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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1404

April 27, 2006

The Honorable John Warner
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Carl Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warner and Senator Levin:

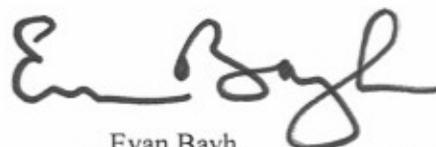
I am writing to express my strong support for the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), as well as my concern that it remains short of the tools it needs to succeed against 21st century threats, like terrorism and counter-proliferation. Specifically, USSOCOM apparently is and will remain short on intelligence collection platforms. It also is short in the number of Special Operations Forces that can be deployed to trouble spots around the globe. This is the conclusion of USSOCOM Command Deputy Commander Eric Olson in response to my question about the Command's resource base at an April 6 hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee's Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee.

Given USSOCOM's designated leadership in the military-side of the war on terrorism, this is not an acceptable answer; this Command must have all the tools it needs to meet its mission requirements in the coming year and in future year defense budgets. Specifically, it is my intention to file an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2007 Defense Authorization bill to make up the shortfall in USSOCOM's future year intelligence and sensor collection capabilities, including for a second squad of Predator unmanned aerial vehicles.

Also, it is my hope that the Committee will continue to examine how many Special Operations Forces we need to meet all national defense requirements. I am concerned that there are regions and countries that might be stable today, but could become critical areas in the war on terrorism in the future, including in Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia. I know you share my goal of making sure that we have the right number of Army Special Operations Forces, as well as Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations officers to meet current and future needs. I believe this is an important issue of study for the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, and indeed the full Committee.

I commend you both on your leadership in creating the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, and greatly appreciate your leadership on the full range of defense matters as Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Sincerely,



Evan Bayh
United States Senator