



13 JUL 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
COMPTROLLER
GENERAL COUNSEL
INSPECTOR GENERAL
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Environmental Health Matters in Operation Desert Storm

Section 734 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993 (Public Law 102-190) provides for a Registry of members of the armed forces exposed to fumes of burning oil in connection with Operation Desert Storm. Also, by letter of October 2, 1991, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requested the following assistance from the Department of Defense:

- "1. Construction of a roster of troops assigned to each military unit that served in the areas affected by the Kuwaiti oil well fires. The roster should include basic demographic data and military personnel data.
- "2. Construction of a file of daily unit locations for the period January 15, 1991 through the date of the last unit withdrawal from the Persian Gulf area.
- "3. Creation and maintenance of a central file containing information on air pollutant levels from a number of locations where troops were stationed over different times. Aerial photographs for smoke plume behavior and daily weather reports, etc., may be useful."

To carry out Section 734 and to assist the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, I direct as follows:

- a. The authorities and duties of the Secretary of Defense under Section 734 (a), (b) and (e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993 (Public Law 102-190) are hereby delegated and assigned to the Secretary of the Army as the Executive Agent of the Department of Defense. The Secretary of the Army shall prepare and forward to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs for transmittal to Congress the reports required by Section 734(c).
- b. The Secretary of the Army shall be the Executive Agent of the Department of Defense to provide the assistance requested by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in his letter of October 2, 1991.

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- c. The Secretaries of the Military Departments and the heads of other components of the Department of Defense shall provide such information to the Secretary of the Army as may be necessary to implement this memorandum.
- d. The Comptroller of the Department of Defense shall ensure that the appropriations of the Military Departments bear equitably the costs of implementing this memorandum.

The Secretary of the Army should coordinate the exercise of authority under this memorandum as appropriate with the Secretaries of the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management and Personnel.

Donald J. Atwood