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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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January 4, 2012

The Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to request that you make available Lieutenant General Peter Vangjel, Army Inspector General, and Kathryn Condon, Executive Director of the Army National Cemeteries Program, to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Contract Management at Arlington National Cemetery." The hearing will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 2:30 P.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

In June 2010, the Army Inspector General reported major problems at Arlington National Cemetery, one of two national cemeteries managed by the U.S. Army, including abuse and mismanagement which resulted in the waste of millions of dollars. On July 29, 2010, the Subcommittee held a hearing which revealed that thousands of graves may have been unmarked, improperly marked, or mislabeled on the Cemetery's maps.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine what progress has been made to improve the management and oversight of contracts at Arlington National Cemetery since the Subcommittee's July 2010 hearing. The hearing will also review the new findings of the Army and Government Accountability Office as required under Public Law 111-339, a law sponsored by Chairman McCaskill to require reports on the management of Arlington National Cemetery.

The witnesses' testimony should address the ability of the Cemetery to verify the identity, location, and burial records for gravesites in Arlington National Cemetery and present plans to remedy any errors found in the review. The witnesses should also address how the Army has improved the Cemetery's management, performance, and accountability, including its procedures to improve outreach to families.

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 Monday, January 23, 2012.** 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.

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).

The Honorable John McHugh
January 4, 2012
Page 2

We look forward to your participation. Please contact Alan Kahn with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-3230 or Senator Portman's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-3353 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight



Rob Portman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight