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2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
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August 21, 2012

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
1722 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20421

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On August 13, 2012, I wrote to you to request information about two conferences held by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) last summer in Orlando, Florida. Allegations of misconduct and wasteful spending in conjunction with these conferences are similar to the now-infamous 2010 General Services Administration (GSA) Western Regions Conference in Las Vegas. In our telephone conversation regarding these allegations, you pledged your full cooperation with the Committee's inquiry. Therefore, I am extremely disappointed by your Department's utter lack of cooperation.

Perhaps you are unaware that political appointees within the Department have defiantly refused to comply with any of the Committee's requests detailed in my August 13 letter. Your staff has repeatedly ignored Committee staff's phone calls and e-mails, failing to schedule a briefing or produce any information whatsoever. This failure to respond is not only unacceptable, it also completely contradicts your personal commitment to me.

As such, please provide responses to our request for information as outlined in my August 13, 2012, letter, including the *Patton* parody video. Absent a complete production, I will have no other alternative but to use compulsory process to obtain this information.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member