



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD, SUITE 5101
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22042-5101

November 6, 2025

To Our Staff,

As we navigate the current government shutdown, I recognize the difficult situation it creates for everyone, especially those teammates who are furloughed or working under an excepted status, and for all civilian staff awaiting paychecks. This is undoubtedly a stressful time, and I want to express my gratitude for your unwavering commitment to our mission. The DHA workforce remains the backbone of our health system - providing exceptional care to all our beneficiaries, delivering essential combat support services to our combatant commands, sustaining critical research in support of our warfighters.

To support you and your families during this challenging period, the DHA has compiled a comprehensive list of federal resources available here: www.dha.mil/shutdown. The page will be updated as new information becomes available. We also have DHA-specific resources available to further assist you.

In terms of healthcare delivery, I assure you that leaders from across the Department are committed to exploring every possible financial option to ensure we can continue safely delivering healthcare for our 9.5 million beneficiaries. We are also working closely with our TRICARE Regional Contractors, who are processing healthcare claims as promptly as possible. We are continuing to provide access to care across the enterprise for our beneficiaries because of your continuing efforts. Please contact us if you hear otherwise.

These are challenging times, and your well-being is paramount. Please prioritize self-care, support each other, and utilize the available resources if you need assistance.

Thank you for your perseverance and dedication. Your contributions and sacrifices are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,
David J. Smith, M.D.
Acting Director