



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

April 19, 2007

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The *Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes* is pleased to submit its report in accordance with your Executive Order of March 6, 2007.

As Task Force Chair, I am pleased to inform you all Task Force agencies worked in a collaborative, interactive manner with the single purpose of improving the delivery of Federal services and benefits to Global War on Terror (GWOT) servicemembers and veterans. Over the past 45 days, we identified Federal services currently provided to returning GWOT servicemembers, and found several existing gaps in such services. During our review, we emphasized closing these gaps, timeliness, ease of application, and efficient delivery of services and benefits.

The recommendations presented for your consideration are actions Federal agencies can undertake within executive authority and within existing resource levels. Of particular note, the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) will develop a joint process of assigning disability ratings that can be used to determine fitness for military retention, level of disability for retirement, and VA disability compensation. DoD and VA will also develop a system of co-management and case management that promotes better continuity of care for injured GWOT servicemembers.

Our report also contains a Government-wide Action Plan developed to ensure Federal agencies are communicating and cooperating effectively to implement the Task Force's recommendations.

On behalf of all members on the *Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes*, we appreciate the opportunity to have been of service to you and our Nation on this mission.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. James Nicholson", is written over a printed name. The signature is stylized and cursive.

R. James Nicholson

Enclosures