



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ARMED SERVICES BLOOD PROGRAM OFFICE
5109 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH, VA. 22041-3258

20 January 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Anthrax Vaccine and Blood Donations

1. The Armed Services Blood Program Office (ASBPO) was established by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to coordinate the blood programs of the Military Services and the Unified Commands. In that respect, the ASBPO is issuing an update to the standardized drug/medication list for blood donor evaluation at Armed Services Blood Program blood donor centers for the anthrax vaccine. This BPL amends BPL 97-9, 2 July 1997, Standardized Drug/Medication List for Military Blood Donor Centers.
2. The Department of Defense, as a part of force protection measures, has decided to vaccinate the total force (active duty and reserve) against anthrax. The anthrax vaccine is a formalin inactivated (killed) vaccine which has been Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensed and in use since 1970. As a killed vaccine, there is no blood donation deferral period required for personnel receiving the vaccine. The vaccine includes an initial three injections 2 weeks apart and then additional injections at 6, 12, and 18 months. An annual booster is given thereafter. While the vaccination is not associated with chronic or permanent effects, it may produce temporary, mild flu-like symptoms in a very small number of people. Blood donation after vaccination does not need to be deferred if the donor is symptom free. Vaccination will begin in the Spring of 1998 for higher threat areas, with the total force being vaccinated over the next several years.
3. Implement this amendment to the standardized drug/medication lists in local and Service standardized procedures as soon as SOP updates (pen and ink changes acceptable) allow, with a copy of Service implementing documents provided to this office. Send any updates for this list to Maj Lianne W. Groshel, USAF, the ASBPO point of contact for this action. She can be reached at DSN 761-8011 or (703) 681-8011, FAX (703) 681-7541.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce D. Rutherford".

BRUCE D. RUTHERFORD
CAPT, MSC, USN
Director
