



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

APR 24 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: 2024 Annual Military Health System 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 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 2024. 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 enhancing medical readiness; improving mission effectiveness; and fostering a collaborative environment with academia, industry, and other Government agencies to address gaps in deployment-related medical capabilities. The approval for the conference in 2024 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 memorandum also constitutes my 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashish S. Vazirani".

Ashish S. Vazirani  
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of  
Defense for Personnel and Readiness

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