

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 6, 2015

The Honorable Ashton Carter  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Carter,

As you know, I am a firm supporter of the need for aggressive oversight of the way our tax dollars are spent in support of U.S. military operations. I have spent years working on much-needed reforms to our government's wartime contracting practices, and am I proud that many of my initiatives have been signed into law.

The Congress has supported the Defense Department's request for \$500 million to fund the training and equipping of the New Syrian Forces (NSF). However, recent news reports have raised questions about some of the contracts awarded by US Special Operations Command to support the NSF. In order to assist me in my oversight responsibilities, I ask that the Department of Defense provide me with the following information regarding contracts that have been awarded for training and equipping the NSF:

- All contract numbers, dates of award, contract length, and contract type
- The Statement of Work
- Any requests for, or notices of subcontracting activity made by the contractor
- Reviews of any pass-through contracts (in which the contractor was expected to subcontract more than 70% of the cost of work), as required by the Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, Sec. 802
- Any documentation of acquisition planning, to include market research and acquisition plans
- Any documentation of the solicitation process, to include the Justification for Other than Full and open Competition (JOFOC) for any sole-source award
- Any performance monitoring documentation, to include past performance evaluations, stop work orders or cure notices
- For any equipment received by Special Operations Command that did not meet the contract requirements, please provide a description of the order, the way(s) in which the equipment did not meet requirements, and any action(s) taken by the government in response

- The risk assessment related to contractor performance, as required by the Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, Sec. 846

Thank you for your assistance in this matter, and for your service. I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claire McCaskill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Claire" being more prominent and the last name "McCaskill" following in a similar style.

Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator