



LEGISLATIVE  
AFFAIRS

## ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

NOV 12 2013

The Honorable Darryl Issa  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Issa:

Thank you for your letter of October 30, 2013, to the Secretary of Defense regarding the attacks on U.S. facilities in Benghazi, Libya. We understand your concerns regarding the tragic event of last fall, and continue to work with Congress regarding this matter.

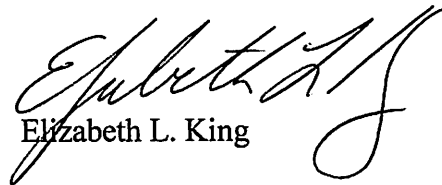
Since May, the Department has provided six classified briefings to the House Armed Services' Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations – including a briefing by General Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in October. All of these briefings were open to and attended by Members from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Additionally, Garry Reid, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations & Low-Intensity Conflict, and Major General Darryl Roberson, Vice Director, J-3, Joint Staff, testified before the House Armed Services' Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations in September in open and closed sessions. Further, earlier this year, General Carter Ham, Commander, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), provided a classified briefing to Oversight and Government Reform and Foreign Affairs Committees' Members. The Department has been responsive to every Benghazi related congressional request to date, and remains committed to accommodating congressional oversight regarding this matter.

There were neither Department personnel nor assets in Benghazi at the time of the attack on Special Mission Compound (SMC) on September 11, 2012. There were no personnel in Benghazi under the command or control of the Department at the time of the attack. As such, we must respectfully refer you to those agencies with personnel on the ground to answer any questions regarding responses and response planning involving the SMC or the Benghazi Annex. Regarding your request for audio and visual documentation, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence produced a classified video timeline of the attack including footage from various sources from the interagency. All Members of the House of Representatives were invited to view this video on December 5, 2012.

We are continuing to work with House Armed Services Committee to provide any additional information needed for it to complete its investigation of the Department's actions in response to the attack. Moreover, the Department is working diligently with the interagency to bring the perpetrators to justice, and to prevent such a tragic event from ever occurring again. If the Department can be of further assistance, please contact Mr. Bill Hudson, Director,

Congressional Investigations, Office of the DOD General Counsel at (703) 693-2648. An identical response has been provided to Chairman Royce on the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth L. King". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "E".

Elizabeth L. King

cc:  
The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member



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## ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

NOV 12 2013

The Honorable Ed Royce  
Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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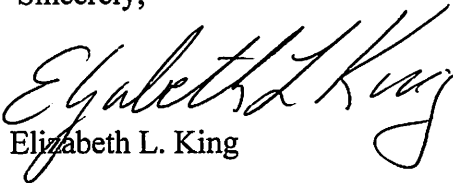
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Sincerely,



Elizabeth L. King

cc:  
The Honorable Eliot Engel  
Ranking Member