



HEALTH AFFAIRS

**THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

MAR 13 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE  
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES  
DIRECTORS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FIELD  
ACTIVITIES  
CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
ADMINISTRATOR, DRUG ENFORCEMENT  
ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: Red Ribbon Week Activities

In order to maintain combat readiness, it is imperative that Department of Defense military personnel, civilians, and their families remain drug free. One of our most successful drug demand reduction efforts has been to elevate antidrug education during the national Red Ribbon Week. In order to raise public awareness of the Department's commitment to a drug-free military community, I strongly encourage installations, commands, and units to participate in Red Ribbon Week activities this year.

Red Ribbon Week is an annual national observance that this year occurs from October 23 to 31, 2009. This nationwide celebration has become a major force for raising public awareness and mobilizing communities to combat alcohol, drug, and tobacco use. The Department has officially participated in this event since 1990 with the aim to reduce drug abuse among its members and their families.

We will host an awards ceremony in the Pentagon Hall of Heroes at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, October 23, 2009. Details will be forwarded as we get closer to the event. We ask that appropriate members of your agency plan to join us on October 23, 2009, to help us celebrate the success of antidrug efforts within the Department and to recognize the achievements of this year's award winners.

My point of contact for this event is Colonel Ron Shippee, USA, (703) 681-4348,  
[Ronald.Shippee@tma.osd.mil](mailto:Ronald.Shippee@tma.osd.mil).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Ward Casscells', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

S. Ward Casscells, MD