THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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HEALTH AFFAIRS

MAY - 2 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Policy for Individual Medical Readiness Metrics

The Department's overall readiness to accomplish any mission is greatest when each Service member is fully medically ready. A joint Service working group has identified six essential Individual Medical Readiness (IMR) elements. Tracking these six elements across DoD will provide operational commanders and Service headquarters the ability to monitor individual medical readiness. The following are the six key elements identified for monitoring IMR:

Periodic health assessment. Service specific requirements for currency and methodology of periodic health assessment have been defined.

Deployment-limiting conditions. Deployment-limiting conditions are defined by Service-specific policies.

Dental readiness. All Services use the same classification system to assess and monitor dental readiness.

Immunization status. Immunizations effectively prevent infectious diseases in the deployed as well as non-deployed environments. Immunizations will be monitored and kept current according to Service policy and occupational or deployment considerations.

Readiness laboratory studies. Service-specific policies identify readiness labs such as DNA samples, blood type, etc.

Individual medical equipment. Medical equipment will be monitored as appropriate for personnel subject to deployment, such as two pairs of glasses/contact lenses, and other Service and deployment-specific requirements (e.g., gas mask lens inserts, hearing protectors, and laser protection).

The IMR of each Service member will be assessed according to the following system:

- Fully medically ready — current in all categories including dental class 1 or 2.
- Partially medically ready — lacking only immunizations, readiness laboratory studies, or medical equipment.

- Not medically ready — deployment limiting condition (including those hospitalized or convalescing from serious illness or injury), or dental class 3.
- Medical readiness indeterminate — inability to determine health status because of missing health record, overdue periodic health assessment or dental class 4.

The Services will submit implementation plans and timelines within 30 days after the date of this memo, for quarterly reporting of all six IMR elements. My point of contact is Col Ray Cunningham, (703) 578-8445, edward.cunningham@ha.osd.mil.

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