

Coffman Joins Chorus of Calls for McChrystal to Testify
Expresses Concern That Political Calculations May be Slowing Action

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO) today issued the following statement joining the growing bipartisan chorus of voices calling for General Stanley McChrystal to testify before Congress regarding his assessment of the situation in Afghanistan and his request for increased troop levels:

“Earlier this year I sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Gates expressing my grave concerns that there were not adequate forces in place in Afghanistan and implored the Administration not to under-source our efforts. I asserted that by failing to commit the necessary resources to meet our objectives and win in Afghanistan we run the risk of dragging out a war that has already gone on too long. In light of the recent media reports of Gen. McChrystal’s assessment that point is more salient than ever.”

“As a combat veteran I know how important it is to provide our field commanders the resources they need. I am apprehensive that Gen. McChrystal’s report may be constrained by strong opposition to committing more resources publicly voiced by congressional Democrat leaders. It is for this reason I am joining the call for the Administration to allow Gen. McChrystal to testify before Congress.”

“Gen. McChrystal’s report makes abundantly clear the need for resources and increased troop levels to achieve the mission that President Obama defined and committed to earlier this year. If the president is considering a massive policy shift from the commitment he made back in March, Congress needs to hear directly from the general and be a partner in this critical dialogue.”

“Most of all I am profoundly concerned that political calculations may be delaying action on Gen. McChrystal’s request for additional resources to implement a counterinsurgency strategy. Gen. McChrystal delivered his report on August 30th, and to date the president and his top advisers have only met once to discuss the assessment. As the assessment points out repeatedly, swift action is critical. Above all else, the president must be responsive and act expeditiously, or it will have grave consequences for both our men and women in uniform and our ability to achieve success in Afghanistan.”

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