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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2902

December 13, 2011

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary
United States Department Of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-0001

Dear Secretary Panetta:

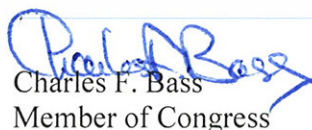
I am writing to request your attention to a matter of the utmost importance to me and my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District.

It has recently been brought to my attention that as the American military works to withdraw troops from Iraq, problems have developed in the delivery of mail to our soldiers currently serving in the Middle East. My understanding is that in most cases mail currently awaiting delivery in Kuwait and Iraq is going to be returned to the sender because soldiers have not been provided with new mailing addresses from the Department of Defense. While I understand the immense logistical challenges associated with troop reduction and reassignment, I am deeply concerned over this situation and believe it is imperative that our men and women in uniform are able to communicate with their loved ones during the holiday season.

This issue affects our troops, not only from New Hampshire but across the country, and could have a significant effect on morale. I urge you to become personally involved in seeking a prompt resolution to this issue and ensuring that a disruption to mail delivery for the Americans who have already sacrificed so much in service to our nation does not occur. In addition, I respectfully request information that I could pass on to New Hampshire families looking to contact friends and family members currently serving our nation. I look forward to a favorable resolution of this problem.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,


Charles F. Bass
Member of Congress

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