



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

201 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-8113

September 21, 2004

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary, Department of Defense
Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former servicemembers and their families, is writing to urge your personal attention to the June 10 letter from the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committees on actions to implement “seamless transition” initiatives for our returning combat veterans.

With more than 7000 combat wounded troops to date, and perhaps many more suffering from psychological trauma injuries, urgent action is needed to implement the recommendations described in the Chairmen’s letter: “These include making a veteran’s basic service information contained on a DD-214 available electronically, making medical records, including pharmaceutical records, available electronically and reciprocally, and documenting and making available information about the veteran’s service history and environmental and occupational exposures.” Those and other key recommendations were based in part on the Report of the President’s Task Force (PTF) to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation’s Veterans released in May 2003.

The Coalition sadly agrees with Chairmen Hunter and Smith that, for our nation’s returning service women and men, progress in implementing PTF recommendations has been “extremely slow.”

TMC strongly recommends your personal attention to assess your Department’s progress in implementing “seamless transition” plans and policies. We recommend greater transparency in

the activities of the DoD – VA Executive Council and we urge your personal participation in this forum from time to time.

Thank you for your continuing commitment to the current and former members of the uniformed services community, and we look forward to hearing back from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(Signatures Enclosed)

cc: The Honorable Duncan Hunter,
Chairman House Armed Services Committee
The Honorable Christopher Smith,
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans Affairs
The Honorable Ike Skelton,
Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee
The Honorable Lane Evans,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans Affairs