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UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND
UNIT 30400
APO AE 09154

2 MAR 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Interim Guidance on Tick-Borne Encephalitis (TBE) Vaccination

- References:
- (a) ECI 4202.01A, Theater Medical Entry Requirements, 24 July 2025
 - (b) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Tick-Borne Encephalitis (TBE) Clinical and Travel Guidance.
 - (c) European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Tick-Borne Encephalitis Surveillance and Epidemiology.
 - (d) U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). TICOVAC™ TBE Vaccine Approval Letter. August 13, 2021.

1. This memorandum provides interim guidance and clarification regarding the Tick-Borne Encephalitis (TBE) vaccine policy outlined in reference (a) for the USEUCOM Area of Responsibility. TBE is a potentially chronic and deadly disease present across many parts of Europe, particularly northern, central and eastern Europe. High-risk areas for TBE are defined as countries with >1/100,000 confirmed TBE on the most recent annual epidemiological report, available here: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/tick-borne-encephalitis>. Due to the high-risk potential of this disease, it poses a current health threat to mission and force.

2. Effective immediately, the language in ECI 4202.01A, (Enclosure C, p. C-5, para. 5.b.(12)), stating that the Tick borne encephalitis (TBE) vaccine (TicoVac™) is "required" is superseded by this guidance. Per references (b) thru (d), the Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) vaccine is "highly recommended" for all Department of War (DoW) personnel, (AD, Reservists on AD orders, DoW civilians and/or contractors in support of military operations), travelling to high-risk areas for TBE in Europe who will be working or spending time in rural, forested, or brushy areas. For personnel working or spending time in urban settings within high-risk areas, the TBE vaccine is generally not necessary, as the risk of exposure to infected ticks in these settings is considered low.

3. This change will be formally incorporated into the next annual review and update of ECI 4204.01A, at which time this interim guidance will be rescinded.

4. The USEUCOM point of contact is: Lt Col Karen A. Vandor, US Air Force, Force Health Protection Branch Chief, at email: karen.a.vandor.mil@mail.mil, DSN: 324-412-4197.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Smith".

WAYNE R. SMITH
Captain, U.S. Navy
Command Surgeon

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