



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

February 14, 2003

**MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
COMMANDER, US EUROPEAN COMMAND
COMMANDER, US CENTRAL COMMAND**

**SUBJECT: Vaccinating Department of Defense (DoD) Personnel and Dependents
Assigned to Department of State (DoS) Missions and in High-Threat Areas**

The Department of State is about to commence offering, on a voluntary basis, anthrax and smallpox vaccine to DoS employees and family members serving in missions in Near East Asia, Israel, Turkey, North Africa, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. I have requested DoS's assistance in offering, under the same program, vaccination to DoD military members and their adult family members, civilian DoD employees and their adult family members, and DoD contract personnel co-located with DoS missions under their program.

As part of a larger context of providing appropriate countermeasures to known or suspected biological threats where and when those countermeasures exist, I direct the Services to mandate vaccination of military personnel serving at DoS missions located in those areas already designated by the Secretary of Defense to be of higher threat. Furthermore, Services are directed to commence all necessary actions to support DoS's effort to offer, on a voluntary basis, anthrax and smallpox vaccine to adult dependents of military members, non-emergency essential civilians and their adult family members, and DoD contract personnel serving in these higher threat areas. Finally, Services are directed to support DoS efforts to offer, on a voluntary basis, anthrax and smallpox vaccine to military personnel and their adult family members, DoD civilian employees and their adult family members, and DoD contract personnel serving at DoS missions affected by their program, but not designated as higher threat by the Secretary of Defense.

Existing policies for mandatory vaccination of military personnel, emergency-essential civilian employees and comparable contractor personnel serving in these areas remains in effect.

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Services are directed to amend existing vaccination implementation plans accordingly. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) shall issue supplemental guidelines for each vaccine as required.

This action is prudent as a force health protection measure, and aligns U.S. policies or the safety of those serving in these high-threat areas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul Wolfowitz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

cc:
Commandant of the U.S Coast Guard