



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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AUG 23 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER
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GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM
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INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE
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ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC
AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR OF NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES OFFICE
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Warrior Care Month

Our Wounded Warriors, by their raw example of courage on far-flung battlefields, by their personal sacrifice for our country, and by their commitment to defending this experiment in democracy we call America, have earned a place of honor far greater than any words or monuments we could ever give them. They have shared the action and passion of our time, and will never be “at peril of being judged not to have lived,” in the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., that most articulate Supreme Court justice and himself a combat-experienced infantry officer in the Civil War.

There must never pass a day in our Nation or at the Department of Defense when we do not provide our wounded, injured, and ill Service members the best possible care and support. They have done their patriotic duty; they are neither diminished nor dependent, even as we help them bring new strength to bear. In their eyes we see the best of our country’s fighting spirit. We are inspired by their strength in recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration back to duty or transition into the civilian community.

November is “Warrior Care Month,” a time we have designated to accomplish two goals: first, to renew our focus on all aspects of this mission; and second, to convey that there is no higher priority for this Department than caring for those who have sacrificed so much. I expect all hands to share information on programs and resources available to wounded, ill, and injured Service members, as well as to their families and caregivers. This includes the physical, mental,



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spiritual, emotional, familial, civilian, and career-readiness activities the Department makes available to Service members and their families. I also urge all hands to take aggressive steps to improve care wherever possible.

I thank the many professionals in DoD who work year-round to provide exceptional care for our Wounded Warriors. We have no higher honor. For more Warrior Care Month information, please visit www.warriorcare.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Matis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the "J" across the "n" and "M".