OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MAR 7 2007

The Honorable David R Obey
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U S House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Mr Chairman

This letter is an interim report to a request by the House Appropriations Committee in House Report 109-464, accompanying the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for Fiscal Year 2007, to integrate mental health services into daily activities of Service members The Committee proposed a $25,000,000 increase in funding for this purpose, which has not yet been appropriated under Continuing Resolution funding

Health Affairs mental health staff are developing a notional strategic plan for Human Systems Optimization and Maintenance to meet the requirements to integrate pre-clinical mental health services into operational environments in coordination with Personnel and Readiness leadership In June 2007, we will provide a report on the use any funds appropriated for this purpose and continuing requirements to sustain the program

Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System

Sincerely,

William Winkenwerder, Jr , MD

cc
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member