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EXUECUTIVE SUMMARY

14 March 2003

(U) Invitation to State of Maryland HBCU/MI Presidents. (U) (MCMR-AAU)

There's an immediate need for the USAMRMC to increase its strategic partnerships with many of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions (HBCU/MIs), particularly those with significant medical research and allied science laboratory capabilities. The Department of Education developed reporting requirements based on three HBCU/MI Executive Orders. In short, the Executive Orders (EO) outline program requirements for HBCU/MIs (EO 13256), Hispanic Serving Institutions (EO 13230), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (EO 13270). These Executive Orders require all Federal agencies to submit an annual performance plan and report to the Department of Education highlighting program accomplishments. According to HQDA data, during FY 02, USAMRMC did not achieve the 5 percent Department of Army goal of awarding contracts and grants to HBCU/MIs.

In order to improve USAMRMC's metrics for the future, I recommend that we extend an invitation to the local HBCU/MI Presidents/Chancellors for them to visit USAMRMC prior to the first week of May 2003. The visit will include an overview of USAMRMC's broad mission, followed by specific briefings by key personnel. A proposed agenda is attached for review, comment and approval. The invitation is a first step in USAMRMC encouraging the HBCU/MI scientific community to compete for contracts and actively participate in proposal submissions. This is especially relevant since many of the nation's HBCU/MIs are working towards research that will reduce the incidence of many health related diseases that occur not only in the general population, but also in the military community. Over the past several years, the Congressional Directed Medical Research Program, Special Populations Program office has been instrumental in HBCU/MI outreach efforts and this initiative will be a much-needed enhancement.

I remain confident that this initiative will allow us to extend invitations to other HBCU/MIs that can assist USAMRMC in accomplishing our global mission, achieve our statutory goal and perhaps, make available to USAMRMC other tangible benefits i.e., student internships, fellowships, mentoring opportunities, etc.

Jerome K. Maultsby/MCMR-AAU/32471
e-mail: Jerome.Maultsby@amedd.army.mil

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