THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MAR 13 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: Clarification of Service Responsibilities in Vaccinating Department of Defense (DoD) Personnel and Dependents Assigned to Department of State (DoS) Missions or Residing in High-Threat Areas

There remains confusion on responsibilities for program execution for vaccinating DoD military personnel, family members, non-essential civilian personnel and their families, and DoD contract personnel serving at Department of State missions in designated areas or living in DoD designated high-threat areas. This memorandum clarifies current direction.

On February 14, 2003, the Deputy Secretary of Defense (DEPSECDEF) requested Deputy Secretary of State assistance in offering, on a voluntary basis, anthrax and smallpox vaccine to DoD military members and their families, civilian employees and their family members, and contract personnel serving at DoS missions in Near East Asia, Israel, Turkey, North Africa, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. On the same day, the DEPSECDEF published direction to the Services for announcing and implementing this program (attached). For clarification, use the guidance below as you embark on these programs.

The Services are directed to mandate vaccination of military personnel serving at DoS missions located in those areas already designated as high-threat by the Secretary of Defense. For service members and emergency essential DoD personnel serving at missions in areas not considered to be high-threat by DoD, program vaccination is on a voluntary basis. The Services are directed to commence all necessary actions to support the DoS program as it applies to all categories of DoD personnel co-located at DoS missions.

For civilians and family members residing in DoD designated high-threat areas, and not directly serving with DoS missions, the Services are directed to offer, on a voluntary basis, anthrax and smallpox vaccine to adult family members of military and emergency essential civilian personnel, non-emergency essential civilian personnel and their adult family members, and DoD contract personnel. Existing policies for mandatory vaccination of military personnel, emergency-essential civilian employees and comparable contractor personnel serving in these areas remains in effect.

Services are directed to amend existing vaccination implementation plans accordingly. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) shall issue supplemental administrative 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.

William Winkenwerder Jr.

William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

Attachment:
As Stated

cc:
Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard