

JACKIE SPEIER  
12TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

211 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0512  
(202) 225-3531  
FAX: (202) 226-4183

400 S. EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 410  
SAN MATEO, CA 94402  
(650) 342-0300  
FAX: (650) 375-8270  
WWW.SPEIER.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0512

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RANKING MEMBER OF COUNTERTERRORISM  
AND INTELLIGENCE  
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
REGULATORY AFFAIRS, STIMULUS OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT SPENDING  
TARP, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND  
BAILOUTS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROGRAMS  
TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION POLICY, AND  
PROCUREMENT REFORM

July 12, 2012

The Honorable Buck McKeon, Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith, Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith:

Recently, a San Antonio newspaper began reporting on a scandal at Lackland Air Force base that is growing by the day. So far at least six Air Force instructors have been charged with sexual misconduct with at least 31 trainees. The Air Force has also temporarily or permanently removed 35 out of the 475 instructors based at Lackland for unprofessional conduct since last summer, and 12 are being investigated for sexual misconduct. A Squadron Commander has also been removed from his command. The Air Force has conceded that this case is the biggest of its kind ever at Lackland.

What is happening at Lackland is systemic and warrants this committee's immediate attention.

Most of the allegations and charges are of instructors assaulting or having inappropriate sexual relationships with their trainees. Two of the women who have come forward were called over an intercom two days after they graduated from basic training last fall and asked to leave their dorm to meet their instructors. From the day they entered the military they had been trained – and required – to follow the orders of their instructors. Both women said failure to follow orders could cause them to be retained in basic training under the very instructors who had assaulted them.

Staff Sergeant Luis Walker, a military instructor, has been charged with having sexual contact with 10 women including sodomy and rape in technical and basic training.

Staff Sergeant Peter Vega-Maldonado has admitted in a plea bargain to having sex with one woman. His punishment is 90 days in jail, 30 days of hard labor, reduction in rank and forfeiture \$500 a month in pay for four months. He will be forced to leave the Air Force – but without a bad-conduct discharge.

After striking this deal with prosecutors, Staff Sergeant Vega-Maldonado testified that he actually had improper contact with 10 trainees. Staff Sergeant Vega-Maldonado is not immune to

his admission of guilt cannot be used against him in future procedures. Each victim will have to come forward, and the prosecution will have to start from scratch.

The fact that these assaults were widespread and took place over many months flies in the face of the “zero tolerance” policy touted by our military leaders.

The United States Military is the finest in the world, and the men and women who serve America in uniform are truly the definition of courage and honor.

In light of the alarming trend of sexual assault cases documented in the military as a whole, it is imperative that Congress hold the military accountable and truly implement a zero-tolerance policy in response to this problem, and address credible reports of wrongdoing immediately so that justice is swiftly and appropriately rendered.

This issue clearly warrants an investigation by this Committee. Holding a hearing on Lackland will demonstrate the committee’s commitment to this issue, allow the military to bring to the committee their concerns with this problem and efforts to fight it, and give voice to the victims.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and we look forward to working with you to address this crisis.

All the best,

  
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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Baca  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

  
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Howard Berman  
Member of Congress

  
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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

  
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

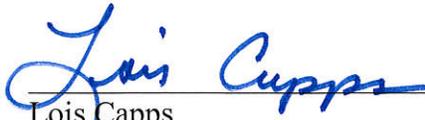
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Brady  
Member of Congress



Bruce Braley  
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



Dennis Cardoza  
Member of Congress



Russ Carnahan  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



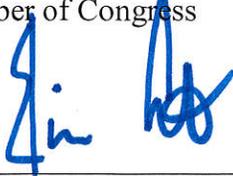
Yvette Clarke  
Member of Congress



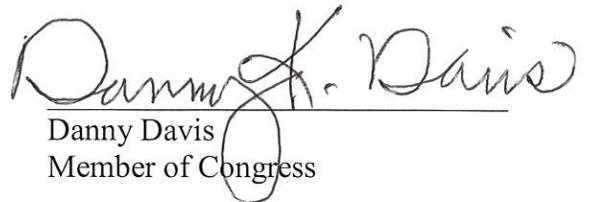
Gerald Connolly  
Member of Congress



John Conyers  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Danny Davis  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



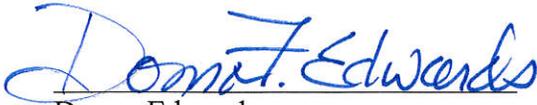
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Dogget  
Member of Congress



Donna Edwards  
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



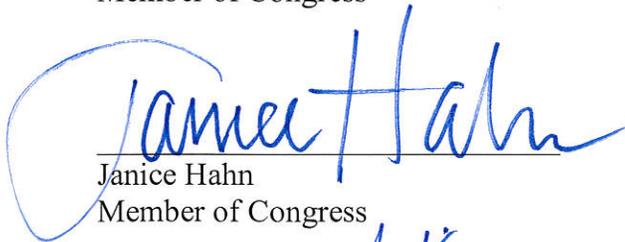
Bob Filner  
Member of Congress



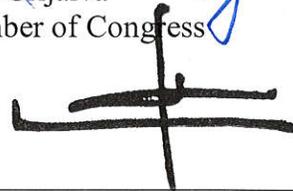
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



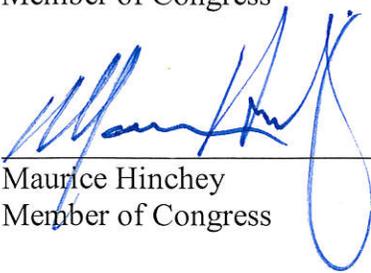
Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress



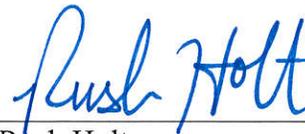
Maurice Hinchey  
Member of Congress



Mazie Hirono  
Member of Congress



Kathleen Hochul  
Member of Congress



Rush Holt  
Member of Congress



Michael Honda  
Member of Congress



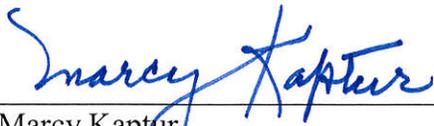
Sheila Jackson-Lee  
Member of Congress



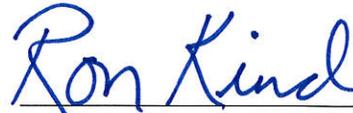
Henry Johnson  
Member of Congress



Walter Jones  
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



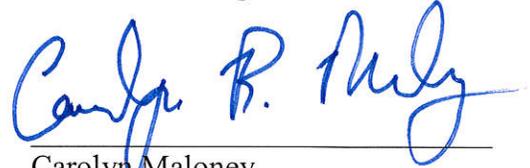
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



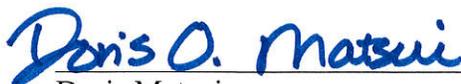
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Nita Lowey  
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



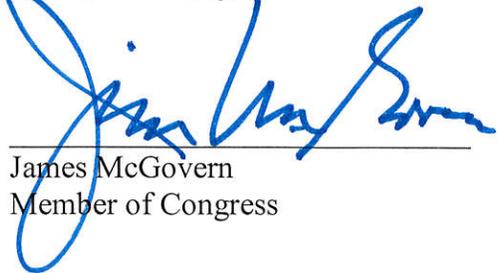
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



James McGovern  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holms Norton  
Member of Congress



John Olver  
Member of Congress



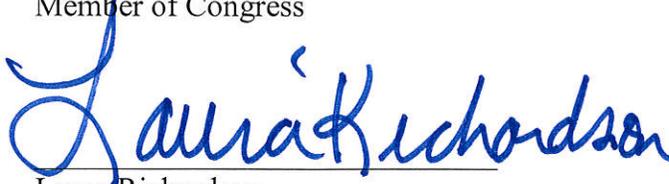
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



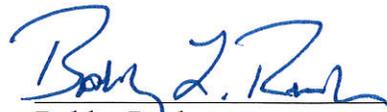
Charles Rangel  
Member of Congress



Laura Richardson  
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress



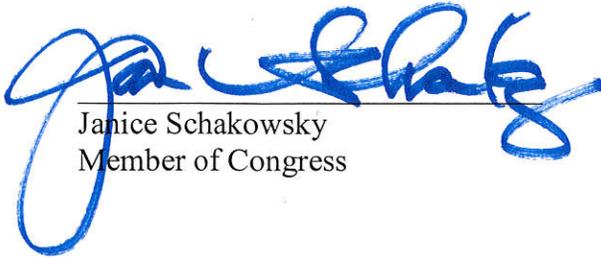
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



Linda Sanchez  
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



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Janice Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



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Allyson Schwartz  
Member of Congress



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Fortney Stark  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Edolphus Towns  
Member of Congress



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Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



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Nydia Velazquez  
Member of Congress



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Timothy Walz  
Member of Congress



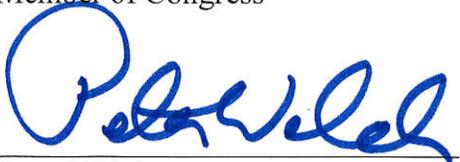
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



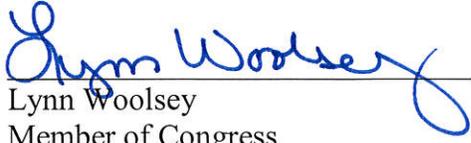
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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



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Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn Woolsey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Lynn Woolsey  
Member of Congress