



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

JUL 26 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

Subject: USAF "Spice" Testing Program

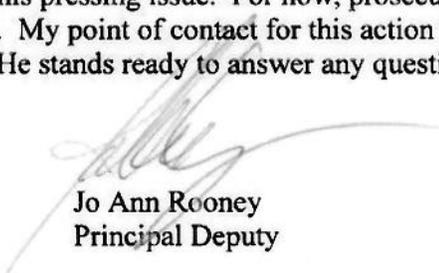
Thank you for your March 28, 2011, memo requesting to implement an Air force pilot program testing for synthetic cannabinoids (Spice). As you noted, the use of Spice poses a threat to the health and readiness of the armed forces. I support the Air Force pilot program for Spice testing, provided that its scope be limited at this time to determining the prevalence of these substances in use by Air Force service members.

As you identified, there are several unique testing challenges to Spice. For example, there is almost no human testing on these substances and a large variability of potential Spice compounds. The absence of human studies on the metabolism of these compounds prevents experts in the field from linking positive test results to the use of a specific Spice product. Therefore, I cannot support the use of the urinalysis drug testing results alone for prosecuting or taking adverse administrative actions against service members for the use of Spice. The military departments should continue to pursue all courses of action to prosecute for possession of Spice and related products.

To address these issues, a Spice Feasibility Study Interagency Agreement with the National Institute on Drug Abuse was established. The goal of the study is to identify and address gaps in existing scientific studies and technology and offer cost efficient and legally defensible solutions to support the possible addition of Spice drugs to the DoD panel of randomly tested drugs. Air Force experts are invited to join this study effort. Your request to add Spice to the DoD panel of tested drugs is dependent on how quickly these technical challenges in broad based testing of Spice can be addressed.

As you requested, DoDI 1010.16, *Technical Procedure for Military Personnel Drug Abuse Testing Program*, is being revised to include separation techniques and mass spectroscopy instrument standards. This revised instruction has been staffed and is currently in coordination.

I applaud the Air Force efforts to address this pressing issue. For now, prosecution for possession continues to provide our most viable deterrent. My point of contact for this action is CAPT Kevin Klette, 703-693-5230, kevin.klette@osd.mil. He stands ready to answer any questions on this important effort.


Jo Ann Rooney
Principal Deputy

cc:
Secretaries of the Military Departments
Chief of Staff, Army
Chief of Naval Operations
Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force
Commandant of the Marine Corps

