

JOE WILSON
2ND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

CHAIRMAN, PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COUNTIES:

AIKEN
BARNWELL
LEXINGTON
ORANGEBURG*
RICHLAND*
(*PARTS OF)

June 4, 2014

The Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0200

Dear Secretary McHugh,

I was grateful to hear the announcement that SGT Bowe Bergdahl was released from Taliban custody and successfully recovered by U.S. Special Operations Forces. However, I am greatly concerned about the method in which his release was secured as well as the circumstances that surround his detention by the Taliban. As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, I have monitored SGT Bergdahl's situation and fully support the U.S. military's policy of leaving no personnel behind.

Since the time of SGT Bergdahl's disappearance on June 30, 2009, there have been serious allegations made against him. Members of his unit, 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, have alleged that SGT Bergdahl deserted while others have gone so far as to accuse him of aiding the enemy. I do not write to accuse SGT Bergdahl of anything; I have no personal knowledge of what occurred on June 30, 2009. However, I do ask that the Army vigorously investigate these allegations via an Article 32 investigation immediately.

I am concerned that officials within the Department of Defense may view SGT Bergdahl's five years in captivity as "time served," for any violation of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice that he may have committed and decide not to investigate the allegations made against him. I would strongly argue against such a course of action because there were six Soldiers: SSG Clayton Bowen, PFC Morris Walker, SSG Kurt Curtiss, 2LT Darryn Andrews, PFC Matthew Martinek, and SSG Michael Murphrey who were killed in action while searching for SGT Bergdahl. I believe that the Army owes it to these fallen Soldiers and their families to investigate exactly what occurred.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Again, I am relieved that SGT Bergdahl has been recovered safely but I do believe that it is imperative that we fully understand the circumstances in which he came into the custody of the Taliban. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

MIDLANDS OFFICE:
1700 SUNSET BLVD. (US 378), SUITE 1
WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29169
(803) 939-0041
FAX: (803) 939-0078

2229 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4002
(202) 225-2452
FAX: (202) 225-2455
www.joewilson.house.gov

AIKEN OFFICE:
1930 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, SUITE 1600
AIKEN, SC 29801
(803) 642-6416
FAX: (803) 642-6418