



## THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 24 2002

### MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ARMED FORCES EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD

SUBJECT: Global Emerging Infections System Program Review

In the 2001 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report "Perspectives on the Department of Defense Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System," the IOM committee concluded that Global Emerging Infections System (GEIS) is an appropriate DoD response to Presidential Decision Directive NSTC-7 and to the threat posed to national security by emerging infectious diseases. The IOM committee made several recommendations in this report including a recommendation that GEIS as a whole should be subject to periodic external review to ensure that it remains focused on its goals and that the goals remain appropriate.

As a continuing scientific advisory body to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the military Surgeons General, the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB) is an appropriate scientific body to provide this periodic external review. I would like the AFEB to review the IOM findings, receive appropriate briefings from the Director GEIS, and appoint an AFEB Select Committee to provide periodic external review for GEIS as recommended by the IOM.

I request the Board address this issue at the February 2003 AFEB meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Winkenwerder Jr." followed by a period.

William Winkenwerder Jr., MD