

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CORRESPONDENCE ACTION REPORT

Complete this form and forward to WHS/ESD/Correspondence Control Division, Attention: Suspense Desk, Pentagon Room 3C843, Phone (703) 697-9287, Fax (703) 693-7028, Email: [SuspenseDesk@whs.mil](mailto:SuspenseDesk@whs.mil), Classified Email: [suspensedesk@whs.pentagon.smil.mil](mailto:suspensedesk@whs.pentagon.smil.mil)

TASKED AGENCY USP  
SUSPENSE DATE (MMDDYYYY) 11/24/2015

1. REQUESTED ACTION

- a. ACTION COMPLETED  COPY ATTACHED and/or  SEE JUSTIFICATION BELOW
- b. REQUEST EXTENSION OF SUSPENSE DATE (MMDDYYYY) TO \_\_\_\_\_ (Justify below)
- c. INTERIM REPLY SENT (Attach copy); EXTEND SUSPENSE DATE (MMDDYYYY) TO \_\_\_\_\_ (Justify below)
- d. REQUEST CANCELLATION (Justify below)
- e. REQUEST TRANSFER TO \_\_\_\_\_ (Justify below, include POC name and telephone number)
- f. REQUEST DOWNGRADE TO \_\_\_\_\_ (Justify below)

2. JUSTIFICATION

Completed documents are attached.

3. TASKED AGENCY

a. AGENCY NAME APSA/APC	b. ACTION OFFICER NAME (b)(6)	c. TELEPHONE NUMBER
d. DATE (MMDDYYYY) 12/02/2015	e. AGENCY APPROVING AUTHORITY SIGNATURE (Service Secretary/Under Secretary/ASD (Military)/Executive Assistant Level) debra.shockley@osd.mil	

4. ACTION TAKEN (For ExecSec/Executive Support Office and Correspondence Control Division Use Only)


RDC - Action Complete

- a. ACTION COMPLETED  APPROVED  DISAPPROVED
- b. EXTENSION  APPROVED  DISAPPROVED
- c. CANCELLATION  APPROVED  DISAPPROVED
- d. TRANSFER  APPROVED  DISAPPROVED
- e. DOWNGRADE  APPROVED  DISAPPROVED
- f. OTHER (Specify below)  APPROVED  DISAPPROVED

5. OSD CONTROL NUMBER



OSD012904-15/CMD017009-15

g. DATE SIGNED (MMDDYYYY) 12022015	h. SIGNATURE 
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POLICY

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

NOV 23 2015

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your October 27, 2015, letter to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter regarding the tragic October 3, 2015, incident involving the Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) facility in Kunduz, Afghanistan. I have been asked to respond on the Secretary's behalf.

The Department of Defense takes very seriously its responsibilities to investigate incidents of civilian casualties. President Obama has asked for a full accounting of the facts and circumstances of this incident, and the Department of Defense is conducting an investigation that I am confident will provide that full accounting. General Campbell, Commander, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, has appointed U.S. Army Major General William Hickman, a general officer from outside the command, to conduct an independent and impartial investigation. Major General Hickman is assisted by a team of investigators and subject matter experts. As you are aware, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Resolute Support Combined Civilian Casualty Assessment Team and the Afghan government are also conducting separate investigations of the events in Kunduz.

The Department of Defense includes the avoidance of civilian casualties as a critical element of every operational plan. Consequently, when civilians are killed or injured as a result of military operations in Afghanistan or elsewhere, we determine the facts, develop a thorough understanding of what happened, hold ourselves accountable for any mistakes made, and take appropriate steps to prevent it from happening again.

I appreciate your concern and interest in such a serious situation and support for the men and women in the Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christine E. Wormuth", is positioned above the printed name.

Christine E. Wormuth



POLICY

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

NOV 23 2015

The Honorable John Garamendi  
2438 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Garamendi:

Thank you for your October 26, 2015, letter to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter regarding the tragic October 3, 2015, incident involving the Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) facility in Kunduz, Afghanistan. I have been asked to respond on the Secretary's behalf.

The Department of Defense takes very seriously its responsibility to investigate incidents of civilian casualties. The Secretary fully considered all methods of inquiry available to him to examine the incident fully and impartially. The Department determined that appointment of an investigating officer using the robust and impartial procedures contained in Army Regulation 15-6 were most appropriate and effective in ensuring a full, independent, and objective investigation, at this stage. Based on the earlier work of Brigadier General Kim, General Campbell, Commander, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, has appointed U.S. Army Major General William Hickman, a general officer from outside the command, to continue the investigation. Major General Hickman is assisted by a team of investigators and subject matter experts and Secretary Carter and I are confident that Major General Hickman will conduct the full, independent, and objective investigation that we all desire. Additionally, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Resolute Support Combined Civilian Casualty Assessment Team and the Afghan government are also conducting separate investigations of the events in Kunduz.

The Department of Defense does as much as, if not more than, any military in the world to avoid civilian casualties. When civilians are killed or injured as a result of military operations in Afghanistan or elsewhere, we determine the facts, develop a thorough understanding of what happened, hold ourselves accountable for any mistakes made, and take appropriate steps to prevent it from happening again.

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Christine E. Wormuth



POLICY

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

NOV 23 2015

The Honorable Henry Johnson  
1133 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Johnson:

Thank you for your October 26, 2015, letter to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter regarding the tragic October 3, 2015, incident involving the Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) facility in Kunduz, Afghanistan. I have been asked to respond on the Secretary's behalf.

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Sincerely,

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Christine E. Wormuth



POLICY

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

NOV 23 2015

The Honorable Anna Eschoo  
241 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eschoo:

Thank you for your October 26, 2015, letter to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter regarding the tragic October 3, 2015, incident involving the Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) facility in Kunduz, Afghanistan. I have been asked to respond on the Secretary's behalf.

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Christine E. Wormuth



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UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

NOV 23 2015

The Honorable Keith Ellison  
2263 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ellison:

Thank you for your October 26, 2015, letter to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter regarding the tragic October 3, 2015, incident involving the Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) facility in Kunduz, Afghanistan. I have been asked to respond on the Secretary's behalf.

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Sincerely,

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Christine E. Wormuth



POLICY

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

NOV 23 2015

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal  
108 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lowenthal:

Thank you for your October 26, 2015, letter to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter regarding the tragic October 3, 2015, incident involving the Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) facility in Kunduz, Afghanistan. I have been asked to respond on the Secretary's behalf.

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Christine E. Wormuth



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20301-2000

NOV 23 2015

POLICY

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United States Senate  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

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Christine E. Wormuth