

JOE WILSON  
2ND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES  
CHAIRMAN, PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COUNTIES:  
AIKEN  
BARNWELL  
LEXINGTON  
ORANGEBURG\*  
RICHLAND\*  
(\*PARTS OF)

October 14, 2014

The Honorable Charles Hagel  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel:

On September 30, 2014, the Department of Defense deployed approximately 1,500 soldiers of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division to Liberia for Operation United Assistance. Additional personnel are expected to deploy in late October and November bringing the total number to roughly between 3,000 and 4,000.

With this deployment, I have concerns about the strategy associated with the role of the military in their response to the Ebola outbreak. I have a number of questions regarding the practical role of our troops in halting the outbreak and serving those affected. As the Ebola virus continues to spread throughout West Africa and has now surfaced in Dallas, Texas, I would like to relay my serious concerns with the prospect of exposure and infection amongst the up to 4,000 deployed personnel serving in Operation United Assistance.

I am extremely concerned for the protection and well being of our servicemen and women who have been deployed to curtail the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. As the Ebola virus spreads throughout West Africa and more recently infected two healthcare workers in Dallas I would like to know what exposure risk our troops are expected to encounter while serving as support for command and control, logistics support, training, and engineering support? Will their exposure be comparable to that of the medical personnel who recently contracted Ebola in Dallas?

Additionally, what type of assurances are there that while serving in these roles the service member will not come into direct contact with an infected patient? And finally, could you please describe what a successful mission in West Africa would look like?

As Chairman of the House Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, it is my top priority that our servicemen and women are properly trained and equipped during their deployment. Many thanks for your considerations and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Joe Wilson  
Chairman  
Military Personnel Subcommittee

MIDLANDS OFFICE:  
1700 SUNSET BLVD. (US 378), SUITE 1  
WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29169  
(803) 939-0041  
FAX: (803) 939-0078

2229 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4002  
(202) 225-2452  
FAX: (202) 225-2455  
[www.joewilson.house.gov](http://www.joewilson.house.gov)

AIKEN OFFICE:  
1930 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, SUITE 1600  
AIKEN, SC 29801  
(803) 642-6416  
FAX: (803) 642-6418