



Troops,

This week we released the *Army 2020: Generating Health and Discipline in the Force Ahead of the Strategic Reset Report 2012*, also known as the *Gold Book*. This report is a continuation of a process that we began three years ago to study and improve the health and discipline of the Force. It follows the *2010 Health Promotion, Risk Reduction, Suicide Prevention Report*. The *Gold Book* provides critical insight into health and disciplinary issues that impact the Force and will assist commanders, leaders, and service providers in making informed and balanced decisions regarding Soldier rehabilitation, treatment, retention and transition.

The *Gold Book* is only four chapters, with a strong focus on the health of the Force, discipline in the Force, and the major issues the Army must tackle regarding health and discipline in the years ahead. With Force reductions and resource constraints looming, it is critically important that the Army is at peak readiness. Each Leader has the difficult task of ensuring that their Soldiers are receiving the medical care they need, while maintaining the high standard of discipline that is the cornerstone of our professional Army.

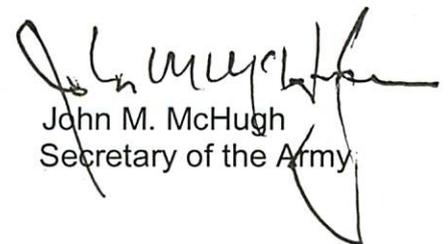
We continue to make real progress in improving access to healthcare and unit and Soldier discipline. However, the unacceptable increase in sexual assaults and domestic violence, coupled with the high number of suicides demonstrates there is much work to be done. The only way Leaders will be able carry out this critical mission is by fully understanding the challenges associated with promoting both health and discipline after a decade of war.

We expect leaders to read this report, understand it, and educate and prepare their subordinate leaders for the challenges they will face in the coming years ahead of the strategic reset. We must continue to meet these challenges head on to ensure Soldiers get the help they need, while maintaining good order and discipline.

We sincerely appreciate your hard work to date and look forward to discussing the critical issues associated with health and discipline during our future visits.


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