Anthrax-services

Soldiers, sailors, Marines and Air Force personnel can expect a series of briefings and meetings before they make the decision about whether or not to get vaccinated for anthrax.

Here are the steps:

1

Briefing on anthrax vaccine, usually with your commanding officer, using a slide presentation or brochures. Usually 8-10 minutes.

2

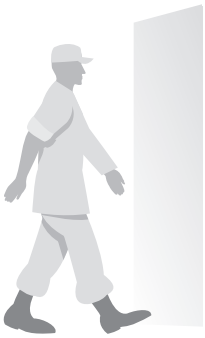
Meet with medical personnel, who will discuss the benefits of the anthrax vaccine and its safety. The military's tri-fold brochure is given to each individual. This can be done in a group setting, or one-on-one.

Air Force, Army and shipboard Navy and Marine personnel at this point will likely be expecte to make a choice. This may happen in a grou setting. Their health records are reviewed an they either get the vaccine or not. Army and Air Force personnel who decline are advised that th might be subject to adverse health in case of anthrax attack, that their decision might adverse affect their unit's ability to complete its mission and that their decision might adversely affect others in their unit, should an attack with anthrax be carried out.

Navy and Marine personnel in shore-based commands in Hampton Roads are given a least five days to study the brochure, ask questions and consider their choice. They a then scheduled to return to a health clinic, where they would sign a form saying they'd received the brochure, and made their choice. The Navy surgeon general's instructions do not require counseling about consequences of refusal similar to those in place in the Army and Air Force.

3

Vaccination — or leave clinic.



Source: Military health officials at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth; Fort Eustis; Langley Air Force Base; Portsmouth Coast Guard Station Medical Clinic

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