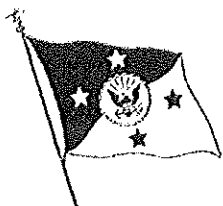


1447



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

June 30, 2014

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Committee on
Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

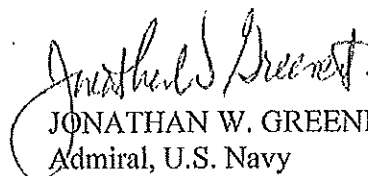
Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of June 17, 2014, concerning the release of Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl. I support the decision that resulted in his safe release from enemy captivity.

While not consulted on the specific decision to exchange Taliban detainees for the release of Sergeant Bergdahl, I had participated in previous discussions with the Joint Chiefs of Staff concerning Sergeant Bergdahl's status as a Prisoner of War. It was understood that some type of action would be necessary to secure his release prior to U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. I strongly support the long-standing U.S. policy to never leave behind our Prisoners of War. Freeing Sergeant Bergdahl honors our commitment to that covenant.

As always, if I can be of further assistance, please let me know. Thank you for your continued support of our Armed Forces.

Sincerely,


JONATHAN W. GREENERT
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Copy to:
The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member