



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 18 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Anthrax Vaccination Program for the Total Force

I have approved implementation of the Anthrax Vaccination Program for the total force. As you know, on December 15, 1997, I approved the program after a two-year review effort and based on the recommendation of the Chairman and Joint Chiefs of Staff. I made implementation of the program contingent on the successful completion of four conditions: supplemental testing of the vaccine; assured tracking of immunizations; approved operational and communications plans; and review of the health and medical aspects of the program by an independent expert. All conditions for implementing the anthrax vaccination program for the total force have now been met. Vaccinations of the active components and Selected Reserve shall proceed consistent with this memorandum and all specifications of the Food and Drug Administration approved product labeling.

The Secretary of the Army, in accordance with DoD Directive 6205.3, "DoD Immunization Program for Biological Warfare Defense" (November 26, 1993) will exercise Executive Agency for the Department's Anthrax Vaccination Program. The Secretary of the Army will assign a senior military official to implement vaccine acquisition and stockpiling and, on behalf of the Executive Agent, will perform the following functions: manage and administer the overall program; serve as focal point for the submission of information from the Services relating to vaccine adverse reactions and vaccine projected program requirements; monitor the Services' implementation of the Anthrax Vaccination Program; and execute the Army's implementation plan.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs is directed to carry out the congressional notification plan. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs is directed to carry out the public communication plan and insure the consistency of informational materials for military members. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs is responsible for the promulgation of medical standards, policies and protocols for the program.

The Secretaries of the Navy and Air Force are directed to assign a senior military official to implement respective Service implementation plans and to advise the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) and the Executive Agent of this designation within seven days of the date of this memorandum. The Secretaries are further directed to implement, monitor, evaluate, and document the Anthrax Vaccination Program in their respective departments, conform to

standards established on medical protocols and informational materials, advise the Executive Agent of any special, operationally necessary implementation requirements of their respective Services, and establish procedures for coordinating and reporting required information to the Executive Agent. The Executive Agent will report quarterly to the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) on the progress of the program.

William A. 
