

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE 1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

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AUG 16 2010

The Honorable Carl Levin Chairman Committee on Armed Services United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your July 28, 2010, letter regarding the unauthorized disclosure and publication of classified military documents by the WikiLeaks organization. I share your concerns about the potential compromise of classified information and its effect on the safety of our troops, allies, and Afghan partners.

After consulting with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I have directed a thorough investigation to determine the scope of any unauthorized release of classified information and identify the person or persons responsible. I have also established an interagency Information Review Task Force, led by the Defense Intelligence Agency, to assess the content of any compromised information and the impacts of such a compromise. Our initial review indicates most of the information contained in these documents relates to tactical military operations. The initial assessment in no way discounts the risk to national security; however, the review to date has not revealed any sensitive intelligence sources and methods compromised by this disclosure.

The documents do contain the names of cooperative Afghan nationals and the Department takes very seriously the Taliban threats recently discussed in the press. We assess this risk as likely to cause significant harm or damage to the national security interests of the United States and are examining mitigation options. We are working closely with our allies to determine what risks our mission partners may face as a result of the disclosure. There is a possibility that additional military documents may be published by WikiLeaks and the Department is developing courses of action to address this possibility.

The scope of the assessment and nature of the investigative process require a great deal of time and effort. I am committed to investigating this matter and determining

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appropriate action to reduce the risk of any such compromises in the future. We will keep you informed as additional information becomes available.

Sincerely,

cc:

The Honorable John McCain Ranking Member