U.S. Department of Transportation
United States Coast Guard

Commandant
United States Coast Guard

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COMDTINST 6530.1
APR 19 1999

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 6530.1

Subj: COAST GUARD PARTICIPATION IN THE C. W. BILL YOUNG MARROW DONOR RECRUITMENT AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

Ref: (a) Coast Guard Personnel Manual, COMDTINST M 1000.6A, Chapter 16

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction announces the Coast Guard's participation in the C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Recruitment and Research Program, encourages commands to consider conducting donor drives, and provides general guidance to commands in the event attached personnel are contacted as potential bone marrow donors.

2. ACTION. Coast Guard commands are encouraged to consider involvement in community lifesaving projects such as blood and bone marrow donor drives and other humanitarian endeavors that increase the Coast Guard's visibility in the community, and in turn benefit the general public. Area and district commanders, commanders of maintenance and logistics commands, commanding officers of headquarters units, assistant commandants for directorates, Chief Counsel, and special staff offices at Headquarters are requested to support these efforts and provide medical and logistic support when marrow donor drives are conducted at units within their area of responsibility

3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. None.

4. DISCUSSION. On 23 November 1998, the Coast Guard signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Defense (DOD), adding the Coast Guard as a participant in the Defense Marrow Donor Program, see (enclosure (1)).

   a. This program, administered through the C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Program in Kensington, MD, allows military personnel and their dependents to volunteer as bone marrow donors and have their names placed in the National Marrow Donor Program

(NMDP) registry at no cost. The C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Program is available to assist commands in organizing and conducting bone marrow donor drives for eligible DOD and Coast Guard personnel in their area, including members of reserve and national guard components, and DOD and Coast Guard civilian employees (while not specifically mentioned in the MOU CG civilian employees are entitled by statute).

b. Donating bone marrow is a unique lifesaving opportunity. Bone marrow transplants are often a last hope for survival for thousands of children and adults afflicted with over 50 fatal diseases including leukemia, lymphomas, aplastic anemia and inherited immune disorders. Some 5,000 to 10,000 Americans are in need of bone marrow transplants each year, including members of the Coast Guard family. Those who do not have a sibling with compatible bone marrow, depend on finding an unrelated person with compatible marrow characteristics through the NMDP registry. The odds of any two unrelated individuals of the same ethnic background having matching marrow characteristics are about 20,000 to one. Even with approximately 3 million persons currently registered, the number of transplants that can be performed is limited by the availability of tissue matched (typed) donors. To give these people hope, it is critical that as many willing individuals as possible be included in the NMDP registry as possible.

c. Units that desire to conduct a bone marrow donor registration drive may contact the C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Program at 1-800-MARROW-3 for assistance. An information packet is available describing program eligibility and the steps needed to conduct a successful drive. Once a command approves and schedules a drive, the C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Program will provide all informational materials, registration and consent forms, blood drawing supplies, sample tubes and instructions. Generally, units will be asked to arrange for medical personnel to screen and draw blood samples from volunteers and personnel to assist volunteers with the registration forms. Bone marrow donor recruitment drives may be held in conjunction with blood donation drives, but should be coordinated in advance with the local blood center. Donor recruitment staff members from the C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Program are available to assist units if needed.

d. The decision whether to register as a potential marrow donor, or if found to be a match, donate bone marrow, is solely voluntary and up to the individual. The odds of any one volunteer being called to donate are very slim. Should that occur, the NMDP normally requests blood samples from the individual that are used for confirmatory typing and screening. If found to be a desirable match, the member would receive counseling from the NMDP and has the option of declining to donate. If they agree to donate, bone marrow collection is a minor surgical procedure, usually performed in a hospital under general anesthesia. Under NMDP program guidelines, travel, lodging and hospital costs incurred by the donor are paid for by the recipient or their health coverage. Requests for time away for confirmatory testing, counseling and marrow donation should be approved the same as those for other

minor elective surgical procedures, except that authorization of permissive orders or sick-leave is allowed and encouraged.

e. After donation, donors may experience soreness that is usually treated with aspirin or Tylenol and disappears within several days. In addition, a marrow donor may experience feelings of fatigue and general malaise that may last from a couple of days to several weeks (this varies from individual to individual). **Therefore, it is recommended that a member donating bone marrow receive a minimum of 5 days sick-leave immediately following the procedure**. In some instances, additional medical officer follow-up and evaluation will be required to determine if the member requires additional convalescence and sick-leave prior to returning to a fit-for-full duty status. **In all cases, when Coast Guard aviators donate bone marrow, a follow-up medical examination to include a complete blood test (CBC) is required by a uniformed services flight surgeon prior to resuming flight duties.** (Aviators will be grounded for 1 week immediately following marrow donation, upon follow-up medical examination and repeat CBC findings the flight surgeon may determine the need for additional convalescence and sick-leave prior to returning an aviator to an up status). In accordance with Section 692(a), Public Law 103-329, Coast Guard civilian employees are entitled to 7 days of paid leave (excused absence) each calendar year to serve as a bone-marrow donor (including pre-donation screening, and post donation convalescence). Should the civilian member require an additional period of convalescence the period of absence will be charged against the civilian member's annual leave or sick-leave account balances.

f. Additional information on bone marrow donation is available from the NMDP at 1-800-MARROW-2, or over the Internet at www.marrow.org.

/s/ JOYCE M. JOHNSON
Director of Health and Safety

Encl: (1) Memorandum of Understanding of 23Nov98
Non-Standard Distribution:
C:a North Bend (2); Cape Cod, Miami, Borinquen, Traverse City (2); Clearwater (2); Astoria (2)
C:b Port Angles, Sitka (2)
C:d San Juan only
C:I St. Petersburg, Port Isabel, Sabine, Port O' Conner, Rockland, Grand Isle, Venice, Duluth, Ft. Macon only

Non-Standard Distribution continued:
C:k Niami Beach, Boston, New Orleans, Seattle, San Pedro, Honolulu (2);
Portsmouth, Elizabeth City, Alameda, (4); Kodiak, Ketchikan (4)
D:j Pensacola only
Head, C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Recruitment and Research Program, Naval Medical Research Institute, Bethesda, MD 20889-5055

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

1. **PARTIES**. The parties to this Agreement are the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the United States Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (OASDHA).

2. **AUTHORITY**. This Agreement is authorized under the provisions of 14 U.S.C. 141.

3. **BACKGROUND**. This memorandum of understanding provides for the inclusion of the United States Coast Guard to participate in the C. W. Young Marrow Donor Recruitment and Research Program. The DoD June 18, 1991 Policy Memorandum included all military personnel, their dependents, and Dod Federal civilian personnel. The Coast Guard had not been included. By provision of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Coast Guard active duty and reserve members, and their dependents may participate in the C. W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Recruitment and Research Program in accordance with the June 18, 1991 Policy Memorandum or other applicable provisions.

4. **PURPOSE**. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to include the Coast Guard in the C. W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Recruitment and Research Program. This program established on May 25, 1990 by Public Law 101-303, is located at the Naval Medical Research Institute, Bethesda, Maryland; and is administered by the Navy as executive agent.

5. **RESPONSIBILITIES**:

   a. **Naval Medical Research Institute (NMRI), Bethesda, Maryland**. NMRI, Bethesda, Maryland 20889-5055 will administer the C. W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Recruitment and Research Program.

   b. **Coast Guard**. Coast Guard regular and reserve members and their dependents may volunteer to participate in the program through following the provisions of U. S. Coast Guard Commandant Instruction M1000.6A, Chapter 16.

6. **Coast Guard Point of Contact**.
Paul Higgins, M.D., Capt., USPHS
Phone: (202) 267-0800
Fax: (202) 267-4338
E-mail: Phiggins@comdt.uscg.mil
Mailing address:
Commandant (G-WKH)
U.S. Coast Guard
2100 2nd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001.

7. **DoD Marrow Donor Program Point of Contact**:
Head, C. W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Recruitment and Research Program
Naval Medical Research Program
Naval Medical Research Institute
Bethesda, Maryland 20889-5055
Phone: (301) 295-5385 or autovon at (301) 295-2524 or 1-800-MARROW3

8. **OTHER PROVISIONS**.

a. OASDHA agrees to promptly notify the Coast Guard of any changes to this program in policy, procedures, or clarifying opinions.

b. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to conflict with current law or regulation or the directives of the United States Coast Guard or the Department of Transportation or OASDHA's DoD Marrow Donor Program. If a term of this agreement is inconsistent with such authority, then that term shall be invalid, but the remaining terms and conditions of this agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

9. **EFFECTIVE DATE**. The terms of this agreement will become effective upon ____28 NOV 1998____ (insert effective date) the date both parties sign acceptances thereof.

10. **MODIFICATION**. This agreement may be modified upon the mutual [written] consent of the parties.

11. **TERMINATION**. This MOU remains in effect until modified or rescinded by written agreement of the undersigned or their successors.

APPROVED BY:

Signed
By:_____
DR. SUE BAILEY
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Health Affairs

Date:_____23 NOV 1998_____

Signed
By:_____
JOYCE M. JOHNSON
Rear Admiral, U. S. Public Health Service
Director of Health and Safety,
U.S. Coast Guard
Date: _____27 OCT 1998_____