

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT
JACK REED, RHODE ISLAND
DANIEL K. AKAKA, HAWAII
E. BENJAMIN NELSON, NEBRASKA
JIM WEBB, VIRGINIA
CLAIRE McCASKILL, MISSOURI
MARK UDALL, COLORADO
KAY R. HAGAN, NORTH CAROLINA
MARK BEGICH, ALASKA
JOE MANCHIN III, WEST VIRGINIA
JEANNE SHAHEEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, NEW YORK
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT

JOHN McCAIN, ARIZONA
JAMES M. INHOFE, OKLAHOMA
JEFF SESSIONS, ALABAMA
SAXBY CHAMBLISS, GEORGIA
ROGER F. WICKER, MISSISSIPPI
SCOTT P. BROWN, MASSACHUSETTS
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO
KELLY AYOTTE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE
LINDSEY GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

RICHARD D. DeBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
ANN E. SAUER, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

October 10, 2012

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Panetta:

We write to you today concerning the security of U.S. diplomatic personnel and facilities around the world. As the recent events in Benghazi on September 11, 2012 tragically reminded us, the threats confronting our diplomats remain both real and deadly.

We recognize that the State Department is ultimately responsible for the security of U.S. diplomatic personnel and facilities. We also recognize that the Defense Department plays an instrumental role in providing support to the State Department in this endeavor. As investigations by the Justice Department and the State Department into the attacks in Benghazi progress, we feel it is appropriate and necessary that the Defense Department thoroughly reviews the support it provided to the U.S. mission in Libya and takes the necessary steps to ensure improvements are made where necessary to best support diplomatic security worldwide.

To better understand these issues we request responses to the following:

1. Prior to the attack on September 11, 2012, did the Defense Department conduct any security assessments in support of the diplomatic mission in Libya, and if so, what were the findings and recommendations of those assessments?
2. Did the State Department request the fielding of a Marine Corps Embassy Security Group (MCESG) Detachment to assist with security in Libya, and if so, what was the planned timeline for fielding that detachment? What factors determined the planned timeline and structure of that detachment?
3. Beyond assessment teams and a MCESG Detachment, did the State Department request any other Defense Department resources to aid in diplomatic security in Libya? If so, what resources were provided and what was not provided?
4. What, if any, intelligence existed from Defense Department agencies regarding threats to U.S. personnel or our diplomatic mission in Libya and what intelligence was disseminated to the intelligence community?
5. In light of the recent threats to our U.S. personnel and missions abroad, what changes do you plan for Defense Department support for diplomatic security?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to continue working with you to ensure effective Defense Department support for this important mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John McCain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "McCain".

John McCain
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Portman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rob" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Portman".

Rob Portman
United States Senator