

JANUARY 18, 2006

*RETIRED MILITARY LEADERS' LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MCCAIN
AMENDMENT*

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LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERT G. GARD, JR., USA (RET.)
LIEUTENANT GENERAL CLAUDIA J. KENNEDY, USA (RET.)
VICE ADMIRAL AL KONETZNI, USN (RET.)
LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHARLES OTSTOTT, USA (RET.)
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BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN K. SCHMITT, USA (RET.)
BRIGADIER GENERAL STEPHEN N. XENAKIS, USA (RET.)

January 18, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

We write to thank you for publicly endorsing Senator McCain's amendment on the treatment of detainees in U.S. custody, and for signing it into law. The new law, implemented and enforced in accordance with Congressional intent, will ensure that the United States has a single standard for interrogating enemy prisoners that is effective, lawful, and humane. The primary reason we strongly supported Senator McCain's effort is that we believe this law, if effectively and forcefully implemented, will help protect our troops in Iraq and elsewhere, now and in the future.

Past abuses have damaged military discipline, put American military personnel at greater risk, undermined U.S. intelligence gathering efforts, and greatly harmed America's image around the world. It is incumbent on you as President and Commander-in-Chief to ensure that all senior members of your administration speak with a consistent voice to make clear that the United States now has a single standard of conduct specified in law that governs all interrogations, regardless of the legal status or the location of the detainee being interrogated. Accountability and deterrence have never been more important to end all torture and abuse in America's name, and thereby restore America's reputation in the world. This long overdue corrective action will require strong leadership from you and others in positions of authority.

Mr. President, we welcome your attention to this issue and stand ready to assist in any way we can to ensure the effective implementation of this new law. Clear and unambiguous implementation will help ensure that our brave men and women in uniform will never again feel that to prevail against the enemy they must risk their honor or the values they fight to protect.

Sincerely,

General Joseph Hoar, USMC (Ret.)
Lieutenant General Robert G. Gard, Jr., USA (Ret.)
Lieutenant General Claudia J. Kennedy, USA (Ret.)
Vice Admiral Al Konetzni, USN (Ret.)
Lieutenant General Charles Otstott, USA (Ret.)
Vice Admiral Jack Shanahan, USN (Ret.)
Major General Eugene Fox, USA (Ret.)
Major General John L. Fugh, USA (Ret.)
Rear Admiral Donald J. Guter, USN (Ret.)
Major General Fred E. Haynes, USMC (Ret.)
Rear Admiral John D. Hutson, USN (Ret.)
Major General Melvyn Montano, ANG (Ret.)
Major General Gerald T. Sajer, USA (Ret.)
Major General Michael J. Scotti, USA (Ret.)
Brigadier General David M. Brahms, USMC (Ret.)
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Brigadier General Evelyn P. Foote, USA (Ret.)
Brigadier General David R. Irvine, USA (Ret.)
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