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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2005

VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD ON DOSE RECONSTRUCTION TO MEET

FORT BELVOIR, Alexandria, VA -- The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will hold the first public meeting of the Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction (VBDR) Aug. 17-18, 2005, at the Hyatt Regency hotel, 211 North Tampa St., Tampa, Fla. The meeting will be conducted Aug. 17 from 12:30-5 p.m., with a public comment session from 7-10 p.m. It will be held Aug. 18 from 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and 1:45-2:45 p.m., with a public comment session from 2:45-4:45 p.m.

The VA Secretary and the Secretary of Defense jointly established the VBDR on June 3, 2005, in accordance with Section 601 of Public Law 108-183. The chairman of the VBDR is retired Navy Vice Adm. James A. Zimble, M.D., a former Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy. VBDR members were selected to provide expertise in historical dose reconstruction, radiation health matters, risk communications, radiation epidemiology, medicine, quality management, decision analysis and ethics to appropriately enable the VBDR to represent and address veterans' concerns. The VBDR is governed by the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, PL 92-463, which sets forth standards for the formation and conduct of government advisory committees.

The 16-member VBDR will provide review and independent oversight of the dose reconstruction and claims programs for service connection of radiogenic diseases. The VBDR will also assist VA and DTRA in communicating with veterans regarding its mission and procedures of the dose reconstruction process. These dose reconstructions are used by VA to evaluate and decide claims by veterans of U.S.-sponsored atmospheric nuclear weapons tests from 1945-1962; veterans of the 1945-1946 occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan; and veterans who were prisoners of war in those regions at the conclusion of World War II.

Radiation dose reconstruction has been carried out by the Department of Defense under the Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) program since the late 1970s. DTRA is the executive agent for the NTPR program, which

provides participation and estimated radiation dose information to veterans and VA.

VA fulfills the government's obligation to help those who leave the military injured or ill. Administered through a network of 57 VA regional offices, disability compensation benefits cover chronic illnesses or injuries incurred as a result of, or worsened by, military service.

DTRA safeguards America's interests from weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high explosives) by controlling and reducing the threat to the United States and its allies, and providing quality tools and services for the warfighter. This Department of Defense combat support agency is located at Fort Belvoir, Va., and operates field offices worldwide.

More information on the meeting can be found on the DTRA website at www.dtra.mil. The VBDR may be contacted toll-free at 1-866-657-VBDR (8237). For more information on the NTPR program, go to: http://www.dtra.mil/Toolbox/Directorates/td/programs/nuclear_personnel/index.cfm.