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HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

**FEB 20 1996**

**MEMORANDUM FOR:**  
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

**SUBJECT:** Policy for Tick-Borne Encephalitis (TBE) Preventive Measures for US Forces Deployed during Operation Joint Endeavor

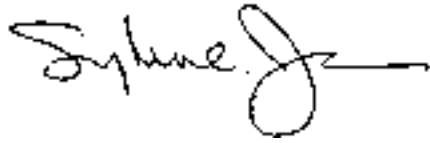
This memorandum establishes Department policy on preventive measures to use for reducing the risk of TBE in US Forces deployed during Operation Joint Endeavor. The policy serves as further guidance to the US Commander-in-Chief Europe (USCINCEUR) on preventive medicine measures for US Forces in the Theater of Operations, at Tab 1.

An analysis of the preventive measures against TBE has been conducted by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, at Tab 2. Based upon that analysis, and with the concurrence of the Surgeons General, the following policy regarding TBE preventive measures applies:

Do not routinely immunize US Forces with the TBE vaccine. However, personnel at high risk of tick exposure should be considered for TBE immunization (e.g., those whose mission requirements include frequent activity in shrubby forest edges and meadows as well as along river valleys, and/or those whose missions preclude the use of personal protective measures). Requests for immunization must be coordinated with the EUCOM Command Surgeon for approval by USCINCEUR. Strict compliance with the Investigational New Drug protocol, including the requirement for informed consent, is mandatory.

The key to preventing TBE resides in proper use of personal protective measures to minimize tick attachment (e.g., permethrin impregnated uniforms and application of DEET). All unit personnel must use such personal protective measures, which are well described in Technical Guide No. 174, Personal Protective Techniques Against Insects and Other Arthropods of Military Significance, US Army Environmental Hygiene Agency, June 1991. A high level of compliance with these directives, through Command emphasis, will provide excellent general protection against tick-borne diseases, including TBE, Lyme Disease, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, etc. Commanders in the field must continuously reinforce to their personnel the need for these protective measures.

Please forward the above stated Department's policy to USCINCEUR immediately. My point of contact on this matter is LTC Terry Rauch, 703-695-5615.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen C. Joseph", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen C. Joseph, M.D., M.P.H.

**HA POLICY 96-031**

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Last update: 12/22/1998