THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

FEB - 4 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)

SUBJECT: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 Permanent Prohibition Against Requiring Certain Injured Members to Pay for Meals Provided by Military Treatment Facilities

Section 602 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 makes permanent the requirement that military treatment facilities provide meals at no cost to members of the Armed Forces receiving inpatient or outpatient services for an injury, illness, or disease incurred in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operating Enduring Freedom, or any other operation or area designated by the Secretary of Defense as a combat operation, or in an area designated as a combat zone. Health care services include medical recuperation or therapy, or other continuous care.

Please provide a copy of your implementing guidance within 60 days of the date of this policy memorandum. My point of contact on this issue is Mr. Thomas Sadauskas, who can be reached at (703) 681-5827 or Thomas.Sadauskas@tma.osd.mil.

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
Service Surgeons General