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THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

**SUBJECT:** Policy for Tick-Borne Encephalitis Preventive Measures for Department of Defense Personnel Deployed to Endemic Areas

Attached Memorandum, Subject: DoD Policy Regarding Tick-Borne Encephalitis (TBE) Immunization of U.S. Forces Deployed to Endemic Areas," dated July 22, 1996 requests policy guidance on TBE immunization for DoD personnel.

The existing policy for TBE preventive measures for U.S. forces deployed during Operation Joint Endeavor is re-affirmed and will apply to all DoD personnel assigned to endemic areas within the U.S. Commander-in-Chief Europe (USCINCEUR) area of responsibility. That policy is as follows:

**Do not routinely immunize DoD personnel with the TBE vaccine. The key to preventing TBE resides in proper use of personal protective measures to minimize tick exposure (e.g., permethrin impregnated uniforms and application of DEET). All units must implement personal protective measures stipulated in Technical Guide No. 174, Personal Protective Techniques Against Insects and Other Arthropods of Military Significance. U.S. 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. Personal protective measures to minimize tick exposure must be implemented by commanders in the field.**

**Personnel at very high risk of tick exposure, however, should be considered for TBE immunization especially when 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.**

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".

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

Attachment:  
As stated

**HA POLICY 97-004**

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Last update: 1/5/1999