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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
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August 9, 2012

The Honorable Leon Panetta  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

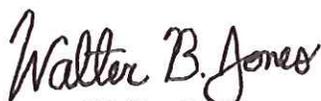
Dear Secretary Panetta:

I was appalled to see the Department of Defense's August 7 press release announcing that it had awarded a \$370,779,589 contract to the Royal Jordanian Air Academy "to provide Type I special training for English language and technical aviation training for Iraqi Air Force technical personnel."

With our country nearly \$16 trillion in debt and consistently running annual budget deficits of over \$1 trillion, I cannot comprehend how this contract can be a priority for the American people. As Congress and the administration work to reduce the devastating defense cuts under sequestration, how can the Department of Defense (DOD) justify spending nearly \$400 million to have Jordanians teach English to Iraqis? How does our national security depend on teaching English to a nation that is more closely aligned with Iran every day?

I sincerely hope the funds used to execute this contract were Iraqi, not American. If so, I would like proof of this. I would also like to know how the United States was reimbursed for use of DOD contracting officers. Furthermore, is it the practice for American military contracting officers to execute contracts between two foreign sovereign nations? Thank you for reviewing this troubling matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress