



CGHE



Uniformed
Services
University



CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH ENGAGEMENT **ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

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The views expressed are solely those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of HJF, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force, the DoD, or the U.S. Government.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Center for Global Health Engagement (CGHE) at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) serves as a thought leader, actively supporting the Department of Defense (DoD) global health engagement (GHE) enterprise in advancing national security objectives. The Center follows a standardized operational framework, ensuring projects are aligned with the priorities of Combatant Commands (CCMDs) and validating activities through consultations with key stakeholders. During 2023, CGHE undertook multiple initiatives, such as administering annual DoD GHE training courses, overseeing the Global Health Engagement Research Initiative portfolio, executing the Military Unique Curriculum in Honduras/Military Emergency Skills in Honduras Evaluation Study, and initiating strategies

to combat misinformation and disinformation in DoD GHE.

Moreover, CGHE is deeply engaged in the progression of DoD GHE Knowledge Management (KM), prioritizing a people-centric strategy to streamline information exchange and collaboration. The CGHE KM initiative categorizes knowledge products into five domains: innovation-focused, community-focused, engagement-focused, process-focused, and information-focused. The objective is to offer readily accessible GHE knowledge and bolster well-informed decision-making processes.

The Center also supported the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) with the Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange and contributed to the establishment of the Indo-Pacific Health Security Alliance, both of which were designed to tackle global health security (GHS) topics and foster regional cooperation. Furthermore, CGHE continued to support the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's Biological Threat Reduction Program and extended operational assistance to the DoD GHE enterprise, customizing support to accommodate the distinctive requirements of Geographic CCMDs.

CGHE played an active role in the World Health Organization consultation meeting on Advancing Civilian-Military Collaboration to Strengthen Health Emergency Preparedness, underscoring its commitment to bolster collaboration between civilian and military entities worldwide. This meeting positioned the DoD as a significant partner and counterpart in shaping collaborative practices, aligning with the National Defense Strategy.

As we step into 2024, CGHE maintains its steadfast commitment to advancing GHE through KM, operational support, and international collaborations. These efforts are geared towards enhancing DoD capabilities, prioritizing and synchronizing activities in accordance with the National Defense Strategy and overarching national security objectives.

ABOUT CGHE

Mission

To serve as a thought leader, providing academic and operational support to the DoD GHE enterprise to better meet national security objectives.

Vision

By the end of calendar year 2026, CGHE will be nationally and internationally recognized as a leading institution within DoD for global health and health security.

Countries we supported in 2023 on behalf of the Combatant Commands



OUR TEAM

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CORE DIRECTIVES

USU's CGHE consistently operates within a standardized operational framework, aligning both new and ongoing initiatives with CCMD priorities and identified needs. Validation of these activities occurs through consultations with key stakeholders, including the Office of the USU President, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (OASD(HA)), and the Office of the Joint Staff Surgeon (OJSS). This approach ensures alignment with overarching strategic objectives and positions CGHE as a strategic enabler within the DoD enterprise. Advocating for this operational model as a best practice, CGHE aims to maintain synchronization with national security and defense objectives across the broader spectrum of DoD GHE initiatives.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Allison



Photo by USU's CGHE

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Training

CGHE persisted in curriculum development and training activities to enhance the professional development of current and future GHE professionals. The goal remains to meet the GHE capability requirements of the Military Health System, Joint Force, various U.S. Government (USG) agencies, and partner nations (PNs). In 2023, CGHE actively conducted training sessions targeting leaders, health professionals, and military organizations. These sessions emphasized the global health implications within national security, security cooperation, and the complexities of GHE planning, implementation, and evaluation. This was accomplished through the following courses:



**Total
(CY23)**

**Total
Courses
15**

**Total
Students
888**

Global Health Strategies for Security

USU's CGHE hosted the annual Global Health Strategies for Security (GHSS) course from July 31 to August 4, 2023. The course delved into the strategic landscape of DoD GHE and broader USG involvement in global health. It covered diverse topics including GHS concepts, military-civilian engagement, USG interagency coordination, the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations, the One Health framework, Security Cooperation, and Women, Peace, and Security. Featuring 39 speakers and moderators from various sectors including DoD, USG interagency, academic institutions, and international organizations, the course had 42 participants, including representatives from U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM), U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM), USINDOPACOM, and U.S. European Command (USEUCOM).



Photo by USU's CGHE

Fundamentals of Global Health Engagement Course

Virtual Courses: USU's CGHE conducted six virtual Fundamentals of Global Health Engagement (FOGHE) courses, reaching 345 students from the various branches of the U.S. military, U.S. Public Health Service, USG Interagency, and international partners. This virtual option offers flexibility and accessibility, accommodating students who either cannot attend in-person courses or are units/commands with insufficient student numbers. Particularly beneficial for units preparing to deploy in support of GHE missions, the virtual course serves as effective just-in-time training. In 2023, at the request of USSOUTHCOM, CGHE provided virtual courses for affiliated units and personnel across the U.S. and deployed locations, including Expeditionary Medical Facility-Juliet.

In-Person Courses: USU's CGHE conducted five in-person FOGHE courses in support of USINDOPACOM, U.S. Marine Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC), U.S. Army Southern European Task Force - Africa (SETAF-AF), Pacific Partnership 2023, and the USU's Summer Operational Experience program.

U.S. Marine Forces Special Operations Command: USU's CGHE conducted a customized FOGHE course for MARSOC, attended by 35 U.S. military students from MARSOC and nearby U.S. Navy Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs), including three U.S. Army veterinarians or vet technicians. CGHE worked with MARSOC to tailor the course and utilized its subject matter expert (SME) network to facilitate practical senior leader briefs.

Pacific Partnership 2023: After assisting "Continuing Promise 2022" on the United States Naval Ship (USNS) Comfort, USU's CGHE participated in "Pacific Partnership 2023" aboard the USNS Mercy. CGHE instructors conducted two FOGHE courses for 88 medical personnel involved in GHE activities during the mission. Students, officers, and enlisted personnel received customized training from seasoned SMEs in GHE and the Indo-Pacific region to enhance their readiness for GHE operations.

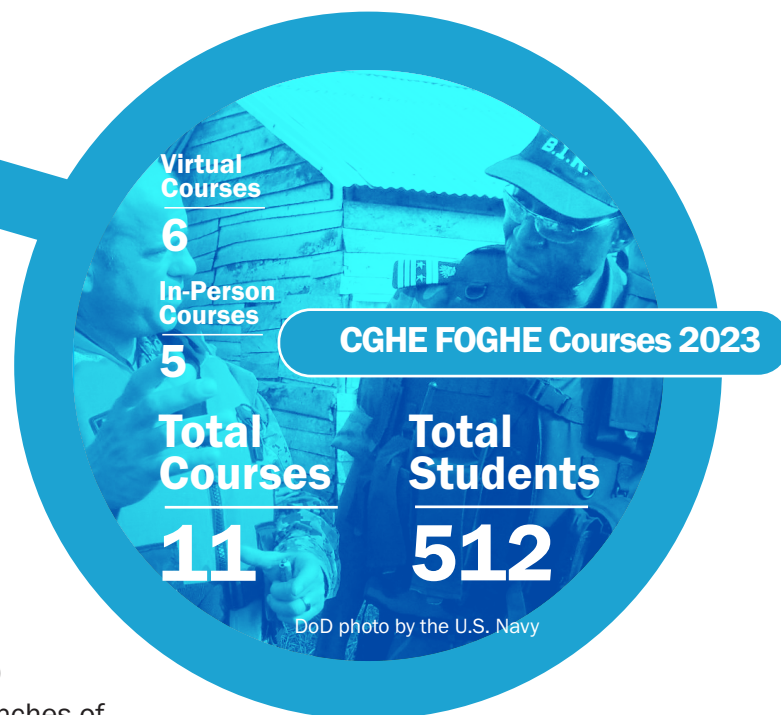




Photo by USU's CGHE

Operation Bushmaster Military Medical Field Exercise - Global Health Engagement Lane

USU's CGHE supported Operation Bushmaster, the culminating military medical field practicum, by providing SMEs and organizing a DoD GHE lane set in a simulated town of a fictional PN. Nearly 200 fourth-year students engaged in DoD GHE activities to meet operational and tactical objectives. Additionally, CGHE conducted a DoD GHE module as part of the Military Contingency Medicine (MCM) course, offering hands-on learning on GHE concepts. This initiative aims to equip future military medical leaders with the understanding of DoD GHE complexities and provide a realistic experience of tactical-level GHE operations within contingency context.

Introduction to DoD Global Health Engagement Online Course

In late 2023, USU's CGHE launched the Introduction to DoD Global Health Engagement course on the DoD's Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) VCLASS system. Developed in consultation with Service GHE leadership, this online, asynchronous course offers a practical and easily accessible familiarization for U.S. military personnel deploying in support of GHE missions worldwide. The course complements the DoD GHE training continuum by providing resources from pre-deployment to practitioner and senior planner levels. With 154 students completing it in 2023, this modular course is designed for both medical and line personnel, offering an awareness-level understanding of the strategic connections between security and health and the utilization of health-related activities to support tactical, operational, and/or strategic security objectives.



Photo by USU's CGHE

Joint Global Health Engagement Orientation Course

In April and October/November, USU's CGHE assisted in coordinating and conducting two joint GHE Orientation Courses (GHEOC), led by the USAF International Health Specialist (IHS) Program. Leveraging CGHE's expertise in GHE subject matter, course development, and exercise planning, the GHEOC prepared personnel for GHE-focused positions in aligned with Combatant Command Theater Campaign Plans. A total of 83 students completed both course iterations in 2023.

ENGAGEMENTS

Combatant Command Support

CGHE's operational support for the DoD GHE enterprise is flexible and adaptive, tailored to the specific needs of each Geographic CCMD. There is no one-size-fits-all approach, as support varies in form and content across regions. CGHE engages regularly with CCMD GHE Working Groups, maintaining close relationships and identifying support opportunities. Resource allocation is strategic, with direct assistance provided to CCMD GHE programs when appropriate. Training is a key aspect of CGHE support, offering courses that equip military personnel with skills for planning and executing GHE activities. CGHE SMEs provide consultation to enhance effectiveness, emphasizing research methodologies and evaluation principles. In addition to training, CGHE supports a range of initiatives by CCMDs and component commands. Details of specific support activities are outlined below. Moreover, CGHE maintains a partnership with all the Geographic CCMDs' Surgeons' offices, with USCENTCOM receiving part-time support to enhance program staff activities. This collaboration highlights CGHE's commitment to facilitating the success of the DoD GHE enterprise and meeting the unique needs of each CCMD.



Indo-Pacific Health Security Alliance

The COVID-19 pandemic reshaped perceptions of DoD GHE activities, highlighting their strategic importance as drivers of stability and security. USINDOPACOM initiated several regional partnerships focused on GHS, and enlisted CGHE's support in various capacities, spanning policy analysis, coordination with interagency and external partners, and implementation. Specifically, CGHE lent its SME to supporting the recently established Indo-Pacific Health Security Alliance (IPhsa), facilitating civil-military cooperation, trust-building, and gap identification in the region. In July, CGHE participated in IPhsa's inaugural engagement in Brisbane, Australia, co-hosted by the USINDOPACOM Office of the Command Surgeon and the Australian Defence Force Joint Health Command. This initiative aims to bridge the military-civilian gap in GHS, fostering cross-sectoral awareness and creating a platform for interaction, coordination, and joint planning, guided by international frameworks.



Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange

In support of the USINDOPACOM Surgeon's Office, CGHE supported execution of the 2023 Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange (IPMHE), co-hosted with the Malaysia Armed Forces Health Services (MAFHS), bolstering Malaysia-U.S. relations. The event provided a platform for military healthcare professionals to collaborate on key health topics affecting the region, including disaster response, medical readiness, public health, and healthcare delivery improvements. With approximately 580 participants from 24 countries attending under the theme "Achieving Health Solutions Through Diversity and Inclusivity", CGHE assisted the USINDOPACOM Surgeon's Office in managing the conference, shaping the agenda, and providing logistical support.

Support to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's Biological Threat Reduction Program

In 2023, CGHE sustained its support of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's (DTRA) Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP) in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility. Collaborating with BTRP, CGHE SMEs facilitated activities to enhance biosafety, biosecurity and biosurveillance capacities worldwide. Notably, a five-day workshop in Jordan promoted the One Health framework, uniting human health, animal health, and environmental sectors to enhance joint action against hazardous pathogens. Within USCENTCOM, CGHE aided the BTRP team in implementing the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Biological Threat Reduction Forum program activities. Ongoing efforts include deploying assessments to address biosurveillance gaps in Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Collaboration with the World Health Organization

In 2023, CGHE took part in a two-day World Health Organization (WHO) consultation in Geneva, Switzerland, focusing on “Advancing Civilian-Military Collaboration to Strengthen Health Emergency Preparedness.” The event, attended by military participants, fostered insightful discussions and debates, drawing perspectives from diverse countries like Georgia, Tunisia,

Nepal, Thailand, and the Philippines. The collaborative atmosphere underscored a shared commitment to enhancing civilian-military collaboration in health emergencies. Partners were encouraged to deepen engagement and explore partnerships to support countries in implementing the WHO National Collaboration Framework. The momentum generated is expected to lead to future actions, including discussions with interested parties and the establishment of a Community of Practice. The meeting positioned the DoD as a valuable partner in collaboration efforts, aligning with National Security Strategy (NSS) priorities. The WHO aims to continue engaging military counterparts interested in such collaboration, echoing efforts at other international forums like the African Partnership Outbreak Response Alliance (APORA), IPHSA, and the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSa).



Photo by USU's CGHE

Collaboration with the Irregular Warfare Center

In early 2023, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, in partnership with the Irregular Warfare Center and USU's CGHE, hosted the inaugural Irregular Warfare Medical Resiliency Working Group. This kickstarted a series of meetings aimed at enhancing the application of operational and resistance medicine to achieve strategic goals. The gathering also facilitated stronger relationships between U.S. and allied special operations forces and various medical communities across U.S. government stakeholders, including the USU.

Photo by U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Jacqueline Peguero Montes

Active Engagement and Participation in 2023 Events

DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program's
(DHAPP) Annual Meeting

Civilian-Military Humanitarian Coordination
Research Symposium and Workshop

Special Operations Medical Association
(SOMA) 2023

IMPACT Seminar at Harvard University

CENTCOM Medical Security Cooperation
Exchange

American Evaluation Association Conference

Assistance Provided for Foreign Delegation Visits to USU

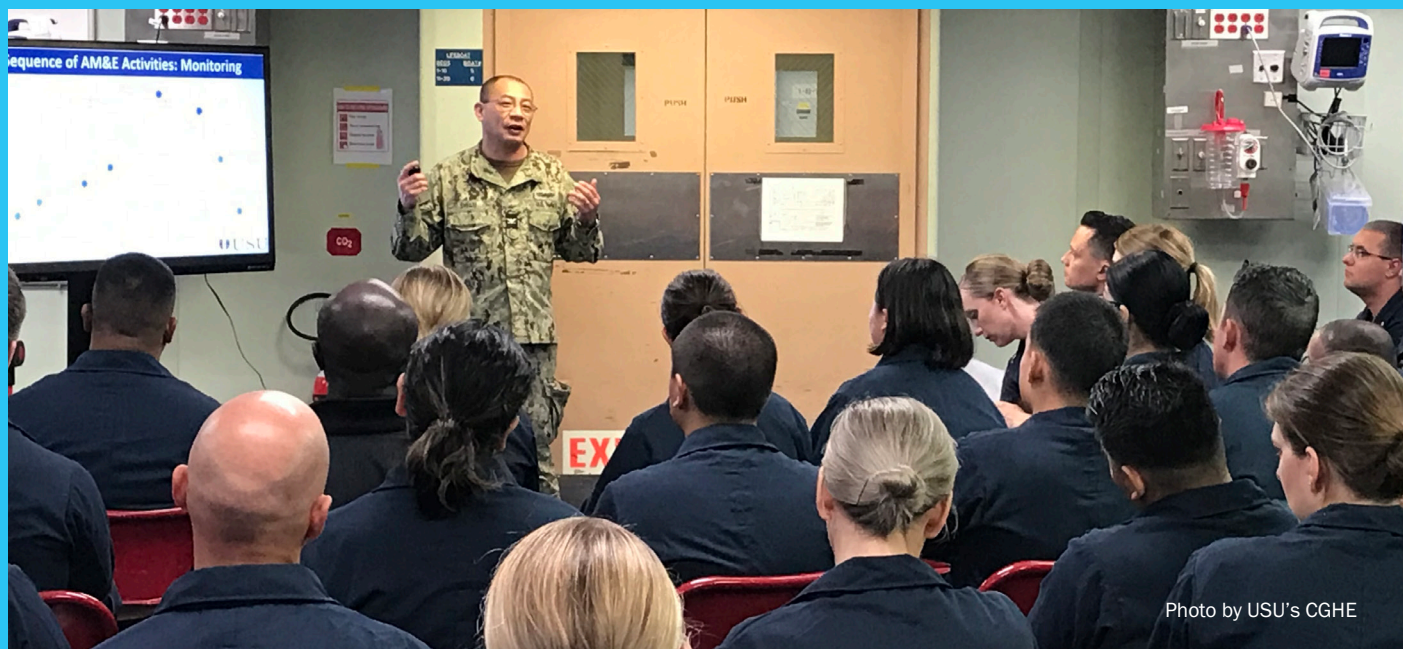
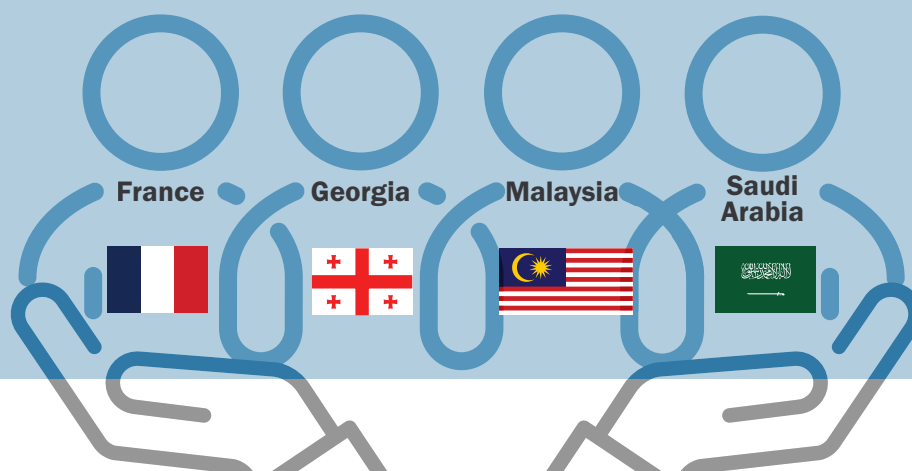


Photo by USU's CGHE

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

Global Health Engagement Research Initiative

In 2023, USU's CGHE launched a new cycle of the GHE Research Initiative (GHERI), focusing on operational research and development to meet Joint Force needs. GHERI aims to enhance understanding and execution of DoD GHE and leverage health research activities to engage allies and partners in supporting CCMD Campaign Plan objectives. Funded by the Defense Health Program, GHERI receives guidance from OASD(HA), OJSS, and the Defense Health Agency's Research and Engineering Directorate. In 2023, CGHE solicited updated GHE research priorities from CCMDs, facilitated a call for white papers, and invited full research proposals. After scientific review, programmatic review, and CCMD prioritization, 9 out of 15 invited proposals were approved for funding, out of 50 initial white papers. Additionally, CGHE hosted the fourth annual GHE research track at the 2023 Military Health System Research Symposium (MHSRS), featuring presentations from eight GHERI recipient panelists.



Group Photo
2023 MHSRS Conference

MUCH/MESH Evaluation Study

USU's CGHE conducted a study to assess how the Military Unique Curriculum in Honduras/Military Emergency Skills in Honduras (MUCH/MESH) program addresses emergency medicine capability gaps and provides military physicians with necessary Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) prior to deployment. MUCH/MESH is an immersive training program enabling Residents and Attending Physicians to gain emergency medicine experience in resource-limited settings. CGHE, supported by USU Military and Emergency Medicine (MEM) faculty, accompanied MUCH/MESH participants to Hospital Escuela, using the Encounter Assessment and KSA Checklist (EA-KSA) to document chief complaints, treatments rendered, and demonstrated KSAs. The USU Research Team refined the EA-KSA tool during initial rotations to improve data capture and harmonize KSAs. Future efforts will focus on streamlining data collection, supporting programmatic and strategic planning, and finding opportunities to support longitudinal research on MUCH/MESH.

NEW INITIATIVES

Countering Misinformation/Disinformation in Public Health

USU's CGHE has developed a comprehensive strategy to address the rising threat of misinformation and disinformation (mis/dis) campaigns undermining U.S. DoD GHE activities. The CGHE Mis/Dis research initiative, prompted by vulnerabilities revealed during the COVID-19 pandemic, focuses on research, education, and public engagement. CGHE has begun to collaborate with academic and federal partners to conduct in-depth research, integrate educational resources into training programs, and launch public awareness campaigns. By implementing these measures, CGHE aims to enhance the DoD GHE enterprise's ability to combat mis/dis, safeguarding the integrity of its health engagement mission and strengthening international partnerships.

DoD GHE Knowledge Management

USU's CGHE continues its quest to advance the DoD's GHE KM program, prioritizing a people-centric approach over specific technology. Spearheading a cultural shift, the program fosters information sharing and collaboration to streamline access to GHE knowledge. This approach leverages existing platforms and databases while concurrently curating and enhancing the quality of GHE data. A structured framework for the DoD GHE KM program categorizes GHE knowledge products into five domains, promoting innovation, community building, engagement consolidation, process improvement, and information access. The innovation-focused domain drives research and thought leadership, introducing "DoD GHE Snapshots", for academic inquiry. The community-focused domain educates and strengthens DoD GHE professionals, establishing a GHE Community Of Practice. The engagement-focused domain synchronizes GHE activities, fostering collaboration within the U.S. government and the DoD, as well as with international partners, with the goal of fostering interoperability through knowledge exchange. The process-focused domain enhances systems and evaluates GHE programs for interoperability. The information-focused domain ensures GHE practitioners and medical planners have access to crucial information through programs like CGHE's Medical Evaluations Describing Interoperability Capability Assessment Levels Of Partner Trauma Institutions Or Non-battle injury Services (MEDICAL OPTIONS). In 2024, this initiative will aim to connect USU's centers with the Geographic CCMDs, providing expertise and support to stakeholders involved in GHE within the Joint Force.

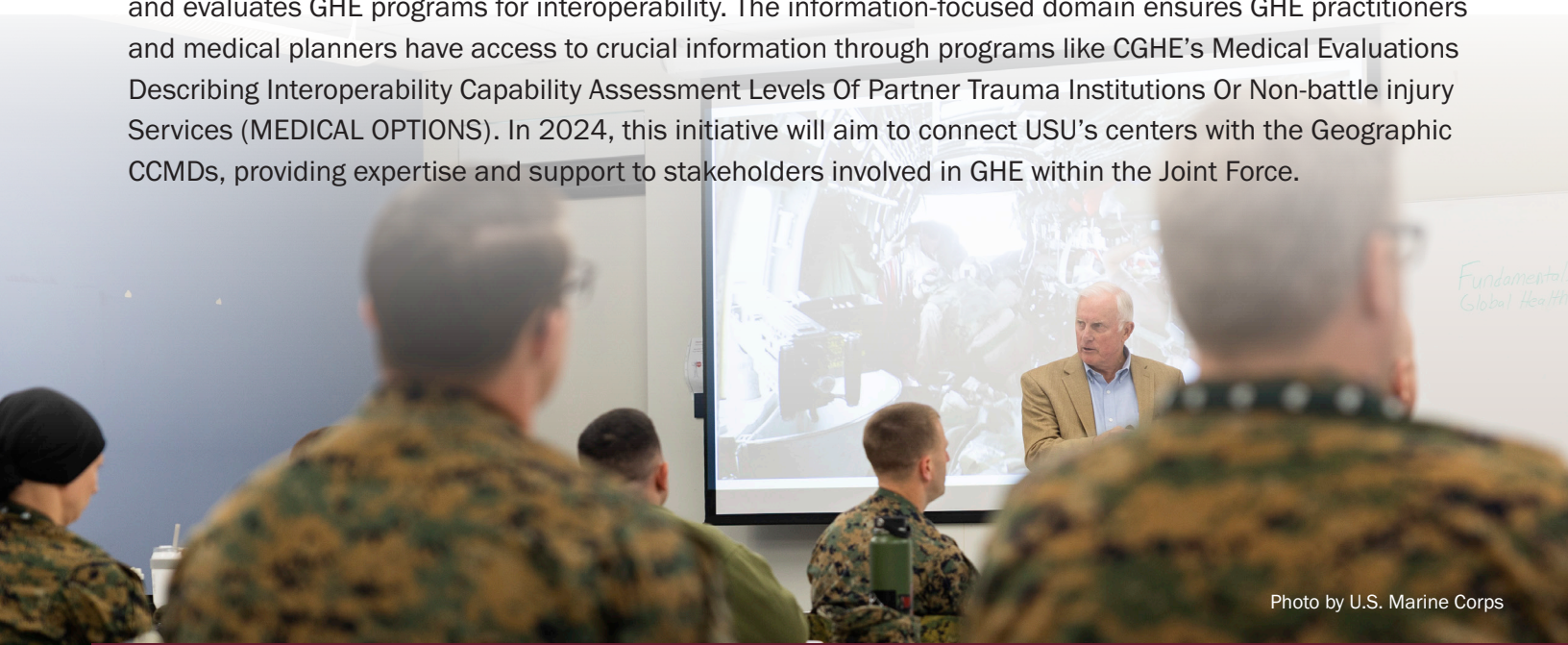


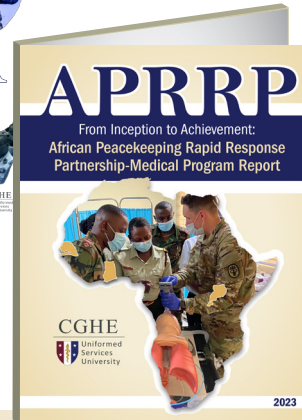
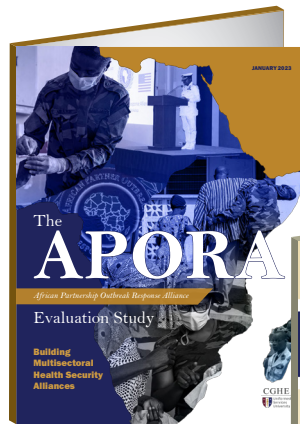
Photo by U.S. Marine Corps

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

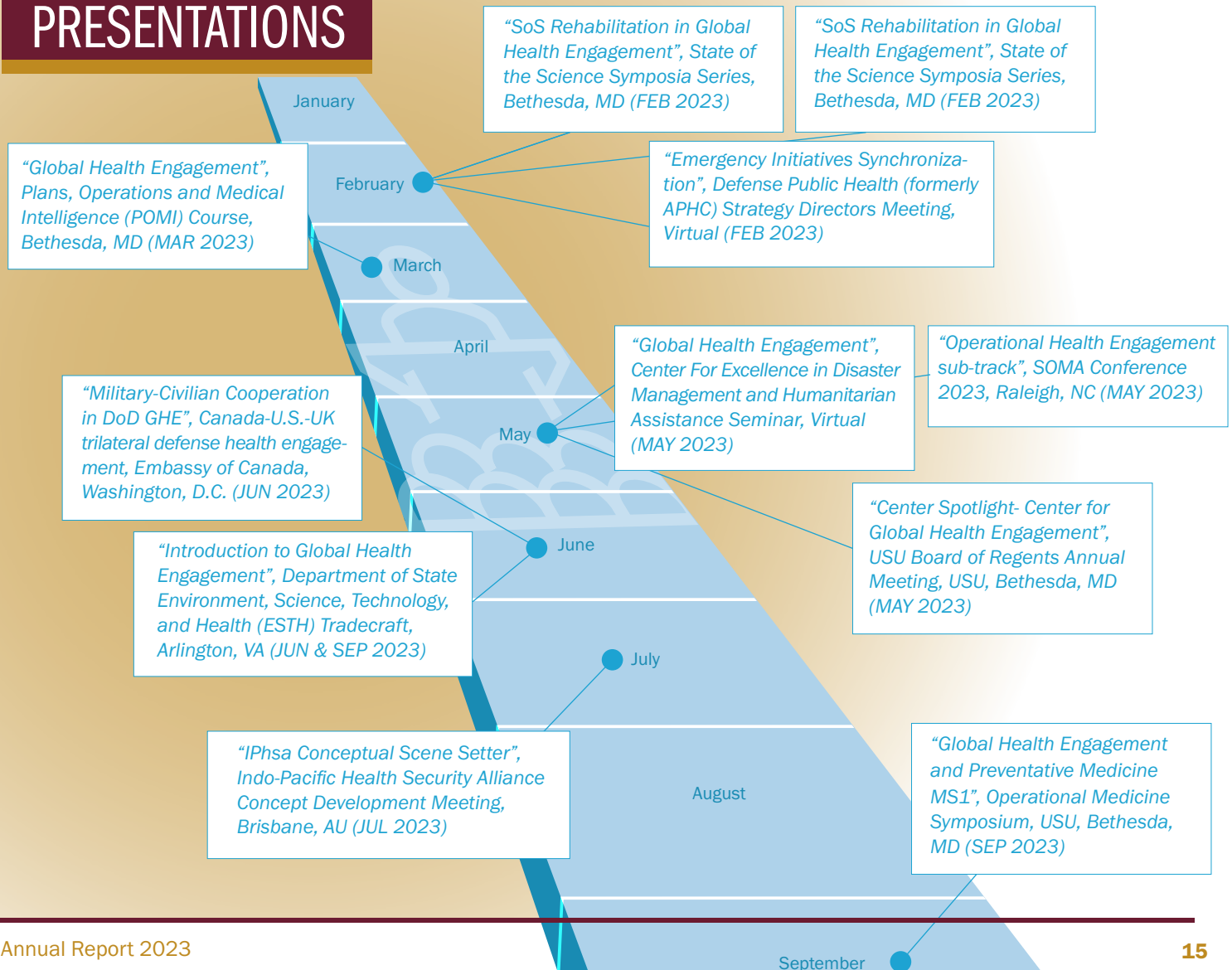
REPORTS

“The African Partnership Outbreak Response Alliance (APORA) Evaluation Study: Building Multisectoral Health Security Alliances.”
January 2023.

From Inception to Achievement: African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership-Medical Program Report



PRESENTATIONS



"Research Update and Seminar on Mil-Civ Trauma System Integration", The Integrated Military Partnerships and Civilian Trauma (IMPACT) Research Seminar, Harvard, Boston, MA (OCT 2023)

"DoD Global Health Engagement Knowledge Management", Office of the Joint Staff Surgeon and the Combatant Commands Surgeon General Meeting, Bethesda, MD (OCT 2023)

"Telling the Story of U.S. DoD Global Health Engagement through Assessment, Monitoring, and Evaluation", American Evaluation Association Conference, Indianapolis, IN (OCT 2023)

October

"Introduction to Global Health Engagement", NDU6075 Health Strategy for National Global Security, National Defense University, Washington, D.C. (OCT/NOV 2023)

November

"Introduction to Global Health Engagement", International Training Policy Working Group, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Arlington, VA (NOV 2023)

December

"Introduction to Global Health Engagement", Naval War College Seminar, Naval War College, Virtual (NOV 2023)

PUBLICATIONS

Regalbuto, E., Stone, A., Taylor, J., Shiau, D., Wilson, R., (2023) Understanding the Strengths and Limitations of Current Methods for Surveying Partner Nation Medical Facilities. Military Medicine.

Stone, A., Regalbuto, E., Wilson, R. (2023) MEDICAL OPTIONS Needs Assessment - Characterizing Methods for Surveying Partner Nation Medical Capabilities. Military Medicine.

Rollings, A. J., Pertner, E., Bockhorn, H., Jackson, J. L. A., Shiau, D. (submitted). Evaluation of a Multisectoral Health Security Alliance Program through Perceptions of Member States: African Partnership Outbreak Response Alliance (APORA). Military Medicine.

DOD GHE SNAPSHOTS

Bockhorn, H. (2023). Enhancing the Message: Essential Tips & Tricks for Data Visualizations

Wilson, R. (2023). GHEs and Interoperability - Start with Patient Handoffs!

Wilson, R. (2023). What is missing in GHE?: Engagement after the Engagement!

Zuerlein, S. (2023). Global Health vs. Global Health Engagement

Zuerlein, S. (2023). What is the Context of Your DoD mmGlobal Health Engagement Effort?

**DoD GHE
Snapshots**

COUNTRY PUBLIC HEALTH TRENDS BRIEFS

CGHE continued to produce Country Public Health Trends briefings to contextualize public health within the bigger picture of national security priorities and concerns. The briefs summarized current research findings across many academic disciplines, including medicine, public health, political science, and economics. Each country briefing analyzes trends in topics including population change, non-communicable diseases, infectious diseases, child health, and more. These briefings provide insight into how these trends may impact a country's future military readiness and risk calculations.



SOCIAL MEDIA FOOTPRINT

USU's CGHE social media presence, with 3.7K followers, serves as a vital conduit for disseminating information and fostering meaningful interactions within our community, mirroring our commitment to advancing our mission in the digital sphere.

In 2023, our digital presence grew significantly, gaining 521 new followers. This growth highlights the appeal of our content and the increasing interest in our organization. Our content made a lasting impact, generating 79k impressions and reaching over 49k unique users across multiple platforms.

As we move forward, we are committed to enhancing our social media presence. By leveraging these insights, we will continue to refine our engagement strategies, tailor content to meet our audience's diverse interests, and drive meaningful interactions that support our organizational goals.

Just as USU's CGHE leads in advancing national security objectives, our social media presence reflects our dedication to building connections, sharing knowledge, and increasing our impact online. As we enter 2024, we are steadfast in our pursuit of excellence, guided by our commitment to advancing our mission and serving our community with distinction.

3.7K
followers

521 ↑
new followers

79K
impressions

49K
unique users



CGHE



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