



READINESS AND FORCE
MANAGEMENT

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

The Honorable Howard "Buck" McKeon
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

JUN 24 2014

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Section 565(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014, Public Law 113-66, directed the Secretary of Defense to provide the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House a report on the results of a "Review of the Criteria for Awarding the Purple Heart."

Determining the relevancy of Purple Heart award criteria is an extremely sensitive issue, especially given the historical prestige and legacy of the Purple Heart. To ensure the issue is thoroughly reviewed and diligently considered, the Department determined that it would be more appropriate to include the Purple Heart award criteria as part of the military decorations and awards review announced by Secretary Chuck Hagel on March 20, 2014. The Department will provide the report in July 2015, upon completion of the comprehensive military decorations and awards review.

A similar letter is being sent to the House Committee on Armed Services.

Sincerely,


Stephanie Barna
Acting

cc:
The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member



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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
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The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Stephanie Barna
Acting

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The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member