

AIR FORCE MEDICAL SERVICE

GLOBAL HEALTH ENGAGEMENT



“We are one world; there are no borders.”

– Partner Nation Medical Personnel

What is Global Health Engagement?

The U.S. Department of Defense's (DoD) Global Health Engagement (GHE) comprises health and medical related actions and programs undertaken by the DoD to improve foreign armed forces' or foreign civilian authorities' health system capacity; and to promote and strengthen their human and/or animal health systems in support of national security objectives.

Why is Global Health Engagement essential?

GHE builds partnerships to collaborate and positively impact the world's health. Healthy populations are more likely to be productive, prosperous and peaceful communities that make positive contributions to regional and local stability.



Air Force Medical Service (AFMS) Global Health Engagement (GHE) efforts strive to Prevent, Protect, and Respond.

- **Prevent (war and disease)** by building partnerships and trust
- **Protect (our national security)** by enhancing capability and capacity of partner nations for force health protection, homeland defense and health services
- **Respond (to international crises)** by providing contingency support, humanitarian assistance/disaster response



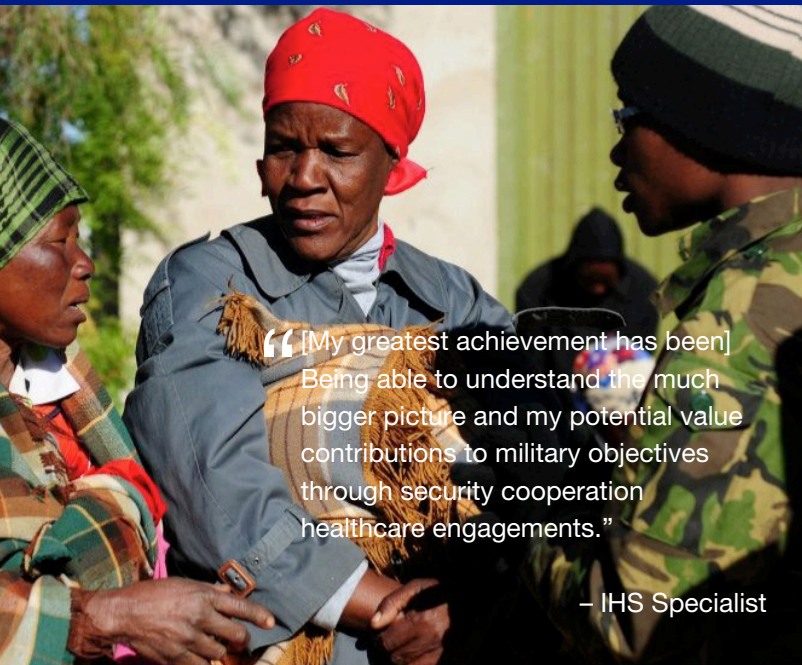
“We will continue to build partnerships in order to modernize and enhance our security alliances and increase the capability and capacity of our friends.”

– General Mark A. Welsh III,
Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force

The U.S. military is committed to protect citizens and interests, preserve regional stability, render humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and build capacity and

interoperability with U.S. partners. These efforts focus on proactive capacity building rather than reactive assistance to support global health security challenges. Our security objectives are multifaceted, directed to impact the health of our partner nations and build a more secure world.





“ [My greatest achievement has been] Being able to understand the much bigger picture and my potential value contributions to military objectives through security cooperation healthcare engagements.”

– IHS Specialist



COMBATANT COMMANDS

How does Air Force Medical Service support Global Health Engagement?

The AFMS GHE program matches trained and equipped Airmen to accomplish specific objectives tied to Global Health Engagement and the overall DoD regional security goals. The AFMS provides Airmen the opportunity to work jointly through the Department of Defense with other government agencies, partners, and Allies worldwide to support shared security objectives. Cultivating these partnerships strengthens the national and regional security and increases combined U.S. partner effectiveness through interoperability and shared expertise. Military-to-military and military-to-civilian partnering contributes to the process of building strong healthcare infrastructures, enhancing interoperability, and increasing the likelihood for healthy citizens and healthy nations.

AFMS Global Health Engagement assets include:



International Health Specialist (IHS) program, established in 2000 by former U.S. Air Force Surgeon General Lt Gen Paul K Carlton, Jr., (USAF retired), extends operational reach of the Joint Forces. IHS members engage in building global health partnerships and partner-nation capability and capacity through military-to-military and military-to-civilian health engagements, stability operations, security cooperation, and humanitarian assistance and disaster response efforts to increase interoperability and support U.S. national security objectives.



The Uniformed Services University Health Sciences (USUHS) provides education and training for military health professionals. The university educates, trains, and prepares uniformed health professionals, officers, and leaders to directly support military health, the national security and national defense strategies of the United States and the readiness of our Armed Forces.



The Defense Institute for Medical Operations (DIMO) is a shared capacity with the U.S. Navy that enhances partner nation capability, force health protection, and health services. The institute facilitates professional development, instruction and exchange among countries with the goal of promoting military relevant global health capabilities. DIMO courses promote international healthcare bridges, disaster preparedness, communicable disease prevention, and other current healthcare issues.



The USAF School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM) optimizes partner nation airpower medical support. It is the premiere institute for research, education, and worldwide operational consultation in Aerospace Medicine. Their mission is to advance aerospace medicine to enhance the health and performance of those they serve through education, research and consultation.

How does Air Force Medical Service participate in Global Health Engagement?

Global Health Engagement efforts include:

- Conducting medical exercises to increase interoperability
- Participating in subject matter expert exchanges for knowledge sharing and skill building
- Providing training, education, and assistance in military relevant areas from trauma care to infectious disease prevention, control, surveillance, and response
- Building clinics, supporting logistical and transport capabilities
- Collaborating in the development of pandemic preparedness and response plans
- Supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations



Resources

For more information visit IHS Home Page:

<https://kx2.afms.mil/kj/kx4/InternationalHealthSpecialist/Pages/home.aspx>

Contact International Health Specialist Program office at (703) 681-8129 or

usaf.pentagon.af-sg.mbx.ihs-program-office@mail.mil

To learn about other Global Health Engagement opportunities visit:

www.dimo.af.mil

www.wpafb.af.mil/afrl/711hpw/usafsam.asp

www.usuhs.mil