

TAB A
FOUO

311
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2005 MAR 11 AM 9:51 March 1, 2005

TO: Gen Dick Myers

CC: ~~Dan~~ Stanley
Larry Di Rita

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld JR.

SUBJECT Explosives at Al-Qaqaa

Maybe we've already answered the attached letter. If we have, let me **see** the answer that went out and who it was from.

If we have not answered it, please develop an answer and respond on behalf of the Department to **this** letter ~~from~~ these Senators. You're the one who always in the Q&As.

I think it **ought** to be a powerful argument. I would like to see it, and Larry Di Rita should **see** it before it goes. It **seems** to me that might put this to rest.

Thanks.

Attach.

10/28/04 Letter from Senators re: Explosives at Al-Qaqaa

DHR:dh
022805-89

.....
Pleaserespondby

3/10/05

FOUO

Tab A

OSD 04921-05



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

SECRET

CM-2370-05 2005 MAR 11 AM 9:51
10 March 2005

INFO MEMO

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: General Richard B. Myers, CJCS *RBM 3/10*

SUBJECT: Explosives at Al-Qaqaa (SF-974)

- **Answer.** In response to your issue (TAB A), attached is the reply (TAB B) to Senator Feinstein and five other Senators regarding their inquiry into missing explosives from Al-Qaqaa.
- **Analysis.** The unclassified answer to the Senators' query included a summary of initial combat actions in vicinity of Al-Qaqaa, the amount of ammunition secured by Coalition forces at the Al-Qaqaa facility, and additional Coalition efforts to secure, destroy or demilitarize over 400,000 tons of captured enemy ammunition.
 - Coalition forces have discovered more than 10,000 weapons cache sites in Iraq; all known weapons caches have been consolidated into six guarded depots.
 - While any missing explosive material is a serious matter, the alleged missing explosives from Al-Qaqaa comprised less than a .1 percent of the total munitions found.

COORDINATION: NONE

Attachments:

As stated

Prepared By: Lieutenant General J.T. Conway, USMC; Director, J-3; 703-697-8069



Certified As Unclassified

January 9 2009

IAW EO 12958, as amended
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY OSD 04921-05

TAB A
FOUO

311

March 1, 2005

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TO: Gen **Dick** Myers
CC: Dan Stanley
Larry Di **Rita**
FROM: Donald Rumsfeld *DR*
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DHR:dh
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Please respond by

3/10/05



FOUO

Tab A

OSD 04921-05

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 28, 2004

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We are writing to express deep concern about the disappearance of 380 tons of powerful explosives from the Al-Qaqaa munitions and weapons site in Iraq. Given President Bush's announcement that a U.S. military investigation is underway to determine the cause of this massive security breach, we would seek your immediate cooperation in providing Congress with information regarding the scope and seriousness of the loss of munitions.

In our view, this incident represents a serious lapse of military planning and execution, and it is critical that we determine the breadth of the security failure, not only at Al-Qaqaa but at other sites in Iraq. In that regard, we would request the following from the Department of Defense:

- A complete list of the major weapons sites in Iraq;
- Specific steps taken by the US military to secure weapons, ammunition, explosives and related materials at each site;
- Whether any of these sites remain unguarded at the present time by US military forces;
- How many explosives have been demolished;
- How much remains to be demolished;
- How much is believed to have gotten into the hands of insurgents or terrorist Organizations and steps now being taken to prevent their use against U.S. troops;
- How many of the weapons and munitions have been turned over to the Iraqi army;
- How much the U.S. has spent to guard and destroy these weapons sites;
- How much more money is needed to complete this effort and how these new expenditures will be used;

Tab A

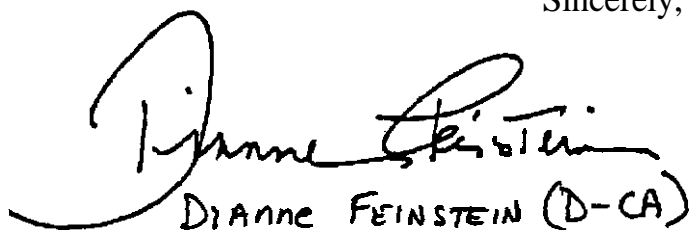


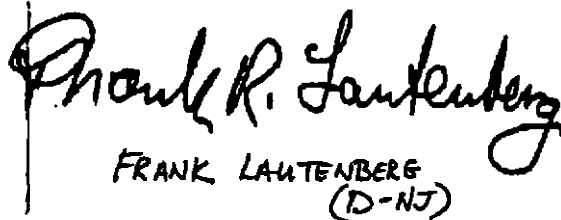
- Whether additional U.S. troops should be deployed for this mission;
- A specific timeline of (1) when DoD first learned that explosives were missing from Al-Qaqa, (2) which Pentagon officials were notified, and (3) the time White House officials were told about the missing explosives.

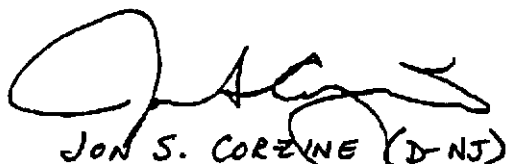
We are profoundly disappointed that carelessness and lack of attention to these munitions and weapons sites have now significantly escalated the dangers for our troops on the ground,

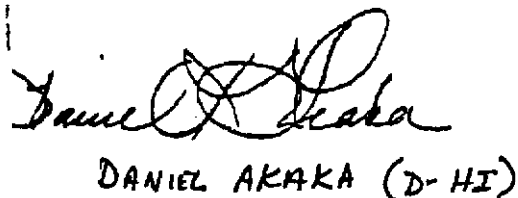
Thank you for your attention to this request and we look forward to your reply.

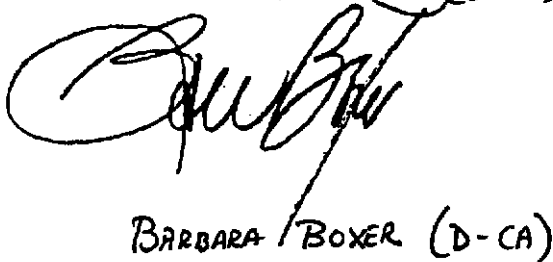
Sincerely,


DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D-CA)


FRANK LAUTENBERG
(D-NJ)


JON S. CORZINE (D-NJ)


DANIEL AKAKA (D-HI)


BARBARA BOXER (D-CA)


RICHARD DURBIN (D-IL)

Tab A



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CORRESPONDENCE ACTION REPORT

Action Agency
Suspense Date

JCS
11/17/2004

<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	a. ACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED (Copy attached)
<input type="checkbox"/>	b. REQUEST EXTENSION OF SUSPENSE DATE TO <input type="text"/> (Justify below)
<input type="checkbox"/>	c. INTERIM REPLY HAS BEEN SENT (Copy attached) EXTEND SUSPENSE TO <input type="text"/> (Justify below)
<input type="checkbox"/>	d. REQUEST CANCELLATION (Justify below)
<input type="checkbox"/>	e. REQUEST TRANSFER TO <input type="text"/> (Justify below /include POC Name & Phone Number)
<input type="checkbox"/>	f. REQUEST DOWNGRADE TO <input type="text"/> (Justify below)

GJCS sent letters to Senators **Feinstein, Akaka, Boxer, Coning, Durbin, and, Lautenberg**

a. ACTION AGENCY

JCS

c. APPROVING AUTHORITY

(Service Secretary/Under Secretary/ASD/Military/Executive Assistant Level)

Signature

Date Signed _____

b. NAME OF ACTION OFFICER

Anthony M. Bennett

c. TELEPHONE NO.

697-1628

d. DATE

5. ACTION TAKEN

(For EXSEC/ Correspondence Control Division Use Only)

a. EXT

Approved

☐ Disapproved

h. CANX

Approved

☐ Disapproved

e. DWNGRD

Approved

 Disapproved

d. TRANSFER

Approved

☐ Disapproved

4. CCD CONTROL

OSD 17345-04

e. OTHER (Specify)

Signature

Date Signed _____

SD FORM 391, DEC 2000

Tab B



Certified As Unclassified
January 9 2009
IAW EO 12958, as amended
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

1 December 2004

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein,

The Secretary of Defense asked that I respond to your letter regarding missing explosives in Al Qa Qaa, Iraq.

Coalition efforts to secure, destroy or demilitarize the enormous quantity of captured enemy ammunition have been very successful. Coalition forces discovered over 10,000 weapons cache sites in Iraq. All known weapons caches have been consolidated into six guarded depots. Over 400,000 tons of munitions have been discovered in Iraq. While we regard any missing explosive material as a serious matter, the alleged missing explosives from Al Qa Qaa comprises less than .1 percent of the total munitions found to date.

The Al Qa Qaa facility was one of dozens of ammunition storage points the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) encountered during the rapid advance toward Baghdad. When US forces arrived, the facility gates were found open. Fedayeen Saddam, Special Republican Guard and other Iraqi military units were firing from inside, defending the facility. US forces engaged them, eliminated the resistance and set up a defensive position in the facility in order to secure the adjacent bridge. The only checks made for munitions at that time were those necessary to establish the defensive position. The next day, the division continued the advance to Baghdad.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) tagged and inventoried 201 tons of munitions inside bunkers at Al Qa Qaa on 14 January 2003. The agency acknowledged that it could not account for 32 tons of high melting-point explosive (HMX) and accepted Saddam's claims that the missing explosives were used for industrial purposes.

Prior to combat operations, the Iraqi Ministry of Science and Technology alleged, in April 2003, that 340 tons of high explosives were stored at Al Qa Qaa. US forces discovered and removed over 400 tons of munitions and explosives between April and June 2003. Units involved in the removal of the material found indications of looting and stated that none of the bunkers were under JAEA or UN seals. The facility currently has no munitions.

Tab B



There is insufficient data to assess if material used in improvised explosive devices can be traced chemically to specific **HMX** produced at the Al Qa Qaa facility. For the same reason, it is not possible to determine if any munitions from the facility have been recovered through the discovery and exploitation of the thousands of caches found throughout Iraq.

Over 260,000 tons of munitions have been destroyed. Approximately 145,000 tons remain to be destroyed. Destruction is taking place at a rate of about 600 tons per day. We expect to complete destruction or transfer to Iraq security forces all munitions at two of the ~~six~~ depots in January 2005.

As of September 2003, there were over 6,000 Soldiers dedicated to securing, transporting, guarding and destroying captured enemy munitions. In September 2003, this mission transitioned to US contractors. The three contractors employ approximately 2,000 workers, of which 600 are US workers and 1,400 local nationals. Approximately \$460 million out of approximately \$580 million budgeted has been spent on ammunition destruction efforts.

On behalf of our men and women in uniform, thank you for your continued concern and support.

Sincerely,



RICHARD B. MYERS
Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff





CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

1 December 2004

The Honorable Daniel Akaka
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Akaka,

The Secretary of Defense asked that I respond to your letter regarding missing explosives in Al Qa Qaa, Iraq.

Coalition efforts to secure, destroy or demilitarize the enormous quantity of captured enemy ammunition have been very successful. Coalition forces discovered over 10,000 weapons cache sites in Iraq. All known weapons caches have been consolidated into ~~six~~ guarded depots. Over 400,000 tons of munitions have been discovered in Iraq. While we regard any missing explosive material as a serious matter, the alleged missing explosives from Al Qa Qaa comprises less than .1 percent of the total munitions found to date.

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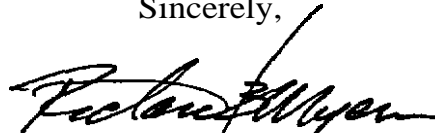
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Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff





CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20316-9999

1 December 2004

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Boxer,

The Secretary of Defense asked that I respond to your letter regarding missing explosives in Al Qa Qaa, Iraq.

Coalition efforts to secure, destroy or demilitarize the enormous quantity of captured enemy ammunition have been very successful. Coalition forces discovered over 10,000 weapons cache sites in Iraq. All known weapons caches have been consolidated into ~~six~~ guarded depots. Over 400,000 tons of munitions have been discovered in Iraq. While we regard any missing explosive material as a serious matter, the alleged missing explosives from Al Qa Qaa comprises less than .1 percent of the total munitions found to date.

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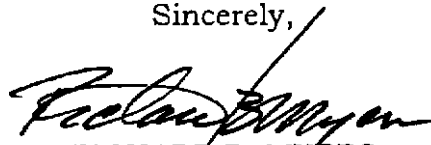
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CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

1 December 2004

The Honorable Jon S. Corzine
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Corzine,

The Secretary of Defense asked that I respond to your letter regarding missing explosives in Al Qa Qaa, Iraq.

Coalition efforts to secure, destroy or demilitarize the enormous quantity of captured enemy ammunition have been very successful. Coalition forces discovered over 10,000 weapons cache sites in Iraq. All known weapons caches have been consolidated into six guarded depots. Over 400,000 tons of munitions have been discovered in Iraq. While we regard any missing explosive material as a serious matter, the alleged missing explosives from Al Qa Qaa comprises less than .1 percent of the total munitions found to date.

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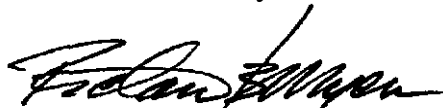
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CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

1 December 2004

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Durbin,

The Secretary of Defense asked that I respond to your letter regarding missing explosives in Al Qa Qaa, Iraq.

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RICHARD B. MYERS

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CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

1 December 2004

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Lautenberg,

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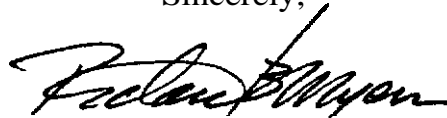
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RICHARD B. MYERS

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