



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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

MAY - 5 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: 2023 Annual Military Health Research Symposium Approval

In accordance with DoD Conference Guidance, Version 4.0, I approve a waiver of the prohibition on incurring net expenses in excess of \$500,000.00 on a single conference, and I also approve the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to serve as the host of the annual Military Health System Research Symposium (MHSRS) in 2023. This approval is based upon my determination that exceptional circumstances exist that justify the Department's hosting the MHSRS, specifically recognizing the symposium's critical role in enhancing medical readiness and improving mission effectiveness. The approval for the conference in 2023 is contingent on funds being available and on reimbursement of appropriations obligated to cover conference expenses from fees collected from conference participants pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2262.

The MHSRS enables the Military Health System to perform an essential function of communicating its strategic vision, while facilitating rapid, enterprise-wide dissemination of state-of-the-science information, novel evidence-based practices, and providing continuing education credits. Of equal importance, the symposium provides a venue for sharing research findings spanning combat casualty care, operational medicine, infectious diseases, 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 engineering efforts.

This approval constitutes approval for hosting the event under the conference approval process established by the DoD Conference Guidance, Version 4.0, so that planning for the event may continue. Additional approvals may be necessary in the future to comply with any restrictions resulting from coronavirus disease 2019 mitigation measures, including travel restrictions, in effect at the time of the event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.

cc:

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