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

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG - 6 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 712 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which requires the Secretary of Defense to report on training provided to deploying medical personnel regarding preservation of human remains.

The Department of Defense has trained 16,534 military medical professionals in this ongoing program from October 17, 2006, through March 31, 2008. This training is important to ensure that the remains of Service members are handled with dignity, and that they are returned to their loved ones in the best possible condition. The enclosure provides detailed responses to the questions in Section 712, including a tabulation of the number of individuals trained.

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

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Ranking Member

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

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG - 6 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 712 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which requires the Secretary of Defense to report on training provided to deploying medical personnel regarding preservation of human remains.

The Department of Defense has trained 16,534 military medical professionals in this ongoing program from October 17, 2006, through March 31, 2008. This training is important to ensure that the remains of Service members are handled with dignity, and that they are returned to their loved ones in the best possible condition. The enclosure provides detailed responses to the questions in Section 712, including a tabulation of the number of individuals trained.

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member

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

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG - 6 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 712 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which requires the Secretary of Defense to report on training provided to deploying medical personnel regarding preservation of human remains.

The Department of Defense has trained 16,534 military medical professionals in this ongoing program from October 17, 2006, through March 31, 2008. This training is important to ensure that the remains of Service members are handled with dignity, and that they are returned to their loved ones in the best possible condition. The enclosure provides detailed responses to the questions in Section 712, including a tabulation of the number of individuals trained.

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member

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

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG - 6 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 712 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which requires the Secretary of Defense to report on training provided to deploying medical personnel regarding preservation of human remains.

The Department of Defense has trained 16,534 military medical professionals in this ongoing program from October 17, 2006, through March 31, 2008. This training is important to ensure that the remains of Service members are handled with dignity, and that they are returned to their loved ones in the best possible condition. The enclosure provides detailed responses to the questions in Section 712, including a tabulation of the number of individuals trained.

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable John M. McHugh
Ranking Member

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

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG - 6 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 712 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which requires the Secretary of Defense to report on training provided to deploying medical personnel regarding preservation of human remains.

The Department of Defense has trained 16,534 military medical professionals in this ongoing program from October 17, 2006, through March 31, 2008. This training is important to ensure that the remains of Service members are handled with dignity, and that they are returned to their loved ones in the best possible condition. The enclosure provides detailed responses to the questions in Section 712, including a tabulation of the number of individuals trained.

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

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member

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

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG - 6 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 712 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which requires the Secretary of Defense to report on training provided to deploying medical personnel regarding preservation of human remains.

The Department of Defense has trained 16,534 military medical professionals in this ongoing program from October 17, 2006, through March 31, 2008. This training is important to ensure that the remains of Service members are handled with dignity, and that they are returned to their loved ones in the best possible condition. The enclosure provides detailed responses to the questions in Section 712, including a tabulation of the number of individuals trained.

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Ted Stevens
Ranking Member

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

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG - 6 2008

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to Section 712 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which requires the Secretary of Defense to report on training provided to deploying medical personnel regarding preservation of human remains.

The Department of Defense has trained 16,534 military medical professionals in this ongoing program from October 17, 2006, through March 31, 2008. This training is important to ensure that the remains of Service members are handled with dignity, and that they are returned to their loved ones in the best possible condition. The enclosure provides detailed responses to the questions in Section 712, including a tabulation of the number of individuals trained.

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member

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

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG - 6 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 712 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which requires the Secretary of Defense to report on training provided to deploying medical personnel regarding preservation of human remains.

The Department of Defense has trained 16,534 military medical professionals in this ongoing program from October 17, 2006, through March 31, 2008. This training is important to ensure that the remains of Service members are handled with dignity, and that they are returned to their loved ones in the best possible condition. The enclosure provides detailed responses to the questions in Section 712, including a tabulation of the number of individuals trained.

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

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

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

Training in the Preservation of Human Remains to Deploying Medical Personnel

1. **Where is the training taking place?**

   Air Force: Training is taking place at the unit level (Medical Treatment Facility, squadron level, etc.) at Air Force installations.
   Army: Training is taking place at the Army Medical Department and School located at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.
   Navy (includes Naval medical personnel supporting the Marine Corps): Training is taking place at the Naval Expeditionary Medicine Training Institute (NEMTI) located at Camp Pendleton, and at the Naval Medicine Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education Center located at the Naval Personnel Command, Millington, Tennessee.

2. **Who is providing the training?**

   Air Force: The Air Force Medical Service personnel assigned as the installation medical readiness officer or noncommissioned officer provide training.
   Army: Instructors from the Academy of Health Sciences and the Army Medical Department Noncommissioned Officers Academy, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, provide the instruction as part of 33 distinct medical training courses.
   Navy: Navy Medical Service Corps officers teach the course.

3. **What does the training cover?**

The training by all Services covers:

- The duty of the United States to provide a full and complete accounting of the remains of members of the Armed Forces and requirement to preserve remains in the best possible condition;
- Importance of ensuring the safety of the Service member in the retrieval of remains under combat/combat-like conditions;
- Procedures and best practices (including case studies) in the preservation of remains;
- Cultural implication regarding preservation of remains; and
- Medical planning implications regarding preservation of remains.

4. The number of each type of military health care professional trained from October 17, 2006, to March 31, 2008:

Army:
Medical Corps Officers – 37
Nurse Corps Officers – 545
Dental Corps Officers – 14
Veterinary Corps Officers – 43
Medical Service Corps Officers – 889
Medical Specialist Corp Officers – 150
Medical Officers – unspecified Corps – 2,806
Warrant Officers – 7
Medical technicians – 7,414
Army Total – 11,905

Navy:
Medical Corps Officers – 56
Dental Corps – 35
Medical Service Corps – 109
Nurse Corps – 62
Medical technicians – 425
Navy Total – 687

Air Force:
Medical Corps Officers (physicians) – 619
Nurse Corps Officers (including nurse practitioners) – 810
Physician Assistants – 61
Dental Corps Officers – 145
Medical/Dental Technicians – 1,769
Other – 538
Air Force Total – 3,942

Total of All Service Medical Personnel Trained – 16,534

FY08 SEC. 712. REPORT ON TRAINING IN PRESERVATION OF REMAINS UNDER COMBAT OR COMBAT-RELATED CONDITIONS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the requirements of section 567 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2224; 10 U.S.C. 1481 note).

(b) MATTERS COVERED.—The report shall include a detailed description of the implementation of such section, including—

(1) where the training program is taking place;

(2) who is providing the training;

(3) the number of each type of military health care professional trained to date; and

(4) what the training covers.

(c) DEADLINE.—The report required by this section shall be submitted not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act

(a) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of each military department shall ensure that each military health care professional under that Secretary's jurisdiction who is deployed to a theater of combat operations is trained, before such deployment, in the preservation of remains under combat or combat-related conditions.

(b) MATTERS COVERED BY TRAINING.—The training under subsection
(a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Best practices and procedures for the preservation of the remains of a member of the Armed Forces after death, taking into account the conditions likely to be encountered and the objective of returning the remains to the member's family in the best possible condition.

(2) Practical case studies based on experience of the Armed Forces in a variety of climactic conditions.

(c) COVERED MILITARY HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.—In this section, the term ''military health care professional'' means—

(1) a physician, nurse, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or combat medic; and

(2) any other medical personnel with medical specialties who may provide direct patient care and who are designated by the Secretary of the military department concerned.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any military health care professional who is deployed to a theater of combat operations after the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 USC 1481

FY07 SEC. 567. REQUIREMENT FOR DEPLOYING MILITARY MEDICAL PERSONNEL TO BE TRAINED IN PRESERVATION OF REMAINS UNDER COMBAT OR COMBAT-RELATED CONDITIONS. Enacted on October 17, 2006

(a) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of each military department shall ensure that each military health care professional under that Secretary's jurisdiction who is deployed to a theater of combat operations is trained, before such deployment, in the preservation of remains under combat or combat-related conditions.
(b) MATTERS COVERED BY TRAINING.—The training under subsection
(a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:
(1) Best practices and procedures for the preservation of the remains of a member of the Armed Forces after death, taking into account the conditions likely to be encountered and the objective of returning the remains to the member's family in the best possible condition.
(2) Practical case studies based on experience of the Armed Forces in a variety of climactic conditions.
(c) COVERED MILITARY HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.—In this section, the term ''military health care professional'' means—
(1) a physician, nurse, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or combat medic; and
(2) any other medical personnel with medical specialties who may provide direct patient care and who are designated by the Secretary of the military department concerned.
(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any military health care professional who is deployed to a theater of combat operations after the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.
10 USC 1481