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

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG 18 2008

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to Section 1634(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 that requires the Secretary of Defense to describe the progress of the Department of Defense (DoD) in implementing the requirements of Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007. Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007 required the DoD to conduct pilot projects on early diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health conditions.

The Army reports that nearly 20 percent of returning soldiers (including active duty, reservist, and National Guard) screen positive for major mental disorder. Of these, 78 percent acknowledge the need for help, yet only about one-fourth of them pursue mental health specialty care. The other Services' numbers differ, but the conclusion is that DoD needs some innovative approaches to address these concerns.

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Another program, *Afterdeployment*, is designed as an interactive, self-care solution addressing multiple critical variables in caring for the military family. Specifically, *Afterdeployment's* educational materials target the first four months after Service members return from combat deployments. The program can deliver tailored assessments and portable services anytime and anywhere that a computer and an internet connection is available.

The Psychological Health Outreach Program is another pilot program that provides early identification and clinical assessment of Navy Reservists returning from deployment who are at risk for not having their stress injuries identified and treated in an

expeditious manner. This program provides outreach and educational activities to improve the overall psychological health of Navy Reservists; and identifies long-term strategies to improve psychological health support services for the Reserve community.

The Department of Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) is compiling the results of these pilot projects and analyzing the results for possible implementation across DoD. The DCoE is also developing an in-depth report of the results of these pilot projects, as was required in Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007. We will provide the final version of that report to Congress in December 2008, as required in the NDAA 2007 legislation.

Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

Sir
Would welcome your comments on these pilot programs
V/r
Ward

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
The Honorable John M. McCain
Ranking Member

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

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG 18 2008

The Honorable Ben Nelson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to Section 1634(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 that requires the Secretary of Defense to describe the progress of the Department of Defense (DoD) in implementing the requirements of Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007. Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007 required the DoD to conduct pilot projects on early diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health conditions.

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Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

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

AUG 18 2008

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6035

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to Section 1634(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 that requires the Secretary of Defense to describe the progress of the Department of Defense (DoD) in implementing the requirements of Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007. Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007 required the DoD to conduct pilot projects on early diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health conditions.

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Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

S: Promising pilot programs. Your comments are welcome of course
All Best
Ward

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

AUG 18 2008

The Honorable Susan Davis
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6035

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

This letter responds to Section 1634(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 that requires the Secretary of Defense to describe the progress of the Department of Defense (DoD) in implementing the requirements of Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007. Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007 required the DoD to conduct pilot projects on early diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health conditions.

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Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

Susan S would be delighted to explain these pilot programs in more detail if you like

Very

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
The Honorable John McHugh
Ranking Member

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

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG 18 2008

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6025

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to Section 1634(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 that requires the Secretary of Defense to describe the progress of the Department of Defense (DoD) in implementing the requirements of Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007. Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007 required the DoD to conduct pilot projects on early diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health conditions.

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Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

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

AUG 18 2008

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6028

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to Section 1634(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 that requires the Secretary of Defense to describe the progress of the Department of Defense (DoD) in implementing the requirements of Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007. Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007 required the DoD to conduct pilot projects on early diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health conditions.

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Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

Sir these are promising pilot programs. Please call if you have questions or want, or need details

S. Ward Casscells, MD

V/R Ward

cc:
The Honorable Ted Stevens
Ranking Member

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

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG 18 2008

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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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

AUG 18 2008

The Honorable John P. Murtha
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6018

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to Section 1634(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 that requires the Secretary of Defense to describe the progress of the Department of Defense (DoD) in implementing the requirements of Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007. Section 741 of the NDAA for FY 2007 required the DoD to conduct pilot projects on early diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health conditions.

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Sincerely,

Semper Fi
Ward

S. Ward Casscells, MD

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