



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

MAY 01 2003

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY  
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY  
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE MARINE CORPS  
JOINT STAFF SURGEON  
DASD (HEALTH BUDGETS & FINANCIAL POLICY)  
DASD (CLINICAL AND PROGRAM POLICY)

SUBJECT: Tracking Post-Deployment Health Assessments

Reference: USD(P&R) Memo, "Enhanced Post-Deployment Health Assessments," April 22, 2003.

The above-referenced memorandum provided additional policy guidance for accomplishing enhanced post-deployment health assessments. Requirements include an expanded post-deployment health assessment form (DD Form 2796, April 2003), health assessments with trained health care providers, application to all sea-based personnel in theater supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, blood sample collection, and adoption of quality assurance procedures.

Quality assurance should address face-to-face assessments using DD Form 2796 (archived at AMSA), blood samples for the DoD Serum Repository, tracking clinical follow-up for those indicated on the form, and obtaining appropriate denominators (i.e., redeployment rosters) so that completion rates can be determined.

Dr. Winkenwerder has asked me to work with you to begin weekly progress reports on numbers of personnel redeployed, numbers screened, and numbers referred for follow-up. He would like to begin these reports effective immediately, regardless of which form is used.

Please estimate the costs of redeployment health processing so we can attribute them to the war efforts in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. I also require an estimate of the number of redeploying servicemembers you expect will be assessed using the old process and form (DD Form 2796, May 1999) and the number expected to use the new process and form (DD Form 2796, April 2003). We need this to help shape the expectations of senior leaders and Congress as they monitor our implementation of redeployment health assessment policies.

My point of contact is COL John Gardner, telephone 703-578-8524, or email at john.gardner@deploymenthealth.osd.mil.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen P. Embrey".

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