



FACT SHEET:

Overview of the Department of Defense's Military Health System

The Military Health System (MHS) is the global health system of the Department of Defense (DoD) with the principal mission of readiness: maintaining a medically ready fighting force, and a ready medical system that is prepared to respond to the full spectrum of military operations. The MHS is comprised of medical personnel, infrastructure and resources from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Defense Health Agency and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs). One of the largest health systems in the United States, the MHS budget exceeds \$50 billion.

The MHS mission is accomplished through a diverse set of activities. The MHS provides an integrated combat-ready system in support of battlefield medical requirements that includes deployable hospitals, shipboard medical capabilities, an aeromedical evacuation system, and global medical surveillance services.

Currently, the MHS operates a worldwide health care delivery system that includes care delivered in over 50 military hospitals and over 600 clinics, as well as a supporting network of private sector providers offered under its health insurance system known as Tricare. This system provides health services to approximately 9.6 million beneficiaries – active duty service members, military retirees, their eligible family members and survivors.

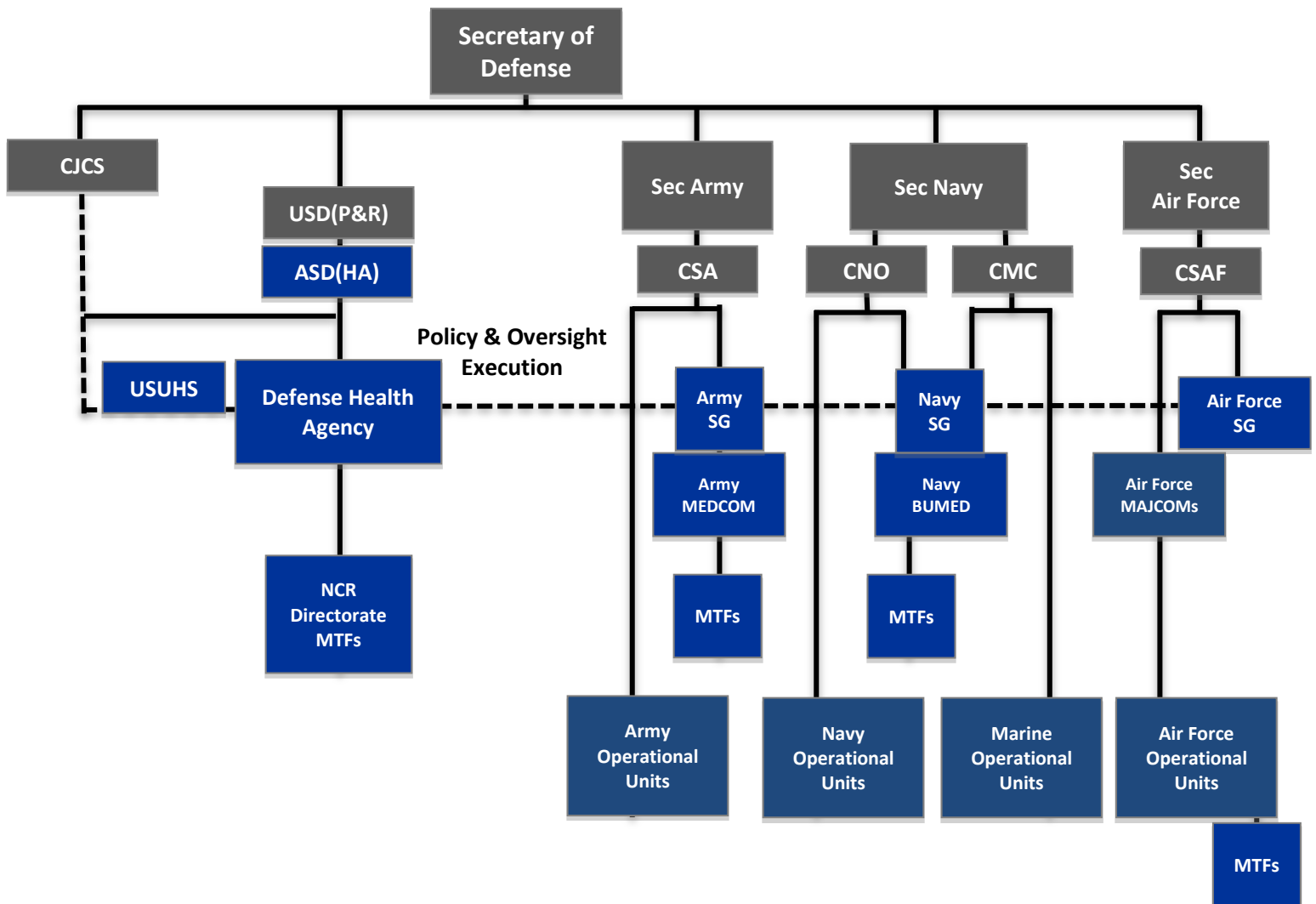
The MHS system manages a comprehensive medical research and development program that works closely with academia and private research organizations. The MHS delivers public health services that include community health services, environmental surveillance and monitoring.

This system is supported by diverse medical education and training programs, including a fully accredited medical school, graduate medical education and training programs, and enlisted and officer training platforms that collectively produce more than 27,000 graduates each year.

Leadership:

The MHS leadership includes the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD(HA)), the Surgeons General for the Army, Navy and Air Force, and the Director, Defense Health Agency (DHA). The ASD(HA) is the senior medical advisor to the Secretary of Defense, and establishes health policy for the Department, and is responsible for oversight of the MHS. The Director, DHA reports to the ASD(HA). The Service Medical Department Surgeons General report to their respective Service Chiefs of Staff and Service Secretaries. The organizational relationships between the Surgeons General and military medical treatment facilities varies by Service.

The chart below provides a high-level overview of these reporting relationships:



The Defense Health Agency (DHA):

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) was established on October 1, 2013, as a Combat Support Agency, supporting the military services in their delivery of integrated, high quality, and affordable health services. Led by its Director, Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Douglas Robb, the DHA is responsible for the execution of policy as issued by the ASD(HA). The DHA is responsible for management of ten shared services that support Service Medical Department missions, and include: the TRICARE Health Plan; pharmacy operations; health information technology; medical logistics; health facilities; medical education and training; public health; research; development and acquisition; budget and resource management, and procurement. Finally, the DHA exercises authority, direction, and control over the inpatient facilities and the subordinate clinics assigned to the DHA in the National Capital Region, to include Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Ft. Belvoir Community Hospital.

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