



LEGISLATIVE  
AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1300

APR 2 2018

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cummings:

Thank you for your letter of February 27, 2018, to the Secretary of Defense concerning Mr. Stephen Calk. I write in response on behalf of the Secretary.

Based on information provided to me, the Army never arranged any briefings for Mr. Calk. Moreover, the Army was not involved in any personnel decisions regarding Mr. Calk, and did not engage in any communications regarding Mr. Calk with Paul Manafort, Rick Gates, or other individuals affiliated or connected with President Trump's Campaign.

The Chief of Staff of the Army had the opportunity to engage Mr. Calk on November 16, 2016, when he provided remarks at a Business Executives for National Security (BENS) luncheon in Chicago. Mr. Calk was one of several business executives identified for potential engagement by BENS. The enclosed slide from that event is the only document the Army has been able to locate referring or pertaining to Mr. Calk.

Army administrative personnel recall receiving a telephone call from Mr. Calk sometime in November of 2016 regarding the confirmation process in general. However, the Army does not routinely create a written record for calls received, and is unable to provide documentation that captures the content of that telephone call.

Thank you for your sustained support of our men and women in uniform. A similar letter has been sent to Representative Lynch.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Hood  
Assistant Secretary of Defense  
Legislative Affairs

cc:

The Honorable Trey Gowdy  
Chairman

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Security

## Pritzker Military Presents Filming, Museum Tour, BENS Lunch

### Scheme of Maneuver:

*Enter Pritzker Military Presents*

*Megan Williams will meet at entrance*

*Move to elevator to second floor*

*Move to green room*

0945

CSA at Green Room

Meet Ken Clarke, President and interviewer

Lavalier mic; brief on execution

1000

Filming

1056

Filming complete, *exit studio and remain on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

1100

Link up with Mrs. Milley, Col (Ret.) Pritzker; begin tour

1145

Tour complete, ending on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

1145

BENS Reception

1215

Lunch begins; welcoming remarks by Col (Ret.) Pritzker

1220

BENS leadership introduces CSA

1225

**GEN Milley Remarks**

1245

Question and Answer period

1315

Lunch complete, *movement to BP*

**VIP Engagements:** Col (Ret.) Pritzker, Steve Calk (Federal Savings Bank), Ronald Gidwitz (GCCG Partners), George Gilmore (Exelon)

**Event POC:** Megan Williams, (312) 354-0918; Zach Weinberg, BENS, 312-202-2527

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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Minority (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

February 27, 2018

The Honorable James N. Mattis  
Secretary of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to request information about extremely troubling press reports suggesting that a banker named Stephen Calk may have made loans of up to \$16 million to President Donald Trump's campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, in exchange for alleged promises to name him Secretary of the Army.

According to numerous press accounts, the bank that Mr. Calk heads, Federal Savings Bank, provided up to \$16 million in loans to Mr. Manafort "as part of a quid pro quo arrangement to secure Mr. Calk a job in Mr. Trump's Administration."<sup>1</sup>

According to these reports, between late 2016 and early 2017, "Mr. Calk was placing calls to the Pentagon and specifically to Army headquarters, asking for briefings to obtain information and prepare himself for a possible job." In addition, according to these reports, "Mr. Calk's overtures raised questions among military leaders as to how to respond."<sup>2</sup>

Although Mr. Calk ultimately was not given a position with the Department, reports that Mr. Calk was being considered for a high-level and highly sensitive national security position within the Trump Administration as part of a *quid pro quo* with Mr. Manafort raise serious concerns that, completely apart from Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, warrant scrutiny by Congress.

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<sup>1</sup> *Mueller Examines Manafort Loans*, Wall Street Journal (Feb. 21, 2018) (online at [www.wsj.com/articles/mueller-examines-manafort-loans-1519259125](http://www.wsj.com/articles/mueller-examines-manafort-loans-1519259125)). See also *Mueller Asking if Manafort Promised Banker White House Job In Return For Loans*, NBC News (Feb. 21, 2018) (online at [www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/mueller-asking-if-manafort-promised-banker-white-house-job-return-n849916](http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/mueller-asking-if-manafort-promised-banker-white-house-job-return-n849916)); *Paul Manafort Got \$16 Million in Loans After the Election. Mueller Finds That Very Interesting*, Vox (Feb. 21, 2018) (online at [www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/2/21/17036634/paul-manafort-sealed-charges](http://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/2/21/17036634/paul-manafort-sealed-charges)); *Behind Manafort's Loans, a Chopper Pilot Who Flew Into Trump's Orbit*, Bloomberg (July 25, 2017) (online at <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-07-25/behind-manafort-s-loans-chopper-pilot-who-flew-into-trump-orbit>).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

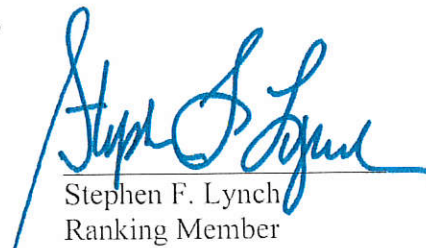
In order to investigate these issues, we request that the Department produce, by March 13, 2018, the following documents:

- (1) all documents referring or relating to Mr. Calk within the custody, control, or possession of the Department of Defense or any of its components, including but not limited to written or oral communications regarding a potential position within the Department or information requested by Mr. Calk;
- (2) all documents referring or relating to written or oral communications regarding Mr. Calk or personnel decisions at the Department between the Department or any of its components and Paul Manafort, Rick Gates, or any other individuals affiliated or connected with staff for President Trump's campaign;
- (3) all documents referring or relating to policies or guidance regarding alleged requests for assistance by Mr. Calk while seeking a position within the Department or requesting information from the Department; and
- (4) all documents referring or relating to any action considered or taken in response to Mr. Calk's alleged requests.

In addition, we request that the Department provide a briefing on these matters by March 13, 2018. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Timothy Lynch at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member

  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Security

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Security