THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

APR 13 2005

The Honorable John W. Warner
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to forward the report prescribed in Section 751 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Year 2001. Section 751 requests the Department of Defense submit to Congress an annual written report on the number of Service members who have been separated as a result of refusing to participate in the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program (AVIP).

During the January 1 through December 31, 2004 reporting period, ten Service members were separated as a result of refusing to participate in AVIP. Enclosed is a table identifying the Service, Service component, and grade of the Service members separated.

During this same period, 681,872 Service members received 1,456,262 doses of licensed anthrax vaccine. As of December 31, 2004, over 1,716,510 Service members have participated in the AVIP with over 5,192,435 doses administered. During the last quarter of the calendar year, vaccinations were curtailed by an October 27, 2004, injunction by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. At the present time, pending the results of actions addressing that Court decision, mandatory anthrax vaccinations are not authorized.

Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
Senator Carl Levin

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
REPORT ON
SEPARATIONS THAT RESULT FROM A REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANTHRAX VACCINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

7-Mar-05		CY 2000 Separations		CY 2001 Separations		CY 2002 Separations		CY 2003 Separations		CY 2004 Separations	
Service	Component	Separations	Rank	Separations	Rank	Separations	Rank	Separations	Rank	Separations	Rank
Army	Active	14	E1, E3(4), E4(6), E5(2), O2	0	NA	0	NA	1	E4	1	O1
	Guard	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	10	E2,E3(3), E4(4), E5(2)	6	E2,E3(2), E5(1),CW2, 03
	Reserve	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	1	E5	0	N/A
Navy	Active	13	E1, E2(3), E3(5), E4(2), E5, O1	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	N/A
	Reserve	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	N/A
Air Force	Active	48	E1(16), E2(15), E3(14), E4(16), E5(7), O1, O4	0	NA	1	E4	10	E1, E3(5), E4(3), E5	2	E5, E4
	Guard	22		1	O4	0	NA	1	E4	0	N/A
	Reserve	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	1	O4
Marines	Active	12	E1(3), E2(5), E3, E4(3)	1	E3	0	NA	3	E3, E5, O2	0	N/A
	Reserve	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	1	E4	0	N/A
DoD Totals		**109**		**2**		**1**		**27**		**10**	
# of People Vaccinated:		**109,466**		**28,852**		**72,744**		**436,513**		**699,571**	
For Each Separation, # of People Vaccinated		**1 per 1,004**		**1 per 14,426**		**1 per 72,744**		**1 per 16,167**		**1 per 69,957**	
Separations as % of Vaccinations		**0.0996%**		**0.0069%**		**0.0014%**		**0.0062%**		**0.0014%**	