



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



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFEB (15-1a) 95-4

24 July 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH AFFAIRS)
THE SURGEON GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE SURGEON GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
THE SURGEON GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Recommendation on the Use of Meningococcal Vaccine

1. Meningococcal disease continues to be a problem in military settings such as basic training. Current vaccine formulations provide significant protection against serogroups A, C, Y and W 135, but infections continue to occur after the widespread use of vaccine.

2. The duration of vaccine-induced protection is not well known but may be very long and frequent boosters may not be required. In the face of these uncertainties, the Board makes the following recommendations:

- a. All meningococcal isolates should be grouped and group B organisms typed by a reference laboratory to assess the current prevalence of strains in the military population. B typing information may be useful if the group B OMP vaccine becomes an option. The vaccine history of individuals with meningococcal disease should be determined.
- b. A longitudinal study of antibody persistence for 3 to 10 years should be conducted using samples from the DoD Serum repository. The effects of current booster regimens should be assessed in a separate prospective study.

3. The results of these studies will allow us to recommend optimal vaccine formulations and booster intervals. In the meantime, a consistent service-wide policy of a five-year booster interval is reasonable.

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

FRANCIS L. O'DONNELL
Colonel, USA, MC
Preventive Medicine Staff Officer
Acting, AFEB Executive Secretary

24 July 1995

SUBJECT: Recommendation on the Use of Meningococcal Vaccinations

Copies Furnished:

Board Members

Ch, HQ, USAF, SGP

Ch, Prev Med Div, OTSG-DAF

Dir. Occup Hlth & Prev Med Div, BUMED-DN

CDR, USAMEDCOM, ATTN: MCHO-CL-W

Dir, AFIP

Dir, AFMIC

Cmdr, U. S. Army Med R&D Cmd

CO NAVMEDRSCHDEVCOM

Navy Env. Health Center (Code 36)

Dir, Med Resources, Plans & Policy Div. (N931)

Dir, Env. Life Sci., OUSDA, ATTN: Dr. J. Osterman

ASBREM Sec., R&D, NMC

Head, Epi Dept., NEPMU 5

CDR Timothy J. Ungs, USPHS

COL Robert Leitch, RAMC

CDR Gordon Clifford, CFMS