



DHS Office of Health Affairs

Panel #21:

Infrastructure and Geophysical Division Activities and Needs from University Centers of Excellence

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DHS Office of Health Affairs



VISION

A Nation prepared for the health consequences of catastrophic incidents

OHA 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.

Infrastructure & Geophysical Division Mission: Increase the Nation's preparedness for and response to natural and man-made threats through superior situational awareness, enhanced emergency responder capabilities and critical infrastructure protection

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**

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**

Partnering: OHA and CARRI

- ***WIIFU***

- Opportunities:

- To participate in preparedness planning at the community level
 - To increase community awareness of the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) capabilities
 - To collaborate with community stakeholders to develop a business case that supports resiliency through improved preparedness
 - To identify best practices that can/should be promulgated through established DHS framework and interagency processes



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