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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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SECNAV ADMIN

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SUBJECT: Policy Memorandum 16-001, Department of Defense Tobacco Policy

EXPIRATION DATE: 24 months from publication date

POINT OF CONTACT: For more information, contact Defense Health Agency, Clinical Support
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The defense of our Nation relies on the health, welfare, and physical fitness of our entire population, both military and civilian. As such, I know you share my commitment to protect them from the inarguably negative impact of tobacco use and the harmful effects of second hand smoke.

The President's (2010) Executive Order 13544, establishing the National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council, and the Department of Health and Human Services' National Strategy, "America's Plan for Better Health and Wellness," identifies tobacco-free living as one of seven priorities. Department of Defense data show that the prevalence of tobacco use among new recruits, upon entering the Armed Services, aligns with the national average. However, the prevalence rate climbs well above the national average following entry level training and first units of assignment. On average, 38 percent of current military smokers initiated tobacco use after enlisting. In addition, the health and productivity impact of tobacco use in our military population costs the Department more than \$1.6 billion per year.

On June 18, 2014, former, Secretary of Defense Hagel directed a review of the Department of Defense's tobacco policy and requested that options to advance the health, productivity, and readiness of the force be identified based on best practices for comprehensive tobacco control programs. Tobacco products refer to any product made or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, including cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, roll-your-own



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tobacco, smokeless and dissolvable tobacco, and products intended for use in hookahs/water pipes. In accordance with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's proposal, electronic nicotine delivery systems, including but not limited to e-cigarettes and vape pens, will also be treated as tobacco products, which will prohibit vendors from selling to individuals under 18 years of age or handing out free samples on military installations.

The Defense Advisory Committee on Tobacco has completed its review, and with input from the Services, Military Departments, and other Department of Defense stakeholders, shaped options for my consideration. I have approved the following actions to ensure a comprehensive tobacco policy that assists with preventing initiation of tobacco use, helping those who want to quit using tobacco succeed, and decreasing exposure to second-hand smoke for all our people.

Reinforcing current policy, all Department of Defense facilities will restrict tobacco use to specifically designated outdoor areas, which must be at least 50 feet from building entrances and air intake ducts. On all installations, with respect to the areas where organized activities take place or people congregate, to protect against harmful effects of second-hand smoke, areas not specifically designated as "tobacco use areas" by default, are to be considered tobacco free. Reinforcement of "tobacco use only" in designated areas will address many concerns, especially by creating tobacco free zones where children live, learn, and play. The current guidance for establishing tobacco free areas around buildings on installations also will remain, and should be vigorously enforced. Where feedback is received that the current distance is insufficient for protecting individuals from exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, the responsible official will take appropriate action to successfully eliminate possible harmful exposure.

With respect to the pricing of tobacco products, pending revision of Department of Defense Instruction 1330.9, "Armed Services Exchange Policy," December 7, 2005, prices in the United States (including territories and possessions) shall match the prevailing local price in the community, including the effect of all applicable taxes that local consumers pay when purchasing tobacco. Outside the United States, prices shall fall within the range of prevailing prices for that same product established in outlets of the defense retail systems inside the United States.

To help prevent initiating use – and help those who want to quit tobacco use – I am directing the Secretaries of the Military Departments to implement plans to improve education on the harmful effects of tobacco products and to strengthen tobacco cessation programs. More than 7 in 10 smokers want to quit, and we should be doing all we can to help them succeed in this effort. Tobacco cessation services, including counseling and medications, are effective in helping people quit using tobacco. The Military Departments and other Department of Defense components shall also comply with any collective bargaining obligations as applicable.

Finally, to bolster Department of Defense efforts to create an environment where individuals are not harmed by the effects of second-hand smoke, I direct each Military Department Secretary to review efforts to institute multi-unit smoke-free military housing (government-owned or leased housing), negotiate smoke-free options with privatized housing, and implement plans for increasing tobacco-free zones around areas frequented by children.

These actions support ongoing efforts, including great work already being undertaken by our medical communities in creating tobacco-free military treatment facilities. Resources to assist installations with developing their plans can be found through the Tobacco Community of Interest at <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/hbi>. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall provide their implementation plans to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness within 60 days of the date of this memorandum, and thereafter reports are to be provided on implementation progress bi-annually through 2018.

Rish Carter