



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

JAN 31 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Administration of the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination, Step 3

Military applicants for medical licensure have been impacted by a change in examination requirements from the old National Board examination to the current U.S. Medical Licensing Examination, Step 3 (USMLE). Entrance requirements and authority to administer the new examination have been decentralized to the 67 independent licensing authorities who make up the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States.

As you know, our Clinical Services staff has been working with the Federation to attempt to allow administration of the USMLE at military training centers. After receiving permission from the Federation (Attachment 1) to conduct the examination under the authority of its members, Dr. Joseph wrote to each of the licensing authorities to request their support (Attachment 2). Of nearly thirty authorities responding, all indicated a desire to help, but about half felt constrained by their regulations or contract requirements to decline permission.

In practice in most locations, license applicants who take the USMLE locally can have their scores reported to any authority to whom they are applying for licensure. Our staff has recommended to the Service Graduate Medical Education Chiefs that teaching facilities make contact with their local licensing authorities in order to explore the most appropriate local administration of the USMLE within the authority's regulations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward D. Martin".

Edward D. Martin, M.D.
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

HA POLICY 96-027

Attachments: