

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20511

APR 18 2014

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Vice Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Chairman and Vice Chairman Chambliss:

I write in reference to legislative proposals, such as Section 312 of the proposed Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (S. 1681) as reported by your Committee on November 12, 2013, that the President shall prepare and make public an annual report that sets forth the following: “(1) The total number of combatants killed or injured during the preceding year by the use of targeted lethal force outside the United States by remotely piloted aircraft. (2) The total number of noncombatant civilians killed or injured during the preceding year by such use of targeted lethal force outside the United States.”

Consistent with President Obama’s 23 May 2013 speech at the National Defense University, in carrying out the fight against al-Qa’ida and its associated forces, the Executive Branch is committed to upholding our laws and values, and to sharing as much information as possible with the American people and the Congress. The Executive Branch is currently exploring ways in which it can provide the American people more information about the United States’ use of force outside areas of active hostilities.

To be meaningful to the public, any report including the information described above would require context and be drafted carefully so as to protect against the disclosure of intelligence sources and methods or other classified information. As we continue to work with the Committee towards making public additional information regarding the United States’ use of targeted lethal force in counterterrorism operations outside the United States and areas of active hostilities, the Executive Branch will continue to ensure that appropriate Members of Congress are kept fully informed, including updates on specific counterterrorism operations. We are confident that we can find a reporting structure that provides the American people additional information to inform their understanding of important government operations to protect our nation, while preserving the ability to continue those operations.

The Honorable Madam Chairman Feinstein and Vice Chairman Chambliss

We look forward to updating you on our progress and welcome any thoughts you may have.

Sincerely,


James R. Clapper

cc:
The Honorable Mike Rogers
The Honorable C.A. "Dutch" Ruppberger