

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Ashton Carter
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Carter:

We are writing to express our gratitude for the Department of Defense's (DoD) support for the Citizen Soldier Support Program (CSSP), and to encourage you to implement the recommendations of the memorandum on the program that was recently circulated by former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen.

As you may know, CSSP was authorized and funded by Congress in 2005 as a pilot program to provide community-based support services to National Guardsmen, Reservists, and their families, in response to the unique challenges posed by their lengthy deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since then, the program has refined its focus to expanding access to behavioral health care services, training civilian health care providers to effectively meet the needs of servicemembers and their families, and improving coordination between the military and civilian health care systems. Among other accomplishments, CSSP has provided training to over 16,000 civilian health care providers in all 50 states; has developed a mapping tool that connects servicemembers and their families to health care providers in their own communities through a searchable web-based database; and has significantly increased the number of civilian health care providers that accept TRICARE.

As a result of these successes, the Citizen Soldier program has garnered significant support from senior military leaders, as Admiral Mullen's memorandum reflects. Despite this support, however, CSSP has not been incorporated into the regular military command as a permanent component of DoD's personnel and readiness activities, and its current funding stream is set to expire within the next fiscal year (FY 2012). Absent a continued commitment from DoD, the program will not be able to continue offering integrated, community-based solutions to the behavioral health issues facing our service members and their families.

It is our understanding that the Office of the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness is currently working to identify an appropriate home for CSSP within one of the Office's directorates (Reserve Affairs, Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy, Military Community and Family Policy, and Health Affairs). We encourage you to give your personal support to this effort to ensure that this important service for military families does not lapse.

Thank you for your time and attention. If you would like to discuss this matter further, do not hesitate to contact one of us, or have your staff contact Asher Hildebrand in Rep. Price's office at (202) 225-1784.

Sincerely,



DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress



WALTER JONES
Member of Congress



MIKE McINTYRE
Member of Congress



LARRY KISSELL
Member of Congress

Enclosure



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

CM-1550-11
27 September 2011

INFO MEMO

FOR: DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: *Mully M* 9.27.11
Admiral M. G. Mullen, CJCS

SUBJECT: Citizen Soldier Support Program (CSSP)

The CSSP can play an even more prominent role in helping us achieve our goals to sustain further military/community partnerships and strengthen the assistance to Service members, veterans, their families, and the families of the fallen with additional and continued support from the Department.

- I am impressed with what the Office of Economic Adjustment, USD(AT&L), has done to seed and develop the CSSP at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Some of the program's greatest successes include mapping deployment demographic information for Service members and their dependents down to the community level and connecting them to health care providers, raising TRICARE participation, and developing tools to train civilian health care providers. Going forward, key objectives are to:
 - Align initiatives and continue funding of \$3.5M annually to leverage the work of CSSP in the Department to better support reintegration/transition efforts past December 2011.
 - Raise awareness of CSSP's services in DOD publications, Web sites, newsletters, and conferences.
 - Increase efforts to promote CSSP's work to raise TRICARE participation rates.
 - Make readily available DOD-produced materials about CSSP's services that connect military and community service systems and increase readiness and resiliency of Service members, returning veterans, their families, and the families of the fallen.

COORDINATION: NONE

Copy to:
USD(AT&L)

Prepared By: Colonel David Sutherland, USA; Special Assistant to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; 703-695-2871



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27 September 2011

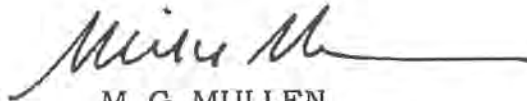
MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
Chief of Naval Operations
Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force
Commandant of the Marine Corps
Chief, National Guard Bureau

Subject: Citizen Soldier Support Program (CSSP)

1. The Department of Defense funds CSSP at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The enclosed briefing provides details of the program, which maps deployment demographic information for current and former Active and Reserve Component Service members and their dependents down to the community level. The mapping is part of an integrated system for increasing access to trained civilian behavioral health providers.
2. CSSP engages and connects military and community service systems to increase the readiness and resiliency of Service members and their families. Additionally, CSSP directly impacts Service members, returning veterans, their families, and families of the fallen by:
 - a. Researching and mapping where Service members and their families live down to the community level (www.unc.edu/cssp/datacenter).
 - b. Developing free tools and courseware; training nearly 15,000 civilian health providers in all 50 states (www.aheconnect.com/citizensoldier) on post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, anxiety, issues of women in combat, and issues affecting families.
 - c. Connecting Service members and their families to local, trained providers through a Web-based searchable behavioral health provider database (www.warwithin.org).
 - d. Significantly raising TRICARE participation rates in their training areas, with such gains as a 50 percent increase in TRICARE behavioral health providers in North Carolina.
3. CSSP works with partners nationwide and the Department of Defense to develop effective and sustainable military/community partnerships; build and reinforce the military and civilian capacity of behavioral health professionals, agencies, systems, and resources; and penetrate geographically isolated, rural, and underserved regions to more effectively serve Service members and their families.

4. For more information, please visit www.citizensoldiersupport.org. You can also contact Bob Goodale, Executive Director at goodale@email.unc.edu or rgoodale@nc.rr.com and William Abb, Deputy Director at william.abb@unc.edu.

5. I encourage you to make this information about CSSP available for your leadership to determine where and how it can best be leveraged to benefit your Service members and their families.



M. G. MULLEN
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Enclosure

Copy to:

Secretary of Defense
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Under Secretary of Defense for
Acquisition, Technology, and
Logistics