

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WITH RESPECT TO INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) is to form a working partnership to promote environmental stewardship by adopting integrated pest management strategies to reduce the potential risks to human health and the environment associated with pesticides.

II. BACKGROUND

1. In June 1993, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced their joint initiative to reduce the risks, to people and the environment, associated with pesticides, while assuring the availability of cost-effective pest management tools for the agricultural sector and other pesticide users. This announcement was made in conjunction with the publication of the 1993 National Academy of Science's Report, entitled "Pesticides in Children's Food." A major thrust of this joint agency initiative has been to encourage the voluntary adoption of integrated pest management (IPM) and alternative technologies that are thought to be safer than traditional methods. In August 1994, the EPA and USDA signed a memorandum of understanding to "cooperate in providing for agricultural pest management that is conducted in the most environmentally sound manner possible, with sufficient pest management alternatives to reduce risks to human health and the environment, to reduce the incidence of pest resistance to pesticides, and to ensure economical agricultural production. By the year 2000, EPA, USDA, and FDA are committed to the goal of enrolling 75 percent of U.S. agricultural acreage in integrated pest management programs."

2. Shortly after the USDA/EPA/FDA announcement, the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security) directed the Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB) to cooperate fully with these agencies in their initiative and to develop a strategy to reduce pesticide risk within the DoD. Key elements of this strategy are eliminating unnecessary pesticide use by fully implementing IPM, substituting safer pesticides, and fostering research on non-chemical and "least toxic" control methods. The DoD is committed to fully implementing IPM as a tool to help achieve a 50% reduction in its pesticide use by the end of fiscal year 2000. To help achieve this reduction and to support the EPA, USDA, and FDA effort to fulfill their goals for the Nation, it is in the interest of DoD and EPA to enter into this cooperative MOU to broaden respective opportunities to support or stimulate the accomplishment of the public purpose of developing, demonstrating, and implementing IPM strategies that reduce the use and risk of pesticides to the citizens of the United States.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOTH PARTIES

1. The DoD agrees to arrange, through coordination by the AFPMB, suitable locations on DoD installations where innovative IPM techniques can be demonstrated to control pests.

2. The DoD also agrees, where possible and practical, to provide the necessary personnel and equipment to implement these techniques. These control techniques shall include, but not be limited to, the following: physical, mechanical, cultural, biological, and educational and use of less toxic pesticides such as biopesticides.

3. DoD further agrees to promote the use of IPM on DoD-controlled golf courses with the objective of eventually having all DoD courses practicing IPM.
4. The EPA agrees to recommend and provide the necessary technical background information and support on the above-mentioned IPM techniques, including recommendations on safer pesticides and IPM implementation, and, when possible and practical, provide on-site consultation on the use of such techniques.
5. The EPA also agrees, subject to the availability of funds, to fund or co-fund with DoD seed grants for selected IPM research projects to be performed on DoD installations. The grants will be jointly reviewed and selected by DoD and EPA to assure that they are technically appropriate and conform to the statutory requirement to support or stimulate the accomplishment of a public purpose and not be for the exclusive use or sole benefit of the Federal government.
6. As a special initiative, both parties agree that, in addition to the public concerns about environmental pollution from pesticides, a stronger market for food commodities produced by IPM techniques provides a strong incentive for the adoption of IPM strategies by growers. Therefore, to support the year 2000 goal of enrolling 75 per cent of agricultural acreage in-the U.S. in IPM programs, both parties agree to promote the cost effective. acquisition of commodities produced using IPM techniques.
7. Both parties agree to share information on IPM training, methods to collect usage data, and ways to evaluate pesticide risk.
8. Both parties also agree, through the regular meetings of the AFPMB, to plan, execute, and evaluate progress on this MOU.
9. Both parties also agree to designate a Project Officer with responsibilities for coordinating activities associated with this MOU.

IV TERMS OF AGREEMENT

This MOU does not commit either party to obligate funds or personnel, and it shall remain valid for five years unless revoked in writing by either party.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

/SIGNED/

Deputy Administrator

Date: 3/20/96

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

/SIGNED/

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

(Environmental Security)

Date: 3/20/96