



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC 20330

JUL 1 2014

HQ USAF/CC  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Levin:

Thank you for your June 17, 2014, letter asking if I support the Secretary of Defense's decision regarding Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl's release. I was not privy to the specific details or the negotiations that led to the exchange in advance due to the fast-moving nature of this operation. I do, however, support the return of Sergeant Bergdahl. I believe we have a moral obligation to work tirelessly to recover any member of our armed forces held captive. We ask them to risk everything in service to our Nation; we should be willing to accept some level of risk to bring them home.

Thank you for your continued support of the men and women of the United States Air Force.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Welsh III".

MARK A. WELSH III  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff