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U.S. House of Representatives

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ROBERT L. SIMMONS, II, STAFF DIRECTOR

October 18, 2012

General Carter F. Ham, USA
Commander
U.S. Africa Command
9000 Joint Staff Pentagon (2B865)
Washington, DC. 20318-9000

Dear General Ham:

As you are aware, the House Armed Services Committee is continuing its oversight of the events leading up to the terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya and the response of the Department of Defense since September 11, 2012. Although seven House committee chairmen sent a detailed list of questions to the President on September 25, 2012, we have not received a response. In the meantime and in light of new information, I have three additional questions related to the Department's actions prior to September 11th.

- (1) Given the steadily deteriorating threat environment in Libya prior to the Benghazi attack, at any time prior to September 11, 2012, did you or anyone in your command advise, formally or informally, that the Department of State, or any other agency:
 - a. take action to increase security for U.S. personnel in Libya, or
 - b. request increased security for U.S. personnel in Libya?
- (2) At any time prior to September 11, 2012, did you or anyone in your command recommend deployment of additional U.S. military forces to Libya due to the threat environment?
- (3) To your knowledge, at any time prior to September 11, 2012, did anyone in your chain of command make such recommendation(s)?
- (4) To your knowledge, has the Department of State or any other federal agency requested additional U.S. military forces to augment security for U.S. personnel in Libya?

I am hopeful that in the five weeks since September 11th, you have already examined the actions taken by your command in the lead up to the Benghazi attack. Therefore, I respectfully request that you address these questions verbally or in writing by close of business on Friday, October 19, 2012.

Sincerely,



Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman

HPM:jbs