



Anthrax Vaccination Immunization Program (AVIP)



Office of the Force Surgeon

N00M

11 April 2007



Intent of the AVIP Program

- AVIP instituted in May 1998
- Different phases of execution due to court challenges related to the vaccine and its FDA certification
- Last obstacle resolved in 2006
- DoD intent of the program has never wavered
 - Anthrax poses a biological warfare threat and protection by the immunization is a readiness and a force protection issue
 - The end state for AVIP is that all DoD personnel determined at higher risk of anthrax exposure, excluding those medically or administratively exempted, are protected against anthrax through active immunization



AVIP

DEPSECDEF – October 12, 2006



- **Based on the continuing heightened threat to some U.S. personnel of attack with anthrax spores, the DoD will resume a mandatory AVIP for designated military personnel, emergency-essential and comparable DoD civilian employees, and certain contractor personnel performing essential services. Vaccination is mandatory for these personnel based on geographic area of assignment or special mission roles, except as provided under applicable medical and administrative exemption policies.**



Implementation of the AVIP USD (P&R) Memo – December 6, 2006



- **The following personnel will resume mandatory anthrax immunizations, except as provided under applicable medical and administrative exemption policies.**
 - **Uniformed personnel, to include those assigned to U.S. Embassies, forces afloat, and civilian and contract mariners under Commander, Military Sealift Command, serving in the CENTCOM AOR for 15 or more consecutive days.**
 - **Uniformed personnel assigned to the Korean Peninsula for 15 or more consecutive days.**
 - **DoD contractor personnel carrying out mission-essential services and assigned for 15 or more consecutive days to the CENTCOM AOR or Korea.**
 - **Individuals (active duty and U.S. Government civilian employees of DoD, regardless of duty assignment) who previously received as least one dose of the anthrax vaccine and who are not subject to mandatory vaccination and wish to continue the vaccine dosing series.**



MSC Policy

- **Anthrax vaccination will be mandatory for the following personnel between the ages of 18 and 65, unless exempted for medical or administrative reasons:**
 - **Military personnel, CIVMARS, and CONMARS prior to their entry into or transit through the CENTCOM AOR**
 - **Military personnel, CIVMARS, and CONMARS who are designated as forward deployed naval forces or early deployers in support of Korean Peninsula contingency operations on C-Day to C+20.**
- **Anthrax vaccination will be offered on a voluntary basis to active duty military, selected reserve personnel, and U.S. Government civilian employees of DoD who have:**
 - **Received at least one dose of anthrax vaccine in the past**
 - **Are currently not subject to the mandatory program**
 - **Currently maintain a civilian employee status covered by the program.**



MSC Policy

Exempt or Refuses Vaccine



CIVMARS

- **CIVMARS eligible for vaccination but refusing vaccination will be removed from federal service**
- **Medically exempt are still deployable**
 - **Assignment will be managed on a case-by-case basis based on the theater policy for anthrax vaccination, the impact on the MSC mission, and on the medical condition and the time for recovery (in the case of a medical exemption).**



MSC Policy

Exempt or Refuses Vaccine



CONMARS

- **CONMARS eligible for vaccination but refusing vaccination will not be deployed on MSC ships that deploy to CENTCOM AOR or on ships that meet the definition of early deployer to the Korean Peninsula**
- **Medically exempt are still deployable**
 - **Assignment will be managed on a case-by-case basis based on the theater policy for anthrax vaccination, the impact on the MSC mission, and on the medical condition and the time for recovery (in the case of a medical exemption).**
- **Resolution of any issues regarding CONMAR assignments and employment disposition are to be addressed by the parent activity**



Medical Exemptions

- **Previous allergic reaction to anthrax vaccine that was severe in nature**
- **Current moderate or severe illness (temporary medical exemption)**
- **Pregnancy (temporary medical exemption)**
- **Latex sensitivity (relative contraindication)**
- **Immune-suppressed conditions**
 - **Conditions causing temporary immune suppression such as short-term corticosteroid therapy are an indication for temporary medical exemption**
 - **Patients with impaired immune responsiveness due to congenital or acquired chronic immune deficiencies may require permanent medical exemptions**
- **Guillain-Barre Syndrome**
- **Previous anthrax infections**



AVIP Execution



- **Elements involved include:**
 - **Registration of units involved in the administration of vaccine**
 - **Training of vaccinators and vaccinees**
 - **Medical screening of vaccinees**
 - **Vaccine administration**
 - **Documentation of vaccination**
 - **Reporting**



AVIP Execution

- **Responsibilities**
 - **Force Surgeon, MSCHQ**
 - Develop an SOP that defines the requirements for execution of elements of the AVIP
 - **MSFSC Medical Personnel and Civil Service Medical Service Officers (MSOs) in MSC Fleet**
 - Execution of the AVIP program as defined in the SOP
 - **Masters on ships with assigned MSOs, Commodores for MPSRON 2 and 3, Force Medical Officers for MSFSC**
 - Registering their units with Military Vaccine Agency
 - Reporting monthly the number of anthrax vaccinations administered by their unit(s)



AVIP Execution

- **CIVMAR Operated Ships**
 - **Onboard Medical Service Officers (MSO)**
- **Contract Operated Ships**
 - **Load ports either by MSC medical teams or clinic teams from co-located military treatment facilities (MTF)**
 - **Overseas ports by MTF or MSC medical personnel as transit into theater**
 - **MPSRON 2 by MTF in Diego Garcia**
 - **MPSRON 3 by MSO assigned to MPSRON staff**



Current Status

What is different?

- Expansion of requirement in the PACOM AOR
- Coordination of execution through medical offices in Guam and Norfolk
- Vaccine supply is readily available
- Medically exempt are deployable

What has not changed?

- Designated force requirement
- Navy will continue to authorize access to MTFs for mariners needing immunizations or needing evaluation/initial treatment of adverse immunization reaction – Secretarial Designee Status
- Requires TEAMWORK with early identification of contracted crews requiring vaccination for anthrax (same notification process as is currently being done for smallpox)