

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 10, 2012

General Martin E. Dempsey, USA  
Chairman  
Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
9999 Joint Staff Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20318

Dear General Dempsey:

As Members of the House Armed Services Committee, we are writing regarding the Army's recent issuance of a negative Officer Evaluation Report (OER) to Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Dooley, a 1994 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and an 18-year highly decorated combat veteran.

In 2010, LTC Dooley joined the National Defense University's (NDU) Joint Forces Staff College (JFSC) as an instructor of the elective, *Perspectives on Islam and Islamic Radicalism*. In April 2012, the Department of Defense (DoD) required a subsequent review of the scope and content of all training and education courses dealing with Islamic extremism in military education institutions. Following this review, JFSC was required to immediately suspend this elective. LTC Dooley was then permanently relieved of his duties as an instructor for the college and was issued a negative Officer Evaluation Report (OER).

It appears that LTC Dooley led this course well within the scope of NDU's professorial guidelines, as NDU's own Faculty Handbook states: "Academic Freedom at National Defense University is defined as freedom to pursue and express ideas, opinions, and issues germane to the University's stated mission, free of limitations, restraints, or coercion by the University or external environment."

In his 18-year career, LTC Dooley had never received a negative OER, until this year. In fact, his last five OERs prior to the ordered negative one, have all listed his performance as outstanding and best qualified. Since DoD had already directed NDU to cancel the JFSC elective, and LTC Dooley was then relieved as its instructor, we would like to know why the DoD was compelled to further discipline LTC Dooley by jeopardizing his reputation and his future in the service. It is our understanding that LTC Dooley did not violate any established University practices, policies or DoD regulations to merit a negative OER.

Therefore, we respectfully request a response addressing why suspending the JFSC elective was not the final course of action in this matter, and any information and/or actions the DoD considered in issuing LTC Dooley a negative OER. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Rooney  
Member of Congress

  
Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress