

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 17, 2010

Mr. Gene Dodaro
Acting Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Doadaro:

We are writing to ask the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate Army mobilization and demobilization sites, as well as all Warrior Transition Units, across the United States.

As you know, the 111th Congress has made the health and wellness of our returning veterans a national priority, resulting in hundreds of millions of dollars of investment into pre- and post-deployment health assessment and rehabilitation programs. However, recent visits to Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) and complaints from soldiers highlight possible systematic discrimination against Guard and Reserve servicemembers.

Although many senior officers realize that all soldiers deserve to be treated with respect and receive all the benefits they have earned, a culture of discrimination against the reserve component seems to still permeate some aspects of the Army. For your review, we have included a briefing used by the Acting Chief, Family Practice Department, at the Madigan Army Medical Center which illustrates this discrimination.

We would appreciate an objective, fact-based, and comprehensive review of the Army's pre- and post- mobilization health assessment and rehabilitation programs. Specifically, we would like GAO to investigate any illegal and improper activities that the Army may have institutionalized when caring for our Guard and Reserve servicemen and women. Additionally, we would like the GAO to review the culture in the Army and look for institutionalized discrimination against Guard and Reserve Forces though its current budget, policies, and procedures.

We rely on the services of our Guard and Reserve Components more today than ever before. We can ill-afford to allow biases or prejudices to violate our promise to these elite men and women by systematically denying them services that they have earned through their service to our nation.

We thank you in advance for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress