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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6250

September 18, 2013

The Honorable Patrick E. McFarland
Inspector General
Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20415-1000

Dear Mr. McFarland:

We are writing to request that your office review the security clearance background investigation(s) conducted for Aaron Alexis, the alleged perpetrator of the mass killing of at least twelve people at the Navy Yard complex in Washington, D.C., on September 16, 2013. Mr. Alexis reportedly was a Navy subcontractor employee with a history of misconduct, including previous arrests relating to the use of firearms.[1] Specifically, we request that your office determine:

(1) Mr. Alexis' clearance level and status at the time of the shooting;

(2) Whether OPM's Federal Investigative Services or one of its contractors performed Mr. Alexis' background investigations;

(3) Which agencies granted Mr. Alexis' initial security clearance and subsequent clearance renewals and the dates of those approvals;

(4) Whether the proper review procedures were followed for all of Mr. Alexis' background investigation reports;

(5) Whether and how Mr. Alexis' background investigations addressed his pattern of misconduct, including his reported arrests on charges relating to firearms in 2004 and 2010 and his arrest for disorderly conduct in 2009.

We request that you keep us informed of your investigation's findings. Please contact Cathy Yu with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-9383, Tony McClain with Senator Tester's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-6704, Ritika Rodriguez with Senator Johnson's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-2210, or Brent Bombach with Senator Portman's Subcommittee

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[1] *See, e.g.*, *Aaron Alexis, 34, is Dead Gunman in Navy Yard Shooting, Authorities Say*, Washington Post (Sept. 17, 2013).

staff at (202) 224-2674 with any questions. Please send any official correspondence relating to this request to Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial and
Contracting Oversight

Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial and
Contracting Oversight

Jon Tester
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Efficiency and
Effectiveness of Federal Programs and
the Federal Workforce

Rob Portman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Efficiency and
Effectiveness of Federal Programs and
the Federal Workforce