

**Report
of the
Inter-Service Council
for
Biosecurity and Biosafety**

12 December 2008



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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Inter-Service Council for Biosecurity and Biosafety
General Officer Steering Committee

December 12, 2008

In accordance with the Charter of the Inter-Service Council on Biosecurity and Biosafety, we hereby submit the report of the findings and recommendations of the Inter-Service Council on Biosecurity and Biosafety General Officer Steering Committee.

The mandate given to the Council was broad. We were tasked to assess Service policies and procedures to ensure compliance with biosecurity, biosafety and personnel reliability policies, identify key issues, and provide recommendations for improvement to the Services. We were also tasked to oversee internal review of biosecurity, biosafety and personnel reliability policy and procedures by each Service, as well as an assessment of the requirement to maintain Service laboratory infrastructure to conduct biological select agent and toxin (BSAT) research.

In response, we brought together a Task Force of subject matter experts from across the Services and the Department of Defense. These experts conducted in-depth research and analysis, and developed recommendations for consideration. We also visited several BSAT laboratories for first-hand observation of the facilities to assess biosecurity and biosafety, and to better understand the impact of the recommendations under consideration.

The Council's findings and recommendations focus on seven key areas of biosecurity, biosafety and personnel reliability. While the Council found that Services' policies, regulations, standards, and procedures in effect before August 2008 meet or exceed all federal and DoD requirements, the Services agreed on the need to establish common standards in each area, and recommendations for enhancing biosecurity, biosafety, and personnel reliability were developed.

Service research laboratories have made, and continue to make, significant contributions to medicine, applicable not only to the warfighter, but also to the America public, and to defend against the use of biological agents as weapons by our adversaries. While our Service biological research laboratories rank among the safest

and most secure in world, implementation of these recommendations will reduce risk, further improve safety and security, and allow this critical research to continue to provide benefits to our nation and the world.

We appreciate the honor to serve the country, the Department of Defense, and our Services in this task. Our task force staff stands ready to assist further in the implementation of the recommendations contained in this report.

Signed:

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