



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

5 October 2004

Mr. Thomas Fitton  
Judicial Watch  
501 School Street, SW, Suite 725  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Fitton:

I have reviewed your letter of September 23, 2004, regarding the decision of Vice Admiral Route, the Naval Inspector General, on your request for an investigation into the awards and actions of John Kerry.

Your letter states your hope that Vice Admiral Route's determination "is not the final word on the matter," and requests that further investigation be conducted despite Vice Admiral Route's decision regarding the scope of his review. While you may disagree with Vice Admiral Route's conclusion, you can hopefully concur that the Naval Inspector General was the right person within the Department of the Navy to review your request. He and his experienced and capable staff review hundreds of complaints and petitions each year, determine which have investigative merit, and conduct a wide range of inquiries, as appropriate.

Your letters of August 18 and September 8 to the Naval Inspector General clearly stated the basis for your request, and I am confident that Vice Admiral Route and his staff gave your input the same careful review all receive. I accord great deference to the Naval Inspector General's determinations, and do so here as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew England", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.