



HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

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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.

