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United States Senate

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

MICHAEL L. ALEXANDER, STAFF DIRECTOR
BRANDON L. MILHORN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

October 29, 2010

Harold W. Geisel
Deputy Inspector General
U.S. Department of State
Office of Inspector General
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Ambassador Geisel:

We are writing to invite you to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Oversight of Reconstruction Contracts in Afghanistan and the Role of the Special Inspector General." The hearing will be held on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 2:30 P.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. This will be the fourth in a series of hearings held by the Subcommittee on oversight of government contracts in Afghanistan.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine the role of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) in providing independent oversight of reconstruction contracts in Afghanistan. The hearing will review recent SIGAR audits and investigations and assess SIGAR's effectiveness at preventing and detecting waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars. In addition, the hearing will examine lessons learned from the experiences of other Inspectors General involved in the oversight of contingency contracting.

Your testimony should address the role of the State Department Office of Inspector General in providing oversight of State Department operations in Afghanistan. You should also discuss the coordination of efforts between and among agency inspectors general, SIGAR, agency officials, and the Department of Justice in contingency operations in Afghanistan and around the world. In addition, you should be prepared to discuss the feasibility and advisability of creating a permanent Inspector General to oversee contingency operations.

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 no later than 2:30 P.M. on Tuesday, November 16, 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.

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We look forward to your participation. Please contact Alan Kahn with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-3230 or William Wright with Senator Brown's Subcommittee staff at (202) 228-2186 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight



Scott Brown
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight