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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

June 9, 2015

General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.
Commandant of the Marine Corps
Headquarters, US Marine Corps
3000 Marine Corps, Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-3000

Dear General Dunford,

I am writing out of deepest concern for the manner in which the United States Marines Corps initially responded to, and subsequently addressed, false allegations made by Afghan civilians that members of MSOC-F, led by Major Fred Galvin, Retired, wantonly killed Afghan civilians on March 4, 2007. The false allegations led the Marine Corps to take the unusual step of convening a Court of Inquiry, which received evidence from January 7, 2008, to January 29, 2008.

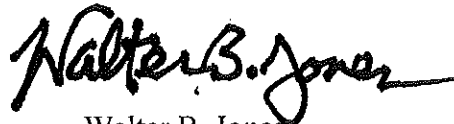
I have enjoyed the opportunity to review recently declassified documents pertaining to the Court of Inquiry. Key findings of the Court of Inquiry were: (1) MSOC-F was subject to a complex enemy ambush on March 4, 2007, and the team's response to the attack was proportionate and consistent with the Rules of Engagement and Law of Armed Conflict; (2) It was known to U.S. special operators that the local enemy had a significant propaganda capability (Information Operations); and (3) An investigation into the alleged "massacre" directed by Commander, Special Operations Central Command, was deeply and fatally flawed. I also read with dismay the recently concluded Marine Corps Times series that was based on interviews with Major Galvin, other MSOC-F members, and the declassified Court of Inquiry records. I was also interviewed for this series, as I have been actively involved with this effort since 2007.

Taken together, the information generated by the Court of Inquiry and the Marine Corps Times investigation lead me to conclude that Major Galvin and the other MSOC-F members are the victims of a serious injustice and are deserving of a formal public apology from the Marine Corps. I am calling on you now to issue that apology. I am appalled that Major Galvin and his Marines were subjected to a costly witch-hunt based on reports of a massacre that apparently were generated by the same enemy forces that planned and carried out the March 4, 2007, ambush. I am even more appalled that senior leaders of our Armed Forces publicly denounced Major Galvin and his Marines before an investigation of the matter was made. Indeed, I must conclude that enemy forces effectively duped those leaders who publicly denounced Major Galvin and his Marines.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that you take all necessary steps to right this wrong. A public apology to Major Galvin and his Marines is an appropriate first step. Correcting the military records of Major Galvin and the other MSOC-F Marines to remove the stains of being wrongly accused of homicide is also in order.

Please contact me with any questions you might have concerning this matter. I look forward to receiving your personal response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter B. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

A handwritten note in black ink that says "Thank you!". The text is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.