



DHS Office of Health Affairs

**Annual DHS Network Summit:  
Medical Surge Capacity**

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# 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.



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# 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



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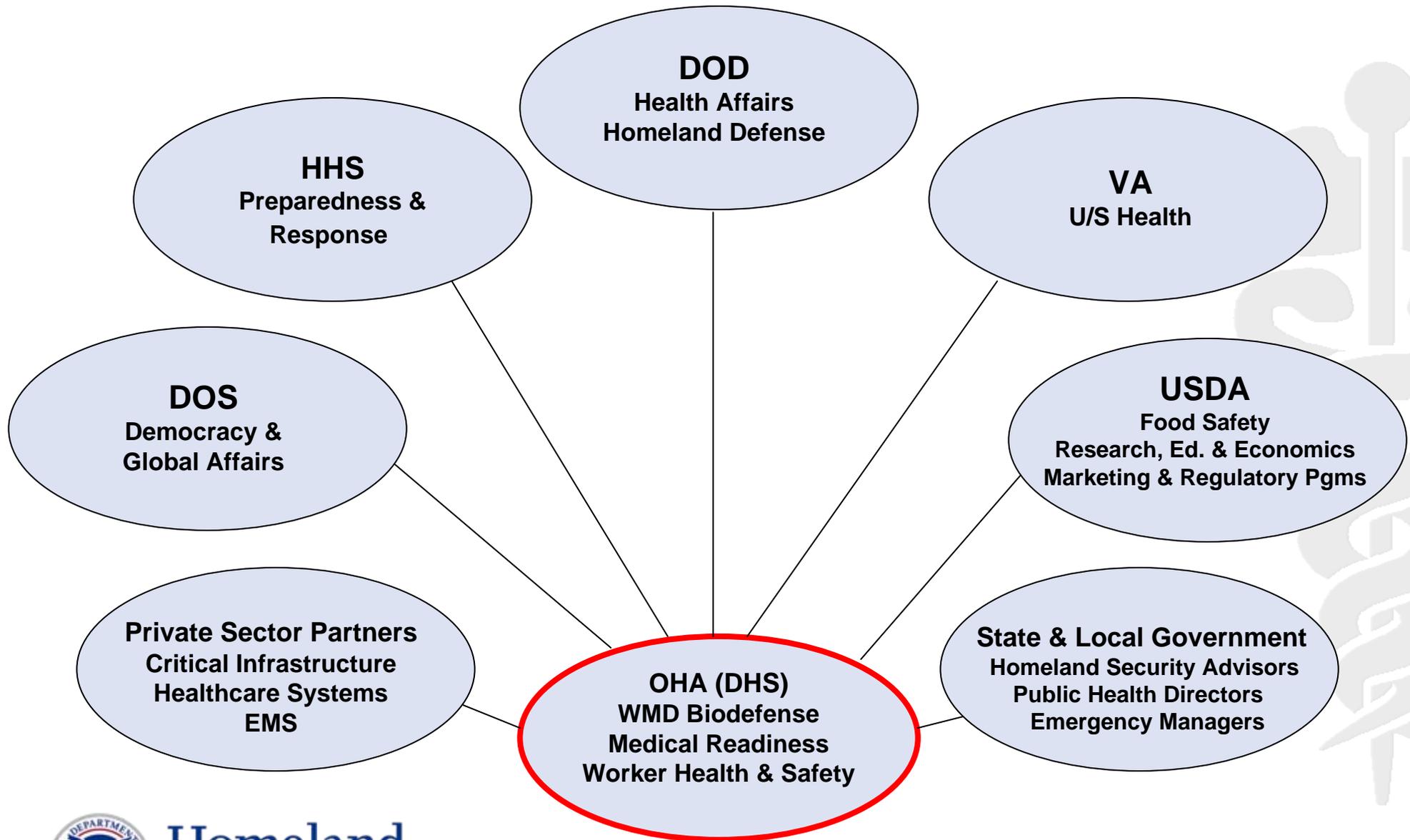
# OHA Primary Goals

- 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



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# Office of Health Affairs Integration



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# Leadership Challenges

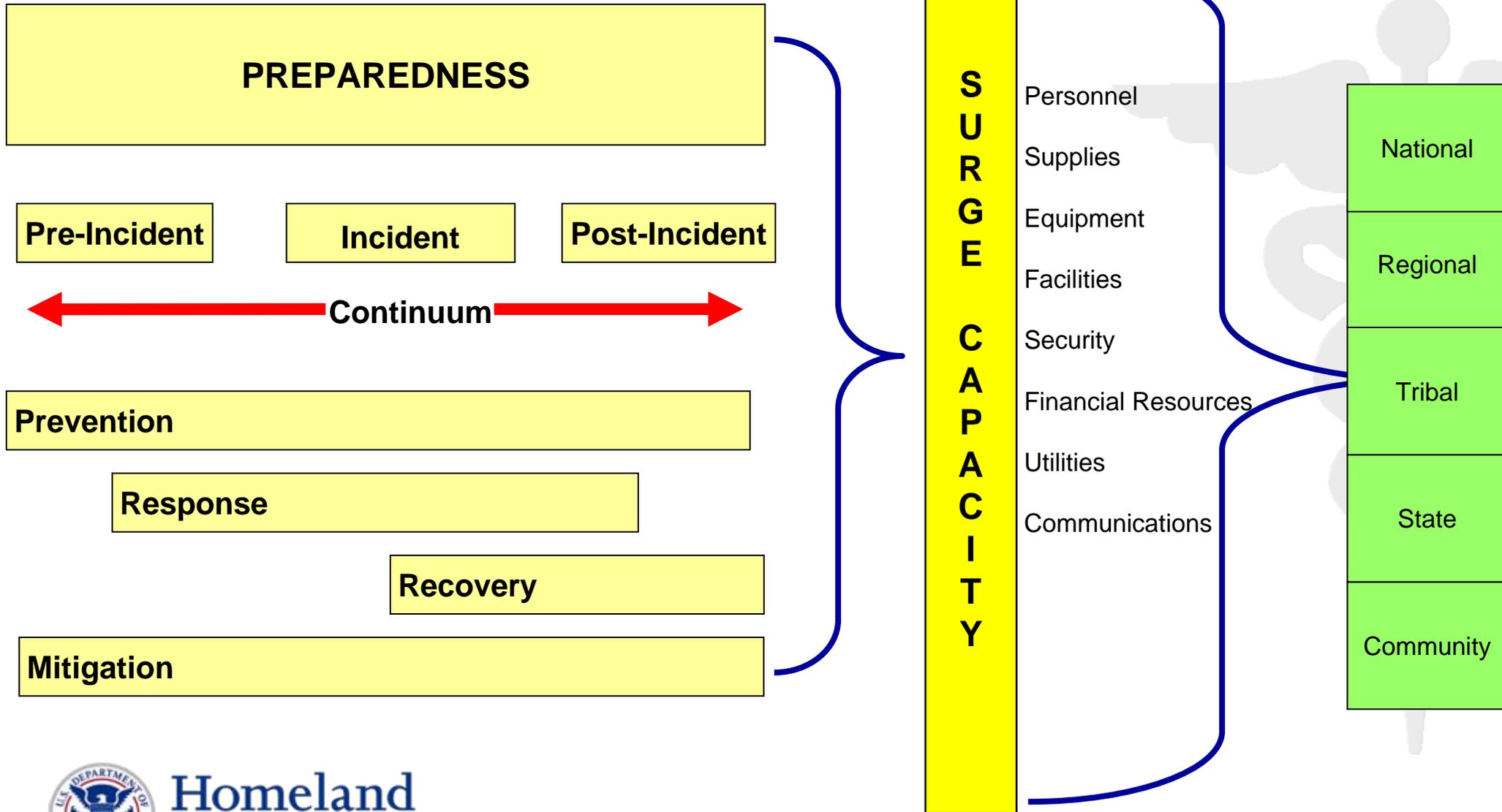
- In a STABLE environment
  - Leadership challenge is to maintain/sustain status quo
  - Incremental changes and/or improvements
- In an UNSTABLE environment
  - Leadership challenge is to ***re-define reality***

Attributed: Max DePree - *Leadership is an Art*



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# The Spectrum of Surge Capacity





# Homeland Security

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