posture. This communication and partnership is essential to ensure our war fighters have the tools necessary to continue to keep our nation safe.

President Obama's decision to turn over security to the Afghan national government by 2014 appeared to be based on arbitrary timelines and not measurable security benchmarks. This sentiment has been confirmed by the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, who testified before the House Armed Services Committee, stating, "[t]he president's decisions are more aggressive and incur more risk than I was originally prepared to accept." Possibly as a result of this aggressive timeline, over the past 10 days, Afghan forces have attacked their coalition partners multiple times, killing 9 Americans. In all of 2011 there were 21 attacks, killing 35 troops. I am concerned that so far this year there have already been 32 incidents, killing 40 U.S. military personnel.

President Obama's statement on Monday, August 20, 2012 that he is adhering to his war strategy of using U.S. troops to advise and mentor Afghan forces, despite these recent attacks, is even more troubling. As a member of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations, I have participated in numerous hearings on the Afghan National Security Forces timetable for security lead transition. Understanding that President Obama wants us to stay the same course in Afghanistan, I would like to know what specific plans your Department has to mitigate the threats against our troops as we continue to train Afghan security forces and meet the President's 2014 transition goal.

We must do everything we can to capitalize on the gains of the past several years in Afghanistan while ensuring that the many sacrifices made are not in vain. Again, thank you for your service and I look forward to receiving your response as to how we can prevent these attacks and protect our men and women serving in Afghanistan.

In Service,

Todd C. Young  
 Member of Congress



OSD010356-12

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