



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
COORDINATOR FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT
POLICY AND SUPPORT

1510 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20301-1510



JUN 4 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (FORCE
MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL)

SUBJECT: Barbiturates Testing within Military Drug Screening Laboratories

Barbiturates are one of seven categories of drugs subject to analysis in specimens submitted to the military drug laboratories under the Department of Defense (DoD) Demand Reduction drug testing program. Barbiturate abuse by military personnel is low with very few positives identified within the program. To ensure efficiencies within the military drug testing program, the following actions are being implemented. First, barbiturate testing will continue to be a "pulse test" drug in accordance with DoD Instruction 1010.16, "Technical Procedures for the Military Personnel Drug Abuse Testing Program." Second, the barbiturates for which confirmation analyses will be conducted are phenobarbital, secobarbital, and butalbital. The presence of other barbiturates, may be reported in accordance with the above Instruction following independent gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) validation. Third, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) open proficiency samples for barbiturates testing will be conducted at the same frequency as specialty drugs, such as the amphetamine designer drugs, rather than on a monthly basis as currently conducted.

These changes to the barbiturates testing should be implemented by September 1, 1997, in order to allow time to effect the necessary modifications of laboratory operating procedures (LOP) and standard operating procedures (SOP) manuals.

Brian E. Sheridan
Principal Deputy

CF:
Military Drug Testing Laboratories
Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

