

NDA FY27 Directive Report Language

Enhanced Readiness for Sudden Cardiac Arrest

The committee continues to monitor the Department's progress in mitigating non-traumatic deaths from sudden cardiac arrest during military training. The committee remains concerned that current regulations, which provide a framework for automated external defibrillator (AED) placement at routine training sites, do not fully address the risk.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the House Armed Services Committee not later than March 1, 2027, detailing the availability and placement of AEDs at organized training events, as well as servicemembers' proficiency in recognizing sudden cardiac arrest and delivering lifesaving care. The report shall include:

(1) a comprehensive list of organized training events, sporting competitions, and high-intensity tactical evaluations, such as the Best Warrior Competition, the Marine Recon Challenge, or the Best Ranger Competition, as well as biannual service physical fitness tests, where AEDs are required to be present under the current framework;

(2) for the events listed above, the average number of participants per event and the specific ratio of AED units to the total number of participants;

(3) a detailed accounting of the number of personnel present at these events who are currently certified or trained in:

(a) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR);

(b) The operation of an AED; and

(c) The clinical identification of SCA symptoms in high-stress environments.

(4) an assessment of the time-to-shock standards during these events, specifically measuring the average time required for a responder to reach a collapsed servicemember with a functioning AED and apply it; and

(5) an assessment of CPR and AED training provided during Initial Entry

Training (IET) and at subsequent individual training courses such as the Tactical Combat Casualty Care - All Service Members Course (TCCC-ASM) for all military services, including the percentage of the force maintaining current certification.