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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

November 13, 2009

The Honorable Dennis C. Blair
Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Director Blair,

Pursuant to its authority under Rule XXV(k)(1) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, Section 101 of S. Res 445 (108th Congress), and Section 12 of S. Res. 73 (111th Congress), the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has initiated an investigation into the events surrounding the November 5, 2009 shootings at Fort Hood, Texas.

The Committee is concerned that there appear to have been significant warnings of Major Nidal Malik Hasan's growing extremist views and suitability for military service that may have been missed, including because they were not adequately shared across agency lines. As you know, this Committee has long been concerned about the information stovepipes within the United States Government that were revealed by the attacks of September 11, 2001, and has worked since then to break them down. The reports now surfacing in the media suggest that many of these stovepipes remain, and in fact may have prevented some officials from learning about Major Hasan's contacts with known terrorists. We are aware that there is an ongoing criminal investigation and want to assure you that we do not intend to interfere with or replicate that investigation. However, we intend to investigate, and to provide answers to, the many questions the American people are currently asking about how the U.S. government may have once again failed to "connect the dots."

We intend to investigate, among other issues, Major Hasan's espousal of extremist ideology, the Army's awareness of and handling of his situation, what information the Intelligence Community gathered about his contacts with known terrorists and other extremists, and whether and how this information was shared across the federal government. We will be requesting documents addressing all these issues, and intend to interview officials including Major Hasan's commanding officers, individuals with whom he served, and others who may have investigated or considered his contacts with extremists or his fitness for duty.

Please have your staff contact our staff as soon as possible to discuss our requests in more detail and to develop a production schedule. Committee staff will be available at the Committee Offices, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, on Monday, November 16th and Tuesday, November 17th at the time of your choosing. Please have your staff give us a specific time on one of those days, and in order to facilitate our discussions, please ensure there are officials at this meeting who can discuss generally the status and parameters of ongoing investigations. If you or your staff has any questions concerning this request, please contact us, or have your staff

contact our staff directors, Michael Alexander of the majority staff at (202) 224-2627 or Brandon Milhorn of the minority staff at (202) 224-4751.

We thank you for your cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Lieberman".

Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan M. Collins".

Susan M. Collins
Ranking Member