



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

SEP 15 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EMPLOYEES

SUBJECT: Anomalous Health Incidents

I take very seriously the safety, health, and welfare of our personnel. To that end, I want to address with you a matter of significant concern: what we have called Anomalous Health Incidents (AHI). Although it is unlikely to have affected the vast majority of DoD personnel, I want to provide information on how to report potential AHI.

Over the course of the last several years, and predominantly overseas, some DoD personnel have reported a series of sudden and troubling sensory events such as sounds, pressure, or heat concurrently or immediately preceding the sudden onset of symptoms such as headaches, pain, nausea, or disequilibrium (unsteadiness or vertigo). As part of a government-wide effort, the Department is committed to finding the cause and the source of these AHI and ensuring that affected individuals receive appropriate medical care as quickly as possible when needed.

Timely reporting is essential and starts with you knowing what to do if you experience AHI. If you believe you have experienced a sensory event with the new onset of such symptoms, immediately remove yourself, coworkers, and/or family members from the area and report the incident and symptoms to your chain of command, security officer, and medical provider. If you have reason to believe a co-worker or co-workers have likewise experienced AHI, please encourage those individuals to do the same.

Each and every AHI report will be investigated in the same manner as other health and readiness concerns. We want all DoD personnel to be armed with the information they need. Every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, Guardian, civilian employee, and covered contractor personnel has a responsibility to report suspected incidents through all appropriate channels. Other affected persons, such as dependents, are strongly encouraged to report suspected incidents. Your help and vigilance will help our efforts to fully understand the nature of these incidents. For our part, rest assured we will continue to provide updates on AHI through internal DoD information channels. Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. J. Austin", is located at the bottom center of the page.



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