



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22201-3385 • (703) 841-4300

June 27, 2019

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

The Association of the United States Army has previously expressed concern over the significant changes affecting the medical services of America's Armed Forces. When the Congress legislated the transfer of military medical treatment facilities (MTFs) from the Services to the Defense Health Agency, AUSA urged caution and deliberate Congressional oversight to ensure that the delivery of medical care, most notably the delivery of medical services in combat, would not be adversely affected. The plan proffered by the Department of Defense outlined an incremental transfer of MTFs to ensure the process could be effectively monitored and evaluated by the Department of Defense, the Services, the Congress, and by Service members, their families, and other beneficiaries.

I recently became aware that the Defense Health Agency (DHA) has significantly accelerated the transfer of MTF's and now requires all MTF's to be transferred to DHA no later than October 1, 2019, less than 100 days from today. That acceleration is unwise and will insert added risk into an already complex endeavor.

I ask that the Armed Services Committees delay this unnecessary acceleration of the transfer of MTF's until the Acting Secretary of Defense, the Acting Secretary of the Army, the Service Chiefs and your Committee have the opportunity to review the implications of this faster-than-agreed-upon transfer. Also, I recommend your Committees schedule hearings with the Service Secretaries, Service Chiefs and the Service Surgeons General to address this matter.

Thank you for your consideration and for your enduring support for America's Army.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Ham".

Carter F. Ham

General, U.S. Army Retired
President & Chief Executive Officer