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Committee on the U.S. Commitment to Global Health

William H. Lyerly, Jr.
Director of International Affairs
Special Assistant for Global Health Security
to the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs

Homeland Security
DHS Office of Health Affairs

VISION

A Nation prepared for the health consequences of catastrophic incidents

MISSION: The Office of Health Affairs serves as the Department of Homeland Security’s principal agent for all medical and health matters. Working throughout all levels of government and the private sector, the Office of Health Affairs leads the Department’s role in developing and supporting a scientifically rigorous, intelligence-based biodefense and health preparedness architecture to ensure the security of our Nation in the face of all hazards.
OHA Primary Goals

• Serve as the *principal medical authority* for the Department of Homeland Security

• Lead the Department's *biodefense* responsibilities
  – End-to-end leadership for implementation of HSPD-9 (Ag/Food Defense) and HSPD-10 (biodefense), including early threat detection and biosurveillance integration

• Lead a coordinated *National architecture for Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) planning and catastrophic incident management*
  – Ensure planning and mitigation strategies for biological threats are coordinated across the Interagency
  – Serve as DHS POC for state, local, tribal, and private sector partners for health preparedness

• Ensure DHS employees are supported by effective *occupational health and safety programs*
  – Standardize and direct a Departmental occupational health and safety program
  – Provide medical oversight for health delivery throughout the Department
OHA Key Roles

1. **WMD and Biodefense**
   - National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC)
   - BioWatch
   - Food, Agriculture, and Veterinary Defense
   - Threats and Countermeasures (Manages the Department’s equities in Project BioShield)

2. **Medical Readiness**
   - Planning and Policy
   - Grants Coordination
   - Emergency Management and Medical Response Integration
   - Medical First Responder Coordination
   - Incident Coordination
   - Radiological/Nuclear Response Recovery Planning

3. **Component Services**
   - Occupational Health and Safety
   - Protective and Operational Medical Services
OHA Key Roles

4. **International Affairs and Global Health Security**

Oversees the Department’s Global Health Security activities

- Serves as the subject matter expert on all aspects of Global Health Security, including Avian and Pandemic Influenza and other global health security threats (natural and intentional), international medical readiness, and all-hazards emergency public health planning.

- Coordinates Departmental collaboration and sharing of global lessons learned with key multinational, multilateral, bilateral, academic and private sector Global Health Security related partners in the areas of biodefense and health preparedness.
International Affairs and Global Health Security

“Lessons Without Borders” Initiative
A pandemic is much more than just a medical issue: it affects all elements of our critical infrastructure…

17 Critical Infrastructure Sectors & Key Assets

- Water
- Agriculture and Food
- Banking and Finance
- Chemical
- Commercial Facilities
- Energy
- Dams
- Defense Industrial Base
- Emergency Services
- Government Facilities
- Information Technology
- National Monuments/Icons
- Nuclear Reactors, Materials, Waste
- Postal and Shipping
- Public Health and Healthcare
- Telecommunications
- Transportation

Homeland Security

... Multi-sectoral, interdisciplinary approaches are needed.
“HSC - National Planning Scenarios”

- Nuclear Detonation—10 kt
- Biological-Aerosolized anthrax
- Biological- Pandemic Influenza
- Biological-Plague
- Chemical-Blister agent
- Chemical-Toxic industrial chemical
- Chemical-Nerve agent
- Chemical-Chlorine gas
- Natural Disaster- Hurricane
- Natural Disaster-Earthquake
- Radiological-Radiation Dispersal Device
- Explosive-Improvised Explosive Device
- Biological-Food contamination
- Biological-Foreign animal disease—Foot and Mouth Disease
- Cyber attack

Only 5 of the 15 NPS are “Biological Scenarios”...
“HSC - National Planning Scenarios”

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- Biological-Foreign animal disease—Foot and Mouth Disease
- Cyber attack

... But all of them cause adverse health outcomes
Whether a Threat or Hazard is an “Act of Mother Nature…”  
- or -  
“…The Mother of All Terrorist Acts”  
- Partnership of Federal, State, Local, Tribal Governments, and Private Sector - 

- Protect our Nation from Dangerous People  
- Protect our Nation from Dangerous Goods  
- Protect Critical Infrastructure  
- Build a Nimble, Effective Emergency Response System and a Culture of Preparedness  
- Strengthen and Unify DHS Operations and Management  
- Secretary Michael Chertoff
Office of Health Affairs Integration

- DOD
  Health Affairs
  Homeland Defense
- HHS
  Preparedness & Response
- DOS
  Democracy & Global Affairs
- USDA
  Food Safety
  Research, Ed. & Economics
  Marketing & Regulatory Pgms
- VA
  U/S Health
- Private Sector Partners
  Critical Infrastructure
  Healthcare Systems
  EMS
- State & Local Government
  Homeland Security Advisors
  Public Health Directors
  Emergency Managers
- OHA (DHS)
  WMD Biodefense
  Medical Readiness
  Worker Health & Safety
Back-up Slides
CMO and OHA Historical Perspective

• The DHS Chief Medical Officer was created as part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) 2005 Second Stage Review

• The FY 2007 DHS Appropriations Bill authorized the CMO and five core responsibilities

• In response to the changing domestic security needs of the Nation, the Office of Health Affairs (OHA) was created as a part of the Departmental reorganization effective March 31, 2007

• OHA manages and serves as the Department’s principal advisor and agent on all health preparedness issues
Presidential Mandates for DHS Office of Health Affairs

HSPD-5: Management of Domestic Incidents

• DHS is the overall incident manager in national incidents
• OHA supports the Secretary and FEMA Administrator as advisor on all medical and public health matters
• OHA manages information flow from HHS, USDA, VA, and DOD on health preparedness issues
• OHA participates in operations and crisis planning during any national incident

HSPD-7: Critical Infrastructure Identification, Prioritization, and Protection

• OHA works with public and private sector partners in protection of critical information, particularly the sections of food and agriculture, public health and healthcare, and emergency services
Presidential Mandates for DHS Office of Health Affairs

HSPD-8: National Preparedness

- OHA coordinates interagency subject matter experts to achieve end-to-end plans for biodefense scenarios
- OHA sets requirements for DHS health preparedness funding to states, tribal, and local governments
- OHA works with state and local entities to achieve target capabilities in health preparedness

HSPD-9: Defense of United States Agriculture and Food

- OHA develops a robust biological threat awareness capacity and information sharing with food and agriculture community
- OHA enhances local response capabilities for agro-defense
- OHA works with DHS entities to prevent introduction of foreign animal and plant pathogens

HSPD-10: Biodefense for the 21st Century

- OHA ensures a coordinated architecture for bio-monitoring, biosurveillance, aerosol detection, clinical syndrome detection, response, and recovery from biological incidents
OHA Key Role: WMD and Biodefense

Leads the Department’s biodefense activities in coordination with other Departments and agencies across the Federal government

- National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC)
  - Integrates bio-monitoring activities of executive branch Departments to provide a biological common operating picture and facilitate earlier detection of adverse events and trends
- BioWatch
  - Provides a bio-aerosol environmental monitoring system to our Nation’s largest cities for early detection of biological attacks
- Food, Agriculture, and Veterinary Defense
  - Leads the Department’s veterinary and agro-defense activities covering animal and zoonotic diseases and agricultural security issues related to livestock, food, and water
- Threats and Countermeasures
  - Manages the Department’s equities in Project BioShield
BioWatch National Network

- Operates continuously in more than 30 major population centers
- Detects attacks against our Nation’s cities and other high value assets
- Poised to:
  - Enable early detection
  - Provide situational understanding to guide response
  - Share information among partners
  - Integrate into the national networks of reference laboratories
  - Serve as critical element in a national capacity to respond rapidly to bioterrorism events
Food, Agriculture, & Veterinary Defense

- DHS is overall incident manager during national incidents
- Links together resources and expertise of USDA, HHS, DOD, state, tribal, and local governments, and the private sector to protect and respond to threats to the Nation’s agriculture and food
- Mitigates vulnerabilities in food, agriculture, and water systems
- Develops a robust biological threat awareness capacity
Threat Awareness – Protect – Respond and Recover
Medical Countermeasure Development
OHA Key Role: Medical Readiness

Leads and sustains a comprehensive, integrated, and collaborative framework that protects the health security of the Nation

- **Planning and Policy**
  - Leads and directs the framework to integrate and synchronize strategic planning and policy initiatives based on the National Planning Scenarios

- **Grants Coordination**
  - Leads interagency alignment of health preparedness grants
  - Identifies and addresses gaps in resources identified through the planning process

- **Emergency Management and Medical Response Integration**
  - Leads the development of collaborative enterprises at the regional, state, and local levels to promote community preparedness and resiliency and enhance the development of the National Biodefense Architecture
OHA Key Role: Medical Readiness

Leads and sustains a comprehensive, integrated, and collaborative framework that protects the health security of the Nation

- Medical First Responder Coordination
  - Leads DHS role in improving medical first responder readiness for catastrophic incidents
  - Serves as the principal DHS representative to the medical first responder community

- Incident Coordination
  - Leads health security operations for incident management supporting HSPD-5
  - Works with FEMA-NRCC to improve coordination with DHS in support of Emergency Support Function-8

- Radiological/Nuclear Response Recovery Planning
  - Leads citizen actions mandated by War Fighter Supplemental Bill
  - Coordinates with DNDO and FEMA on Radiological/Nuclear scenarios
OHA Key Role: Component Services

Leads the Department’s efforts in employee health and safety and provides medical oversight for health delivery throughout DHS

- Occupational Health and Safety
  - Develops strategy, policy, requirements, and metrics for the medical aspects of a Department-wide occupational health and safety program
  - Ensures occupational medicine principles are incorporated into the traditional occupational safety, health, and wellness programs throughout DHS

- Protective and Operational Medical Services
  - Oversees all medical services provided by or on behalf of DHS
  - Supports components’ actions and decision making for health or biological events
OHA Key Role: International Affairs and Global Health Security

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- Coordinates Departmental collaboration and sharing of global lessons learned with key multinational, multilateral, bilateral, academic and private sector Global Health Security related partners in the areas of biodefense and health preparedness