



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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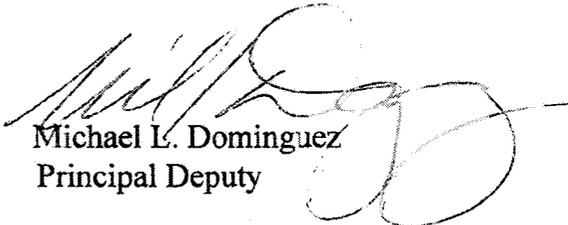
AUG 24 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)

SUBJECT: Command Support for the Transition Assistance Program (TAP)

As we discussed August 6, as required in PL 101-510, we have a business imperative to ensure that the transition needs of our departing personnel are fully addressed. More specifically, Secretary Gates pledged to the President as an outcome of the Task Force on Global War on Terror Heroes that "DoD will increase attendance at TAP and Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP) sessions to 85% of those separating servicemembers and demobilizing National Guard and Reserve Forces." In addition, the Department agreed to increase use of the Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Program to 85%, which will improve the efficiency at VA when supporting service-disabled veterans.

DoD Directive 1332.35, "*Transition Assistance for Military Personnel*," assigns responsibility for policy and oversight to me. In addition, I must report to the President our progress in meeting our Global War on Terror Heroes Task Force goals, and report to the Joint Executive Committee our progress meeting DOD/VA Joint Strategic Plan goals. DoD Directive 1332.35 and DoD Instruction 1332.36, "*Preseparation Counseling for Military Personnel*," assigns Secretaries of the Military Departments responsibility for delivering Transition Assistance Programs. In order for me to carry out my responsibilities, I must know how you plan to carry out yours. I request, therefore, that you prepare a 1/2 hour briefing for each Military Service laying out your plans. I am particularly interested in how you will apply modern technology tools to achieve our goals, improve the quality of the TAP experience, while simultaneously reducing the resource burden on our already heavily taxed leaders and staff. I will schedule the briefings for early October.


Michael L. Dominguez
Principal Deputy

cc: VADM Daniel Cooper, Under Secretary for Benefits,
Department of Veterans Affairs
Mr. Charles Ciccolella, Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment and Training
Department of Labor