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INFORMATION MEMO

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Dr. David Chu, USD (Personnel and Readiness)

SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW "READINESS TRENDS OF U.S. GROUND FORCES"

- Based on a request from Senator Conrad, the GAO began a review to:
 - (1) Evaluate the trends during the past three years in reported readiness status of U.S. ground forces, including major Army and Marines Corps combat units.
 - (2) Identify the areas or types of units, if any that have experienced readiness problems and identify the factor that contributed to the readiness deficiencies. .
- The **GAO** found that Army combat units are reporting slightly lower readiness levels based on: (1) resetting the force, (2) on-going transformation and modularity, and (3) equipment being left in Iraq by Army units scheduled for modularity.
- These data were briefed to Senator Conrad's staff yesterday.
- These slight reductions are due in large part to the on-going modularity of Army units and the arcane "rules" of the current reporting system. Both the GAO and the Army recognize these are not "real" reductions in force capability.
- We are working to implement the new Defense Readiness Reporting System to more accurately reflect true force capability, answering the question "Ready for what?"

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

COORDINATION: N/A



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