



HEALTH AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

FEB 03 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE MARINE CORPS

SUBJECT: Reports on Deployment Health Quality Assurance Programs

In his January 9, 2004, memorandum, Dr. Winkenwerder directed the Services to provide (at a minimum) quarterly reports on the status and findings of their respective deployment health quality assurance (QA) programs. Please provide your initial reports to my office by March 15, 2004.

While the scope and methodology of your programs and associated metrics are Service-centric, the following key elements should be included and addressed in your reports:

- Identification of deployed/redeployed personnel
- Accomplishment of applicable pre- and post-deployment health assessments and related requirements (e.g., immunizations, blood samples, referrals)
- Inclusion of deployment-related health documentation in permanent medical records

Deployment health issues and quality assurance programs have precedence in both the current GAO review and anticipated Congressional hearings. I am looking forward to learning more about your deployment health QA efforts—the problems you are identifying and the improvements you are making—as we work to implement a comprehensive DoD deployment health quality assurance program.

My point of contact for deployment health quality assurance programs and reports is Mr. Tom Rupp at 703-845-8370 or thomas.rupp@deploymenthealth.osd.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen P. Embrey".

Ellen P. Embrey
Deputy Assistant Secretary of defense
Force Health Protection and Readiness