SECDEF HAS SEEN

AUG 10 2001

ACTION MEMO

August 10, 2001 8:00 AM

FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE: DepSec Action_____

FROM: Mr. E.C. Aldridge, Jr., USD (Acquisition, Technology & Logistics)
Dr. David S. C. Chu, USD (Personnel & Readiness)

SUBJECT: Strategy Development for Force Health Protection Against Biological Threats

We recommend the following course of action to carry out your plan for anthrax and other vaccines required for Force Health Protection:

- USD(AT&L) will review and assess performance of BioPort Corporation and make a determination of future funding to support the strategy outlined below. Report completed by Sept 01.
  The current Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program will continue at a minimum level (critical personnel and projects only). USD(AT&L) will implement an acquisition strategy to purchase additional bio-detectors and stockpiles of antibiotics to augment force protection in the absence of an anthrax vaccine.
- USD(P&R) will request PA&E to provide the scenario analyses needed for future decisions related to the threat of biological agents. Report to USD(P&R) Dec 01.
- USD(P&R) will request DIA through C3I to provide a comprehensive review of the doctrinal positions of any State or group to use biological weapons as a part of their offensive/defensive strategies. Report to USD(P&R) by Dec 01.
- USD(P&R) will coordinate with appropriate DoD officials to develop a coherent institutional process to assess and prioritize biological threats and approve the use of associated countermeasures. Prepare DoD Directive for coordination by Dec 01.
- USD(AT&L) and USD(P&R) will continue their inter-agency efforts to develop a national long-range vaccine that will address the full range of requirements of the DOD, DHHS, and other stake-holders in this plan. This plan will include an evaluation of the need for a dedicated vaccine facility to serve the national interest. Provide an interim report to SecDef by Dec 01.

RECOMMENDATION: Secretary of Defense approves strategy development by initialing this page.

COORDINATION: None

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