

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON D C 20301

JUN 17 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR The Secretaries of the Military Departments  
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

The President has directed that the critical national problem of drug abuse in the country and in the armed forces be given urgent and immediate attention. I am fully aware of the programs in the services related to drug abuse, but more needs to be done as a matter of urgent priority. As part of the national program addressing this matter the Secretaries of the Military Departments will immediately put into operation plans designed to meet the problem of heroin use among members of the armed forces in Vietnam. Such plans will insure that:

- Within seven days identification is commenced of those service members departing Vietnam who are using or are dependent on narcotics.
- Service members so identified shall undergo a five to seven day detoxification treatment prior to their return to the United States.
- Service members whose terms of service are expiring who need and desire treatment will be provided the opportunity for a minimum of 30 days of treatment in military facilities in the United States when Veterans Administration or civilian programs are not available.
- Service members with time remaining in service will insofar as possible be treated in military programs in the United States and afforded the opportunity for rehabilitation. When extensive treatment is indicated they will be phased into Veterans Administration programs as such become available.

On the basis of information obtained in the identification and treatment of members departing Vietnam, you will develop and implement at the earliest possible date plans to identify and treat all members in Southeast Asia at least sixty days before the date of their return from overseas.

You will expand on such plans to include at the earliest possible date all service members in Southeast Asia and later world-wide who are dependent on drugs. Studies will also be undertaken to obtain realistic estimates of the extent of drug use in the armed forces.

The President has expressed his keen personal interest in the expeditious implementation of these actions.

Manpower, resources, funds, and logistical support will be provided as required from available sources.

Due to the urgency of the problem I expect that you will closely and personally follow the course of progress toward the objective of identifying and treating all military members who are dependent on drugs at the earliest possible date. I will look forward to frequent oral reports from you and I also will want to have periodic written reports on the progress made by each of the Services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dwight D. Eisenhower", written in a cursive style.