



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

OCT 12 2006

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  
COMMANDANT OF THE US COAST GUARD

SUBJECT: Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program

Based on the continuing heightened threat to some U.S. personnel of attack with anthrax spores, the Department of Defense will resume a mandatory Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program, consistent with Food and Drug Administration guidelines and the best practice of medicine, for designated military personnel, emergency-essential and comparable Department of Defense civilian employees, and certain contractor personnel performing essential services. Vaccination is mandatory for these personnel based on geographic area of assignment or special mission roles, except as provided under applicable medical and administrative exemption policies.

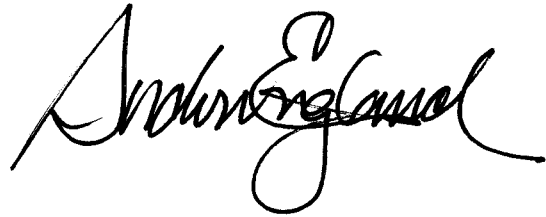
As it was under the Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum of June 28, 2004, "Expansion of Force Health Protection Anthrax and Smallpox Immunization Programs for DoD Personnel," the scope of the mandatory Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program shall encompass personnel assigned to or deployed for 15 or more consecutive days in higher-threat areas and certain other personnel with special mission roles. Other personnel determined by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to be at higher risk of exposure to anthrax may also be included in the program. Vaccinations shall begin, to the extent feasible, up to 60 days prior to deployment or arrival in higher-threat areas.

Consistent with the FDA-approved guidelines for use of anthrax vaccine, all personnel who begin the six-dose vaccine series (unless excluded for medical reasons) will be offered all six doses and the annual booster as long as they remain members of the armed forces or maintain a civilian employee or contractor status covered by the program. For those no longer deployed to a higher threat area or no longer assigned designated special mission roles, these later vaccine doses will be on a voluntary basis. Individuals whose vaccine series was interrupted are not required to restart the vaccine series, but will proceed in accordance with appropriate medical practice.



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The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) shall issue implementation guidance on the medical and administrative aspects of the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program. Effective program implementation continues to be the responsibility of the Secretary of the Army as the Executive Agent for the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program and the designated senior military officers of the Services. USD(P&R) must approve Military Department and applicable Combatant Commander Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Programs prior to implementation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew England". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "A".