

17 May 2010

The Honorable Dennis Blair  
Director of National Intelligence  
Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
Washington D.C. 20511

Dear Director Blair:

SUBJECT: DNI Report To Congress on Air America

Public Law 111-84 required the DNI to file a report by 29 April 2010 regarding potential retirement benefits for Air America employees. The DNI provided a response on that date stating your office could not meet the deadline but would provide "90-day progress reports regarding our efforts."

The enclosures to this letter describe documents I have which contain the detailed information Congress requires. They can be quickly provided and authenticated.

As a former legal counsel for Air America, based in Asia from 1962 to 1974, I urge you expedite the long-delayed process of securing retirement benefits for Air America employees. Congress is poised to provide these benefits but it lacks the information requested from your office. What it received was advice that the response will be delayed for two or more 90 day periods.

The benefits sought are a measure of whether this country will give respectful and just treatment to those who have served it. The beneficiaries include the widows of numerous crewmembers killed while operating aircraft missions for the CIA and the DOD. They flew at Dien Bien Phu in 1964, in Korea and over mainland China during the Cold War, and all of them were faithful and valuable assets of the CIA. Several downed U.S. Navy personnel were saved during the Vietnam War by Air America pilots, including three future admirals, Donald Boecker, Donald Eaton and Paul Ilg.

Please personally intervene in this matter and urge the CIA to use the information I have in order to expedite this process and prevent further delays which will be harmful to these employees and their survivors. I am copying members of Congress who have involvement in this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I can be reached at (703) 508-7131 and wjmerrigan@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

William J. Merrigan

Enclosures

- (1) Summary of available information
- (2) DNI Letter of 29 April 2010
- (3) Letter to CIA General Counsel of 10 November 2010

Copy to:

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Chairman, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond  
Vice Chairman, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

The Honorable John McCain  
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services

The Honorable Shelley Berkley  
United States House of Representatives