



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
2300 E STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20372-5300

25 May 2006

Honorable Ted Stevens, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
119 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman,

As mentioned during the Navy Surgeon General's opening remarks during testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 3, 2006, Navy Medicine will open a Comprehensive Combat Casualty Care Center (C5) at Naval Medical Center, San Diego (NMCSDD) this summer.

Approximately 25 percent of all combatant casualties come from the western United States. The C5 project will provide wounded service members with the full spectrum of rehabilitative services. Currently, our injured soldiers, sailors and Marines must travel to Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) or Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) for extended treatment and rehabilitation. C5 will afford these patients the opportunity to receive treatment closer to home. In addition, this care initiative will enable families to cope and adjust to the dramatic life changes these types of injuries create without the added burden of traveling back and forth to WRAMC or BAMC as the service members go through the long healing process.

Navy Medicine reprioritized \$7 million from budgeted FY06 Defense Health Program (DHP) Operations and Maintenance (O&M) resources to support this initiative. Funding was forwarded to NMCSDD in early May to start the C5 program. Recent DHP FY06 Mid-year Review decisions reimbursed Navy Medicine for these C5 expenditures. Navy Medicine is committed to continue funding the C5 project with DHP O&M resources as it matures. The costs for Fiscal Year 2007 are estimated at \$10 million. Navy Medicine will continue to use the program and budget process to resource the C5 within the Defense Health Program.

I look forward to providing you with any additional information you may need and extend an invitation to you and your staff to visit the C5 facilities in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Mateczun".

J. M. MATECZUN
Acting

cc: Hon. Daniel K. Inouye, Ranking Member