

ESD
①



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1400

NOV 27 2002

ACTION MEMO

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Victoria Clarke, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs


SUBJECT: Anthrax and Smallpox Vaccination of Embedded Journalists

- OSD (PA) has been working with the Joint Staff, U.S. Central Command and media bureau chiefs to embed about 400 journalists to deploying units if there is military action. Bureau chiefs have asked that DoD provide their journalists vaccinations not available to the general public.
- The ASD (HA), USD (P&R), and OGC have all concurred. OSD (ISP) and OSD (AT&L) have nonconcurred. They first want to prioritize all the individual requests DoD has received before approving our request.
- If the DoD is to embed reporters in combat units, journalists must be as ready as the troops with whom they deploy. While we understand the competing demands for available vaccines, it would be irresponsible to embed media with combat forces with a lesser level of protection. In the event media were to become casualties to an agent that our troops were inoculated against, they would encumber our combat forces and degrade their mission capability.
- Despite ISP and AT&L concerns, I endorse this vaccination request to provide force health protection measures on the same basis to embedded journalists.
- These vaccinations would be offered at no cost to the government. News organizations must agree to provide for indemnification for any adverse event arising from the use of these vaccines.

720

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that you approve journalists' vaccination.

SECDEF APPROVAL:

 Approve _____ Disapproved _____ Other _____

JAN 15 2003

Prepared by Jim Turner, 703-697-5135

27 Nov 02

U00810 /03



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1400

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ACTION MEMO

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH AFFAIRS)
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PERSONNEL AND
READINESS)
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ACQUISITION TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS)
GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

FROM: Victoria Clarke, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs

SUBJECT: Vaccination of Embedded Journalists

- My office has been working with military planners and news media bureau chiefs to develop and implement plans and procedures to embed several hundred journalists into military units if there is a decision by the President to use military force in Iraq. In our discussions with bureau chiefs many have requested that DoD vaccinate their journalists for anthrax and any other vaccinations we give our deployed forces that are not commercially available to the general public such as anthrax and smallpox.
- I believe it is reasonable and appropriate to support this request under the following conditions: (1) that the news media would reimburse the government for the cost of the vaccine and (2) news organizations/ individuals must agree to provide for indemnification for any adverse reactions arising from the use of these vaccines.

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that you approve journalists' vaccination.

COORDINATION: TAB A

SECDEF APPROVAL:

_____ Approve _____ Disapprove _____ Other

Prepared by Jim Turner, (703) 697-5135



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1400

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ACTION MEMO

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH AFFAIRS)
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PERSONNEL AND READINESS)
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ACQUISITION TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS)
GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

FROM: Victoria Clarke, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs

SUBJECT: Vaccination of Embedded Journalists

- My office has been working with military planners and news media bureau chiefs to develop and implement plans and procedures to embed several hundred journalists into military units if there is a decision by the President to use military force in Iraq. In our discussions with bureau chiefs many have requested that DoD vaccinate their journalists ~~for anthrax and any other~~ ^{with} vaccinations we give our deployed forces that are not commercially available to the general public, such as anthrax and smallpox. *vaccinated journalists or their employees*
- I believe it is reasonable and appropriate to support this request under the following conditions: (1) that the news media would reimburse the government for the cost of the vaccine and (2) news organizations/ individuals must agree to provide for indemnification for any adverse reactions arising from the use of these vaccines. *See revised bullet (next under)*

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that you approve journalists' vaccination.

COORDINATION: TAB A

SECDEF APPROVAL:

_____ Approve _____ Disapprove _____ Other

Prepared by Jim Turner, (703) 697-5135

Revised bullet

- **I believe it is reasonable and appropriate to support this request under the following conditions: (1) that the vaccinated journalists or their employers reimburse the Department for the cost of the vaccine; and (2) that the vaccinated journalists and their employers agree to indemnify and hold the Department harmless against any adverse reactions or other negative effects from the vaccine.**

Vaccination of Embedded Journalists

Coordination

OGC

John Caserta
I concur in the
proposed ASD(HA)
Coordination on
the ASD(PA)'s
memo to Secdef.
11/5/02



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

**3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010**

08 NOV 2002

**MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC
AFFAIRS**

SUBJECT: Vaccination of Embedded Journalists

The Department of Defense (DoD) supply of anthrax vaccine, smallpox vaccine, and vaccinia immune globulin is in limited supply and vaccination priorities are currently being developed for U.S. service members, other government agencies, Allies, and other foreign countries who have made requests for these products. Until a DoD decision is made regarding how to prioritize all of these individual requests, it is not possible to provide either vaccine or vaccinia immune globulin at this time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. C. Aldridge, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

E. C. Aldridge, Jr.

