DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
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DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Policy Guidance for Provision of Medical Care to Department of Defense Civilian Employees Injured or Wounded While Forward Deployed in Support of Hostilities

This memorandum updates Department of Defense (DoD) policy to provide that all DoD civilian employees who become ill, contract diseases or are injured or wounded while forward deployed in support of U.S. military forces engaged in hostilities are eligible for medical evacuation and health care treatment and services in military treatment facilities (MTF) at the same level and scope provided to military personnel. The same system used to track Active Duty patients through the Military Health System shall be used to track DoD civilian employees injured in theater while forward deployed.

Deployed civilians who were treated in theater continue to be eligible for treatment in an MTF or private sector medical facility for compensable illnesses, diseases, wounds or injuries under the Department of Labor (DoL) Office of Workers' Compensation (OWC) Programs. This care is provided at no cost to employees. Additionally, deployed DoD civilians who later identify compensable illnesses, diseases, wounds or injuries under the DoL OWC programs also are eligible for treatment in an MTF or private sector medical facility at no cost to them.

Addressees are reminded of the provisions of DoD Instruction 6490.03, Deployment Health, dated August 11,2006, that require DoD civilian personnel to complete essential pre- and post-deployment health assessments, consistent with requirements for military personnel, to effectively anticipate, recognize, evaluate, control, and mitigate health threats encountered during deployments. Returning DoD civilian personnel must be scheduled for a face-to-face

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health assessment with a trained health care provider within 30 days after returning to home or to the processing station from which they deployed to theater. This assessment must include a discussion of mental health or psychosocial issues commonly associated with deployments. Further, such employees are required to have a reassessment within 90 to 180 days after return to home station.

The Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), under compelling circumstances, is authorized to approve additional eligibility for care in MTFs for other U.S. Government civilian employees who become ill, contract diseases or are injured or wounded while forward deployed in support of U.S. military forces engaged in hostilities, or other DoD civilian employees overseas.

This policy shall be given the broadest dissemination possible, including to the lowest level of command, to ensure that those who are involved in the care and transport of these covered employees are aware of and adhere to the policy. The Department is committed to providing the highest quality military medical care to DoD civilian personnel serving the DoD mission in its contingency operations.

cc:
Surgeon General of the Army
Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force
Deputy Director, TRICARE Management Activity
Civilian Personnel Policy Council