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## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

March 13, 2007

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ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

Mr. David M. Walker  
Comptroller General of the United States  
Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Walker,

We are writing to request that the Government Accountability Office undertake an immediate review of allegations that have recently been reported in the press that wounded and injured soldiers are being sent into a combat theatre with pre-existing medical conditions that could adversely impact their military readiness.

As members of the House Armed Services Committee, it is important that the committee understand whether these allegations are limited to a specific region, base or commander or whether this is a systematic problem within a specific Service or whether it is being experienced by other Services as well.

The concerns at Walter Reed have raised the attention and awareness of the challenges that wounded and injured service members face. The committee has received a number of phone calls and letters from concerned service members and their families, including similar allegations that injured and wounded service members are being deployed into combat despite their injuries. It would also help the committee to understand whether members with profiles that limit their physical ability are actually placed into positions that recognize their physical limitations or whether, due to the demands of the conflict, are being required to work outside of their physical profiles and the extent to which this is happening.

The continued high operational tempo and the President's recent decision to surge the force in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operational Enduring Freedom is placing a heavy stress on the force. However, we cannot let these demanding deployments drive the force to send unfit wounded and injured service members into combat.

Should you have any questions concerning this request, please contact Debra Wada on the House Armed Services Committee staff at 202-225-7560



IKE SKELTON  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee

Sincerely,



VIC SNYDER  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Military Personnel

IS:VS/dw