



APPENDIX A: PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT AGENCIES

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- ✦ **International Health Specialists (IHS).** The IHS program¹⁴ develops Air Force medical personnel to support global operations throughout the range of military operations. IHS medical personnel have international and operational medical skills, civil-military and interagency medical knowledge, cultural expertise, and language proficiency. They foster partnerships with military, civilian, coalition, or interagency personnel and they advise combatant commander, numbered Air Force (NAF) Surgeon (SG) or the Air Force forces Surgeon (AFFOR/SG) on the role of Air Force medicine in support of global health engagement initiatives.
- ✦ Air Force medical forces use unique skill sets in facilitating interaction with world health care and supporting the [commander, Air Force forces](#) in all areas of interest, executing global strategy and providing a smooth transition for forces deploying into a country or theater. Medical forces may be the initial or sometimes the only tool used to facilitate beneficial international relations and promote productive engagements with international partners and allies. International medical activities can range from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to peacekeeping operations in support of major conflicts. Air Force medical personnel can be embedded in any echelon to assist in planning, can deploy on missions, support interoperability, and assist in developing appropriate health service support.
- ✦ **Defense Institute for Medical Operations (DIMO).** DIMO provides training for host nations (HNs) using medical experts in a variety of medical topics and health care education and training, improving medical capabilities of both military and civilian agencies, and strengthening international coalition capabilities and partnerships. HNs improve their national health care system infrastructure through acquiring the needed theory, concepts, and educational tools that focus on areas of improvement which support their national goals.
- ✦ **Advanced Aerospace Medicine for International Medical Officers (AAMIMO).** The AAMIMO program offers international medical officers an in-depth training experience in aerospace medicine that supports the development of partner nation

¹⁴ Air Force Instruction 44-162, [International Health Specialist Program and Global Health Engagement](#).

military medical systems and provides [Air Force Medical Service](#) (AFMS) medics a unique opportunity to learn from and interface with participating medical personnel.

- ★ **Combat Aviation Advisors.** The Air Force combat aviation advisor mission includes a cadre of medical personnel who focus on medical training and health services support. Although the focus often centers on aerospace medicine, several other areas of medicine can be primary areas of interest, such as casualty evacuation, aeromedical evacuation, and field or deployed medicine. The result is an improved PN aerospace and military medicine program and a group of AFMS experts able to provide focused advice to the US command structure.
- ★ **Theater Special Operations.** [Special operations](#) forces support a wide-range of military medical activities. Medical planners are postured in various combatant commands, providing direct Air Force medical support to the planning and execution of special operations involving health care.
- ★ **Military Personnel Exchange Program (MPEP).** AFMS personnel play an integral role developing a requirement for a specific MPEP in a HN with the goal of working towards interoperability with that country. Medical personnel help establish the need for a MPEP and develop a plan for future exchanges. This allows Air Force medical personnel to deploy to other nations and gain a full understanding of their capabilities. This experience enhances interoperability and complements medical care given during military operations. Additionally, AFMS personnel are exposed to international medicine when international participants integrate into US organizations as part of the exchange process.
- ★ **International Academic Training.** Medical personnel deploy with teams who assess health services support in a country or region, develop a strategic cooperation plan to support educational or academic requirements, and recommend training or other activities to the country team or military group who coordinates efforts throughout the operational area. Several AFMS organizations support international training at continental US-based locations through processes that allow security assistance officers to send coalition nation military medics to the US.
- ★ **Foreign Humanitarian Assistance (FHA).** FHA programs are long-term activities conducted to relieve or reduce conditions presenting a serious threat to life or that can result in great damage to or loss of property. Conditions may be the result of natural or manmade disasters or the prevailing socioeconomic climate. FHA programs are normally the responsibility of the HN civil authorities. However, AFMS personnel have knowledge of regional assets and the ability to coordinate disaster management response activities with surrounding countries per US Embassy or other US governing agency direction. Examples include consulting on the construction of health clinics or fresh water wells, or educating HN personnel in preventive medicine and public health principles.

- ✦ **Countries of Transition and Post-Conflict.** AFMS personnel play a major role in transition operations through the planning process and assisting civilian organizations to develop their roles and responsibilities in health care. Transition operations may include rebuilding hospitals and establishing supply warehouses. The AFMS role in rebuilding the health care system in Afghanistan and Iraq are good examples of this transition requirement. The AFMS team members support provincial reconstruction teams and embed training teams as they implement joint military medical goals. Subject matter expertise is provided and experts interface directly with HN medics to help them establish a self-sufficient health care system. Understanding health care principles and culture impacts are essential to avoid trying to impose a US solution on a HN situation.
 - ✦ **Peace Operations.** The deployed medical commander should be aware of special technical agreements with other Services and agencies regarding emergency care services and health care logistics. Medical and dental civic action programs can generate a positive response from the local populace towards military personnel if they are properly integrated into the US government security cooperation plans.
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