

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chair  
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 1, 2024

Dear Chair Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We greatly appreciate the Committee's long-standing support of programs crucial to the safety and wellbeing of servicemembers. Accountability for major crimes, such as sexual assault, rape, and murder, is not possible without high-quality criminal investigations. We believe it is imperative that the Department of Defense (DoD) sufficiently resources the Military Criminal Investigative Organizations (MCIOs).

The MCIOs, which include the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID), the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI), play a critical role in bringing servicemembers who commit serious felonies to justice. A quality criminal investigation is an essential prerequisite for a successful prosecution and conviction.

We remain concerned by the problems in recent reviews of the MCIOs, by the report of the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee (IRC), which stemmed from the horrific murder of Army Specialist Vanessa Guillén. This review found subpar criminal investigations that resulted from an under-resourced, understaffed, and under-experienced CID detachment at Fort Hood. Most distressingly, the IRC found systemic problems with CID that extend beyond Fort Hood and that required significant investments to address. Many other servicemembers across posts have been the victims of sexual assault, murder, and other serious crimes. Too many of these victims and their families still await justice. Twenty-one-year-old Paratrooper Enrique Roman Martinez, who was based at Fort Bragg, was murdered in May 2020 while on holiday with other servicemembers. His family discovered his murder from news reports instead of the Army. Four years later, no arrests have been made for his murder. Experiences like these show the need for improvements in military investigations - not only for the purpose of bringing about justice, but also so our servicemembers and their families can be supported.

The need for adequate funding is further evidenced by the complex challenges faced by the MCIOs. Over the past decade, the volume of investigations has increased significantly, with sexual assault investigations roughly doubling and national security threats increasing as well. For example, CID reports that their caseload numbers have increased over 100% in the last ten years. The complexity of investigations has also increased, with many depending on digital forensics or novel DNA analysis that require specialized tools, training, and experience. Heightened legal requirements for preserving material evidence have led to an increased demand for long-term evidence storage within the DoD. Congress has also tasked the MCIOs with new missions, however, funding for the MCIOs has not kept pace with the need. CID has recently remedied its lack of dedicated cold case specialists by setting up a much-needed Cold Case Unit at Quantico, which requires robust funding to allow previously unsolved cases to be successfully

solved, often with innovative technology. NCIS continues to face challenges due to its disparate funding streams. OSI, over the last 4 years, has been asked to grow by over 700 manpower positions, with increased need for commensurate training.

Without adequate and stable funding, the MCIOs will continue to struggle to achieve their critical mission. Therefore, we respectfully ask the Subcommittee to include report language recommending robust and predictable funding to all MCIOs commensurate with their caseloads; additional funds for CID to hire civilian special investigators (known as 1811s); funding to the CID for a taskforce to create opportunities for local state investigators to train and transition to CID; and to offer clear direction to the Services that they must continue to invest in the MCIOs and address pressing challenges such as lack of evidence storage space and an unstable budget. Specifically, we urge you to include the following report language:

*"Military Criminal Investigative Organizations - The Committee recommends that the military services increase funding for each MCIO commensurate with their increased caseloads and consult with the Committees on Appropriations on the ongoing efforts to improve the MCIOs, including the need for increased long-term evidence storage, improved cold case units, staffing of hard to fill posts, and the pressing need to stabilize the NCIS budget. The Committee recommends additional funding to CID for the purposes of hiring more civilian special agents, known as 1811 criminal investigators, and for instituting a pilot program to establish task forces and training initiatives with local and state law enforcement agencies near major military installations."*

We recognize the difficult task ahead of your Subcommittee in setting priorities among the many needs of our nation, but we greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,




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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



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Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



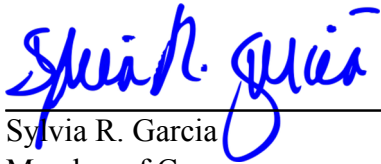
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



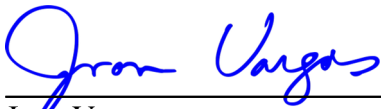
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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



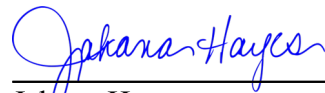
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



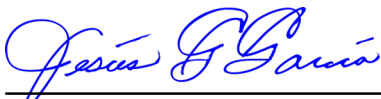
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



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Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



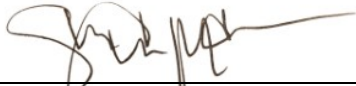
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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



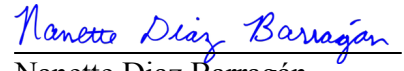
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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress