



May 16, 2011



The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the Senate
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

This letter responds to section 723 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (P.L. 110-417), which requires the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to annually submit a joint report to Congress on the activities of the Center of Excellence in the Mitigation, Treatment, and Rehabilitation of Traumatic Extremity Injuries, and Amputations. The enclosed report is the second report and provides a description and assessment of the activities of the Center during a 1-year period ending on the date of the report.

The Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) cooperatively prepared the enclosed report, as well as the activities and accomplishments detailed within. The DoD and VA remain committed to continuing to work collaboratively on research efforts aimed at saving injured extremities, avoiding amputations, and preserving and restoring function of injured extremities.

Thank you for your support of the Military and Veterans Health Systems.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Clifford L. Stanley in black ink.

Clifford L. Stanley
Under Secretary of Defense
(Personnel and Readiness)

Handwritten signature of W. Scott Gould in black ink.

W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated



May 16, 2011



The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

This letter responds to section 723 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (P.L. 110-417), which requires the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to annually submit a joint report to Congress on the activities of the Center of Excellence in the Mitigation, Treatment, and Rehabilitation of Traumatic Extremity Injuries, and Amputations. The enclosed report is the second report and provides a description and assessment of the activities of the Center during a 1-year period ending on the date of the report.

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W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated



May 16, 2011



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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman



May 16, 2011



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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member



May 16, 2011



Chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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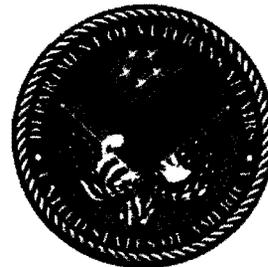
W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
Ranking Member



May 16, 2011



Chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel
Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman:

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Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
Ranking Member



May 16, 2011



The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member



May 16, 2011



The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Clifford L. Stanley
Under Secretary of Defense
(Personnel and Readiness)

W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
Ranking Member



May 16, 2011



The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairman, Committee on Veterans Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

This letter responds to section 723 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (P.L. 110-417), which requires the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to annually submit a joint report to Congress on the activities of the Center of Excellence in the Mitigation, Treatment, and Rehabilitation of Traumatic Extremity Injuries, and Amputations. The enclosed report is the second report and provides a description and assessment of the activities of the Center during a 1-year period ending on the date of the report.

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Under Secretary of Defense
(Personnel and Readiness)

W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member



May 16, 2011



The Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman, Committee on Veterans Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Clifford L. Stanley
Under Secretary of Defense
(Personnel and Readiness)

W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Bob Filner
Ranking Member



May 16, 2011



The Honorable Tim Johnson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Clifford L. Stanley
Under Secretary of Defense
(Personnel and Readiness)

W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Mark Kirk
Ranking Member



May 16, 2011



The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Deputy Secretary
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Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Ranking Member

P. L. 110-417
Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2009

Report to Congress on Sec. 723

**CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN THE MITIGATION, TREATMENT, AND
REHABILITATION OF TRAUMATIC EXTREMITY INJURIES AND AMPUTATIONS**

REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) shall jointly submit to Congress a report of the activities of the Center. This report covers the activities of fiscal year 2010.

Each report under this subsection shall include the following:

- (A) In the case of the first report under this subsection, a description of the implementation of this Act.
- (B) A description and assessment of the activities of the Center during the one-year period ending on the date of such report, including an assessment of the role of such activities in improving and enhancing the efforts of the DoD and VA for the mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic injuries and amputations.

DISCUSSION: The Traumatic Extremity Injuries and Amputation Center of Excellence (EACE) work group established in 2009 developed a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for this Center of Excellence (CoE). The CONOPS identified core staff requirements, described the vision, and proposed a comprehensive plan and strategy for coordinating extremity trauma and amputee care between DoD and VA. This CONOPS is currently under review through DoD Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD(HA)), and the Veterans Health Administration within VA.

On December 7, 2009, Charles Scoville, DPT, COL (Ret), was designated as the interim Director for the EACE. Dr. Scoville is the Chief, Amputee Patient Care Service, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and assumed these responsibilities as an additional duty.

On May 18, 2010, the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Memorandum, "Establishment of Centers of Excellence for Vision Hearing and Traumatic Extremity Injuries and Amputations," established the Traumatic Extremity Injuries and Amputations Center of Excellence with the Department of the Army as lead component, effective upon the joint establishment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (or designee) and the ASD(HA).

On August 18, 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of the Traumatic Extremity Injuries and Amputations Center of Excellence was signed by Dr. Robert Petzel, Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, and Dr. Charles Rice, Performing the Duties of the ASD(HA). This completed the establishment of the EACE, assigning "Authorities delegated and responsibilities assigned with respect to Traumatic Extremity Injuries

and Amputations CoE shall be carried out in conjunction with the VA, consistent with Section 723 of the NDAA for FY 2009, under the guidance of the Health Executive Council.”

Funding for the EACE for FY 2011 has been identified and will be provided through TRICARE Management Activity to U.S. Army Office of the Surgeon General. This will permit the hiring of a core staff for leadership and oversight of the EACE, and improved execution of the responsibilities of the EACE. Funding for future years has been included in the POM cycle for FY 2012-FY 2016.

The DoD and VA have continued to work closely together in meeting the responsibility to perform basic, translational and clinical research to develop scientific information within this population. The DoD and VA have collaboratively provided clinical assessment of upper extremity prosthetic components supporting the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Revolutionizing Prosthetics Program. Additionally, the VA and DoD have jointly begun to provide patients with the Genium/X2 knee prosthetic device. This device is a culmination of five years of research and has advanced the capabilities of above knee amputees.

FUTURE ACTIONS:

The decision of where to locate the Executive Office for the EACE is pending, and once this decision is made, approved staffing hires will take place. Pending final review and approval of the CONOPS, the approved plan will be implemented.

Coordination of care between the DoD and VA treatment facilities will continue to focus on optimizing care for our wounded Service members and veterans. DoD and VA will continue to work collaboratively on research efforts aimed at saving injured extremities, avoiding amputations, and preserving and restoring function of injured extremities.