TO:        David Chu

FROM:  Donald Rumsfeld

DATE:   August 8, 2002

SUBJECT:

Please look into this business about pilots using amphetamines. I don’t think that
is a good idea. What’s going on?

Thanks.

DHR/azn
080902.02

Please respond by:  8/25/02
FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: William Wikenwerder, Jr. MD, ASD (Health Affairs)

SUBJECT: Operational Use of Dextroamphetamine in Aviators

- You directed that we “look into this business about pilots using amphetamines.” (TAB A)

- Dextroamphetamine, known as "go pills," has been used by military aviators since World War II to counter the effects of fatigue during combat operations. It is only used if alternatives such as adjusting sleep patterns, in-flight naps or exercise are either unsuccessful or not an option. There have been no reported safety incidents involving aircrew members’ use of “go pills.”

- The wing commander, or deployed commander equivalent, in consultation with the senior flight surgeon, determines if the use of Dextroamphetamine is medically warranted. The authorization for its use is time and/or mission specific.

- Countering pilot fatigue is an “off label” use of Dextroamphetamine; informed consent is necessary from the crew member. Commanders may not order its use. There is no penalty, punishment, loss of benefits, or adverse action of any kind for those who decline the use of stimulants. Ground testing prior to combat use and rigorous accountability measures must also be in place.

- Military medical research laboratories are currently studying alternative drugs to effectively combat pilot fatigue, including Modafinil, a Food and Drug Administration approved medication used to treat narcolepsy.

COORDINATION: TAB B

Prepared by: COL John Powers, C&PP, PCDocs# 40336, 40197

U14912-02

11-L-0559/OSD/11221
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Operational Use of Dextroamphetamines in Aviators

COORDINATION

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<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>PD, C&amp;PP</td>
<td>CAPT Jack Smith</td>
<td>28 Aug. 2002</td>
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<tr>
<td>C of S, HA</td>
<td>Ms. Diana Tabler</td>
<td>has seen 9/16/02</td>
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<td>PDASD, HA</td>
<td>Mr. Ed Wyatt</td>
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<td>USD, P&amp;R</td>
<td>Dr. David S.C. Chu</td>
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