

THE WHITE HOUSE

January 26, 2010

Senator Joseph Lieberman  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs  
706 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Susan Collins  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Lieberman and Collins:

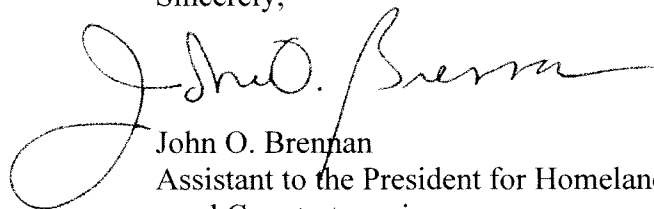
Thank you for your letter dated January 22, 2010, concerning the recent events at Fort Hood. I have provided copies of your letter to the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, and the Director of National Intelligence, and it is my understanding that representatives from those agencies will contact you by Wednesday, as you requested, to further address your specific concerns.

I would also like to address directly your broad concern that Congress has received little cooperation from the Executive Branch. I do not believe this is a fair or accurate assessment. Starting from the first moments after this tragedy, the President directed us to keep Congress appropriately informed. That was why we took the extraordinary step of briefing the bipartisan, bicameral leadership and each of you, as well as all other Chairs and Ranking Members of committees engaged in national security matters, about this incident. And, as you note in your letter, various Executive Branch officials—including representatives from the Department of Defense (DoD), the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation—have met multiple times with the Committee and its staff to discuss the relevant underlying facts and your requests for information.

In addition, I understand that all three agencies mentioned in your letter are working to provide the Committee with documents and briefings in response to your December 3 letter. In particular, I understand that ODNI has provided Committee staff with copies of, or access to, some of the documents identified in your December 3 letter, and DoD is in the process of producing a large collection of materials this week. Also, on December 22, FBI Deputy Director Pistole provided a classified briefing to the full committee on internal FBI responses following the events of Fort Hood, and FBI has further agreed to provide legal briefings and documents in follow-up.

The President has a solemn responsibility to protect this nation from future acts of terrorism. In sharing what we have learned about what happened at Fort Hood, he is confident that we can help prevent such senseless acts of violence in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John O. Brennan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

John O. Brennan  
Assistant to the President for Homeland Security  
and Counterterrorism