THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MAR 14 2006

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

SUBJECT: Policy for Pre- and Post-deployment Serum Collection

REF: DASD (FHP&R) Memorandum, "Requirements for Blood Samples Before and After Deployments," January 27, 2005 (hereby rescinded)

The reference, responding to the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act (Section 733), established interim standards for the collection of pre- and post-deployment blood specimens. It also authorized the Joint Medical Readiness Oversight Committee (JMROC) to recommend changes to the interim standards. Based on JMROC's recommendation and approval by the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), the following policy replaces the reference for collection of pre- and post-deployment serum specimens:

1) Pre-deployment serum specimens for medical examinations will routinely be collected within one year of deployment. The most recent serum sample collected within the previous 365 days of the date of deployment may serve as a pre-deployment serum sample. However, if an individual's health status has recently changed or has had an alteration in occupational exposures that increases health risks, a health care provider may choose to have a specimen drawn closer to the actual date of deployment.

2) Post-deployment serum specimens for medical examinations will be collected no later than 30 days after arrival at the demobilization site, home station, or in-patient medical treatment facility.

My point of contact for this is Colonel George Johnson, and he may be reached at (703) 578-8426.

William Winkenwerder, Jr.

William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

cc:
Joint Staff Surgeon

HA POLICY: 06-008