



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

OCT 15 2009

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE MARINE CORPS
COAST GUARD CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

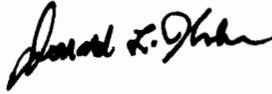
SUBJECT: Post-Deployment Health Reassessments Compliance

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Health Protection and Readiness monitors compliance with Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6490.03, "Deployment Health," August 11, 2006. The DoDI includes and references policies, programs, and procedures for deployment health activities including the Post-deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA). To be effective, the PDHRA must be implemented consistently and with conformity across the Services.

Administration of the PDHRA (DD Form 2900) was mandated in 2005 and updated in 2008 by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. In accordance with DoDI 6490.03, paragraph E4.A3.2.12, the PDHRA provides for a second post-deployment health assessment during the three to six-month time, but not later than 180 days after return from deployment. After the DD Form 2900 is completed and submitted by the Service member, a trained health care provider (physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, advanced practice nurse, independent duty corpsman, independent duty medical technician, or Special Forces medical sergeant) must discuss with the individual any health concerns on the form and determine if any specialty referrals are required. All members completing the PDHRA must be educated on post-deployment health readjustment issues and on available resources for assistance. The DD Form 2900 must be signed and dated (page five) by a trained health care provider, and the original, completed DD Form 2900 placed in the Service member's medical record with an electronic copy sent to the Defense Medical Surveillance System.

Please examine your procedures to ensure compliance with these requirements. Requests for exemptions must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of Defense through the Under the Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. The exemption request must include evidence from research or evaluation studies showing it would not reduce care for deployment-related mental health, traumatic brain injury, or other

health conditions. My point of contact is Col Michael Butel, who can be reached at (703-578-8524) or Michael.Butel@tma.osd.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald L. Noah".

Donald L. Noah, Col, USAF, BSC
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Force Health Protection and Readiness

cc:
Joint Staff Surgeon