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THE GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA AS AN ORGANIZING FRAMEWORK FOR DOD GLOBAL HEALTH ENGAGEMENT: STRENGTHENING SECURITY INSTITUTIONS AND INTEGRATED DETERRENCE

Written by: Ramey L. Wilson, MD, MPH¹
& Stephanie Petzing, PhD²

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The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU's) Center for Global Health Engagement (CGHE) is pleased to share the ninth issue of the Department of Defense Global Health Engagement (DoD GHE) Snapshot. The DoD GHE Snapshot is intended to create self-publishing opportunities for GHE professionals to share knowledge and experiences and learn from one another in real time. We hope you enjoy and please refer to our social media and website for real time updates.

THE GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA AS AN ORGANIZING FRAMEWORK FOR DOD GLOBAL HEALTH ENGAGEMENT: STRENGTHENING SECURITY INSTITUTIONS AND INTEGRATED DETERRENCE

The Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) has emerged as a critical framework for addressing global health threats posed by infectious diseases. Through collaboration among 70+ countries, international organizations, non-government organizations, and private sector companies, the GHSA aims to build and improve country capacity in detecting, preventing, and responding to infectious disease threats.

We propose that the GHSA framework – specifically the Detect, Prevent, Respond approach – provides a focus to strengthen collaboration among U.S. and partner/ally health services in accordance with Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 2000.30: Global Health Engagement (GHE) Activities and the needs of expeditionary health services to enable military operations focused on competition, crisis, and conflict. More specifically, the GHSA approach assists in articulating how DoD GHE activities directly support the strategic, operational, and tactical objectives of the Combatant Commands, who are already engaging in GHE activities that overlap with the GHSA principles and purpose. By leveraging this model, the DoD can enhance security institutions and contribute to integrated deterrence by focusing GHE on understanding health and medical threats, enhancing preventive and response efforts by building partner capability and capacity, developing and strengthening interoperability, and sustaining relationships that enhance the readiness of the Joint Force (see Figure 1).

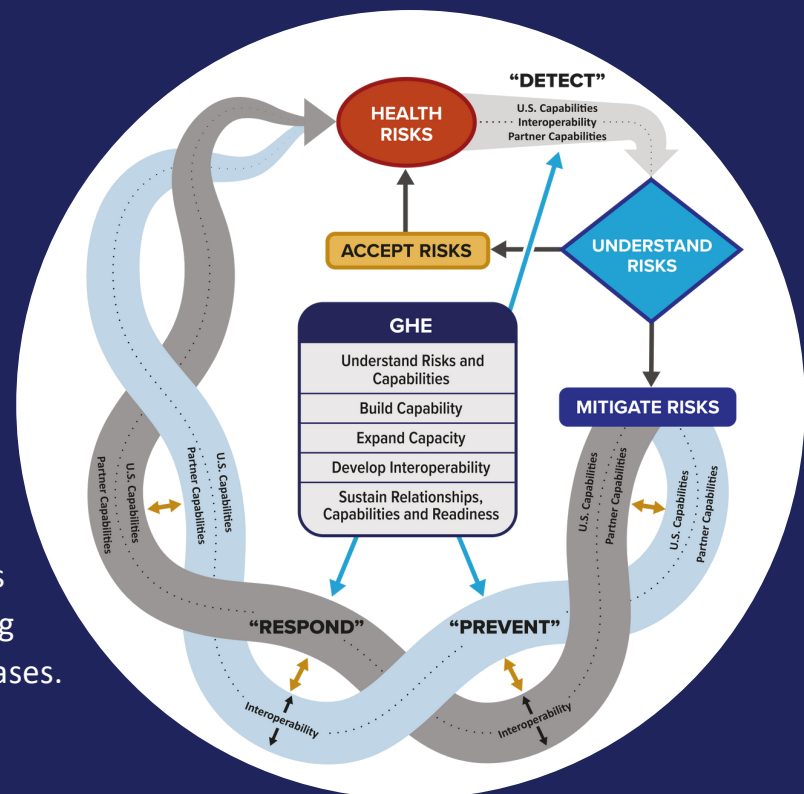


Figure 1. How Global Health Engagements enable readiness and integrated deterrence through the framework of Global Health Security Agenda.

**DETECT:
UNDERSTANDING
MEDICAL THREATS
AND OPPORTUNITIES**

One must understand risks before they can be mitigated. The GHSA's emphasis on detection aligns with the DoD's commitment to force health protection by actively monitoring and analyzing global health trends and disease surveillance risks and considering their impact on actual or potential military operations. These requirements extend beyond infectious disease risks for military forces preparing for world-wide deployment; they include an active and current understanding of partner nation health infrastructure, standards and practices, and opportunities for engagement so that their resources might be used in times of crisis or conflict to provide care to U.S. or partner forces.

**PREVENT:
MITIGATING RISK
“LEFT OF BOOM”**

Prevention, a cornerstone of the GHSA, reduces the need for response and remains the most beneficial despite being challenging to measure in terms of returns. The DoD's focus on force protection, which includes force health protection, aligns with a preventive approach; whether it pertains to implementing counter-improvised explosive device (IED) practices, enhancing cybersecurity awareness to mitigate phishing attacks, or advancing vaccine development, prevention ensures that a robust and resilient force is prepared for deployment, fostering integrated deterrence capabilities on the battlefield.

**RESPOND:
BECAUSE CONFLICT IS
DANGEROUS AND
PREVENTION ONLY GETS
YOU SO FAR**

The inherent nature of security operations entails multifaceted risks that cannot be entirely eliminated. Just as malaria's impacts cannot be completely mitigated through detection and prevention efforts, other combat and disease/non-battle injury risks necessitate a ready medical force to care for those in harm's way. While the GHSA emphasizes emergency management to address emergency or public health threats, its military application extends to include all aspects of the military's expeditionary health services, ensuring the care of sick or injured U.S. service members.



THE DYNAMIC TRIO: PREVENT, RESPOND AND INTEROPERABILITY

Once risks are understood, the interplay of prevention efforts, response preparedness, and interoperability with partners and allies creates a virtuous cycle of resilience for the U.S. military's expeditionary healthcare system. Enhancements in prevention reduce the need for medical capabilities to respond. As partners enhance their capacities and capabilities to prevent and respond to their health threats, there is an opportunity to establish, strengthen, and sustain interoperability with U.S. capabilities. This enables the use of partner capabilities to augment or replace U.S. capabilities, thereby reducing the requirements on U.S. forces and fostering a more resilient system through collaboration. This "Dynamic Trio" reflects the intent and focus of GHE as outlined in DoDI 2000.30, 17 July 2017, "Global Health Engagement Activities."

GLOBAL HEALTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES SUPPORT READINESS

The GHSA acknowledges the importance of building partner capacity to strengthen global health security. In essence, the GHSA program is a whole-of-society GHE and the DoD is already a key stakeholder. By more closely aligning the DoD's GHE efforts to strengthen the capacities of allied and partner nations through the provision of training, resources, and technical expertise, the DoD aids in the development of healthcare systems in these regions. This strategy not only improves the health security of individual nations, but also cultivates stronger alliances and partnerships, thus bolstering overall global stability. Through joint exercises and training programs, the DoD can enhance and practice interoperability with allied and partner nations to ensure seamless collaboration and coordination, ensuring smooth collaboration and coordination. This enables a more efficient and timely response when necessary, which can be particularly valuable in situations of sudden conflict or crisis where U.S. medical forces are not immediately accessible. In such scenarios, partners may be called upon to provide initial care and support while U.S. medical forces are deployed to the affected area.



CONCLUSION

The Global Health Security Agenda offers a valuable framework for aligning GHE activities with strategic documents like the National Security and Defense Strategies, Joint Publications, and the Joint Concept for Health Services (JCHS). This alignment prepares expeditionary health services for Globally Integrated Operations with partners and allies, enhancing the resiliency of the expeditionary health system. Through the lens of the Detect, Prevent, Respond model, the DoD can leverage GHE to effectively understand medical threats, build capability and capacity in partners and allies, maintain development gains, and promote interoperability to strengthen the resiliency of health services support systems in the U.S. and among partners. As the DoD collaborates with allies and partners to advance global health security, the GHSA's Prevent-Detect-Respond approach provides a valuable blueprint for joint action, supporting readiness and integrated deterrence.



For questions or additional information,
please contact us at cghe@usuhs.edu or visit
our website at cghe.usuhs.edu

REFERENCES

¹ Global Health Security Agenda
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¹ Ramey L. Wilson, MD, MPH, COL (Ret.)
Senior Advisor on Knowledge Management
Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of
Military Medicine (HJF), Inc., in collaboration with
USU's CGHE

² Stephanie R. Petzing, Ph.D.
Senior Global Health Security Advisor
Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of
Military Medicine (HJF), Inc., in collaboration with
USU's CGHE