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DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

JAN 12 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY
COMMANDER, U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND
COMMANDER, U.S. EUROPEAN COMMAND
COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND
COMMANDER, U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND
COMMANDER, U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPECIAL
OPERATIONS AND LOW INTENSITY CONFLICT
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR
HEALTH AFFAIRS
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Policy Statement and Guidelines on Body Cavity Searches and
Exams for Detainees Under DoD Control

Body cavity exams for detainees under DoD control shall be conducted in
accordance with the attached policy guidance. Please ensure that this guidance is
distributed within your organization. The Joint Staff is responsible for implementing this
policy.

Attachment:
As stated

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ENCL (6)

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**Policy Statement and Guidelines on Body Cavity Searches and Exams
of Detainees in DoD Control.**

The United States has a significant and legitimate interest in performing appropriate security searches and medical exams that address the safety, health, and security concerns of DoD personnel and detainees under DoD control. However, the use of body cavity exams and searches may conflict with the customs of some detainees. Therefore, effective immediately, the following guidelines are in effect:

- Do not perform routine detainee body cavity exams or searches (to include hernia exams).
- Body cavity exams may be performed for valid medical reasons with the verbal consent of the patient. However, these exams should not be performed as part of a routine medical intake exam.
- Body cavity searches are to be conducted only when there is a reasonable belief that the detainee is concealing an item that presents a security risk.
- To the extent possible and consistent with military necessity, a body cavity exam or search, whether conducted for medical or security reasons, should be conducted by personnel of the same gender as that of the detainee being searched.
- All body cavity exams and searches will be conducted in a manner that respects the person.
- The first general officer in the chain of command shall be the approval authority for body cavity searches (other than those performed for valid medical reasons).
- For the purposes of this policy, a detainee is a person under the control of the Department of Defense as a result of armed conflict, including the global war on terrorism, and includes enemy combatants, enemy prisoners of war, and civilian internees.

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