



Duncan Hunter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
50th District, California

January 19, 2016

The Honorable Ashton Carter  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Carter:

According to reports, the Marine Corps will not be forced to integrate recruit training, as the Secretary of the Navy had directed without either consultation or coordination with Marine Corps leaders. I respectfully ask that you provide assurance that recruit training and Officer Candidate School will continue operating as they have, without any such disruption to the reliable and effective organization and methods for developing and training Marines.

The fact that the Navy Secretary imposed a requirement to integrate recruit training, which until January 1, 2016, was not even discussed or considered, and then provided only 15-days to develop a plan to do so, continues to undermine the ability of the Navy Secretary to lead the men and women of the Marine Corps and earn their respect. Unfortunately, the only way this relationship can be repaired, I believe, is through the leadership of a new Navy Secretary—specifically one who does not regularly make a point to undercut the Marine Corps, distract it from its mission and insult its leaders.

As a potential replacement for the Navy Secretary, I suggest considering anyone of the 20,668 Marine Corps officers currently serving on active duty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duncan Hunter".

Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress