THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2504

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling $259 million (M) in FY 2007 and $486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of $259M, but provided an additional $241M for a total of $500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores $379M of the $486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

We believe we operate a high-quality health care system, and continually strive to improve our performance. Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System. Similar letters are being sent to the Chairmen and Ranking Minority Members of the other Congressional Defense Committees.

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable Susan Davis
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0553

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling $259 million (M) in FY 2007 and $486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of $259M, but provided an additional $241M for a total of $500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores $379M of the $486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
The Honorable John M. McHugh
Ranking Member

PS Hope we can discuss developing real-time incentives for docs seeing more patients + for consultations care if we can ↑ # of pts seen at military facilities will be more efficient.

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510–2202

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling $259 million (M) in FY 2007 and $486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of $259M, but provided an additional $241M for a total of $500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores $379M of the $486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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Sincerely,

S.W.C. I hope we can discuss how the commanders can bonus – in real time – the docs who do a great conservation job and see a lot of patients. More patients make us more efficient. Cost is not as good if we have too few or too many. Would appreciate your input when you have time.
V/R
Ward

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable Ben Nelson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2705

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling $259 million (M) in FY 2007 and $486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of $259M, but provided an additional $241M for a total of $500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores $379M of the $486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510–4801

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling $259 million (M) in FY 2007 and $486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of $259M, but provided an additional $241M for a total of $500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores $379M of the $486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510–1102

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling $259 million (M) in FY 2007 and $486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of $259M, but provided an additional $241M for a total of $500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores $379M of the $486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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With Great Respect

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
The Honorable Ted Stevens
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4907

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling $259 million (M) in FY 2007 and $486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of $259M, but provided an additional $241M for a total of $500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores $379M of the $486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable John P. Murtha
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3812

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling $259 million (M) in FY 2007 and $486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of $259M, but provided an additional $241M for a total of $500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores $379M of the $486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Sir
Good progress on TBI. Also in drug. Happy to brief at your convenience
VR Ward

cc:
The Honorable C. W. Bill Young
Ranking Member