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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 17, 2012

241 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4610
(202) 225-5136

13873 PARK CENTER ROAD
SUITE 130
HERNDON, VA 20171
(703) 709-5800
(800) 945-9653 (IN STATE)

110 NORTH CAMERON STREET
WINCHESTER, VA 22601
(540) 667-0990
(800) 945-3463 (IN STATE)

wolf.house.gov

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon Room 3E 880
Washington DC 20301

Dear Secretary Panetta

I received the enclosed letter from General Martin Dempsey on your behalf. I find it difficult to understand how General Dempsey can write that, "...we have made steady progress in developing Afghan security forces and do not support diverting resources to establish the APSG [Afghanistan Pakistan Study Group]" when twice this week we have seen Afghan forces murder U.S. troops. On August 14, the enclosed *Washington Post* article detailed the tragic news that three U.S. Marines were gunned down by an Afghan police officer after sharing a meal with him. Just this morning, *The Washington Post* reported that two more troops were murdered in Farah Province. News reports indicate that 37 U.S. troops have been murdered by Afghan security forces in 2012 alone. With all due respect, how can you state that Afghan security forces are making, "steady progress" when they continue to gun down our forces?

Given these continuing incidents, I am perplexed at how you can continue to hold the belief that spending \$1 million to study our strategy in South Asia is "diverting resources." The funding for the APSG was included in Public Law 112-74, yet the Obama Administration has not exercised the authority made available in this law to establish the panel. As I have reminded the public numerous times, you served on the Iraq Study Group, which was successful. I do not know if the APSG would achieve similar results, but I simply cannot understand your reasons for opposing its creation if success is possible.

One of the Marines killed in these recent attacks, Gunnery Sergeant Ryan Jeschke, lived in my congressional district before enlisting in the Marines. His death, along with the other Marines and countless other service members murdered by Afghan forces, highlights the failure of the Obama Administration's strategy to ensure the safety of our own troops, not to mention the safety of the Afghan population. I am saddened that another American Marine has given his life for a war that the administration is trying its best to ignore. I cannot remember the last time President Obama spoke publically about his strategy for protecting the Afghan population from the Taliban and insurgents, or responded to murders like that of Sergeant Jeschke, or provided his definition of long-term success or our ability to achieve it.

Leon, our nation is at war and this administration has not made it a priority. Our fighting forces deserve to know that their sacrifices are understood and honored. Sergeant Jeschke was

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on his sixth tour of duty overseas, a reality faced by many troops and their families. Until this administration places the appropriate emphasis on the war in Afghanistan and educates Americans about our goals, Marines like Sergeant Jeschke, his fellow Marines and other U.S. troops will continue to die silently, with only a mention in *The Washington Post* and a folded flag from the commanding officer for a grief-stricken family.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

P.S. Leon, just yesterday, seven more of our troops were killed when their helicopter crashed in Kandahar Province. It is sad that you will not use the funds available to you for the APSG.
FRW:cw

You need fresh eyes
on the target.

I thank you



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, DC 20318-9999

10 August 2012

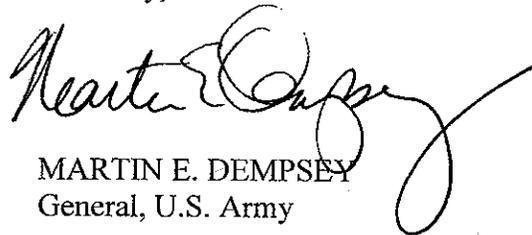
The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4610

Dear Representative Wolf:

On behalf of the Secretary of Defense, thank you for your 29 June letters conveying your correspondence to the President. The position of the Department of Defense regarding the establishment of an Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group (APSG) has not changed. As stated in my letter of 17 November 2011, we have made steady progress in developing Afghan security forces and do not support diverting resources to establish the APSG.

I appreciate your continued concern for and support of our men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Martin E. Dempsey", is written over the typed name and title.

MARTIN E. DEMPSEY
General, U.S. Army

VIRGINIA

Marine killed in Afghanistan embraced service

BY MARTIN WEIL

Ryan Jeschke, 31, who grew up in Northern Virginia, was the grandson and great grandson of Marines. After he graduated from Herndon High School in 1999, he joined the Marines too.

Relatives said Jeschke, a gunnery sergeant, had been deployed six times to Iraq and Afghanistan. "He was a hero," one of his uncles said.

On Monday, the Pentagon announced that Jeschke was one of three Marines killed Aug. 10 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The Defense Department said all three were assigned to a special operations battalion based at Camp Pendleton in California. They were conducting combat operations, the Defense Department said.

The North County Times, a California newspaper, quoted

military officials in Afghanistan as saying the Marines had been shot by an Afghan police officer who had just shared a meal with them.

The newspaper, which serves the Camp Pendleton area, said the three were in a secretive unit that carries out some of the war's most dangerous missions.

Jeschke was "an amazing guy," said a second uncle, Tripp Bradd. "He was there for his team," dedicated to carrying out his mission, Bradd said. Jeschke served, he added, to "protect his country and to help the Afghan people."

Helping the Afghans and preparing them to defend and govern themselves and to overcome the wounds and damage of war "was a passion he had," the uncle said.

While growing up in Northern Virginia, Jeschke was fond of

martial arts, relatives said. As soon as he graduated from high school, they said, he enlisted.

A grandfather, retired Marine Col. Richard Hall Jeschke Jr., who died 12 years ago, had taken part in the Iwo Jima campaign in the Pacific during World War II, and had also served in Korea during the war there.

In addition, Jeschke's great-grandfather had retired from the Marine Corps as a brigadier general and had also served in World War II.

Another relative was James P.S. Devereux, also a Marine brigadier general who had commanded the defense of Wake Island in the early days of World War II.

To Jeschke, these forebears were "an inspiration," Bradd said. Jeschke and his wife, Sheila, who is a nurse, had a home in California, relatives said.

weilm@washpost.com

The Washington Post

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Afghan police officer kills two U.S. troops

By **Kevin Sieff**, Updated: Friday, August 17, 6:43 AM

KABUL — A member of the Afghan security forces killed two U.S. troops Friday morning — the most recent in a string of insider attacks that threaten to undermine U.S.-Afghan military relations.

An officer in the Afghan Local Police shot and killed two Americans in the western province of Farah during a training exercise on an Afghan base, according to Abdul Rahman, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

U.S. military officials confirmed the two deaths. The assassin was shot and killed, according to a statement.

The attack occurred hours after Taliban leader Mohammad Omar issued a statement boasting of insurgents' ability to infiltrate the Afghan security forces — a tactic that he said limits the number of civilian casualties.

"Mujaheddin have cleverly infiltrated in the ranks of the enemy according to the plan given to them last year," he said in the message to the Afghan people marking this weekend's Eid al-Fitr festival. "They are able to [safely] enter bases, offices and intelligence centers of the enemy. Then, they easily carry out decisive and coordinated attacks."

Later Friday, an Afghan soldier turned his weapon against foreign troops in Kandahar province in southern Afghanistan, according to military officials. That attack left three NATO troops wounded.

The so-called "insider attacks" have occurred sporadically in Afghanistan for years, but they have risen sharply in the past six months — and particularly in the past 10 days. Eight U.S. service members have been killed by employees of the Afghan security forces since last Thursday. A total of 39 have been killed in such attacks since the beginning of the year.

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan released a statement Friday deriding Omar's claims.

"On the eve of the most blessed celebration of Eid ul-Fitr, when the pious people of Afghanistan celebrate their faith and the Holy words of the Koran, once again Mullah Omar has issued an unmistakable message of death, hate and hopelessness for the Afghan people," Gen. John R. Allen said.

Special correspondent Sayed Salahuddin contributed to this report.



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