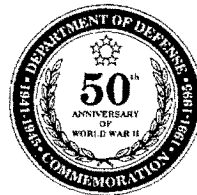




DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
ARMED FORCES EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD  
5109 LEESBURG PIKE  
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041-3258



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

AFEB (15-1a) 96-1

05 December 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR THE 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: Recommendation for Tick Borne Encephalitis (TBE) and  
Hepatitis A Vaccine Use in DoD Personnel Deployed to Bosnia

In response to your request to the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB) for advice regarding the use of vaccines in U.S. troops deployed to Bosnia, the AFEB Disease Control Subcommittee held a teleconference on 04 December 1995 and makes the following recommendations:

- a. THE COMMITTEE REAFFIRMS ITS RECOMMENDATION FOR GENERAL USE OF THE LICENSED HEPATITIS A VACCINE IN DEPLOYED TROOPS. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS WOULD BE ALLOWED FOR VALID LOGISTICAL REASONS. ROUTINE USE OF IMMUNE SERUM GLOBULIN IS NOT RECOMMENDED AND WOULD COMPOUND AND PERPETUATE THE SERIOUS SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES THAT SUCH USE HAS CREATED IN THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY.
- b. WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF TICK-BORNE ENCEPHALITIS (TBE) VACCINE, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE VACCINE NOT BE GIVEN TO TROOPS PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT PENDING FURTHER REVIEW. THE TICK SEASON IS SEVERAL MONTHS AWAY, AND FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO THE RISK PERIOD TO ASSIST US IN MAKING A MORE INFORMED DECISION. SUCH INFORMATION WOULD INCLUDE RECENT DATA ON DISEASE OCCURRENCE IN BOSNIA, EXPERIENCE OF THE U.N. FORCES, TICK ACTIVITY INFORMATION FOR RECENT YEARS, A BETTER DEFINED VIEW OF "HOT SPOTS" OF TBE VERSUS AREAS OF U.S. TROOP ASSIGNMENT, CLASSIFICATION OF TROOPS INTO FIELD EXPOSURE GROUPS, ETC.
- c. THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING OF A FEW OF ITS MEMBERS WITH SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES WHO CAN PROVIDE THE ABOVE INFORMATION PRIOR TO THE NEXT BOARD MEETING, PERHAPS IN THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY.

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Tick Borne Encephalitis (TBE) and Hepatitis A Use in DoD Personnel Deployed to Bosnia

c. (CONTINUED)

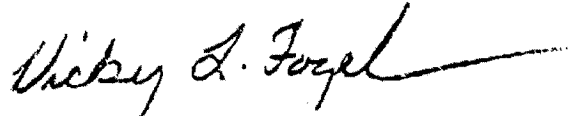
AT THAT MEETING, THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE UPDATES ON OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF POTENTIAL OPERATIONAL IMPORTANCE, E.G., CONGO-CRIMEAN HEMORRHAGIC FEVER, TYPHUS (ENDEMIC DISEASE AND EPIDEMIC POTENTIAL), RABIES, LYME DISEASE, TULAREMIA, BOUTONNEUSE FEVER, AND RELAPSING FEVER. AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF UNIFORM TICK REPELLANT IMPREGNATION TECHNIQUES AND DEET APPLICATION WOULD BE WELCOME.

d. IN ADVANCE OF SUCH A MEETING, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT AN ACTIVE MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM BE ESTABLISHED FOR THESE AND OTHER DISEASES INCLUDING APPROPRIATE MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC SUPPORT.

FOR THE ARMED FORCES EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD:



MICHAEL S. ASCHER, M.D.  
Chairman, Disease Control  
Subcommittee



VICKY L. FOGELMAN  
Colonel, USAF, BSC  
AFEB Executive Secretary

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