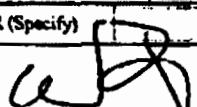


05853-06

(305)

<b>SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CORRESPONDENCE ACTION REPORT</b>			
This form must be completed and forwarded to the Correspondence Control Division (CCD), WHS Room 3A948. Suspense Desk: (703) 697-9287 FAX Number: (703) 695-1219 Email: Suspense_Desk@od.whs.mil			Action Agency <b>JCS</b> Suspense Date <b>5 May 06</b>
<b>1. ACTION TAKEN (Check one)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	a. ACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED (Copy attached)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b. REQUEST EXTENSION OF SUSPENSE DATE TO <b>06/12/2006</b> (Justify below)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	c. INTERIM REPLY HAS BEEN SENT (Copy attached) EXTEND SUSPENSE TO _____ (Justify below)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	d. REQUEST CANCELLATION (Justify below)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	e. REQUEST TRANSFER TO _____ (Justify below include POC Name & Phone Number)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	f. REQUEST DOWNGRADE TO _____ (Justify below)		
<b>2. JUSTIFICATION</b>  <p>Response package was returned from DJS today (11 May) requesting clarification on a couple of issues. Expect questions to be answered today and package forwarded back to DJS for review/signature. Request extension to 12 May.</p> <p>• • This is a SecDef Stoplight Item. SecDef interim reply was sent on 14 April 2006. • •</p>			
<b>3. REPORTING AGENCY</b>			
a. ACTION AGENCY <b>Joint Staff</b>		a. APPROVING AUTHORITY (Service Secretary/Under Secretary/ASD/Military/Executive Assistant Level)	
b. NAME OF ACTION OFFICER		Sig: (b)(6)	Date Signed <b>5/11/06</b>
c. TELEPHONE NO. (b)(6)	<b>5. ACTION TAKEN</b> (For EXSBC/ Correspondence Control Division Use Only)		
d. DATE	a. EXT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved
	b. CANX	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved
	c. DWNGRD	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved
	d. TRANSFER	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved
4. CCD CONTROL #  <b>OSD 05853-06</b>		e. OTHER (Specify) Signature 	
		Date Signed <b>5/11/06</b>	

SD FORM 391, DEC 2000

RD 2<sup>nd</sup> ExtS  
05853-06

05853-06  
06-02121

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CORRESPONDENCE ACTION REPORT	
This form must be completed and forwarded to the Correspondence Control Division (CCD), WHS Room 3E1016, Suspense Desk: (703) 697-9257 FAX Number: (703) 697-7028 Email: <a href="mailto:suspense_desk@odc.pentagon.mil">suspense_desk@odc.pentagon.mil</a>	
Suspense Date: 28 Apr 2006	
Action Agency: JCS	
1. ACTION TAKEN (Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED (Copy attached)	
<input type="checkbox"/> REQUEST EXTENSION OF SUSPENSE DATE TO 5 May 06 (Justify Below)	
<input type="checkbox"/> INTERIM REPLY HAS BEEN SENT (Copy attached) Extend response to (Justify Below)	
<input type="checkbox"/> REQUEST CANCELLATION (Justify below)	
<input type="checkbox"/> REQUEST TRANSFER TO: (Justify below / Include POC Name & Phone Number)	
<input type="checkbox"/> REQUEST DOWNGRADE TO: (Justify Below)	
2. JUSTIFICATION	
This case crosses multiple organizational boundaries and is taking us longer to coordinate than we had anticipated.	
3. REPORTING AGENCY	
a. ACTION AGENCY JCS	
b. NAME OF ACTION OFFICER (b)(6)	
Signature (b)(6)	
Date Signed 21 Apr 06	
c. APPROVING AUTHORITY (Service Secretary/Under Secretary/ASD/Military/Executive Assistant Level)	
Signature (b)(6)	
Date Signed 21 Apr 06	
4. ACTION TAKEN (For EXSEC/ Correspondence Control Division Use Only)	
a. EXT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved	
b. CANX <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved	
c. DOWNGRD <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved	
d. TRANSFER <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved	
e. OTHER (Specify)	
Signature (b)(6)	
Date Signed 4/25/06	
5. CCD CONTROL # OSD 05853-06	
6. DATE	
7. TELEPHONE NO. (b)(6)	
8. FORM 391, JAN 2000	

RD 1ST Ext

cancelled.

(b)(6)

7/5D/14

**Sherrod, Jimmy, CIV, WHS/ESD**

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2006 11:08 AM  
**To:** Sherrod, Jimmy, CIV, WHS/ESD  
**Cc:** Faires, Jay Mr. CIV US WHS ESD  
**Subject:** RE: Congressional Tasking 05853-06

Concur. R. (b)(6)

(b)(6) USAF  
**Military Assistant**

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense  
 Legislative Affairs  
 1300 Defense Pentagon (3D747)  
 Washington D.C. 20301-1300  
**Office:** (b)(6)  
**Cell:** (b)(6)  
**Fax:**  
**E-mail:** (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sherrod, Jimmy, CIV, WHS/ESD  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2006 4:02 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) OSD-LA  
**Cc:** Faires, Jay Mr. CIV US WHS ESD  
**Subject:** Congressional Tasking 05853-06

(b)(6)

As you will see the attached letter was tasked to the Joint Staff for response. They are requesting an extension until 6 May. Their justification is "...this issue crosses multiple organizational boundaries and is taking us longer to coordinate than we had anticipated." The action office is (b)(6)

Do you concur?

Please advise.

js

*Jimmy L. Sherrod*  
 Chief, Executive Support Office  
 Executive Services Directorate  
 703.693.7965  
 Room 3C975

4/25/2006

ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA, CHAIRMAN

ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH  
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 RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS

MICHAEL O'HALL, Chief Counsel and Staff Director  
 BRUCE A. CHEN, Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

April 10, 2006

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

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

When we visited the United States embassy in Bogota, Colombia on April 8, 2006, we reviewed the incident of February 13, 2003 when a small U.S. plane crashed in Colombia resulting in FARC taking hostage Marc Gonsalves, Keith Stansell, and Tom Howes who were under contract with the Department of Defense in the war against drug traffickers.

We were told that, if there were sufficient Department of Defense resources applied, the hostages could be located. Your Department of Defense experts doubtless know what equipment and techniques could be used to locate these hostages.

It seems to us that no stone should be left unturned to find and rescue these Men. In discussing this matter with the personnel at the Embassy, it was obvious that they wanted more resources for this effort the success of which impacts morale and national credibility. One of the men at the Embassy said he thinks about the hostages every day. The Embassy people talk about these men as POW's and MIA's and there are plaques and signs displayed throughout the Embassy.

We believe you will agree with us that when you have three hostages in this situation where they were captured performing vital services for our nation that every conceivable effort should be made to free them.

We would appreciate your personal attention to this matter. Please let us know what action you will take.

  
 Arlen Specter

  
 Jeff Sessions

SENATE CABLE DISTRIBUTION					
SECDEF	SECSTATE	SECDEF	SECDEF	SECDEF	SECDEF
USCIB	USCIB	USCIB	USCIB	USCIB	USCIB
10	10	10	10	10	10

OSD 05853-06

ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA, CHAIRMAN

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 CHARLES E. SCHUMER, NEW YORK  
 RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS

Michael O'Neill, Chief Counsel and Staff Director  
 Bruce A. Cohen, Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4278

April 10, 2006

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

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

When we visited the United States embassy in Bogota, Colombia on April 8, 2006, we reviewed the incident of February 13, 2003 when a small U.S. plane crashed in Colombia resulting in FARC taking hostage Marc Gonsalves, Keith Stansell, and Tom Howes who were under contract with the Department of Defense in the war against drug traffickers.

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 Arlen Specter

  
 Jeff Sessions

RECEIVED CABLES DISTRIBUTION					
RECEIVED	DISPATCH	INFLUENCE	DISPATCH	DISPATCH	DISPATCH
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1	1	1	1	1	1

05D 05853-06



THE JOINT STAFF  
WASHINGTON, DC

MAY 12 2006

Reply ZIP Code:  
20318-0300

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-3802

Dear Senator Specter,

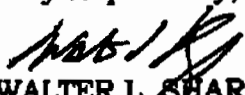
The Secretary of Defense requested that I respond to your letter concerning DOD efforts to locate and repatriate Marc Gonsalves, Keith Stansell, and Tom Howes who were taken hostage in Colombia by the FARC.

Immediately following the crash landing of their aircraft on 13 February 2003, the Department of Defense began efforts to locate Marc, Keith, and Tom. During the past 3 years, we have received several intelligence leads and pursued each one vigorously, and we will continue to aggressively pursue all leads on the status of these Americans. I assure you that we will apply DOD technology, systems, and military forces when required to locate these three men.

At every step, the Department of Defense has worked closely with our interagency partners and with the Government of Colombia. I am sure that the information you received at the US Embassy in Bogota highlighted this cooperation and the ongoing efforts to locate the hostages. Unfortunately, in spite of our efforts their status and location remain uncertain.

We share your concern for the safety and well being of Marc, Keith, and Tom and appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Very respectfully,

  
WALTER L. SHARP  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Director, Joint Staff

Colombia

(10 Apr 06)

R 05853-06



**THE JOINT STAFF**  
WASHINGTON, DC

MAY 11 2006

Reply ZIP Code:  
20318-0300

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0104

Dear Senator Sessions,


The Secretary of Defense requested that I respond to your letter concerning DOD efforts to locate and repatriate Marc Gonsalves, Keith Stansell, and Tom Howes who were taken hostage in Colombia by the FARC.

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We share your concern for the safety and well being of Marc, Keith, and Tom and appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Very respectfully,

  
WALTER L. SHARP  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Director, Joint Staff



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

April 14, 2006

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Arlen:

Thank you for the letter you signed with Senator Sessions regarding efforts to locate Messrs. Gonsalves, Stansell, and Howes in Colombia. We take this unfortunate situation seriously and share your concern for the welfare of these citizens. I have asked General Pete Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to follow-up with you on this matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

OSD 05853-06

Colombia

14 Apr 06

10 Apr 06





THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

April 14, 2006

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Jeff:

Thank you for the letter you signed with Senator Specter regarding efforts to locate Messrs. Gonsalves, Stansell, and Howes in Colombia. We take this unfortunate situation seriously and share your concern for the welfare of these citizens. I have asked General Pete Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to follow-up with you on this matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Z. R. ...", written over a horizontal line.

OSD 05853-06

OK - SOM\*



Change and SOM\*

APR 13 2006

SOM\* and use to close

\* SOM signature as 'Donald Rumsfeld'  
unless otherwise indicated.

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Arlen:

(b)(5)

OSD 05853-06

EXECUTIVE SERVICES DIRECTORATE  
3C975 (703) 693-7965

## ESD Instructions

**Classified Attached** ☐

OSD Control # 05853-06

Date: Signed ☒ Approved ☐ Apr 14, 2006

SOM: Yes ☒ No ☐

DR ☐ DHR ☐ Don ☐ Donald Rumsfeld ☒ (2)

Don Rumsfeld ☐ GE ☐ Gordon England ☐ With Best Wishes ☐

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Administrative Notes:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 Apr 14, 2006  
Duty Officer Initials/Date

Acknowledgement ☒ (2)

Action Memo ☐

Incoming ☐

Info Memo ☐

Interim Reply ☐

Note Reply ☐

Question/Note ☐

Response ☐

Front Office Doc ☐