**9 July 2014**

**PERSONAL FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CHUCK HAGEL**

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is about two important things and how Defense intelligence is not helping you with them:

1.  How you will be perceived when you leave the Department.

2.  How you serve the President in the final two years of the Administration.

The President has asked you to do two things:

1.  Cut Defense spending by 30 percent.

2.  Keep America safe.

Your Defense Intelligence apparatus is not helping you do what your boss has asked you to do.  It spends too much money and produces too little with it. Also, under the current USD(I), NSA has embarrassed the President with mass surveillance of citizens, while also doing more than any foreign power could have dreamed of, to undermine US banking and commercial communications and computing. America needs a USD(I) committed to defending us – including C4I – not one who is a party to self-sabotage.

Two actions will help you solve these problems:

1.  Retain LTG Mike Flynn as Director of DIA but empower him to lead the tooth end of defense intelligence as Secretary Robert McNamara intended. Support him in cleaning house.

2.  Retire Mike Vickers as USD(I) and appoint instead a world-class change agent, ideally a radically qualified Hispanic, in keeping with the President’s recent guidance on achieving diversity in the uppermost ranks. Refuse Jim Clapper’s nomination for this position – it is time defense intelligence responded to your needs for decision-support to strategy, to policy, to acquisition, and to operations. It is not too late to get it right.

I attach an article published in the 02 July 2014 issue of *CounterPunch*, which addresses these important issues in greater detail. As the article concludes:

*I believe we are at a point where DIA cannot be fixed by a Director, or by USD(I) – present or future. This is a problem that must be addressed by SecDef personally. The conundrum is that SecDef has to want decision-support. SecDef has to want decision-support that empowers him to meet the President’s demand that he cut 30% across all four Services and all DoD-wide agencies, overcoming all objections. SecDef has to want a 450-ship Navy, a long-haul Air Force, and an air-mobile Army.*

If you want a working defense intelligence community that tangibly supports your development of strategy, policy, acquisition and operations; if you want to cut 30% in waste while creating a 21st Century military with global reach – this is something a truly professional USD(I) should be able to help you do.

If you’re open to conversation, I would like to serve the Republic by helping you in this critical domain.

 Most respectfully,



cc:

SASC (Chair, Ranking)

SSCI (Chair, Ranking)

 Robert David Steele

 CEO (*pro bono*)