



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD
5109 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041-3258



AFEB (15-1a) 94-8

09 August 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH AFFAIRS)

SUBJECT: Recommendation on the Use of Meningococcal Vaccine

In response to your request for telephonic advice on the use of meningococcal vaccine for DoD personnel deployed in Rwanda and Zaire, the Board recommends the following:

- a. THE BOARD CONCURS WITH THE CDC RECOMMENDATION THAT ALL DoD PERSONNEL DEPLOYED TO RWANDA AND ZAIRE SHOULD BE IMMUNIZED WITH THE MENINGOCOCCAL POLYSACCHARIDE VACCINE, QUADRIVALENT A,C,Y, W-135, LICENSED FOR USE IN THE UNITED STATES.
- b. THERE IS NO AVAILABLE SCIENTIFIC DATA THAT DEMONSTRATES THE EFFICACY OF BOOSTER DOSES OF THE VACCINE. HOWEVER, IF IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE MEDICAL AUTHORITIES SUPPORTING THE INVOLVED CINC THERE IS SIGNIFICANT RISK OF EXPOSURE TO DoD PERSONNEL, A BOOSTER DOSE IS RECOMMENDED. A BOOSTER DOSE AT 3-5 YEARS, AS WAS RECOMMENDED DURING OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM, SEEMS REASONABLE.

FOR THE ARMED FORCES EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD:

Michael C. Peterson

LEWIS H. KULLER, M.D., DrPH
President, AFEB

Michael R. Peterson

MICHAEL R. PETERSON, DVM, MPH, DrPH
Colonel, USAF, BSC
Executive Secretary