



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

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HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY

SUBJECT: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances: Information for Healthcare Providers

The Secretary of Defense established the Department of Defense (DoD) Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Task Force on July 23, 2019, to address the growing concern of PFAS releases to the environment. The PFAS Task Force will ensure a coordinated and holistic approach in addressing PFAS issues affecting our military installations and their surrounding communities. Information on the PFAS Task Force and overall DoD efforts to address PFAS is located at <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/pfas/>.

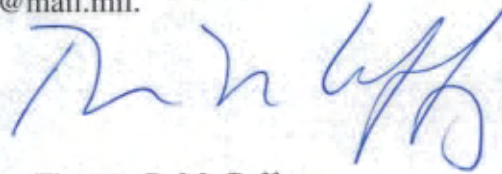
One key goal of the PFAS Task Force is understanding the impacts of PFAS on human health. As such, we need to ensure that our Military Health System healthcare providers receive health-related information on PFAS and are prepared to address any health and exposure concerns of the population served within our military medical treatment facilities (MTFs). In conjunction with the health-related PFAS information available within the Military Departments, I request that this memorandum with the two additional health-related PFAS information sources listed below be distributed to all healthcare providers at our MTFs.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) provides detailed PFAS information. Of particular value to the education of our healthcare providers is the document titled "PFAS: An Overview of the Science and Guidance for Clinicians on PFAS" located at https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/docs/atsdr_pfas_clinicalguidance_12202019.pdf. The document provides basic information on PFAS, a description of PFAS health studies, questions patients might ask clinicians about PFAS, and links to additional PFAS resources.

Healthcare providers can also direct patients and concerned individuals to a document titled "PFAS: Frequently Asked Questions," a fact sheet from ATSDR geared toward the general public and located at https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/docs/pfas_fact_sheet.pdf.

Providing PFAS education and information to our healthcare providers, the patients they care for, and our DoD population as a whole is of the utmost importance. Please disseminate this memorandum with highlighted informational resources to all healthcare providers within your organization.

My point of contact for this memorandum is LCDR David Shih, MD. LCDR Shih can be reached at (703) 681-6324 or david.c.shih.mil@mail.mil.



Thomas P. McCaffery

cc:

Surgeon General of the Army
Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force