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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

H-405, THE CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7690

MICHAEL DELANEY
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MICHAEL MEERMANS
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 27, 2007

The Honorable Claude M. Kicklighter
Department of Defense Inspector General
400 Army Navy Drive
Arlington, VA 22202-4704

Dear Mr. Kicklighter:

We have received an advance copy of your June 27, 2007 report on the Threat and Local Observation Notice (TALON) Report Program and appreciate your willingness to keep us posted of developments in your review of this program because of its special interest to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Our expectation was that this evaluation would offer a thorough examination into some of the troubling questions that the TALON program has raised.

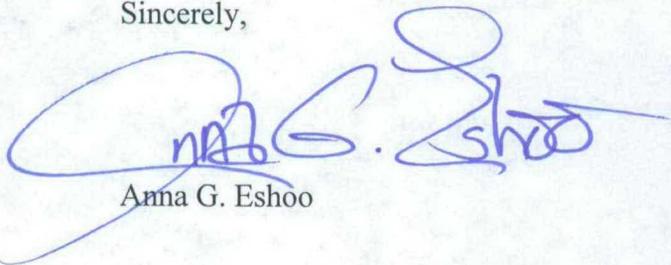
In particular, we are disappointed that you declined to review several issues that represent important matters of public concern. Specifically, you failed to:

- Assess whether any entities or individuals within DoD should be held accountable for the failure to comply with DoD regulations;
- Determine whether TALON provides intelligence and law enforcement professionals with useful information;
- Offer a recommendation on whether the TALON database should be continued, whether under CIFA or under the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense;
- Assess whether there should be periodic audits of this or other DoD databases to ensure compliance with DoD policy;
- Conduct a careful review of CIFA's determination that only 1,131 of TALON's 13,000 reports contained U.S. person information; and
- Conduct a careful review of CIFA's current process for screening out U.S. person information to determine whether the new safeguards are sufficient to comply with DoD policy.

We believe that it is the role of an Inspector General to act as proxy for the public in scrutinizing the work of government agencies to reveal waste, fraud and abuse, and to assess violations of law and policy. The function of an Inspector General is particularly important when the matters involve issues that affect the civil liberties of the American people.

In reading your work, what is readily apparent is that it has been narrowly circumscribed to avoid these pressing questions. We believe that, as the Inspector General, you should have engaged in a more comprehensive review of the TALON program. Given the amount of time that it took to produce this report, we find it all the more troubling that you so narrowly defined the scope of your inquiry.

Sincerely,



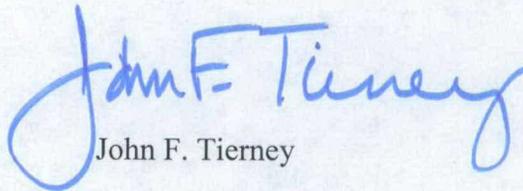
Anna G. Eshoo



Robert E. (Bud) Cramer, Jr.



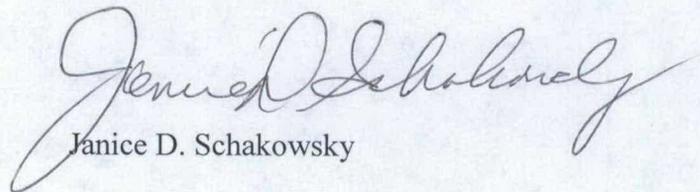
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