

## MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES



### CBRN STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

MCM works closely with the Chemical and Biological Defense Program, Joint Staff and the Services to ensure that their CBRN medical countermeasure strategies are aligned with Health Affairs and FHP&R priorities and objectives. Building on the overarching CBRN defense mission, these strategies define the framework for medical CBRN defense science and technology and advanced development investments. The goal is to produce CBRN defense medical countermeasures that best meet the requirements of the Services and the combatant commanders.

### CBRN DOD COORDINATION

MCM coordinates with the Joint Staff, the Services and other DoD offices and agencies to:

- ★ Promote medical countermeasure requirements for Service members
- ★ Prioritize and fund medical development and acquisition programs that operate across the full spectrum of CBRN threats
- ★ Recommend and develop instructions to the Military Departments on the immunization of DoD personnel

### INTERAGENCY SYNCHRONIZATION

Medical Countermeasures participates with interagency and international partners in the planning and policy development of medical countermeasures to ensure that the needs of the Service members and the nation are met by aligning portfolios and reducing cost burden. Key interagency partners include the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response; the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Health Affairs; and the White House Homeland Security Council Policy Coordination Committee on Biodefense.

As part of our larger Partnership for Health, Force Health Protection and Readiness (FHP&R) is committed to meeting the needs of our key audiences:

- ★ Service members and families
- ★ Military leadership
- ★ Health care providers and planners

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The US Military is globally engaged, executing missions across the full spectrum of operations and under all environmental conditions. Non-state actors or terrorists may seek to use chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) agents in attacks on US forces at home and abroad. Consequently, US forces must be able to protect themselves and allied or coalition forces against CBRN weapons during deployments, sustainment operations and redeployments. The Medical Countermeasures (MCM) capability area ensures that only the safest and most effective medical countermeasures are available to Warfighters to allow them to survive and operate successfully in CBRN environments.

MCM develops plans and policies to advance health protection for US forces against CBRN threat agents. MCM advises Health Affairs (HA) and FHP&R on significant new medical CBRN defense strategies and the scientific, health and regulatory aspects of medical measures. Additionally, MCM ensures that the Military Health System is prepared to treat any illness or deteriorating health conditions resulting from a Warfighter's exposure to CBRN agents.

MCM's functional expertise provides both an internal and external focus. Internally, MCM subject matter experts provide support to the other FHP&R capability areas on CBRN effects, countermeasures and consequence management.

MCM also provides external situational awareness for FHP&R. It ensures that external stakeholders are aware

of FHP&R and HA goals and concerns when they develop CBRN plans, programs and strategies. By performing this role, MCM allows FHP&R, HA and DoD to develop a comprehensive and stable medical countermeasures research, development and acquisition program for the highest priority CBRN threats.

The Medical Countermeasure capability area includes:

### CBRN MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES POLICY AND PLANS

MCM authors and recommends plans and policies to prevent death or disease from existing and emerging CBRN threats. These plans and policies begin with the ongoing immunizations of US forces and other mission-critical employees against biological threats (such as anthrax and smallpox) but also include identification, diagnosis, prophylaxis and treatment of current, emerging and future CBRN threats. MCM also develops policies for the optimal management, treatment, prophylaxis and consequence management stemming from exposure to CBRN threat agents.

MCM advises HA and FHP&R on MCM policies and programs that champion individual health protection for all US Forces against CBRN threat agents. These policies and programs enhance commanders' abilities to sustain operations in a CBRN threat environment. They must also target



the conservation of force strength, protect our Service members from debilitating and life threatening CBRN threats, as well as mitigate the impact on our medical treatment facilities.

### CBRN PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL EDUCATION

MCM advocates for the funding of advanced professional CBRN medical training for all military medical personnel conducted at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, the US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense and the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute. In coordination with other agencies, the development and sustainment of excellent advanced medical education for CBRN threat environments and medical treatment are promoted with DoD stakeholders.

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