



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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



APR 29 2005

The Honorable Christopher M. Dodd
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dodd:

This responds to your January 10, 2005, joint letter with Representative Larson to the Secretary of Defense regarding reimbursement to Service members for protective, health, or safety-related equipment purchased for use in Afghanistan or Iraq while this equipment was in short supply. You also sent a follow-up letter to Secretary Rumsfeld on March 9, 2005. My office has taken responsibility for preparing the implementing directive to comply with this provision of the law, so I am replying on Secretary Rumsfeld's behalf to both letters.

My office is working with the Services; the Under Secretary of Defense for Comptroller; the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics; and the relevant Defense agencies to develop an implementing directive that complies with Congress's direction, and treats Service members and former Service members fairly. We anticipate that the policies and procedures for reimbursement will be completed and disseminated in the next sixty days.

We appreciate your interest and continued support in this very important matter. A similar letter has been sent to Representative Larson.

Sincerely,

David S. C. Chu

