

INFORMATION PAPER

DHA-IHB
29 September 2017

SUBJECT: U.S. Central Command Smallpox Vaccine Exception to Policy

1. Purpose. To provide guidance on the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) Smallpox Vaccine Exception to Policy (ETP).
2. Facts.
 - a. On 16 May 2014, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs signed a memorandum for the Commander of USCENTCOM approving the ETP for the Smallpox Vaccination Program.
 - (1) Mandatory smallpox vaccination for personnel deploying to the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR) ceased on 16 May 2014.
 - (2) All personnel, to include DOD Service members, civilians, and contractors assigned or deploying to the USCENTCOM AOR, are no longer required to receive a mandatory smallpox vaccination.
 - b. The USCENTCOM Individual Protection and Individual-Unit Deployment Policy states: "15.F.4. Smallpox. Personnel without a medical contraindication traveling in the CENTCOM theater for 15 days or more will comply with the most current DoD smallpox requirements." Therefore, units can begin to comply with the ETP immediately. No further guidance is expected from USCENTCOM.
 - c. The Smallpox Vaccination Program remains in effect for travel to the Korean Peninsula for 15 or more days. In addition, certain uniformed personnel assigned to special mission units will continue mandatory smallpox vaccinations.
 - d. The Anthrax Vaccination Program policy remains in effect for the USCENTCOM AOR.
3. References.
 - a. U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs Jonathan Woodson, "Exception to Policy Guidance to the Mandatory Smallpox Vaccination Program in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility," memorandum for Commander, U.S. Central Command, Washington, DC, May 16, 2014.

- b. "MOD Thirteen to USCENTCOM Individual Protection and Individual-Unit Deployment Policy," U.S. Central Command, March 2017.

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Approved: Chief, Immunization Healthcare Branch