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**REFERENCE LETTER FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL (ret'd) IOANNIS
GALATAS MD**

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter in support of Brig. Gen. Galatas. I have not directly worked for or with Dr. Galatas, but I am widely familiar with his work and he has helped me on various projects of importance in the field of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) defense. I know him both personally as a colleague in this relatively narrow but highly important field and as a professional who is held in high regard in many countries. As he is both a medical doctor and a retired Brigadier General from the Greek Army, I refer to him in this letter interchangeably as Brig. Gen. and Doctor.

I first learned of Brig. Gen Galatas by reputation. Principally, I first notice him because of his work on the 2004 Athens Olympics. Dr. Galatas was one of the Greek government's most knowledgeable officials who work on the preparedness and response efforts to ensure the safety of the 2004 games. There were many lessons learned in this effort, both positive and negative, and his efforts to spread this knowledge have been a great contribution to knowledge in the field. Indeed, Dr. Galatas' lessons were helpful in the preparation of my book, published last year. (*CBRN and Hazmat Incidents at Major Public Events*, Wiley, 2012.)

I also learned of Dr. Galatas' widespread reputation through his very active participation in publications, lectures, and academic/scientific conferences. He edits and produces a highly informative and useful periodical, *CBRNE Terrorism Newsletter* (www.cbrne-terrorism-newsletter.com) which has been providing information to the CBRN planning and response community since 2005. His record of professional publications, both medical and CBRN-related is very lengthy, as you will note from his curriculum vitae. Additionally, he is much sought after as a guest lecturer, panel member, and presenter at conferences in the field. As a veteran of many such events, I can attest that the quality of Dr. Galatas' work in this regard, as

his lectures and presentations are vastly superior to many of the others I have seen over the years, both in quality of the information and the quality of the presentation. I can easily see why I am not the only one to speak highly of his work.

I feel that it is important to explain my own credentials for making these observations. I have worked in the field of CBRN planning and response for most of my adult career. I started as an officer in the US Army Chemical Corps in 1991 and was honor graduate of the US Army Chemical School in 1993. I served in the US Army Reserve as a chemical officer from 1991 to 1998 and then served, also as a Chemical Officer in the Maryland Army National Guard from 1998 to 2003. During my National Guard service, I founded the 32nd Civil Support Team and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. My civilian career was also in CBRN defense. I served as CBRN and Disaster Preparedness Advisor for the White House Military Office from 1996 to 2002. In this capacity I was serving at the pinnacle of CBRN preparedness efforts, both tactically at the White House and nationally, as one of the few CBRN professionals working at the top of the nation's chain of command. I provided direct support to emergency actions after 9/11 and the Anthrax terrorism incidents. In my capacity at the White House I was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service by Secretary of Defense William Cohen. In 2002 I transferred to the US Secret Service, where I worked in CBRN countermeasures and counterterrorism efforts until 2008, also at the White House. In 2008, I moved to the United Kingdom. After three years in private industry, I now work as an author and independent consult in this field. I have published a number of articles and have written a book, referenced above. My opinions are widely sought out by the media whenever chemical weapons are in the news. (Feel free to enter my name into a search engine and you will see my numerous contributions to print, radio, and TV media in this regard.) I have a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. I will freely provide my CV upon request. Feel free to request references from any phase of my career.

Brig Gen Galatas has knowledge, skills, and experience that are of global significance and it would be a tremendous gain to the United States to have him contributing to ongoing work in the CBRN defense field. I can truthfully state that CBRN defense is a field with relatively few professionals with any significant length of experience. The vast majority of the people in the field, and I encounter them every week, have five years or less experience, most of it hypothetical and not practical. If I were to gather the top 25 people in the world in the field, Dr. Galatas would be one of them. In specific, I wish to stress the following main points:

- Dr. Galatas has a career history that shows he has already had a critical impact in improving CBRN response capability. There are a number of people in this field who have shown no demonstrable impact whatsoever. Brig Gen. Galatas stands head and shoulders above most in the field. Indeed, he is one of the "elder statesmen" in this field.
- Very few people have both a medical degree and experience in CBRN defense, as does Dr. Galatas. This is critically important because both prehospital medicine and clinical medicine have clear deficiencies in their ability to respond to terrorism incidents involving CBRN threats. Brig. Gen. Galats sits astride two largely different career fields at the same time. Most of the doctors with similar records and expertise are long retired, whereas Dr. Galatas is a continuing contributor.
- There are very few, if any, US workers with his level of experience. Indeed, having lived in both the US and Europe, I now know that there are multiple outlooks on CBRN defense and the US is often informally firewalled from the experience and expertise from other countries in this field. Simply explained,

there are a large number of lessons to be learned in the US from European experience, but the nature of this field means that most people are not learning them and have no formal mechanism for doing so. Admitting Brig Gen Galatas to the United States is an excellent way to help rectify this shortcoming.

- I know from direct experience, having trained some of the nation's finest medical staff (the White House Medical Unit) on CBRN defense and having conducted numerous hospital surveys for CBRN readiness during my 12 years in support of the President and Vice President, there is a woeful and catastrophic lack of adequate knowledge in how to deal with CBRN incidents, both on an individual level (i.e. the institutional and continuing education of doctors, EMS staff, nurses, etc.) and at an institutional level (hospitals and laboratories.) This is an area in which Dr. Galatas can have an enormous impact on the nation's preparedness. He is an established authority on preparing medical staff and hospitals to deal with CBRN situation and his efforts here will be like rain after a serious drought.
- I can attest to Dr. Galatas' impact on my own work. One of my most significant lines of academic inquiry has been the security and safety efforts at major public events. This is the area in which I have published a 446 page book. He is by far the most experienced and educated medical professional that I know of who has both the skills and experience in managing efforts before and during major public events. This is due to his work on the 2004 Olympics. His assistance to my work has been very helpful. He is mentioned in the dedication of my book, written well before this letter, and I know he has helped others in this sector of the CBRN field.

For all of these reasons, I believe that Brig Gen. Galatas can provide a great impact. His presence in the United States as a contributor in this field can only be of benefit and I can think of nobody at the present time who is so well and simultaneously positioned in both the medical field and the CBRN defense field and who is in a position to make great contributions well into the future. His combination of theoretical knowledge and practical experience will be of the highest benefit, not just to the United States, but to global inquiry in this field.

If you have any questions about my recommendations please do not hesitate to ask me.

Sincerely,



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and

Senior Research Fellow
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