



HEALTH AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

9 JUN 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR Assistant Secretary of the Army (MERA)
Assistant Secretary of the Navy (MRA&L)
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (MRA&I)

SUBJECT: Increased Urinalysis for Drug Abuse Detection

A review of the military service monthly reports of urinalysis for drug abuse detection (RCS DD-H&E(N)1094) received since cessation of random urinalysis on 1 October 1976 reveals widely differing levels of effort in the use and application of commander-directed urinalysis within each service. In some localities it is apparent that commander-directed urinalysis is being aggressively and effectively used as a tool to detect abuse. In other areas it is equally apparent that commander-directed urinalysis is not being used to best advantage -- for example, in one high-risk area only three urinalyses have been directed since 1 October 1976. In another high-risk area only 47 have been directed, and in one medium-risk area only 21 have been directed.

Commander-directed urinalysis has considerable potential not only to detect the deeply involved but also the incipient drug abuser whose early detection leads to a high probability of successful rehabilitation. It is imperative that the tool be used to its full potential. Therefore, request that measures be taken to increase the use of commander-directed urinalysis in those geographic areas of low usage, and that this office be advised of the actions taken.

Robert N. Smith, M.D.
Robert N. Smith, M.D.