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 and 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 third 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 Care Systems.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney
Acting
Under Secretary of Defense
(Personnel and Readiness)

W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney
Acting
Under Secretary of Defense
(Personnel and Readiness)

W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman

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 and 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 third 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
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Enclosure:
As stated

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Jo Ann Rooney
Acting
Under Secretary of Defense
(Personnel and Readiness)

W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member

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

Dear Mr. 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 and 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 third 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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(Personnel and Readiness)

W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Acting
Under Secretary of Defense
(Personnel and Readiness)

W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Susan A. Davis
Ranking Member

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
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Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Jo Ann Rooney
Acting
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

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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W. Scott Gould
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Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
Ranking Member

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

Dear Madame Chairwoman:

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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

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Jo Ann Rooney
Acting
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

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:

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 and 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 third 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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Acting
Under Secretary of Defense
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W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Mark Kirk
Ranking Member

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

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Under Secretary of Defense
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W. Scott Gould
Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

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

Center of Excellence in the Mitigation, Treatment, and Rehabilitation of Traumatic Extremity Injuries and Amputations

Report for Fiscal Year 2011

Preparation of this report/study cost the Department of Defense a total of approximately $1,330 in Fiscal Years 2011—2012.

Report to Congress under Section 723 of the
Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (P. L. 110-417)

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.

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 1-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 was established in 2009 and developed an initial Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for this center of excellence. The CONOPS identified core staff requirements, described the vision, and proposed a comprehensive plan and strategy for extremity trauma and amputee care across DoD and VA.

On May 6, 2011, the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) (ASD HA) approved The Surgeon General and Commanding General U.S. Army Medical Command's recommendation that the Headquarters for the EACE be located in San Antonio.

On June 10, 2011, the Military Health System (MHS) chartered the Center of Excellence (CoE) Oversight Board. This board will recommend CoE policies, establish guidelines for CoE CONOPS, and provide advice to the ASD HA and the Senior Military Medical Advisory Council (SMMAC) on activities of the various CoEs. EACE is currently awaiting approval of the EACE CONOPS by ASD HA and SMMAC.

The MHS is currently developing position descriptions for EACE staff and determining staffing level projections. To date, hiring actions are in staffing at the Army Civilian Personnel Advisory Center for 6 positions to include the Director. The hiring actions are being processed through the Army Medical Command and the Office of the Surgeon General.

Funding for the EACE was requested in the FY12 President's Budget Request. In addition EACE funding was included in the FY12–FY16 Program Objective Memorandum cycle.

The DoD and VA have worked closely together on the care of patients with extremity trauma and limb loss since 2001. This has positioned both Departments to build upon effective collaborations in meeting the Congressional mandated responsibilities of clinical care, and 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, improving the options available for individuals with upper limb loss. Additionally the VA and DoD have jointly begun to provide patients with the Genium/X2 knee prosthetic device and the iLimb power ankle. These devices are a culmination of years of research and have advanced the capabilities of above knee amputees providing improved stance stability and decreasing the physical demands on these patients.

The EACE funding this year also has been utilized to improve the research equipment at three DoD Centers, enhancing the ability to perform collaborative research. Additionally, the EACE funded international collaborative efforts to include: a meeting at Headley Court, England, to work with the British, French and Canadians to standardize outcome measures for patients with extremity trauma and limb loss; sending a rehabilitation team to the Republic of Georgia to assist in developing in-country capabilities for caring for injured coalition forces; and sending a rehabilitation team into Estonia to help in developing the plans for a rehabilitation facility for the care of their wounded warriors.

FUTURE ACTIONS

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.