



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



AFEB (15-1a) 01-05

27 SEP 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR The Acting 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: DoD Immunization Program for Biological Warfare Defense

1. On 23 May 2001 the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB) met to consider the DoD Immunization Program for Biological Warfare Defense as required by Department of Defense Directive 6205.3, "DoD Immunization Program for Biological Warfare Defense," dated November 26, 1993. Specifically, the Board is required to:

a. Within 30 days of receiving the validated and prioritized biological warfare threat list from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, provide recommendations to the DoD Executive Agent on vaccines and immunization protocols necessary to enhance protection against validated biological warfare threat agents.

b. In consultation with the DoD Executive Agent, identify vaccines available to protect against biological threat agents designated by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and recommend appropriate immunization protocols.

2. The Board received briefings on the current intelligence based biological warfare threat, the Medical Risk Assessment Project, the Medical Chemical and Biological Defense Research Program, the Chemical and Biological Diagnostics Research Program, and the Joint Vaccine Acquisition Program. The Board noted that the current intelligence based biological warfare threat list had not been formally accepted by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

3. The Board strongly supports the technical approach of the Medical Chemical and Biological Defense Research Program.

4. The Board commends The Surgeon General, Department of the Army, and applauds the efforts of the individuals on the Medical and Scientific Panels who developed the "Medical Risk Assessment of the Biological Warfare Threat." (See AFEB Recommendation 0 1-06.)

**a. WHEN INTEGRATED WITH THE INTELLIGENCE THREAT ASSESSMENT, THE MEDICAL RISK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT MEANS TO ANALYZE THE POTENTIAL AND SEVERITY OF AGENTS AS BIOLOGICAL WARFARE THREATS. THE**

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**BOARD RECOMMENDS USE OF THIS METHODOLOGY TO RANK ORDER BIOLOGICAL WARFARE THREAT AGENTS AND PROVIDE FOR A MORE OBJECTIVE MEANS TO MAKE MEDICAL DEFENSE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TESTING, AND ACQUISITION AND STOCKPILING DECISIONS.**

**b. THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT THE DOD EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR THE DOD IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR BIOLOGICAL WARFARE DEFENSE CONVENE A PANEL TO REVIEW THE CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BASED BIOLOGICAL WARFARE THREAT LIST AND USE THE RISK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY IN THE MEDICAL RISK ASSESSMENT OF THE BIOLOGICAL WARFARE THREAT REPORT TO DEVELOP A RANK-ORDERED BIOLOGICAL WARFARE THREAT LIST.**

**c. THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT A PROGRAM REVIEW BE ACCOMPLISHED ONCE A RANK-ORDERED BIOLOGICAL WARFARE THREAT LIST IS PRODUCED. USING THIS MEDICAL RISK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY WILL PROVIDE A MORE OBJECTIVE MEANS AND ENHANCE CURRENT METHODS OF PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION ON RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND ACQUISITION OF MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST BIOLOGICAL WARFARE AGENTS.**

**d. THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT THE DOD CONTINUE TO PURSUE INTERIM MEASURES AGAINST THE BIOLOGICAL WARFARE THREAT UTILIZING THIS RANK-ORDERED BIOLOGICAL WARFARE THREAT LIST TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES. THE DOD SHOULD WORK WITH MANUFACTURERS AND THE FDA ON RELABELING OF ANTIBIOTICS FOR ROUTINE USE AND/OR DEVELOPMENT OF APPROVED PROTOCOLS FOR IND USE OF ANTIBIOTICS AS A CONTINGENCY AGAINST BIOLOGICAL WARFARE AGENT USE. RECOMMENDED ANTIBIOTICS ARE CONTAINED IN AFEB RECOMMENDATION 00-9, "ANTIBIOTICS AGAINST BIOWARFARE AGENTS," DATED AUGUST 3, 2000.**

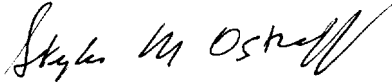
**e. THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT THE DOD DEVELOP APPROVED IND PROTOCOLS FOR MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES AVAILABLE IN THE IND CONTINGENCY STOCKPILE AND SEEK FDA APPROVAL FOR EXISTING IND MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST BIOLOGICAL WARFARE AGENTS UTILIZING THIS RANK-ORDERED BIOLOGICAL WARFARE THREAT LIST TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES.**

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5. The above recommendations were unanimously approved.

FOR THE ARMED FORCES EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD:



STEPHEN M. OSTROFF, M.D.  
AFEB, President



JAMES R. RIDDLE, D.V.M., M.P.H.  
Lt Col, USAF, BSC  
AFEB Executive Secretary

3 Encls

1. Department of Defense Directive 6205.3
2. Final Report on Medical Risk Assessment of the Biological Warfare Threat
3. AFEB Recommendation 00-9, "Antibiotics Against Biowarfare Agents," Dated 3 August 2000.

CF:

Board Members and Consultants (wo/encls)

USAMRMC (wo/encls)

USAMRIID (wo/encls)

USD (AT&L) (wo/encls)

Joint Vaccine Acquisition Program (wo/encls)

J4-MRD (wo/encls)

DASG-HCF (wo/encls)