



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
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October 23, 2020

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)
COASTAL MISSISSIPPI MARKET, DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
JACKSONVILLE MARKET, DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION MARKET, DEFENSE HEALTH
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CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA MARKET, DEFENSE HEALTH
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DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION ARMY
DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION NAVY
DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Blood Testing Department of Defense Firefighters for Perfluoroalkyl and
Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (NDAA FY 2020), Section 707 issues a requirement:

“Beginning on October 1, 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall provide blood testing to determine and document potential exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (commonly known as “PFAS”) for each firefighter of the Department of Defense (DoD) during the annual physical exam conducted by the Department for each such firefighter.”

As such, military medical treatment facility (MTF) staff need to be prepared to offer and collect firefighter blood samples and order the PFAS test panel. To support this effort, a website was created to provide resources and information: <https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Combat-Support/Public-Health/PFAS>.

Information regarding blood-testing of DoD firefighters for PFAS will be incorporated into the next revision of DoD Manual (DoDM) 6055.05, *Occupational Medical Examinations and Surveillance Manual*. In the interim, please reference the link provided in this memorandum for implementation resources.

I ask the Service Surgeons General, Direct Support Elements (Services), and Markets to distribute this information to all MTF Commanders and Directors, MTF healthcare providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, among others), and any other MTF workers (e.g., laboratory and scheduling staff) whose responsibilities include firefighter occupational medical examinations.

My point of contact for this matter is CDR Cameron J. Nelson. He can be reached at (703) 681-1603 or cameron.j.nelson8.mil@mail.mil.

//SIGNED//

RONALD J. PLACE
LTG, MC, USA
Director

cc:

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