OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

SEP 9 2011

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to House Report 111–491, page 315, accompanying H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, which requested a report by March 31, 2011, on an evaluation on the potential role of emerging pain therapeutics, including topical analgesic formulations, in order to provide our men and women in uniform with effective means of pain management. The cost of the preparation of this report was approximately $1,700. This issue falls under the purview of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and I have been asked to respond. Please accept my apology for the lateness of this report.

Section (sec.) 711 of NDAA for FY 2010 directed the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a comprehensive policy on pain management by the Military Health System. This requirement was prompted by concerns that active duty Service members and veterans were not receiving proper management for acute and chronic pain, and they were suffering deleterious effects as a result. As required by sec. 711, the Secretary has developed a comprehensive plan and a long-term strategy for managing pain in our beneficiary population.

As part of this comprehensive plan for pain management, my subject matter experts have reviewed a variety of treatment modalities, including various types of pharmacologic therapy. To determine the most appropriate therapies to be employed for an individual's unique situation, practitioners must take an evidence-based approach. Department of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Health Administration staff have formed a Pain Management Work Group to examine the clinical evidence and to determine the most appropriate therapeutic modalities, both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic, to treat our active duty and non-active duty beneficiaries for acute and chronic pain.

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A similar letter is being sent to the other congressional defense committees. Thank you for your interest in the health and well-being of our Service members, veterans, and their families.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney
Principal Deputy

cc:
The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

The Honorable Jim Webb
Chairman
Subcommittee on Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Jo Ann Rooney
Principal Deputy

cc:
The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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

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Jo Ann Rooney
Principal Deputy

cc:
The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member

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4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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

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Principal Deputy

cc:
The Honorable Susan A. Davis
Ranking Member

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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

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Jo Ann Rooney
Principal Deputy

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman

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4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

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The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
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Vice Chairman

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4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

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

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The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
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The Honorable C. W. Bill Young
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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