



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1000

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MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing Advisory for Military Members

It has come to the attention of the DoD that some direct-to-consumer testing companies are encouraging DoD personnel to purchase genetic ancestry information through the offering of military discounts or other incentives. These tests are largely unregulated and could expose personal and genetic information to create unintended security consequences and increased risk to the joint force.

Exposing sensitive genetic information to outside parties poses personal risks to Service members. DTC genetic tests that provide health information of validity, and many are not reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration offered, meaning they may be sold without independent analysis to verify the seller. Possible inaccuracies pose more risk to DoD military personnel than the Service member requirements to disclose medical information that affects readiness (Instruction 6025.19, "Individual Medical Readiness"). Testing outside the Military Health System is unlikely to include a clear description of this risk.

Moreover, there is increased concern in the scientific community that exploiting the use of genetic data for questionable purposes, including mass surveillance, the ability to track individuals without their authorization or awareness.

Until notified otherwise, DoD military personnel are advised to refrain from and/or use of DTC genetic services.

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