DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
2300 E STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20372-7300

IN REPLY REFER TO

5100
Ser M3/5 AT-26180
17 Jun 09

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE EAST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE WEST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE SUPPORT COMMAND

Subj: TOBACCO USE FOR NAVY MEDICINE PERSONNEL IN UNIFORM

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 5100.13E

1. I have reviewed the guidance set forth in reference (a) and support it wholeheartedly. This policy challenges Navy Medicine leadership to take a strong stance on tobacco use at your Medical Treatment Facilities (MTF). Navy MTFs will be tobacco-free in the very near future. The unnecessary, harmful effects of tobacco on our service members and the burden placed on our healthcare system must be addressed.

2. Navy Medicine personnel shall not use tobacco products while in the presence of patients or while in uniform when representing Navy Medicine. Commanders, I challenge you and your Senior Enlisted Advisors to take this seriously. Consider the locations of your "smoke decks" and make appropriate changes as directed in reference (a). Aggressively promote tobacco cessation opportunities throughout your commands. Make it perfectly clear that the Secretary's instruction applies to your members when performing their official duties and even when uniform standards are relaxed to meet our total force mission (e.g., scrubs). This will eliminate any unnecessary risk or harmful exposure to our patients and secure our mission. If a service member travels in support of our Navy Medicine mission, this is considered an official duty and all elements of reference (a) shall apply.

3. Our strong commitment to the health and well-being of our service members is most clearly evident by our own examples of a tobacco-free lifestyle. I thank each of you, in advance, for your leadership on this serious issue. Please direct questions regarding this matter to CAPT Shirley Bowens, NC, USN, at (202) 762-3585 or e-mail: Shirley.Bowens@med.navy.mil.

A. M. Robinson, Jr.
A. M. ROBINSON, JR.