



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

October 26, 2016

The Honorable Deborah Lee James
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary James:

The recent use of an explosive unmanned aerial system (UAS) by the Islamic State—resulting in several coalition deaths and injuries—reveals a new threat from America’s adversaries with access to inexpensive and commercially available unmanned aircraft. While this incident occurred amid operations in Iraq, I am no less concerned about the use of this method by the Islamic State, and other actors, to launch domestic attacks against soft targets.

Given this threat, it is important that we continue prioritizing the development and deployment of counter UAS technology, including directed energy, to supplement advancements in kinetic targeting. This is especially necessary given the accessibility and affordability of UASs in the commercial marketplace and the relative ease of configuring explosives to unmanned platforms.

I respectfully request a detailed briefing on efforts to develop and field sufficient counter-UAS technology, to include the full range of capability that is currently available. Also, it is my firm belief that we must expedite the development and acquisition of this technology due to the Islamic State’s use of commercial UAS, as well as the potential for UAS use among other hostile actors. As such, I strongly encourage increasing the overall attention on the development of counter-UAS capability to effectively target adversarial unmanned systems.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

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

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress