THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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HEALTH AFFAIRS

MAY 18 2007

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: Updated Policy for Prevention of Arthropod-Borne Diseases Among Department of Defense Personnel Deployed to Endemic Areas

Reference: (a) "Policy for Tick-Borne Encephalitis Preventive Measures for Department of Defense Personnel Deployed to Endemic Areas," October 17, 1996, (HA 97-004, hereby rescinded)
(b) "Policy for Tick-Borne Encephalitis Preventive Measures for US Forces Deployed During Operation Joint Endeavor," February 20, 1996, (HA 96-031, hereby rescinded)

This memorandum supersedes the above references regarding the Department of Defense's (DoD) on preventive measures to reduce the risk of tick-borne diseases for DoD personnel assigned to endemic areas and expands the policy to apply to arthropod-borne vectors.

Vaccines are not available for most vector borne diseases. The key to preventing diseases transmitted by insects (such as mosquitoes and sand flies) and other arthropods (such as ticks and chiggers) is the DoD Insect Repellent System. This strategy includes simultaneous use of both skin (DEET) and clothing (Permethrin) repellents and properly worn uniforms. All units must implement the DoD Insect Repellent System as described in Technical Guide No. 36, "Personal Protective Measures Against Insects and Other Arthropods of Military Significance," (Armed Forces Pest Management Board, April 18, 2002) (*http://www.afpmb.org/coweb/guidance_targets/ppms/TG36/TG36.pdf*) and the US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine's fact sheet, "DoD Insect Repellent System" (*http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/documents/DODInsectRepellentsystem.pdf*).

A high level of compliance with these directives, through Command emphasis, will provide excellent general protections against vector-borne diseases

(including Leishmaniasis, Malaria, Lyme disease, tick-borne Encephalitis, and West Nile virus infection). Commanders will emphasize personal protective measures to minimize exposure to insects and ticks.

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