

Military healthcare reported improved

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- There has been significantly improved healthcare at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and other U.S. military hospitals, government watchdogs told Congress. But, officials of the Governmental Accountability Office told a U.S. House subcommittee there are staff shortages and other issues yet to be resolved. "Challenges remain, but the trend is in the right direction," said John Pendleton, acting GAO director of healthcare. Rep. John Tierney, D-Mass., chairman of the subcommittee, agreed the Army had improved the situation in the year since a scandal surfaced about reports of poor treatment for wounded service members at Walter Reed. But he raised concerns about the continuing known shortfalls and progress, the Washington Post said. "It's equally clear we have a ways to go," Tierney said. The GAO reported in September the Army faced serious shortages in staffing transition units created to help wounded soldiers. Since then, the Army increased the number of staff positions by nearly 75 percent, the GAO said, but more than a third of the units are still short staffed.

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