OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND READINESS

SEP 29 2026

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department's response to section 718 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (Public Law 119–60), "Plan and Report by Defense Health Agency Relating to Chiropractic Clinics at Military Installations," is enclosed.

This report provides a list of military medical treatment facilities (MTFs) currently providing patient care, above the identified threshold, along with their current operating status. In addition, it provides a list of MTFs where contracted chiropractors provide services and a plan for converting them to General Schedule employees. Finally, it presents the current availability of chiropractic care to Service members and the associated cost to expand the service to all parent-level MTFs.

Thank you for your continued strong support for the health and well-being of our Service members and their families. I am sending a similar letter to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Deputy Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND READINESS

SEP 29 2026

The Honorable Mike D. Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Sincerely,

[redacted]

Sean O'Keefe
Deputy Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member

Report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives

Plan and Report by the Defense Health Agency Relating to Chiropractic Clinics at Military Installations

September 2026

The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of War (DoW) is approximately $2,410 for the 2026 Fiscal Year. This includes $0 in expenses and $2,410 in DoW labor.
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INTRODUCTION

This report is in response to section 718 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 (Public Law 119–60), "Plan and Report by Defense Health Agency Relating to Chiropractic Clinics at Military Installations." Section 718 requires the Director, Defense Health Agency (DHA) to submit a report that includes a comprehensive plan and assessment regarding chiropractic services on military installations..

Specifically, this report outlines the plan developed by DHA to reopen any chiropractic clinic at a military installation that was closed prior to the enactment of the NDAA for FY 2026, provided the clinic previously offered chiropractic services and averaged at least 400 visits per month. Additionally, the plan addresses the transition and methodology for compensating chiropractors stationed at military installations under the General Schedule (GS) pay system.

Furthermore, this report evaluates the overall utility of chiropractic services, detailing the specific clinical benefits to members of the Armed Forces, the current and projected availability of these services, and the associated delivery costs.

BACKGROUND

Chiropractic care is a health care profession that focuses on disorders of the musculoskeletal and nervous system, and the effects of these disorders on general health. Chiropractic care is used most often to treat neuromusculoskeletal complaints including, but not limited to, back pain, neck pain, pain in the joints of the arms or legs, and headaches. Spinal manipulations and other treatment modalities can be provided manually or with the assistance of mechanical or electrical devices.

Under the NDAA for FY 1995 ((Public Law 103–337), the Department conducted an initiative through the Chiropractic Health Care Demonstration Project ("project") at over 10 military medical treatment facilities (MTFs), which the Department later extended and increased to a total of 13 sites. Patients reported improvements in their health status, pain severity, and overall activity levels compared to traditional care provided. Based on the pilot findings, Congress established a chiropractic care benefit for Service members under the Floyd D. Spence NDAA for FY 2001 (Public Law 106–398), and more clinics opened in 2002.

1. LIST OF CLINICS, BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT OF THE NDAA FOR FY 2026, THAT OFFERED CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES AND HAD AN AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 400 VISITS PER MONTH, AND WERE CLOSED

The following facilities deliver at least 400 chiropractic visits per month; however, none of these facilities are closed nor have they submitted requests for closure.

Installation	Monthly Average Visits	
	FY 2024	FY 2025
Fort Riley	468	586
Fort Drum	388	443
Fort Sill	777	768
Fort Hood	614	689
Fort Gordon	508	571
Joint Base Lewis-McCord	110	917
Fort Bragg	774	747
Landstuhl	439	467
Marine Corps Base Quantico	617	*
Naval Base San Diego	794	912

*Naval Health Clinic Quantico at the Marine Corps Base Quantico is working to fill its vacant chiropractor position.

DHA has not closed nor plans to close any clinics on a military installation for the FYs reviewed that offered chiropractic services and had an average number of at least 400 visits per month.

2. PAYMENT OF CHIROPRACTORS STATIONED AT MILITARY INSTALLATIONS UNDER THE GENERAL SCHEDULE

Currently, GS civilian chiropractors make up approximately 66 percent of the DHA's chiropractic workforce. GS chiropractors are hired at the GS-12 pay scale. Depending on locality and step of the personnel, pay can range from $89,508 to $145,467. In addition to base and locality pay, there are additional costs included with a fully burdened employee, including health and life insurance, retirement and social security payments, retirement plan matching contributions, and annual awards.

The facilities listed below utilize contracted chiropractic personnel. These facilities will transition its chiropractic manpower to GS civilian over a 5-year period through the formal financial Planning, Programming, Budget, and Execution process.

Installation	GS Grade	GS-12 w/Locality
Naval Station Newport Rhode Island	GS-12	$100,992.33
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst	GS-12	$105,480.71
Pentagon	GS-12	$102,414.54
Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bethesda	GS-12	$102,414.54
NSA Bethesda	GS-12	$102,414.54
Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana	GS-12	$90,838.04
Naval Base Norfolk	GS-12	$90,838.04
Langley Air Force Base (AFB)	GS-12	$90,838.04
Fort Lee	GS-12	$93,498.96
Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point	GS-12	$89,576.40
Camp Geiger	GS-12	$89,599.34
Camp Lejeune	GS-12	$89,599.34
NAS Jacksonville	GS-12	$89,507.59
NAS Pensacola	GS-12	$95,326.42
MacDill AFB	GS-12	$89,507.59
MacDill AFB	GS-12	$89,507.59
Maxwell AFB	GS-12	$89,507.59
Keesler AFB	GS-12	$89,507.59
Naval Station Great Lakes	GS-12	$100,059.48
Scott AFB	GS-12	$91,778.54
Barksdale AFB	GS-12	$89,507.59
Lackland AFB	GS-12	$90,822.75
Lackland AFB	GS-12	$90,822.75
Davis-Monthan AFB	GS-12	$91,205.07
Kirtland AFB	GS-12	$90,478.67
Camp Pendleton	GS-12	$102,246.32
Naval Base San Diego	GS-12	$102,246.32
NAS North Island	GS-12	$102,246.32
MCAS Miramar	GS-12	$102,246.32
NAB Coronado	GS-12	$102,246.32
MCAGCC Twentynine Palms	GS-12	$104,349.06
NAS Lemoore	GS-12	$89,958.72
Travis AFB	GS-12	$104,349.06
Naval Base Kitsap	GS-12	$100,602.37
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson	GS-12	$101,206.43

3. UTILITY, AVAILABILITY, AND COST OF CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES WITH RESPECT TO THE BENEFITS OF SUCH SERVICES TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Utility

The utilization of the current chiropractic services allows DHA to better align resources with requirements with an emphasis on active duty Service members (ADSMs) within our MTFs. Chiropractic services at MTFs, alongside physical therapists and osteopathic physicians privileged to provide spinal cord manipulation, allow DHA to address musculoskeletal injuries in an evidence-based, holistic manner while shortening recovery times and reducing service-member limitations

Availability

Availability of chiropractic services for ADSMs is 47 percent (62 of 131 parent MTFs). A parent MTF is the main clinic, hospital, or medical center that provides both primary and specialty care. It holds primary oversight over smaller "child" medical facilities and outlying clinics within its operational and geographical catchment area:

Installation	Monthly Average	
	FY 2024	FY 2025
Fort Belvoir	107	93
Fort Wainwright	252	253
Fort Polk	31	130
Fort Campbell	207	188
Fort Carson	419	293
Fort Riley	501	585
Fort Leonard Wood	355	395
Fort Benning	48	3
Fort Steward	165	189
Fort Drum	429	446
Fort Knox	203	201
Fort Lee	76	71
Fort Jackson	333	103
Fort Leavenworth	220	0
Fort Sill	727	729
Vilseck	283	249
Fort Hood	646	699
Fort Gordon	533	599
Joint Base Lewis-McCord	1068	883
Fort Shafter	345	265
Fort Bliss	248	184
Fort Bragg	751	750
Joint Base Andrews AFB	217	0

Barksdale AFB	110	97
Vilseck	155	200
Davis Monthan AFB	169	0
Eglin AFB	55	0
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson	211	184
Fort Meade	190	181
Hurlburt AFB	161	0
Lovell FHCC	269	248
Keesler AFB	120	99
Kirtland AFB	154	161
Lackland AFB	553	100
Landstuhl	484	439
Langley AFB	252	57
Luke AFB	164	0
MacDill AFB	512	325
Maxwell AFB	239	55
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst	170	51
Nellis AFB	15	14
MCAS Beaufort	159	0
Camp Pendleton	85	189
NAS Jacksonville	215	215
Camp Foster	46	0
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms	64	86
Naval Base Kitsap	227	208
MCAS Cherry Point	398	153
NAS Lemoore	207	95
Naval Station Newport	417	340
NAS Pensacola	181	161
MCB Quantico	511	0
Camp Lejeune	371	172
Naval Base Norfolk	153	176
Naval Base San Diego	742	1018
Offutt AFB	191	0
Scott AFB	360	167
Tinker AFB	63	0
Travis AFB	208	161
Air Force Academy	206	0
NSA Bethesda	357	397
Wright Patterson AFB	134	0

Cost

The cost of providing chiropractic services to ADSMs, based on a staffing model with a 1:1 ratio of chiropractor and the chiropractor's technical support staff, is approximately $226K per year. Any anticipated additions for chiropractic services must consider space limitations and civilian staff budgets. Excluding clinic space requirements, the cost to provide minimum (chiropractor + technician) chiropractic services at parent MTFs not currently providing chiropractic services to ADSMs would be approximately $19M. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) report GAO-05-890R, "Defense Health Care: DOD Has Established a Chiropractic Benefit for Active Duty Personnel," September 6, 2005, noted that while chiropractic care may complement traditional medical care, it did not offset the cost of this care with a corresponding reduction in traditional care costs, as identified in the Department's "Final Chiropractic Health Care Demonstration Program Report," February 2000.

CONCLUSION

DHA understands and appreciates the importance of quality medical care to our ADSM population. The assessment of clinical visits, by monthly average, allowed for data-driven consideration of our clinical services, and identified opportunities to convert contractor billets to the GS. The Department remains intently focused on supporting the health of our Service members and understands the value that chiropractic care can provide for this population.