

KEN SALAZAR
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

WASHINGTON, DC:
702 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5852

COLORADO:
2300 15TH STREET
SUITE 450
DENVER, CO 80202
(303) 455-7600

<http://www.salazar.senate.gov>

9 January 2006

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

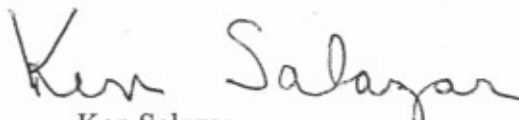
I am writing to express my grave concerns over recent newspaper reports attributing a high number of United States Marine Corps fatalities in Iraq to a lack of adequate body armor. According to these reports, a Pentagon study revealed that as many as 80% of the fatalities due to upper body injuries could have been prevented with better armor.

If these news stories are accurate, this is a shocking situation. Our fighting men and women deserve the best armor possible. I am sure you agree.

To that end, I urge you to take immediate steps to ensure that the appropriate armor is delivered in a timely fashion to our troops in harm's way. In addition, I request information regarding what steps the Department of Defense is taking to correct armor shortfalls, and what obstacles are preventing the rapid procurement and distribution of that armor.

I stand ready to work with my colleagues to ensure that the Department of Defense has the resources required to make certain that this shortfall is resolved. It is my hope that these problems can be overcome quickly and effectively. Anything less would be a fatal disservice to our military.

Sincerely,


Ken Salazar