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THE INSTITUTE FOR COMPLEXITY MANAGEMENT
Making the complex simple

December 15, 2014

The Honorable Frank Kendall
Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics)
3010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-3010

Dear Under Secretary Kendall:

We are an independent non-profit research institute dedicated to helping people and organizations better understand complex issues.

In June of this year we were approached by, Mr. Wesley C. Schneider, asking us to conduct an independent review of alleged procurement fraud perpetrated against him by the U.S. Army.

The assistance we provided to Mr. Schneider was pro bono since he has been left largely destitute as a consequence of his problems with the U.S. Army. A copy of our report is enclosed for your review. The report is accompanied by a comprehensive computerized library of exhibits that we will make arrangements to provide to your staff to review.

We are bringing this matter to your personal attention for three reasons. First, it appears from recent press reports that the same pattern of disregard for the lives and safety of U.S. soldiers, so clearly demonstrated by the actions of the U.S. Army in the matter of Mr. Schneider, may represent a larger institutional problem within the military. In the matter of Mr. Schneider, the record indicates that soldiers were purposely left in harm's way by the U.S. Army even after Mr. Schneider courageously pointed out that our warfighters were being left unnecessarily vulnerable to chemical and biological attack on the battlefield.

On October 15, 2014, a front page story in the New York Times' report revealed that,

“...between 2004-2011, American troops fighting in the Iraq War found over 5,000 chemical warheads, shells, and aviation bombs. The discoveries were never publicly disclosed by the military; U.S. soldiers who were exposed to nerve agents like sarin and mustard gas while attempting to remove conventional weapons were denied appropriate medical care and ordered to remain silent...”

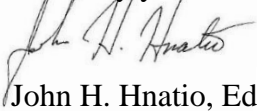
This newspaper account raises the specter that the U.S. Army has long been engaged in putting the lives of U.S. soldiers at unnecessary risk and then engaging in behavior to cover-up what they have done.

Second, our investigation reveals that the U.S. Army relies on a system that is riddled with conflict of interest. In Mr. Schneider's case the matter was taken to Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals (ASBCA) for resolution. A review of the proceedings and supporting evidence raises the serious specter of direct and actual conflicts of interest, U.S. Army counsel misconduct and judicial misconduct. It is our understanding that one of the same individuals allegedly involved in this misconduct has now been promoted to a judgeship position.

Third, from the large volume of evidence we have assembled and scrutinized in this case, a gross injustice has been inflicted on Mr. Schneider only because of his concern for the safety and lives of American soldiers. He has been left largely destitute as the result of a purposeful scheme by the U.S. Army to destroy his professional reputation and misappropriate his patented inventions.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you or your staff as soon as it can be arranged to give you a more complete briefing on the findings of our investigation as part of your ongoing efforts to improve the acquisition process at the Department of Defense. Please feel free to have your staff contact me directly to arrange for a mutually convenient time for the meeting. Thank-you.

Sincerely yours,



John H. Hnatio, EdD, PhD
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Wesley Schneider