THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

JAN 16 2002

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(MANPOWER & RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER & RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(MANPOWER & RESERVE AFFAIRS)

SUBJECT: Immunizing Females of Childbearing Age

Reference: Air Force Joint Instruction 48-110
Army Regulation 40-562
BUMEDINST 6230.15
CG COMDTINST M6230.4E

This is to re-affirm the Department's policy for immunizing females of childbearing age. Current policy, as outlined in the above reference, is to avoid unintentional immunization during pregnancy, and healthcare providers are instructed to ask females if they are pregnant prior to vaccination. That policy should be re-enforced to all medical personnel.

In addition, I request you provide me within 14 days of this memo, your Service's plan to strengthen the screening of females of childbearing age with careful questioning or other positive efforts, potentially including pregnancy testing when appropriate, to prevent the administration of vaccine to pregnant women. Before forwarding your response to me, I request that you coordinate it with the Army's Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program Agency to ensure consistency among the Services.

My point of contact for this matter is COL Jerry Jennings, OASD (HA), 703-697-2111.

William Winkenwerder Jr.

William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

cc:
USD (Personnel & Readiness)
ASD (Force Management Policy)
ASD (Public Affairs)
Surgeon General of the Army
Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force