



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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JUN 10 2004

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Senate report to accompany the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 urged the Department of Defense, in coordination with the Services, to conduct a test to determine the feasibility of outsourcing military recruiting and report the findings. This letter serves as that report.

During fiscal years 1999 through 2002, the Office of the Secretary of Defense worked with the U. S. Military Entrance Processing Command in the conduct of a test of remote entrance processing, outsourcing parts of that process. The use of civilian contract physicians in remote entrance processing was outlined in the January 2002 report to Congress, *Health Care Provision at Military Entrance Processing Stations and Civilian Contract Medical Facilities*.

In terms of outsourcing military recruiting, the Army is conducting a pilot test using civilian contractors as recruiters in response to the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001. This ongoing initiative, which is scheduled to continue into Fiscal Year 2006, tests exactly what the 1999 Senate report urged the Department to do. The Army will be reporting to Congress on the results of the civilian contractor recruiting pilot program in Fiscal Year 2006. We will be monitoring this program.

I trust that this information will prove useful in your consideration of Defense personnel programs. A similar letter has been sent to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Sincerely,


Charles S. Abell
Principal Deputy

cc:

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Member

