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U.S. House of Representatives

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April 11, 2024

Dr. Shauna Stahlman
Senior Epidemiologist, Epidemiology & Analysis Branch
Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division
Defense Health Agency
7700 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, VA 22042

Dr. Stahlman:

Before you testified before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel during our March 7th hearing on the Department of Defense's (DoD) monitoring of COVID-19, I asked you to send my office data from the Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS) showing total new cases of the following eight diseases among active-duty service members in 2020 and 2022: hypertensive diseases, ovarian dysfunction, migraine, pulmonary embolism, Guillain-Barre syndrome, malignant neoplasm of esophagus, and myocarditis, unspecified. According to previously published 2021 data from DMSS, the case count for each of these eight diseases was more than ten percent higher in 2021 than the average case count during the 5 years prior.

You did not provide my office with a copy of the DMSS data from 2020 and 2022 before the March 7th hearing. When I asked you for an explanation, you testified, "We do have the numbers. It takes our analysts time to write programming code to pull the data. It then has to be reviewed by an epidemiologist to ensure that the code is accurate, that the output is accurate. And we will get you those numbers."

It has now been over a month since you pledged to provide the Military Personnel Subcommittee with the referenced DMSS data.

No later than April 15, 2024, please send Dave.Giachetti@mail.house.gov with the Military Personnel Subcommittee either a copy of the data I requested or a written explanation as to why the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division needs more than a month to produce basic health data.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Banks". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jim Banks
Chairman, Military Personnel Subcommittee