



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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

APR 14 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Approval of the 2026 Annual Military Health System Research Symposium

In accordance with the Department of Defense Conference Guidance, Version 4.0, June 26, 2016, I approve a waiver of the prohibition on incurring net expenses in excess of \$500,000 on a single conference, and I also approve the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War for Health Affairs to serve as the host of the annual Military Health System Research Symposium (MHSRS) in 2026.

This approval is based upon my determination that exceptional circumstances exist that justify the Department's hosting the MHSRS, specifically recognizing the number of those attending and the symposium's critical role in reporting research data that supports improvements in deployed warfighter medical readiness and performance, expeditionary medicine, and return to duty. The MHSRS has a distinguished track record of improving mission effectiveness by fostering a collaborative environment with academia, industry, and other Government Agencies to address gaps in deployment-related medical capabilities.

I authorize proceeding with planning for this event and exempt approved attendees from civilian travel restrictions that would impact attendee travel for an in-person conference. This approval is contingent on the availability of Government funds and adherence to all applicable policies.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ATATA", is written over the printed name "Anthony J. Tata".

Anthony J. Tata

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