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From: CMD-SMB-COMDT-CG1
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 11:04 AM
To: CMD-SMB-COMDT-CG1; CMD-SMB-CG-HSWL-SC
Subject: ANTHRAX VACCINE UPDATE

UNCLAS //N06010//

SUBJ: ANTHRAX VACCINE UPDATE

1. The Health, Safety and Work-Life Directorate has received numerous inquiries on anthrax vaccine safety. These inquiries are a result of rumors on social media stating that the Veterans Administration will rate members at "100% disability" if the member received a specified lot number. This information is rumor only, it is not corroborated by medical research, and is simply unfounded.
2. The misinformation surrounding anthrax vaccine stems from papers published by Tulane University in 2000 and 2002, which stated concerns about anti-squalene antibodies found in some veterans who received anthrax vaccine and were suffering from Gulf War Syndrome.
3. In 2002, a congressionally mandated comprehensive investigation found that anthrax vaccine was acceptably safe and effective in preventing anthrax in humans.
4. After the Tulane papers were published, multiple independent groups subsequently proved that squalene was not intentionally added to the anthrax vaccine, and that anti-squalene antibodies were not associated with Gulf War Syndrome or chronic multi-symptom illnesses. Furthermore, in 2006, the World Health Organization stated "that fears of squalene and vaccine inducing pathological anti-squalene antibodies were unfounded."
5. If you have further questions or other vaccine-related health concerns please follow this link to vetted health information from the Immunization Healthcare Branch at:
<https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Health-Readiness/Immunization-Healthcare>, or call 1-877-438-8222, press option 1.
6. If you have further questions related to disability benefits, please follow this web link for Veterans Benefits Administration at: <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/>.
7. Mr. Derrick Masters, Chief, Health Services (CG-112) sends.
8. Internet release authorized.