



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, DC 20318-9999

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28 October 2014

INFO MEMO

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: General Martin E. Dempsey, CJCS *Martin E. Dempsey*

SUBJECT: 21-Day Controlled Area Monitoring by the Services

The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) are committed to ensuring the safety of our military personnel responding to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The recent uncertainty surrounding domestic Ebola cases has prompted us to re-examine our post deployment procedures to ensure military personnel do not introduce the infection here at home. In order to take a prudent and conservative approach to address the growing concern within our military families and local communities, the JCS has decided to implement a program of 21 days of supervised monitoring in a controlled environment following deployment.

The DoD represents the largest population of Americans in the affected region. Unlike their NGO counterparts, our men and women are generally younger and are not volunteers. Most are not medical personnel. As such, the JCS recommends we execute the 21-day monitoring in a more controlled environment under direct supervision – separated from families and the local population – on a CONUS or OCONUS installation. We cannot legally mandate these measures for DoD civilians or contractors, but we will ensure our monitoring locations are made available to them on a volunteer basis.

Your current policy memo, dated 10 Oct 2014, allows for this more conservative approach and Service Chiefs will execute the controlled monitoring under their Title 10 authority. I request that you confirm that this approach is within your intent as we have already established a standard for the initial redeployers from U.S. Army Africa. This approach will of course require an aggressive and continuous engagement plan with Congress, the media, service members and their families to clearly articulate why we are taking these increased precautions.

As we order our young men and women forward to execute this important mission, we owe it to them, their families, and their communities to take these prudent measures to ensure that should a member return with Ebola, we will prevent further transmission of the virus. We will continue to refine our procedures as we learn more about the disease throughout the deployment period in order to best protect the force as we accomplish the mission.

COORDINATION: NONE



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