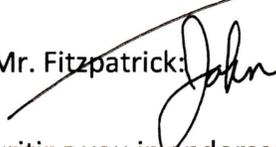


P.O. Box 2355  
Leonardtown, MD 20659  
October 18, 2013

**Via E-Mail**

Mr. John P. Fitzpatrick  
Director  
Information Security Oversight Office  
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20408-0001

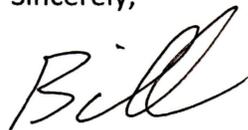
Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:

I am writing you in endorsement of Major James Weirick's complaint detailing the intentional improper classification of information by various members of the United States Marine Corps and/or other government officials. Specifically, the complaint deals with the classification of a personal video depicting Marines urinating on human remains in Afghanistan and which had been made widely available to the public when posted to YouTube and other online sites, along with the improper classification of ancillary reports and investigations. As Major Weirick accurately points out, since this video is not owned by, produced by or for, or is otherwise under the control of the United States Government, it cannot be classified under any circumstances per Section 1.1 (2) of Executive Order 13526, "Classified National Security Information." This is not a matter of agency judgment or discretion.

As indicated in my public writings and comments, as well as my spoken and written discussions with you, I am extremely concerned that the integrity of the classification system continues to be severely undermined by the complete absence of accountability in instances such as this clear abuse of classification authority. Equally important, the many security professionals within the Marine Corps who stood up to improper command pressure and whose highly professional and entirely proper guidance was willfully ignored by Marine Corps leadership are due the support of your office, having been established by the President to oversee implementation of the classification system.

I am available to discuss further if you wish. In the meantime, I look forward to learning of the disposition of Major Weirick's complaint.

Sincerely,



J. William Leonard