MEMORANDUM FOR PRESIDENT, DEFENSE HEALTH BOARD


Thank you for the subject report dated March 9, 2015. We appreciate the in-depth information and recommendations to enable us to consider approaches to enhance Combat Casualty Care. We found that the majority of the recommendations align well with policies under development and validated joint requirements; others are addressed in current programs of record.

Two major policies that are in the development process support your recommendations. A policy for the Joint Trauma System Center of Excellence in the Department of Defense (DoD) will seek to establish and maintain an enduring global trauma care capability that supports the full range of military operations. The Defense Health Agency (DHA) would issue appropriate procedural instructions related to this policy.

The second policy is the update of guidance for Military Readiness Training, which will address training for military personnel in Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC). The DoD shall continue extensive TCCC training and work to expand trauma care training. We will continue to develop our trauma training strategies to take advantage of the latest technologies, such as medical simulation, and work to expand strategic partnerships with civilian trauma centers.

The DoD continues to be involved with extensive research related to trauma care through the efforts of the Combat Casualty Care Research Program (CCCRP). The CCCRP seeks to develop knowledge and material solutions related to battlefield trauma.

The realization of the recommendations in your report will take significant time and effort. However, we are committed to continue the delivery of high quality trauma care and the advancement of research related to combat casualty care. We have made progress but our work continues. We appreciate the efforts of the Defense Health Board on this topic of great importance to our Service members. The point of contact for questions regarding this action is Ms. Elizabeth Fudge, who can be reached at elizabeth.r.fudge.civ@mail.mil, or (703) 681-8295.

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