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Congress of the United States
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Senior Whip

October 24, 2018

The Honorable Dr. Mark T. Esper
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0101

General Mark A. Milley
Chief of Staff of the Army
200 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0200

Dear Secretary Esper and General Milley:

We write to you with great concern over the prospect that the Army is withholding an unclassified history of the service's performance in the Iraq War. According to an October 22, 2018 article in the *Wall Street Journal*, the study "The United States Army in the Iraq War" has yet to be published because it is mired in Pentagon bureaucracy and infighting, reportedly over how the Army might be portrayed.¹ This report, commissioned by former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno in the fall of 2013 and completed in 2016, was intended to ensure that the Army would draft a history of its work in Iraq while the lessons were still fresh. We have heard conflicting information on the report's expected release date and urge publication as soon as possible.

We believe this report will contribute immensely to ensuring that we learn from past mistakes and that we build a future Army that is cognizant of its history and prepared for conflict. As you are aware, from the invasion of Iraq in 2003 to the end of the U.S. combat mission in 2010, the United States has borne an incredible cost in Iraq, with more than 4,400 American military and civilian casualties at a financial cost of more than \$800 billion. Our military, Congress, and the American people deserve nothing less than total transparency on the lessons learned that the Army has identified.

The *Wall Street Journal* notes that the study concluded, among other topics, that there was a need for more troops in Iraq, the Army failed to deter Iran and Syria from operating in Iraq, coalition warfare was "largely unsuccessful," and the U.S.-led effort to train and equip Iraqi forces was "under resourced" for most of the war.

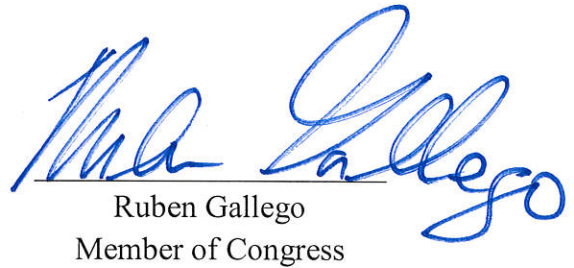
¹ The Army Stymied Its Own Study of the Iraq War,
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-army-ordered-an-unvarnished-iraq-war-history-then-let-it-languish-1540220153>

To that end and to ensure maximum transparency and a robust public debate request that you publicly release the report as soon as possible. In the interim, please provide an update on the Army review of this report, to include a summary of its conclusions. Thank you for your timely attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress