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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

MICHAEL L. ALEXANDER, STAFF DIRECTOR
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February 12, 2010

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to invite you or your designee to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Counternarcotics Contracts in Central and South America." The hearing will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 2:30 P.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine contracts for international counternarcotics activities. In particular, the hearing will focus on the State Department's and Defense Department's management of large contracts that supply counternarcotics assistance to the governments of Central and South America.

Your testimony should address the Defense Department's management and oversight of counternarcotics contracts in Central and South America, including coordination with the State Department and the government's plans to transition these activities to the host governments.

To assist the Subcommittee in preparing for the hearing, We request that you provide the following information and documents relating to all contracts involving counternarcotics activities in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia and any other country in Central or South America in which the United States is providing counternarcotics assistance, including security and police training, for the period from October 1, 1999 through the present:

- (1) The contractor name, contract number, extent of competition, scope of work, contract ceiling, and dollar amount obligated;
- (2) Evaluations, reports, or audits, including the analyses and evaluations of the contractors' progress towards meeting U.S. drug control policy goals;
- (3) Communications relating to the need, use, scope, and duration of such contracts; and

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- (4) Communications and legal analyses, including written decisions to enter into agreements, relating to the use of contractors for counternarcotics activities.

We request that you provide this information as soon as possible, but in no case later than **March 31, 2010**. If you determine that you will be unable to make a complete production by this date, please contact Subcommittee staff to discuss possible modifications to this schedule.

We also request that you provide a briefing for Subcommittee staff on these issues, including the Department's methodology for monitoring progress toward meeting the Administration's counter drug activity goals, by **April 20, 2010**.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight is set forth in Senate Rule XXV clause 1(k); Senate Resolution 445 section 101 (108th Congress); and Senate Resolution 73 (111th Congress). An attachment to this letter provides additional information about how to respond to the Subcommittee's request.

The Subcommittee requests that you summarize your testimony in 5 minutes, although a longer written statement may be submitted for the official record. This will allow adequate time for you to engage in questions and answers with members of the Subcommittee. **Subcommittee rules require that your testimony be submitted by 2:30 P.M. on Tuesday, May 18, 2010.** Please send an electronic copy of your written statement and a brief one page biography to Subcommittee Clerk, Kelsey Stroud, at Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov.

We look forward to your participation. Please contact Alan Kahn with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-3230 or Molly Wilkinson with Senator Bennett's Subcommittee staff at (202) 228-3141 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

Robert Bennett
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight