



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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

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

JUN - 3 2026

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter serves as the Department's partial response to section 724(c) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263), "Feasibility Study and Plan on Establishing a Military Health System Medical Logistics Directorate and Military System Education and Training Directorate," which requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on: (1) the feasibility of establishing a Military Health System (MHS) Education and Training (E&T) Directorate and a MHS Medical Logistics Directorate within the Defense Health Agency (DHA); and (2) any plan for the establishment of either or both directorates. This letter is only intended as a response in part to the requirement in section 724(c) for submission of the results of a study and plan concerning the feasibility of establishing an MHS E&T Directorate in DHA as described in section 724(a).

The Department has concluded the feasibility study regarding the establishment of a centralized MHS E&T Directorate within the DHA. This study, which was led by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) with input from the Joint Staff, DHA, Service Medical Commands, and other MHS entities, thoroughly evaluated future and current E&T requirements, resource needs, and organizational design. The Department's study determined that expanding the DHA's E&T Directorate (J-7) to incorporate all MHS E&T organizations and functions was not feasible. A follow-up effort, conducted by a multi-organization team including representatives from the Military Departments and the Military Services, DHA, the Joint Staff, and USUHS, confirmed these earlier findings.

Specifically, the study determined that further consolidating directive authority under the DHA would pose unacceptable risks to responsiveness, limit the flexibility of the Military Departments and the Military Services to adapt training to rapidly evolving warfighting requirements, and potentially infringe upon Military Departments and Military Service statutory responsibilities. As a result, the study concluded that establishing an MHS-wide E&T Directorate within DHA, beyond the functions already exercised through DHA J-7, is not currently feasible.

The MHS remains committed to a productive and collaborative pursuit of effectiveness in training and educating military medical personnel to support the resilience, readiness, and lethality of our fighting forces. We will continue to seek efficient methods to achieve these goals.

The estimated cost of this report to the Department of War (DoW) for Fiscal Year 2023 is approximately \$29,000.00.

This includes \$7000.00 in expenses and \$29,000.00 in DoW labor

Generated on 2026Apr13

RefID: 2-1147BD2

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

Sincerely,



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

cc:
The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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

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

JUN - 3 2026

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter serves as the Department's partial response to section 724(c) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263), "Feasibility Study and Plan on Establishing a Military Health System Medical Logistics Directorate and Military System Education and Training Directorate," which requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on: (1) the feasibility of establishing a Military Health System (MHS) Education and Training (E&T) Directorate and a MHS Medical Logistics Directorate within the Defense Health Agency (DHA); and (2) any plan for the establishment of either or both directorates. This letter is only intended as a response in part to the requirement in section 724(c) for submission of the results of a study and plan concerning the feasibility of establishing an MHS E&T Directorate in DHA as described in section 724(a).

The Department has concluded the feasibility study regarding the establishment of a centralized MHS E&T Directorate within the DHA. This study, which was led by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) with input from the Joint Staff, DHA, Service Medical Commands, and other MHS entities, thoroughly evaluated future and current E&T requirements, resource needs, and organizational design. The Department's study determined that expanding the DHA's E&T Directorate (J-7) to incorporate all MHS E&T organizations and functions was not feasible. A follow-up effort, conducted by a multi-organization team including representatives from the Military Departments and the Military Services, DHA, the Joint Staff, and USUHS, confirmed these earlier findings.

Specifically, the study determined that further consolidating directive authority under the DHA would pose unacceptable risks to responsiveness, limit the flexibility of the Military Departments and the Military Services to adapt training to rapidly evolving warfighting requirements, and potentially infringe upon Military Departments and Military Service statutory responsibilities. As a result, the study concluded that establishing an MHS-wide E&T Directorate within DHA, beyond the functions already exercised through DHA J-7, is not currently feasible.

The MHS remains committed to a productive and collaborative pursuit of effectiveness in training and educating military medical personnel to support the resilience, readiness, and lethality of our fighting forces. We will continue to seek efficient methods to achieve these goals.

The estimated cost of this report to the Department of War (DoW) for Fiscal Year 2023 is approximately \$29,000.00. This includes \$7,000.00 in expenses and \$29,000.00 in DoW labor

Generated on 2026Apr13

RefID: 2-1147BD2

Thank you for your continued strong support for our Service members, veterans, and their families. I am sending a similar letter to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Sincerely,



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

cc:
The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member