



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:  
I MEFO 6230.1A  
SURG

NOV 17 2009

### I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE ORDER 6230.1A

From: Commanding General  
To: Distribution List

Subj: STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR ANTHRAX/SMALLPOX  
VACCINATION PROGRAMS (AVIP/SVP)

Ref: (a) Joint Anthrax Regulation Dec 08  
(b) BUMED 6230.15A, Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis  
(c) BUMED MSG 232139ZDec08, Anthrax Vaccine Change Route of  
Administration  
(d) BUMED MSG 231554ZSEP08, Update to Clinical Policy for DOD  
Smallpox Vaccination Program (SVP)

#### 1. Situation

a. This order addresses military-unique peacetime and contingency requirements against potential biological warfare agents while providing protection for active duty personnel against biological vaccine-preventable diseases. The anthrax vaccine is licensed by the Food and Drug Administration and has been used in the United States since the early 1970s by livestock workers, veterinarians, at-risk textile factory personnel, and special operations forces. Anthrax and smallpox vaccines are not investigational drugs. The FDA protocol for anthrax vaccine requires a total of five injections given over a period of 18 months in order to obtain full protection, including booster doses as required prior to deployments to high threat areas (HTA's). Two doses at a minimum are required for unprotected personnel. Two doses offer a protective level that must be achieved prior to any personnel deploying into the HTA of CENTCOM and Korea.

b. Department of Defense (DoD) policy dictates that the general recommendations of the U.S. Public Health Service, as promulgated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), be followed in all immunization programs. The Anthrax Vaccination Immunization Program (AVIP)/Smallpox Vaccination Program (SVP) is a Commander's Program. Accordingly, Commanders will be pro-active in ensuring the fullest measure of implementation of these FDA-approved and licensed vaccines. This program cannot be effectively

managed as a "shot stand down" program. The AVIP and SVP will require continued ongoing command leadership and interest for ultimate success.

2. Mission. Per the references, this order summarizes and clarifies the anthrax and smallpox immunization policies and procedures for all active duty and assigned reserve personnel of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF). This order applies to personnel both in garrison and on deployment. The AVIP and SVP will be administered and tracked per DoD guidance.

3. Execution. The start date for units to vaccinate with anthrax and smallpox vaccine is 120 days prior to deploying into an HTA. Smallpox vaccine is given in accordance with reference (d). Units are required to have an Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program Registry Officer (AVIPRO), approved in writing by the Military Vaccine Agency, prior to ordering and administering the anthrax vaccine. Once approved to administer the anthrax vaccine, units are required to provide monthly reports to MILVAX outlining the number of vaccines given. Reports are due no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> of every month. Negative reports are required. Units failing to provide the monthly report as required will have their AVIP privileges removed per MILVAX and DoD guidance.

#### 4. Administration and Logistics

a. Anthrax vaccinations will be given as a series of five 0.5-ML intramuscular injections at day 0, 4 weeks, 6 months, 12 months, and 18 months with boosters given as required prior to deployment to HTAs to maintain immunity. Injections are given in the deltoid region of the upper arm. Doses of the vaccine should not be administered on a compressed or accelerated schedule. Personnel identified as late or beyond their next due date do not restart the series, but will be given the next dose in the series. Per the ACIP recommendations, the primary AVIP series does not need to be restarted, regardless of the time elapsed since the last dose.

b. Immunization Tracking. Vaccine administrators are required to enter both the Anthrax and Smallpox vaccines into Medical Readiness Reporting System (MRRS) when given. Vaccine lot numbers and manufacturer must be indicated and noted when electronically recorded. The importance of this information cannot be over-emphasized because it is impossible to recall a vaccine lot due to adverse events without this information. To ensure that all documentation and recording of vaccines are done uniformly, the following action will be taken per reference (a):

(1) Entry must be recorded in MRRS within 24 hours of administration.

(2) Entries must also be recorded in the member's health record.

(3) Units are directed to order adequate SVP screening forms prior to beginning immunizations. Everyone requires an SVP screening form, vaccinated or not. Additionally, those permanently deferred must have that entry recorded within MRRS as "permanently deferred."

c. Vaccinations Away From Home Station. If the situation does not permit I MEF personnel to receive their next immunization in the series on schedule at their home station, they may receive the vaccination at any DoD medical facility. These facilities should then enter the appropriate data into their Immunization Tracking System and the member's health record. Prompt screening of records upon return by medical personnel will ensure data was properly transmitted to DEERS and no doses were missed.

d. Logistics. Annex D of reference (a) provides complete logistics information. The Joint Program Office centrally funds the cost for AVIP and SVP Biological Vaccines, with no cost to individual units for the vaccine. The organic units are responsible for ancillary and consumable supplies for these vaccines. Units administering immunizations at their local Aid Station or when forward deployed are responsible for funding their own ancillary supplies (needle, syringe, alcohol pad, telfa pad, etc).

(1) I MEF units will draw their vaccine from Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton (Preventive Medicine, DSN 365-1270/1233), or Naval Hospital 29 Palms (Preventive Medicine, DSN 957-2729). Units will order their vaccine through outlined command channels to the MEF Surgeons office for approval 7 days prior to date desired. This allows for 72 hours of normal processing. The request must list: unit, reporting UIC, unit RUC, POC, DSN phone/fax, MTF to store the vaccine, number of doses required, planned vaccine shot date and date to return unused vaccine if it exceeds 50 doses. Units may only order doses required for a given vaccine evolution. Any future doses must be ordered in a supplemental vaccine order form.

(2) The vaccine must be maintained under strict temperature controls. The vaccine will be distributed and stored at manufacturers' recommended temperature ranges. Units need to plan their requisition, storage, and administration programs with

these factors in mind. Deploying MEU units who decide to conduct unit vaccination programs while underway (anthrax only) will embark adequate ancillary supplies to conduct vaccination programs while underway and arrange vaccine delivery accordingly. If at all possible, smallpox will not be administered while underway. UDP units may make necessary arrangements with NH Yokuska or NH Okinawa to pick up vaccine at these or other conveniently located MTFs and embark the necessary ancillary supplies to conduct vaccination away from home station at the Commanders' discretion.

5. Command and Signal

a. Ensuring full understanding and support of the anthrax and smallpox immunization programs by our Marines and Sailors, their families, the media, and the local community are vital to this program. Prior to being immunized, all personnel will receive briefings using DoD prepared materials only and be given the opportunity to have their questions and concerns fully answered by their medical personnel and Commanders. The DoD required AVIP and SVP education materials are available for download at the Navy Environmental Health Center site: <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/prevmed/immun/anthrax.htm> or [www.vaccines.mil](http://www.vaccines.mil)

b. Cancellation. I MEFO 6230 dated 28 September 1998. This order has been completely revised; title changed and should be reviewed in its entirety.

c. The point of contact is the I MEF MILVAX Regional Analyst Mr. Dave Cortez at 760-725-9000 or the MILVAX home office at 703-681-5101.

  
G. M. RYAN  
Chief of Staff

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