



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

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HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Extension of the Millennium Cohort Study to 67 years to Evaluate the Total Life Span of US Military Service Members and Veterans.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (OASD/HA) Defense Health Program (DHP), Defense Medical Research and Development Program (DMRDP) and the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (MRMC) currently support the 21-year Millennium Cohort Study through a combination of DHP and Army Medical Research Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) funds.

The Millennium Cohort Study, the largest prospective joint service longitudinal study of over 200,000 service members, began in 2001 and is executed by the Naval Health Research Center. The Millennium Cohort mission is to reduce the burden and eliminate adverse health outcomes associated with military service by advancing knowledge regarding physical and psychological health outcomes across a dynamic continuum of military experiences over the service member lifespan.

A major limitation of the Millennium Cohort is the inability to capture the entire service member lifespan. Since physical and psychological health conditions related to service may occur at any time during or after service, and may involve long latency time periods (e.g., cognitive decline issues, cancer, and mortality), the continued assessments of service members over the total lifespan is imperative for the complete understanding of the long-term health outcomes associated with military service. Extending the Millennium Cohort to 67 years will enable evaluation of total lifespan of service members and long-term outcomes.

The purpose of this memorandum is to direct the extension of the Millennium Cohort Study to 67 years and conduct the necessary planning, programming, and budgeting to encompass the total service member lifespan.

CARL A. CASTRO  
Colonel, MS  
Director, MOMRP and Chair, JPC5

TERRY M. RAUCH, PhD  
Director, DMRDP  
OASD(HA)

CF:  
COMMANDING OFFICER, NHRC  
Nancy Crum Cianflone, NHRC