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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
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September 11, 2015

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Recent media reports indicate that the Department's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is "investigating allegations that military officials have skewed intelligence assessments about the United States-led campaign in Iraq against the Islamic State to provide a more optimistic account of progress . . . ."[1] We are deeply concerned about these allegations and want to ensure that intelligence provided to key decision makers properly reflect the expert analysis produced by our Intelligence Community (IC) professionals.

We are also troubled to learn of allegations that those in the IC who sought to improve the situation were met with political roadblocks, "urged to retire," or left on their own.[2] Retaining our trained and experienced intelligence analysts is an important factor in maintaining a strong IC capable of preempting threats and furthering our national security objectives.

Because of these concerns, we request the Department provide a briefing to Committee staff as soon as possible, but no later than September 18, 2015. We request the briefing to include additional information regarding the nature of the allegations, and the Department's procedures for how analyses and collection drive the final product reviewed by senior civilian and military leadership.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about responding to the Committee's request.

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[1] Mark Mazzetti and Matt Apuzzo, *Inquiry Weighs ISIS Analysis Was Distorted*, N.Y. TIMES, Aug. 25, 2015.
[2] Shane Harris and Nancy A. Youssef, *Exclusive: 50 Spies Say ISIS Intelligence Was Cooked*, THE DAILY BEAST, Sept. 9, 2015.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Sang Yi or Dimple Shah of the Majority Staff at 202-225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jason Chaffetz
Chairman

Ron DeSantis
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Mac Thornberry, Chairman
House Armed Services Committee

The Honorable Adam Smith, Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee

The Honorable Devin Nunes, Chairman
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

The Honorable Adam Schiff, Ranking Member
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence