THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

OCT 6 2006

The Honorable John W. Warner
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter communicates our intent to meet the requirements of section 722 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, "Pilot Projects on Early Diagnosis and Treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Other Mental Health Conditions," by adding elements to pilots we are undertaking to meet the requirements of section 721(b) of that Act, "Pilot Project on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)," that I reported to you previously.

Proposals have been submitted and final awarding of contracts to conduct these pilots is pending. We expect pilot project development will occur from September through December 2006, and validation trials to occur from January to April 2007. Pilot mobilization/de-mobilization sites in the TRICARE West region area will be utilized, including Ft Lewis, Washington, and for Reserve Component members in the area of Portland, Oregon.

Internet-based assessment and adjunctive care will be made available for primary care providers to use to enhance their treatment of those with PTSD and other mental health conditions' symptoms. Additionally, internet-based programs designed to assist family members of those with PTSD will be developed.

We look forward to sharing the results of these pilot projects with you following their completion approximately the end of April 2007. Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

cc:
The Honorable Carl Levin
Ranking Member