



## DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE  
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION  
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE  
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT  
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION  
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES  
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

Subject: Transfer of Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences to TRICARE Management Activity and Rescission of the Department of Navy as Department of Defense Executive Agent

The Military Health System (MHS) senior leadership, in its efforts to continuously improve and transform the MHS, is shaping a health care system to be adaptable and responsive to a very complex and changing national security environment. The Department is developing an integrated and seamless Military Health System, joint and interoperable, which can deploy anytime, anywhere across the globe. Key elements to success are the proper alignment of authority, responsibility, accountability, and incentives among the interdependent elements of the MHS mission.

A major component of the MHS is to train military health care providers for wartime. For this purpose, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) has a significant role in educating and training medical personnel to serve the needs of the Uniformed Services, during both war and peacetime. To foster increased operational oversight and ensure integration of the USUHS programs and activities in the Defense Health Program, management responsibility and placement of the USUHS, established in accordance with title 10 USC, Chapter 104, and operated under Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 5105.45, are being revised: Effective immediately, the following actions are directed:

- a. The Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) (USD (P&R)) is delegated the authority over USUHS vested in the Secretary of Defense by

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Chapter 104 of Title 10, United States Code, except that the authority to appoint the President of USUHS is reserved to the Secretary of Defense;

- b. USUHS shall be realigned to an operating entity under the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), with the President of the USUHS reporting to the Director, TMA;
- c. The designation of the Secretary of the Navy as the DoD Executive Agent for administration support of the USUHS is hereby rescinded;
- d. All resources associated with the administrative support of the USUHS shall be transferred from the Department of the Navy to TMA to allow continuous operation of the USUHS;
- e. All manpower, personnel, and budget resources associated with the USUHS shall be made part of the TMA; and
- f. All delegations to the President, USUHS, as provided under DoD Directive 5105.45, are rescinded, and shall be assumed by the Director, TMA.

The USD (P&R) and the Director of Administration and Management, in coordination with the Military Departments, the USD (Comptroller), the General Counsel of the DoD, and other cognizant officials, shall take necessary actions to implement this direction.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Engel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.