



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

JUL 17 2008

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to the Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 Conference Report 110-434 that requests a report on the current policies for maintaining the Japanese encephalitis vaccine (JEV) stockpile, the status of replacing the current JEV, and the costs associated with such a replacement.

DOD has created forward-located stockpiles of certain drugs (mostly the anti-virals used to treat avian influenza) because there is a documented clinical requirement to treat people with these drugs within hours of exhibiting symptoms. We also have stockpiled certain items facing a gap in availability, which is the case with JEV. We normally do not stockpile products for use in responding to contingencies when we can acquire adequate supplies via contract. This strategy is the basis for the Defense Supply Center, Philadelphia's (DSCP) Contingency Contracts Program that has been validated both economically and operationally.

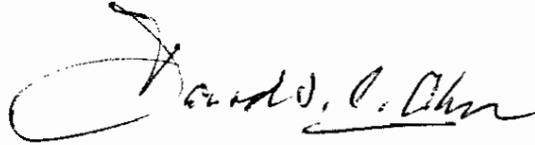
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The currently approved JEV was purchased from unit operating funds, principally by U.S. Marine Corps units for Service members in areas of Asia considered at risk. The vaccine also was purchased, as required, by military medical treatment facilities. We have not captured specific unit expenditures, but total DoD expenditures for JEV are approximately \$3 million per year (2,700 packages/month, 12 months/year, \$90/package).

Despite repeated requests, the manufacturer of the new vaccine has not provided the cost per dose. Consequently, costs for replacement of JEV cannot be described with accuracy at this time.

Thank you for your continued support to the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. C. Chu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "C".

David S. C. Chu

cc:

The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

JUN 17 2008

The Honorable Ben Nelson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to the Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 Conference Report 110-434 that requests a report on the current policies for maintaining the Japanese encephalitis vaccine (JEV) stockpile, the status of replacing the current JEV, and the costs associated with such a replacement.

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Thank you for your continued support to the Military Health System.

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David S. C. Chu

cc:

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

JUN 17 2008

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6035

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to the Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 Conference Report 110-434 that requests a report on the current policies for maintaining the Japanese encephalitis vaccine (JEV) stockpile, the status of replacing the current JEV, and the costs associated with such a replacement.

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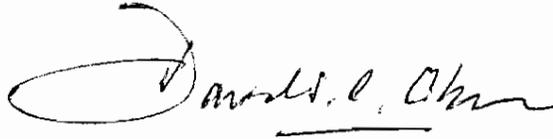
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Thank you for your continued support to the Military Health System.

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David S. C. Chu

cc:

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Ranking Member



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

JUN 17 2008

The Honorable Susan Davis
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6035

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

I am responding to the Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 Conference Report 110-434 that requests a report on the current policies for maintaining the Japanese encephalitis vaccine (JEV) stockpile, the status of replacing the current JEV, and the costs associated with such a replacement.

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David S. C. Chu

cc:

The Honorable John M. McHugh
Ranking Member



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

JUN 17 2008

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6025

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to the Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 Conference Report 110-434 that requests a report on the current policies for maintaining the Japanese encephalitis vaccine (JEV) stockpile, the status of replacing the current JEV, and the costs associated with such a replacement.

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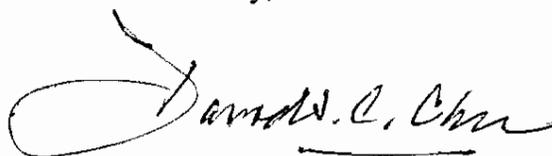
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David S. C. Chu

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member



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PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

JUN 17 2008

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6028

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to the Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 Conference Report 110-434 that requests a report on the current policies for maintaining the Japanese encephalitis vaccine (JEV) stockpile, the status of replacing the current JEV, and the costs associated with such a replacement.

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David S. C. Chu

cc:
The Honorable Ted Stevens
Ranking Member



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

JUN 17 2008

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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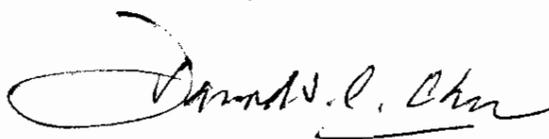
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David S. C. Chu

cc:
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member



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PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

JUN 17 2008

The Honorable John P. Murtha
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6018

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to the Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 Conference Report 110-434 that requests a report on the current policies for maintaining the Japanese encephalitis vaccine (JEV) stockpile, the status of replacing the current JEV, and the costs associated with such a replacement.

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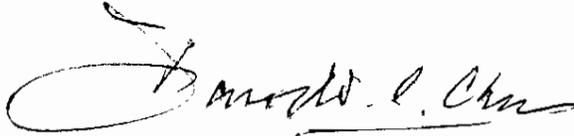
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David S. C. Chu

cc:

The Honorable C. W. Bill Young
Ranking Member

Appropriations Conference Report

110-434 p. 358

REPLACEMENT OF JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS VACCINE

The conferees direct the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to report to the Congressional Defense committees by April 15, 2008, on the current policies for maintaining the Japanese encephalitis vaccine stockpile, the status of replacing the current Japanese encephalitis virus vaccine, and the costs associated with such a replacement.