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INFO: MAJCOM/DOS, MAJCOM/SGs, 9AF, AEFC, SG, SGO, SGOP, XO, XON, XONP, JA

UNCLASSIFIED

REF A: USD (P&R) MEMO, SUBJ: POLICY ON ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES RELATED TO ANTHRAX VACCINE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (AVIP), 6 AUG 02

REF B: CSAF MEMO, SUBJ: AIR FORCE ANTHRAX VACCINE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM, 11 OCT 02

REF C: AF/XO MEMO, SUBJ: XO PRIORITY 3 ANTHRAX VACCINATIONS, 27 NOV 02 (S)

REF D: USD (P&R) MEMO, SUBJ: ANTHRAX VACCINATION IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM, 23 DEC 03

SUBJ: TEMPORARILY STOP GIVING ANTHRAX IMMUNIZATIONS TO ALL DOD PERSONNEL

1. REFS A, B, AND C PROVIDED AUTHORIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE FOR RESUMPTION OF THE ANTHRAX VACCINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM BASED ON THREAT ANALYSIS AND AVAILABILITY OF A SAFE, FDA-APPROVED ANTHRAX VACCINE. SINCE 1998, DOD HAS SAFELY VACCINATED OVER ONE MILLION MILITARY, EMERGENCY-ESSENTIAL CIVILIANS, AND MISSION-ESSENTIAL CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL TO PROVIDE VITAL PROTECTION AGAINST ALL FORMS OF ANTHRAX DISEASE.

2. ON DECEMBER 22, 2003, THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ISSUED A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AGAINST THE CURRENT OPERATION OF THE ANTHRAX VACCINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM. SAFETY OF THE VACCINE IS NOT THE FOCUS OF THE INJUNCTION. THE JUDGE'S RULING IS BASED ON CONCERNS ABOUT THE COMPLETENESS OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION'S (FDA) PROCESS TO APPROVE THE VACCINE FOR USE AGAINST INHALATION ANTHRAX.

3. IAW REF D, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE DIRECTED IMMEDIATELY:

A. UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, STOP GIVING ANTHRAX VACCINATIONS TO ALL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, TO INCLUDE FAMILY MEMBERS. THIS APPLIES TO PERSONNEL NOT PREVIOUSLY VACCINATED AND PERSONNEL CURRENTLY UNDERGOING THE SIX-SHOT BASIC SERIES AND ANNUAL BOOSTER. THIS APPLIES TO ALL PERSONNEL REGARDLESS OF THEIR CURRENT LOCATION OR DEPLOYMENT SITUATION. DO NOT IMPLEMENT VOLUNTARY VACCINATIONS VIA INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURES AT THIS TIME.

B. ENSURE ALL VACCINATIONS PREVIOUSLY ADMINISTERED ARE ACCURATELY RECORDED IN THE MEDICAL RECORD AND ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED TO THE DEFENSE ELIGIBILITY ENROLLMENT SYSTEM (DEERS) VIA SERVICE AUTOMATED IMMUNIZATION TRACKING SYSTEMS. THIS WILL ALLOW FOR TRACKING OF THOSE PERSONNEL WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEGUN THE ANTHRAX VACCINE SERIES, AS WELL AS THOSE DEPLOYING WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE ANTHRAX VACCINATION TO DATE.

C. IMPLEMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACTIONS THAT INFORM ALL PERSONNEL OF THE NECESSITY OF THIS TEMPORARY SUSPENSION PENDING THE CLARIFICATION OF THE LEGAL SITUATION. PUBLIC AFFAIRS MESSAGE FORTHCOMING. INFORM ALL PERSONNEL THAT THE FOCUS OF THE LEGAL RULING IS WHETHER THE VACCINE IS PROPERLY LICENSED FOR USE AGAINST INHALATION ANTHRAX (NOT CUTANEOUS OR GASTROINTESTINAL), AND NOT WHETHER THE VACCINE IS CONSIDERED SAFE.

D. FOR ANY PENDING MILITARY JUSTICE ISSUES, CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE LEGAL AUTHORITIES.

E. MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES WILL CONSOLIDATE AND REPORT THE INVENTORY OF ALL UNOPENED VIALS OF ANTHRAX VACCINE, BY LOT NUMBER, THROUGH MAJCOM MEDICAL LOGISTICS TO AFMSA/SGSLC NLT 9 JAN 04. UNOPENED VIALS WILL BE STORED IN PLACE UNTIL FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ARE ISSUED.

4. HAF/XO POC FOR THIS MESSAGE IS LT COL DONNA HUDSON/XONP, 703-692-0371 (DSN 222), OR EMAIL: DONNA.HUDSON@PENTAGON.AF.MIL

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