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United States Senate  
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The Honorable Barack Obama  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
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Dear Barack:

The transcript of your debate last evening in Austin, Texas reads as follows:

“You know, I’ve heard from an Army captain who was the head of a rifle platoon- supposed to have 39 men in a rifle platoon. Ended up being sent to Afghanistan with 24 because 15 of those soldiers had been sent to Iraq. And as a consequence, they didn’t have enough ammunition, they didn’t have enough humvees. They were actually capturing Taliban weapons, because it was easier to get Taliban weapons than it was for them to get properly equipped by our current commander in chief.”

This is a disturbing framework of factual allegations.

As a former Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the timing of the situation you describe quite likely occurred during the period of my Chairmanship.

There are specific military regulations governing the use by U.S. forces of weapons other than of U.S. manufacture, and, likewise, regulations covering the deployment into combat zones of military units at manning levels below an optimum level.

Consequently I, and I believe other members of SASC, have a responsibility to establish where in the military chain of command rests the “accountability,” depending of course, on the accuracy of the facts.

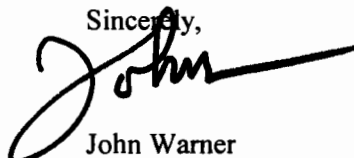
I am endeavoring to determine this now and have tasked the Chairman of The Joint Staff, through his J-3, and other entities in the Department of Defense to assist me. Moreover, it is my intent to raise this issue with Secretary Geren and General Casey when they testify before the Armed Services Committee next Tuesday.

What I need from you are the essential facts of when- the dates- the unit was deployed, to which brigade combat team, or other unit it was assigned, the name and current location of the captain, or other military personnel who shared the alleged facts with you, so that committee staff can debrief them.

As you well know, we in Congress, under our Constitution, have explicit duties to provide for the welfare of the men and women of our armed forces and members of their families. We have no higher calling.

I respectfully ask for your assistance.

Sincerely,



John Warner