



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

NOV 10 2008

The Honorable Ken Salazar
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Salazar:

Thank you for your October 17, 2008 letter concerning the tragic incidents that have occurred at Fort Carson, Colorado. I agree that these tragedies are deeply troubling and I am giving this matter my personal attention.

The Senior Commander at Fort Carson, Major General Mark Graham, has established a multi-disciplinary task force to examine the records of Soldiers who have been involved in violent crimes since returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and identify any commonalities. This task force includes legal, medical, law enforcement, and human resources representatives and reports directly to Major General Graham.

At Major General Graham's request, the Army Surgeon General is sending an Epidemiological Consultation (EPICON) Team to Fort Carson. The team will include experts in epidemiology, behavioral health, preventive medicine, health risk communications, substance abuse, and social work. The team will examine all pertinent data sources to ascertain any trends in violent deaths and make recommendations to the task force as appropriate.

The U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) reviewed the pilot program proposed in Section 7 of Senate Bill 3008, and found that many of the proposed activities are covered under current pre- and post-deployment training guidelines. However, I have asked MEDCOM to reevaluate the pilot program proposal upon the conclusion of the task force and EPICON reviews. I will provide you an update on our progress and any preliminary findings by December 15, 2008.

Thank you for your inquiry into this matter and for your continued support of our Soldiers and their Families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Geren".

Pete Geren