

SAM JOHNSON  
THIRD DISTRICT, TEXAS

1211 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4303  
(202) 225-4201

www.samjohnson.house.gov

1255 WEST 15TH STREET  
SUITE 170  
PLANO, TX 75075  
(469) 304-0382

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4303

October 17, 2014

COMMITTEES:  
WAYS AND MEANS

CHAIRMAN:  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
SOCIAL SECURITY

DEPUTY WHIP

JOINT COMMITTEE  
ON TAXATION

COMMISSIONER:  
U.S.-RUSSIAN JOINT  
COMMISSION ON POW/MIAs

REGENT:  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The Honorable Chuck Hagel  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Hagel,

As you know, on September 16, 2014, President Obama announced a plan to deploy up to 3,000 members of our military to Liberia to combat the deadly Ebola virus. As a 29-year Air Force veteran and a staunch advocate of our men and women in uniform, I am writing to convey my grave concerns with placing American forces at the epicenter of this Ebola crisis in western Africa.

As we have recently seen in my hometown of Dallas, Texas, Ebola has already spread to two health care workers who were treating Liberian national Thomas Eric Duncan. Considering this virus was so easily transmitted, I am deeply concerned about the risks facing our military forces in Liberia. In light of the risks, I would appreciate your prompt response to the following questions:

1. How many U.S. military troops are currently deployed in West Africa to combat the Ebola virus? What is the total number of troops expected? How long do you expect these forces to be deployed to combat Ebola in Africa? Will U.S. troops be put in direct contact with Ebola patients?
2. How is the mission defined? What is the deployment end date? What types of activities will these troops undertake in Liberia?
3. Do you foresee the need to send U.S. forces to other African countries? What factors would necessitate this action?
4. What types of training and protective gear are being provided to our troops to protect them from the Ebola virus? What actions would be taken should a service member contract Ebola? Would they be flown back to the U.S. for treatment?
5. In light of reports of medical teams being attacked by local civilians, will U.S. forces be properly equipped to defend themselves and authorized to use force in the event of hostilities?
6. Will forces returning to the U.S. be placed under 21-day quarantine before they are permitted to resume daily life?

Again, as a 29-year Air Force veteran and a Prisoner of War for nearly seven years, I have always been a strong advocate in Washington on behalf of our servicemen and women who put their lives on the line to protect our freedom. I have a unique understanding of the sacrifices that our military – and their families

– make to preserve this freedom, and it is critical that the Department have a clearly defined mission and do all it can do to ensure the health and safety of our troops.

I kindly request your response to these questions before November 3, 2014, and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Please feel free to contact Jett Thompson in my office with any questions regarding this letter at 202-225-4201 or [jett.thompson@mail.house.gov](mailto:jett.thompson@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "S" at the beginning and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Sam Johnson  
Member of Congress