THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUN 21 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)

SUBJECT: Revised Policy Regarding Standardization of Infectious Disease Reporting Requirements for Civilian Blood Agencies Collecting Blood on Military Installations, at Military Leased Facilities or Aboard Ships

Reference: Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) Policy Memorandum of May 1, 1996

Effective July 1, 2004, the above reference is canceled and replaced by the following revised policy.

All civilian blood agencies conducting blood collection operations on military installations, at military leased facilities or aboard ships will comply with the following requirements.

All potential blood donors must be provided written information regarding the specific tests, including transfusion transmitted disease tests that will be performed on a sample of their blood to ensure the safest transfusion product. These tests must include all testing required by the Food and Drug Administration at the time of donation.

Dependents of active duty, retirees, dependents of retirees, government civil service employees, government contract employees, and non-Department of Defense individuals must be notified in accordance with 21 CFR Section 630.6 of all unexpected/abnormal test results to include repeat reactive, confirmed/unconfirmed positive, indeterminate or invalid infectious disease testing results, within *seven* days of test completion. Donors must be advised to seek medical counseling through the military health care system if they are dependents and retirees, and through their personal physician if government civilian or contract employees.

For active duty personnel, the local military medical authority (MMA), as identified in the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the blood collection agency and the military installation, must be notified of all unexpected/abnormal test results to include repeat reactive, confirmed/unconfirmed positive, indeterminate or invalid infectious disease testing results, within *seven* days of test completion, and **no**

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later than two weeks ***prior*** to the civilian blood collection agency(s)' notification of the active duty donor in accordance with 21 CFR Section 630.6. The donor notification letter must advise the donor of the availability of medical counseling and to seek follow-up through the military healthcare system. If the local MMA cannot be reached, the Service Blood Program Office identified in the MOU must be notified.

It is essential that Military Departments disseminate these requirements through both installations and medical channels. Steps must be taken to notify all appropriate commands of these guidelines and to incorporate them into respective Services and, where necessary, Unified Command blood program regulations.

My point of contact for this matter is Lt Col Ruth Sylvester, USAF, BSC, Director of Armed Services Blood Program Office, at DSN 761-8024 or (703) 681-8024.

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