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November 18, 2010

Admiral Michael Mullen, USN
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
9999 Joint Staff Pentagon
Washington, DC
20318-9999

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Re: Please Resign!

Dear Admiral Mullen:

Your advocacy to repeal don't ask, don't tell ("DADT") has compromised the neutrality the nation expects of you as Chairman, JCS. Your advocacy has caused divisiveness within the ranks, caused loss of confidence in your leadership, and jeopardized the standing with which the citizenry views our nation's uniformed leaders. These factors all point to the conclusion that, whatever the outcome of the final DADT vote in the Senate, your immediate resignation would be in the best interest of the nation.

You opened the door on the dilemma of your own position by gratuitously offering your personal opinion on DADT before the U.S. Senate Armed Forces Committee on February 2, 2010. In your opening statement, you testified that DADT should be repealed because, as you said, it would be the "right" thing to do. You stated DADT lacked "integrity" and that the law required gays desiring to serve in uniform to "lie" about who they are. Senator Sessions took issue with both of your characterizations. Other than testifying on "integrity" and "lying," your testimony offered no view on the performance of U.S. forces since 1993, when DADT was enacted, nor did you offer an opinion on how the repeal might affect readiness looking prospectively.

You presumably had no control over the directives of President Obama and Secretary Gates that ordered surveys of the troops to facilitate fact gathering in regard to implementing repeal. However your decision aligning yourself with the substance of that partisan initiative in advance of determining the likely impact of repeal on readiness of the forces under your command was both prejudicial to the JCS mission--as well as unnecessary in faithfully fulfilling your duties. The effect of tipping your hand on February 2nd served no military purpose and presented what could only have been a corrosive effect on any remaining objectivity of what

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was a skewed concept of the survey at the outset. As long as you continue as Chairman, your subordinates in the Pentagon as well as in the operating forces will be reluctant to express their views candidly to competent authority charged with evaluating DADT, for fear of professional disfavor.

Using the JCS website to promote the repeal of DADT as well, you have embarked in an unprecedented manner to embroil within the military a political and partisan dispute that rightfully has no place in any military arena.

Most recently, while in Australia, you chastised Marine Corps Commandant General James Amos for publicly speaking on his assessment of repealing DADT. The general's comments, in contrast to your personal preferences voiced to the Senate, were focused on mission and the impact repeal would have on the Marines' ability to prevail in battle. Reserving for yourself personal license to support President Obama's controversial initiative but denying to the Marine Corps Commandant his sense of duty to inform the citizens of the risk repeal presents, constitute, to many, hypocrisy and uneven leadership.

It is my earnest hope that you will ponder the harm that comes to the professional military establishment through partisan involvement in the issues of the day, and that you will step aside to allow a new Chairman to start anew.

Sincerely yours



Donald J. Farber
Commander, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Attorney at Law

Copy:

- (1) Senator Carl Levin (D, MI)
- (2) Senator John McCain (R, AZ)
- (3) Senator Jeffrey Sessions, (R, AL)
- (4) Speaker Designate, Congressman John Boehner (R, OH)
- (5) Speaker, House of Representatives, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, (D, CA)
- (6) Secretary of Defense Robert Gates
- (7) General James Amos, USMC Commandant
- (8) Admiral Gary Roughhead, CNO
- (9) General George C. Casey, Jr., CSA
- (9) General Norman Schwartz, CSAF

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