



Communications, Standards and Training Division (CST)

The Division of Communications, Standards and Training (CST) includes the Department of Surveillance Operations and Communication and the Department of Surveillance Standards and Training. The Division:

Provides timely, actionable DoD-wide health surveillance information. The Division provides audience-specific reports and surveillance products to commanders, policymakers, planners, healthcare providers, installation public health staff, and researchers. It further maintains coordination with key civilian partners, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and WHO.

Provides robust communications capability through a routinely updated website, telephone and e-mail network. As a central source of DoD health surveillance information and resources, the Division staff is committed to using innovative techniques and technologies to effectively convey relevant information.

Develops and improves surveillance standards and procedures for the DoD. The Division works with the Services' public health centers and other partners to identify surveillance deficiencies and to promote standardization, including common case definitions, surveillance procedures and reporting mechanisms.

Serves as the DoD proponent for health surveillance training and education. Staff members supervise and mentor preventive medicine residents during rotations at AFHSC, provide subject-matter expertise to military public health courses and exercises, and convene conferences in facilitation of our mission.

Select Products and Publications

Medical Surveillance Monthly Report (MSMR)

AFHSC produces a monthly journal that concentrates on health related analyses of interest to the Armed Forces. The Medical Surveillance Monthly Report (MSMR), is the principal vehicle for disseminating medical surveillance information of broad interest to the military public health community and is available in both print and electronic media. The MSMR routinely includes summaries of notifiable diseases, trends of illnesses of special surveillance interest, trends of deployment health assessment responses, and field reports describing outbreaks and unique disease and injury occurrences.



Routine Analyses and Reports

AFHSC provides numerous routine reports to decision makers and health professionals throughout the DoD regarding the status, trends, and determinants of the health and fitness of the force. Also included are monthly reports about trends in injuries at installations throughout the world (installation injury reports), an annual report of GEIS Operations-related activities, and regular updates on DoD influenza surveillance, among others. We also produce special analyses when necessary.

To access these reports and the MSMR, please visit our website at <http://www.afhsc.mil>.

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Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center



History

The Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC) was established by the Deputy Secretary of Defense in February 2008 to unify several strategic Department of Defense (DoD) health surveillance assets and develop additional capabilities in a single organization. Among the programs brought together are the DoD Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System (GEIS) and the Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS).

Overview/Vision

AFHSC is charged to be the official DoD source and acknowledged leader for relevant, timely, actionable, and comprehensive health surveillance information in support of the U.S. Armed Forces and military-related populations. The primary goal of the Center is to promote, maintain, or enhance the health of these populations through comprehensive health surveillance.

AFHSC personnel include representatives from the Army, Air Force and Navy, as well as civilians. These staff maintain expertise in preventive medicine, epidemiology, infectious diseases, laboratory sciences, public health and information technology.

AFHSC works closely with other Federal agencies engaged in health surveillance. Currently, the AFHSC hosts liaison officers from the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Public Health Service to help provide situational awareness of ongoing missions and initiatives of mutual interest. To enhance the integration of AFHSC surveillance efforts on a global level, a fulltime military medical officer is assigned to the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Mission

The AFHSC's main functions are to analyze, interpret, and disseminate information regarding the status, trends, and determinants of the health and fitness of U.S. military (and military-associated) populations, and to identify and evaluate obstacles to medical readiness. AFHSC is the central epidemiological resource for the U.S. Armed Forces to provide regularly scheduled and customer-requested analyses and reports to policy makers, medical planners, and researchers. It identifies and evaluates obstacles to medical readiness by linking various databases that contain information relevant to service members' health. This mission is accomplished by the following three divisions.

Divisions

Data and Analysis Division

The Division of Data and Analysis performs comprehensive surveillance and analysis of health-related information regarding DoD service members and military-associated populations. To support these efforts, the division operates the following:

- **Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS)**, the DoD's premier epidemiological resource, is a continuously growing longitudinal database of health-related information on service members collected from the time they enter military service until they are no longer eligible for care. The DMSS includes medical encounters (hospitalizations, outpatient visits, immunizations, reportable medical events, health risk appraisals, deployment health assessments), demographic characteristics, and military experiences (deployments, assignments, casualty information).
- **Defense Medical Epidemiology Database (DMED)**, provides worldwide access to de-identified data from the DMSS. Through a user-friendly interface, authorized users are able to create customized queries of disease and injury rates in active duty populations.



- **Department of Defense Serum Repository (DoDSR)**, established in 1989, is the world's largest serum repository with almost 50 million specimens on over 9 million individuals. Originally established for the purpose of storing remaining serum from routine HIV testing, its mission has expanded to include an archive of operational specimens. The availability of serial specimens in the DoDSR that are linked to relevant demographic, occupational, and medical information within the DMSS provides a unique and powerful resource to conduct military medical surveillance, clinical care, and sero-epidemiologic investigations.

Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System (GEIS) Operations Division

The GEIS Operations Division supports DoD surveillance and response efforts for emerging infectious diseases within the U.S. military and civilian DoD beneficiary populations and assists partner nations with medical surveillance in foreign populations. These efforts are centered on DoD domestic and overseas medical laboratories.

The DoD-GEIS was established in response to Presidential Decision Directive NSTC-7 (June 1996) in which the DoD was charged with expanding its mission to include support of global surveillance, training, research and response to emerging infectious disease threats.

GEIS Operations contributes to force health protection and global public health by centrally coordinating a global system of partners that conduct emerging infectious disease surveillance and response; training and capacity building; research, innovation and integration; and assess added value in a timely, efficient, comprehensive and communicative manner.

The following are priority surveillance conditions:

- Respiratory infections
- Gastrointestinal infections
- Febrile and Vector-borne infections
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Sexually transmitted infections

GEIS funds its network of partners to provide specific capabilities that address surveillance gaps critical to DoD mission priorities.

