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December 3, 2009

The Honorable Dennis Blair
Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

The Honorable James Clapper
Undersecretary of Defense (Intelligence)
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Director Blair and Secretary Clapper:

As a follow-up to my letter of a few days ago to Undersecretary Clapper, I remain extremely disappointed that I have been unable to receive an updated briefing on the tragic attack which occurred at Fort Hood, Texas on November 5, 2009. During the initial briefing given to this Committee on November 19, 2009, witnesses repeatedly stated that they were unable to address some Member questions because they were still collecting all available information in an effort to provide a comprehensive report on the attack to the President. That report has since been given to the President, but Members of this Committee continue to wait indefinitely for answers from this Administration on certain national security aspects of the attack.

I realize that both of you take direction from the National Security Council as to when and what you should brief to me, but the information I have requested is well within the jurisdiction and responsibility of this Committee. I remind you that in the House of Representatives this Committee has exclusive jurisdiction for the oversight of intelligence sources and methods.

This Administration seems to have forgotten that it is a requirement, not an option, to keep Congress fully and currently informed. Given what we already know about the attack, we need to prevent its reoccurrence. We cannot waste more time. We must immediately begin a healthy dialogue between the Executive and Legislative Branches in order to investigate the intelligence-related matters surrounding the attack.

Sincerely,



Pete Hoekstra
Ranking Member