



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

2 MAY 1977

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
(MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)

SUBJECT: Radioimmunoassay Cutoff Levels for Urinalyses Conducted
in Drug Testing Laboratories

REFERENCES:

- a. ODASD(DAA) Memorandum, subject, Drug Testing Laboratories Cutoff Levels, dated 30 May 1974
- b. OASD(HA)/ODAAP Memorandum, subject, Methaqualone Urinalysis with Radioimmunoassay Technology, dated 27 February 1975
- c. ODASD(HA) Memorandum, subject, Cocaine Urinalyses for Drug Abuse, dated 13 July 1976

Laboratory experience has shown that the radioimmunoassay cutoff levels prescribed by reference a are, in general, higher than they need be. The RIA procedure is sensitive enough to detect drugs of abuse in the urine at lower concentrations than presently prescribed and those lower concentrations are confirmable using the gas chromatograph process. Therefore, effective 1 July 1977, reference a is rescinded and the following new RIA cutoff levels are prescribed:

Opiates	200 ng/ml
Amphetamines	1000 ng/ml
Barbiturates	200 ng/ml

Cutoff levels for methaqualone and cocaine metabolite each remain at 1000 ng/ml per references b and c respectively.

Vernon McKenzie

Vernon McKenzie
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

cc: Chairman, Laboratory Methodology Subcommittee
HQ, DA - OTSG
Col. A. Dominguez, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology