



GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1600

MAY 17 2013

GENERAL COUNSEL

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

APR 30 2013

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write in response to your letter of April 16, 2013, regarding the Department of Defense's (DoD) security clearance procedures for attorneys representing DoD personnel before your Committee.

The Department has procedures in place to consider and clear attorneys who require access to classified information to represent their clients. Consistent with those procedures, the Department will consider any written request for a security clearance for a DoD employee's personal counsel which is necessary to ensure proper legal representation. To date my office is unaware of any such clearance request to the Department in connection with your investigation of the attack in Benghazi, Libya.

The Department recognizes Congress's oversight responsibilities and remains committed to accommodating your investigation into this matter. If you require anything further, please contact Mr. Bill Hudson at (703) 693-2648.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Taylor  
Acting General Counsel

cc:

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member

