



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

NOV 20 2013

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

Thank you for your October 28, 2013 letter concerning the Army's use of Eid Passport's Rapidgate system.

Following release of the Department of Defense (DoD) Inspector General's report on the Navy Commercial Access Control System, I initiated a comprehensive security review of access to Army installations by contractors who have not been granted security clearances or Personal Identity Verification (PIV) cards. Part of that review revealed that 22 Army installations in the United States have locally procured and are employing Rapidgate systems to conduct background checks and provide credentials for such contractors. Commercial systems, such as Rapidgate, conduct background checks using public databases and can provide some assurance of a person's suitability. Commercial systems have been locally deployed by some installations as a temporary measure until fully compliant systems can be tested and fielded.

In the wake of the Navy Yard shooting, I have reemphasized the requirement to Commanders responsible for installations to vet non-U.S. Government identification card holders against National Crime Information Center (NCIC), ordered the development of Army-wide suitability standards and directed a survey to determine what additional resources are required to ensure full compliance throughout the Army.

Currently, the Army is in the process of fielding an Automated Installation Entry (AIE) system with the intent of standardizing access control across the installations. AIE is projected to meet DoD and Army access control standards for automating personnel authentication against DoD's authoritative databases. The system is in use at 10 Army installations and being fielded at another 17. As a part of our efforts to implement enhanced and uniform access control, the Army plans to upgrade AIE to automatically vet personnel against the NCIC database when the cloud computing capability is established at the DoD Manpower Data Center in late 2014.

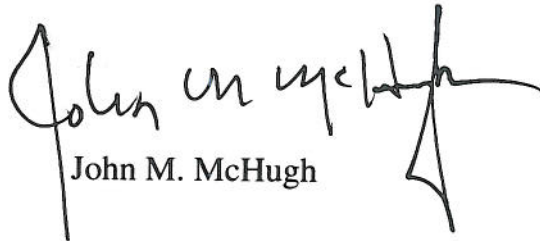
The Army has programmed for this upgraded version of AIE to be fielded at the Army's 47 most critical U.S.-based installations by the end of 2015, with an additional 23 installations completed by end of 2019. However, it is critical to note that the Army's ability to fund and execute this plan is at risk due to funding constraints, competing

requirements and impacts of sequestration. Therefore, continued congressional support for these efforts is vital.

While the Army is moving towards this enhanced capability, we will continue to employ legacy systems, manually vet visitors against the NCIC database and conduct visual inspections of ID cards in order to provide some level of mitigation to the security risks at installations.

Thank you for your inquiry into this matter and for your continued support of our Soldiers and their Families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. McHugh", with a stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

John M. McHugh