

TODD YOUNG
INDIANA'S 9TH DISTRICT
WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
1007 LONGWORTH HOB
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-5315



COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
September 28, 2015

The Honorable Ashton Carter
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Carter:

Recent reports indicate the modification and distortion of United States Central Command intelligence analysis pertaining to the status of our military engagements in Syria and Iraq. As a former Marine Corps intelligence officer I am deeply troubled by these reports.

These allegations of falsifying intelligence reports cast further doubt over U.S. efforts in the region. Defense officials and Members of Congress alike rely on unadulterated intelligence to ensure that national security policy aptly reflect the situation on the ground. Assertions of doctoring intelligence reports for political reasons would mark a troubling break from the Intelligence community's modus operandi.

My tenure as a Marine Corps intelligence officer taught me the essential nature of reliable intelligence for not only defense decision makers, but more importantly, our operators in the region. I am pleased to hear of reports of an ongoing investigation into this matter and look forward to Congress being expeditiously briefed.

Any instance of senior-level Department of Defense intelligence officials altering reports pertaining to U.S. efforts in Syria and Iraq would mark an alarming collapse in the chain of command. U.S. intelligence officials must be able to work in a non-partisan fashion, with complete assurance that their vital efforts will not be altered to the detriment of our warfighters and overall national security.

I request that you brief my office on the veracity of these allegations, the extent of the breakdown of the chain of command, and any ongoing investigation to prevent future breakdowns in intelligence gathering efforts.

In service,


Rep Todd Young

CC: Office of Inspector General, Department of Defense