



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

FEB 12 2025

The Honorable Mike D. Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department's response to 10 U.S.C. § 1073b(a), requiring the Secretary of Defense to provide an annual report on the compliance by the Military Departments with applicable law and policies on the recording of health assessment data in military health records, is enclosed. This annual report, covering Calendar Year (CY) 2023, addresses specific quality assurance activities that involved the review of Service member deployment health information maintained in military health records and central Department of Defense (DoD) medical surveillance databases. The Department anticipates submitting the CY 2024 report by September 30, 2025 and will submit all subsequent annual reports for the preceding CY by September 30th of each year.

The DoD Force Health Protection Quality Assurance Program Office audited the collection of blood samples, administration of immunizations, and documentation of deployment health assessments stored in electronic repositories for deployed military members. The report documents the results of those audits. The Department is implementing necessary actions to assess compliance issues and, more importantly, to implement immediate actions to improve and sustain compliance.

Thank you for your continued strong support for the health and well-being of our Service members. I am sending a similar letter to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Sincerely,

Darin S. Selnick
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of
Defense for Personnel and Readiness

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

**4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000**

**PERSONNEL AND
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FEB 12 2025

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Sincerely,


Darin S. Selnick
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of
Defense for Personnel and Readiness

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member

Report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives



Annual Report on Recording of Health Assessment Data in Military Health Records Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 1073b

February 2025

The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately \$670 for the 2023 Fiscal Year. This includes \$460 in expenses and \$210 in DoD labor.

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Introduction

The Department of Defense (DoD) reports annually to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 1073b(a), as amended.

Executive Summary

Under 10 U.S.C. § 1073b(a) and Department of Defense Instruction 6200.05, “Force Health Protection Quality Assurance (FHPQA) Program,” June 16, 2016, as amended, the Defense Health Agency (DHA) prepares an annual calendar year (CY) FHPQA report. This report consolidates and documents the collection of blood samples, administration of specific immunizations, and documentation of pre-deployment and post-deployment health assessments for Service members returning from a deployment in CY 2023.

The information for this report is collected through information systems at DHA’s Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division (AFHSD), the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), and data provided by the Military Departments (MILDEPs). AFHSD utilizes the Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS) as the central repository for medical surveillance data for the U.S. Armed Forces. AFHSD also maintains the Department of Defense Serum Repository. The MILDEPs maintain copies of immunizations and pre-deployment and post-deployment health assessments in each military member’s medical record and the military Service-specific medical readiness system.

Background

In previous years, the deployment denominator data was collated by DMDC and reported by the Contingency Tracking System (CTS). The data set for the CY 2023 report was provided by the Offices of the Secretaries of the MILDEPs.

The denominator dataset included all individual Service member deployments greater than 30 days in length to a contingency operation with a deployment return date that occurred between January 1 and December 31, 2023.

The following are the deployment compliance criteria used for DoD Service members:

- Blood Sample – blood-derived serum collection:
 - Pre-deployment sample is drawn within 365 days prior to deployment begin date.
 - Post-deployment sample is drawn between 30 days prior to and no later than 30 days after arrival to home station.
- Immunizations: Individuals deployed to United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) area of operations will have one vaccine documented for both anthrax and influenza vaccinations or have documented waivers on file within 365 days prior to the deployment.

- Health Assessments:
 - Pre-Deployment Health Assessment (DD Form 2795): to be completed 120 days before estimated deployment date.
 - Post-Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA) (DD Form 2796): to be completed as close to date of return from deployment but not earlier than 30 days before return and not later than 30 days after the return from deployment.
 - Post-Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) (DD Form 2900): to be completed within 90 to 180 days after return from deployment.

For this report, AFHSD widened the compliance grace period of the health assessments and blood sample collection compliance by 30 days to account for anomalies or issues with transmission.

Compliance Rates: Blood Samples, Immunizations, and Health Assessments

This report documents and discusses the extent to which deployed military members’ immunizations, pre-deployment and post-deployment health assessments and blood sample data are documented and recorded within the health record. The table below illustrates DoD’s compliance results of all deployed Service members who returned to home station during CY 2023 and who met specific reporting criteria outlined in this section.

Table. DoD Armed Forces Blood Samples, Immunizations and Health Assessment Results

	CY 2023	CY 2022	CY 2021
Number of returning Service members from deployment	78,677	61,356	82,437
Immunizations Compliance			
Immunizations required per USCENTCOM requirements	89%	75%	79%
Health Assessment Compliance			
Pre-Deployment Health Assessment (DD Form 2795)	81%	71%	75%
PDHA (DD Form 2796)	76%	59%	61%
PDHRA (DD Form 2900)	53%	38%	39%
Blood Samples Collected			
Pre-deployment blood samples	87%	89%	91%
Post-deployment blood samples	68%	52%	55%

Data Sources: DMSS, DMDC, and MILDEPs

Conclusion

The CY 2023 compliance data trended upwards from CY 2022 in all areas except pre-deployment blood sample collection. The MILDEPs identified challenges that have impacted deployment health compliance, and the MILDEPs implemented several actions to address program execution issues including compliance, enforcement, and training.

The MILDEPs are raising awareness and targeting education to leadership regarding deployment requirements and compliance timeframes. Leadership and commander engagement and enforcement will improve compliance of medical readiness requirements. The MILDEPs continue to revise Service-specific policies to better align with DoD-level deployment health policy. Additionally, training of MILDEP and DHA medical staff continues to be conducted to improve understanding of deployment medical requirements, definitions, timeframes and tracking procedures.

Discrepancies in deployment denominator data collection exist between the MILDEPs' systems and the CTS roster. The MILDEPs utilize three different Service-specific medical readiness or accountability systems, and there currently is no requirement for these systems to be integrated. The FHPQA Working Group will review the process in which denominator data is collected to determine if data collection improvements or solutions can be made.