



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

**1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200**

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2504

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling \$259 million (M) in FY 2007 and \$486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of \$259M, but provided an additional \$241M for a total of \$500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores \$379M of the \$486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

We believe we operate a high-quality health care system, and continually strive to improve our performance. Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System. Similar letters are being sent to the Chairmen and Ranking Minority Members of the other Congressional Defense Committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Ward Casscells", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Ranking Member



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable Susan Davis
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0553

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling \$259 million (M) in FY 2007 and \$486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of \$259M, but provided an additional \$241M for a total of \$500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores \$379M of the \$486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:

The Honorable John M. McHugh
Ranking Member

PS Hope we can discuss developing real-time incentives for each doctor seeing more patients + for concussions care. If we can ↑ # of pts seen at military facilities will be more efficient.



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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2202

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling \$259 million (M) in FY 2007 and \$486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of \$259M, but provided an additional \$241M for a total of \$500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores \$379M of the \$486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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Sincerely,

S: I hope we can discuss how the commanders can bonus - in real time - the docs who do a great conscientious job and see a lot of patients. More

S. Ward Casscells, MD

patients make us more efficient. Can is not as good if we have too few orthodoxy. Would appreciate your input when you have time. VIK word

cc:
The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member



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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200**

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable Ben Nelson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2705

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling \$259 million (M) in FY 2007 and \$486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of \$259M, but provided an additional \$241M for a total of \$500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores \$379M of the \$486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member



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HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-4801

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling \$259 million (M) in FY 2007 and \$486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of \$259M, but provided an additional \$241M for a total of \$500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores \$379M of the \$486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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Sincerely,

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S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200**

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1102

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling \$259 million (M) in FY 2007 and \$486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of \$259M, but provided an additional \$241M for a total of \$500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores \$379M of the \$486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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With Great Respect
Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
The Honorable Ted Stevens
Ranking Member



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200**

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4907

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling \$259 million (M) in FY 2007 and \$486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of \$259M, but provided an additional \$241M for a total of \$500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores \$379M of the \$486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member



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HEALTH AFFAIRS

JAN 25 2008

The Honorable John P. Murtha
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3812

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling \$259 million (M) in FY 2007 and \$486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of \$259M, but provided an additional \$241M for a total of \$500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores \$379M of the \$486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:

The Honorable C. W. Bill Young
Ranking Member

Sir
Good program
on TB1. Also in
drug. Happy to bring
at your convenience
in hand