DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
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NGB-J1-TNL 12 January 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICERS OF ALL STATES, PUERTO RICO, THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, GUAM AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SUBJECT: Immunizations for Title 32 National Guard Technicians (TN-07-12)

1. References.

a. NGB-J1-TNL Memorandum, 17 November 2005, subject: Guidance on Assignment of Military Training Duties to Title 32 National Guard Technicians (TN-05-74)

b. AR 40-562, 29 September 2006, Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis

c. NGB-ARS Email, 1 December 2005, subject: Clarification – Technician Immunizations

d. Air Force Surgeon General Log Letter 03-035, July 2003

2. National Guard Bureau policy for immunizations was established and appropriately staffed, as noted in reference 1a above. This policy states in paragraph 8, "National Guard Technicians cannot be required to receive immunizations (either by directive or voluntarily) in technician status necessary to maintain worldwide medical qualifications, active duty military assignments or deployments. Immunizations should be administered in an inactive duty or active duty military status." This policy was clearly established for the following reasons:

a. Army and Air National Guard policy regarding technician immunizations were unified in 2005 in favor of the more stringent standard at that time. This policy was determined based on staffing from NGB Medical, Labor, and Legal staff Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and with approval from NGB, Chief, Office of Technician Personnel.

b. The 2006 Army update of AR 40-562, in reference 1b above, does not contain significant variation from prior versions to overturn existing NGB policy regarding this matter. Existing policy has taken into consideration the risks and benefits of receiving immunizations in technician status while also weighing existing occupational risk, productivity, and bargaining unit matters and obligations.

c. The responsible Army National Guard occupational medical authority at NGB is the Office of the Chief Surgeon, NGB-ARS, who supports this existing policy, in reference 1c above.

d. This policy does not reduce the importance of immunizing National Guard Soldiers against contagious or occupational diseases, but rather establishes the appropriate duty status where such immunizations may be given.

3. In summary, existing policy requiring National Guard technicians to be in an inactive duty or active duty military status to receive immunizations is reiterated. Variance from this policy should be carefully considered only in the case of an existing or imminent public health emergency.

4. Points of contact for this memorandum are LTC Jose M. Ortiz, NGB-ARS, commercial (703) 607-1056/DSN 327-1056, and Ms. Lynn Crouse, NGB-J1-TNL, commercial (703) 607-5981/DSN 327-5981.

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