



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

MAR 24 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH
AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: 2021 Military Health Research Symposium Approval

I approve that the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs host the 2021 Military Health System Research Symposium (MHSRS), based on my determination that exceptional circumstances exist that justify hosting the 2021 MHSRS, and my waiver of the prohibition on spending in excess of \$500,000.00 on a single conference, in recognition of the symposium's critical role in enhancing medical readiness and improving mission effectiveness.

The MHSRS provides an essential function in communicating the Military Health System strategic vision, and facilitating rapid, enterprise-wide dissemination of state-of-the-science information, and novel evidence-based practices. Of equal importance, the symposium provides a venue for sharing research findings spanning combat casualty care, operational medicine, clinical and rehabilitative medicine, infectious diseases research, and global health engagement. This symposium is a vital component of the Department's efforts to foster a collaborative environment with academia, industry, and other government agencies to address gaps in deployment-related medical capabilities and operational readiness; accelerate research progress; and reduce duplicative research and development efforts.

My point of contact for this effort is Dr. Terry M. Rauch, at terry.m.rauch.civ@mail.mil or (703) 681-8472.

Virginia S. Penrod

Virginia S. Penrod,
Acting

cc:
Director, Defense Health Agency
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Health Readiness Policy and Oversight