



Department of Defense Women's Health Structure

Deputy Director, Officer and Enlisted Personnel
Management, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary
of Defense for Military Personnel Policy

Program Director, Patient Advocacy & Experience,
Women's, Child & Family Health Policy, Office of the
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs,
Health Services Policy & Oversight

Health Affairs



Military Health System

Roles

OASD/HA

- Overall DoD/MHS policy and oversight
- Establishes and leads MHS governance
- Responsible for the Defense Health Program appropriation and the PPBE process

DHA

- Administration and Management of the Direct Care System
- Coordinate MTF staffing with services to support readiness
- Oversees the TRICARE Program

Military Departments

- Man-train-equip medical forces
- Ensure readiness through MTF staffing and civilian partnerships
- Assign medical personnel

USUHS

- Ongoing contributions to cutting-edge research and development
- Education and training to build and sustain the medical force
- Support clinical platforms for KSAs

Overview

- **The Military Health System is the most unique medical enterprise in the world and it plays a critical role in the National Defense Strategy**
- **A hospital system: 50** hospitals world-wide
- **An integrated outpatient care system: 425** medical clinics, **246** dental clinics
- **A health benefits program: 9.6 million** covered lives, almost 600,000 network providers...over 60% of our care is purchased from civilian sources
- **A global public health system:** providing community health, global health, and environmental surveillance
- **An education and training system:** including a University with an accredited medical school and Graduate Medical Education programs that train and prepare the military medical force
- **Medical research and development (R&D) system:**
~\$2 billion annual program

Health Affairs support to the National Defense Strategy

Restore military readiness as we build a more lethal force

Strengthen alliances and attract new partners

Bring business reforms to the Dept. of Defense

Achieve a more integrated, effective, Military Health System to **support readiness and healthcare delivery**



Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD HA)

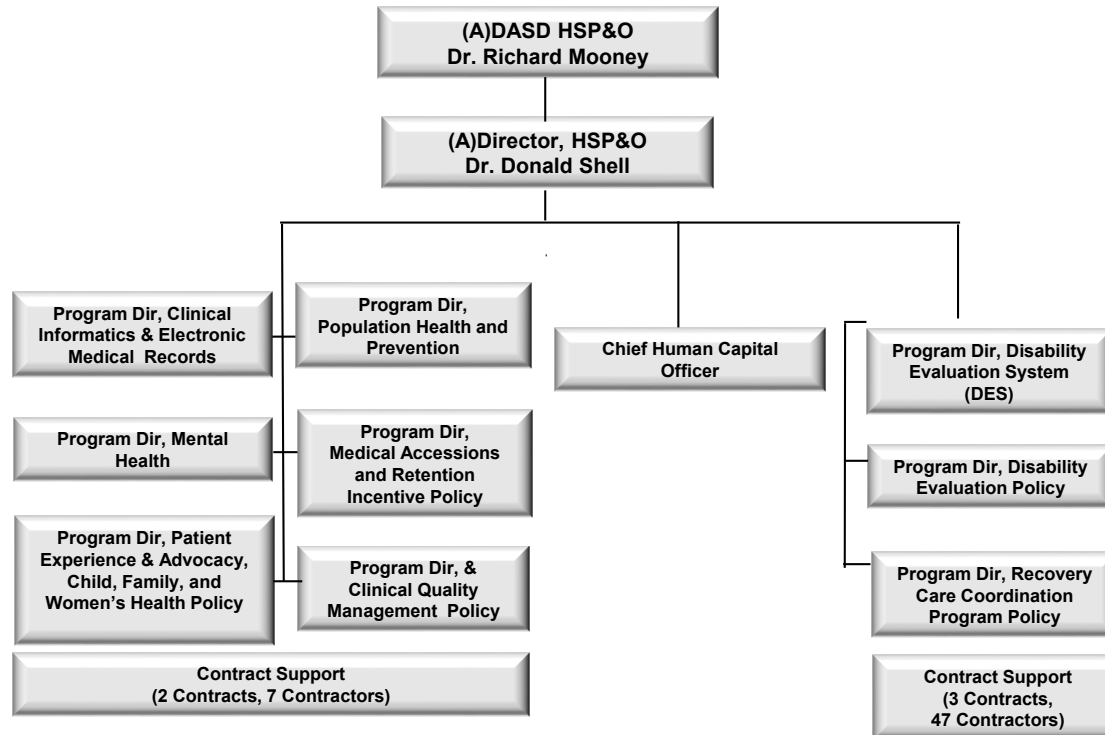
- Develops policies, procedures, and standards that govern the management of DoD health and medical programs.
- Responsible for the development of the annual DoD health and medical budget (POM), the 5 year financial plan and oversight of the Defense Health Program appropriation.
- Serves as principal medical advisor to the Secretary of Defense and Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel & Readiness (USD P&R) for health and health care delivery issues, including to other OSD Components such as A&S for the health implications of the DoD chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) defense programs.
- Serves as subject matter expert for congressional inquiries on health and health care delivery issues including issues related to medical countermeasures and represents the Secretary of Defense on these matters outside the DoD.
- Oversees the Defense Health Agency (DHA) and the Uniformed University of the Health Sciences (USUHS).



Health Affairs Mission

The Military Health System (MHS) is a unique partnership of health care providers, medical educators, medical researchers, and support personnel worldwide. The MHS is prepared to respond anytime, anywhere with comprehensive medical capability to military operations, natural disasters and humanitarian crises around the globe, and to ensure delivery of world-class health care to all Department of Defense (DoD) service members, retirees, and their families. The MHS promotes a fit, healthy and protected force by reducing non-combat losses, optimizing healthy behaviors and physical performance, and providing casualty care.

Health Services Policy and Oversight (HSP&O) Organization Chart





HSP&O Policy Responsibilities

- Clinical Quality Management
- Medical Accessions and Retention Standards
- GME and Health Professions Policy
- Mental Health, Substance Use and Suicide
- Women's Health
- Healthcare Management of Interpersonal Violence
- Population Health and Prevention
- Health Informatics
- Health Services Research
- Advise on Detainee Health
- Non-medical Recovery Coordination Program
- Physical Disability Board of Review
- Special Compensation for Assistance with Activities of Daily Living
- Disability Evaluation System
- Veteran Readiness and Employment
- Other Clinical Policies, Programs and Initiatives





Women's Health Portfolio

- Policy and oversight for women's health issues, including:
 - Reproductive Health
 - Pregnancy/Maternal Health
 - Pregnancy termination
 - Continuity of care for female service members
 - Healthcare response to interpersonal violence
- Defense Health Board Recommendations
- Working Groups
 - VA/DoD Women's Health Working Group
 - Women in Service Working Group
 - DHA Women and Infant Clinical Community
 - Military Services working groups/communities



Current Initiatives

- DoD Women's Reproductive Health Survey
- Health care provider survey on contraceptive care
- Maternal Health Interagency Policy Council
- Continuity of care for pregnant service members
- Implementation of Defense Health Board Report: Active Duty Women's Health
- Development of reproductive health policy document
- Family member travel screening
- Musculoskeletal injuries in female service members



Working Groups



VA/DoD Women's Health Working Group (VA/DoD WHWG)

- Co-chaired by VA and DoD with membership comprised of VA, DoD and Military Department healthcare providers and stakeholders.
- Mission: Collaboratively support efforts and activities to best identify the health needs of service women and integrate policy, programs and research across both agencies in support of a seamless continuum of women's health services along the military lifecycle.



VA/DoD WHWG Goals

Six main goals:

- Utilize DoD and VA data, information, and analytics, to jointly update WHWG strategic plan to address current and emerging health care needs.
- Identify and evaluate the provision of women's preventive and health care services in DoD and VA.
- Provide recommendations and inform future women's health policy and program decisions across the Departments.
- Strategically advance the quality of, access to and delivery of treatment, services, programs and policy related to mental health needs.
- Collaborate with other stakeholders to information DoD and VA research portfolios.
- Develop, implement and oversee joint VA/DoD projects to improve care.



VA/DoD WHWG Current Initiatives

- Annual mini-residencies to increase clinical knowledge and skills to provide gender-specific care.
 - Musculoskeletal (MSK) Injuries
 - Women's Mental Health
- Create joint tools and resources for service women, veterans and providers to advance health across the military service continuum:
 - MSK health
 - Cardiovascular health
- Work collaboratively on reproductive health research to advance reproductive health to address unique needs associated with military service.



Women in Service Working Group

- The Women in Service Working Group (WIS WG) was officially established in May 2021, under the purview of the Department of Defense Medical and Personnel Executive Steering Committee (MEDPERS).
- The WIS WG serves as the primary advisory group for the MEDPERS and the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel & Readiness (USD P&R) on medical and personnel policy related to Women in Service.
- This working group is composed of representatives from both medical and personnel organizations across the Department of Defense and the Services.



WIS WG Purpose

- The WIS WG was created to align the medical and personnel communities to develop, discuss, and provide recommendations upon issues pertaining to Service women, ensuring:
 - Policies are in place to support an operationally capable and worldwide deployable female force.
 - Accessibility to quality healthcare can address unique women's healthcare needs.
 - Dissemination of information on policies, programs and resources that will support readiness and retention of female Service members.
 - Identification of outdated or overly restrictive policies and programs that lack medical necessity, limiting the opportunity for promotion and career.



WIS WG Goals

- The goals of the WIS WG include:
 - Identification of potential personnel and health policy issues regarding Women in Service through use of evidenced-based assessments.
 - Review of existing DoD-level women's working groups with the goal of aligning and overseeing these working groups for better visibility and accountability.
 - Receive, respond and provide recommendations (when appropriate) to MEDPERS taskings regarding Women in Service policy issues.
 - Development of a Women in Service website as a mechanism to ensure female Service members, commanders, and healthcare providers have access to policy, programs, and procedures promoting Women in Service.
 - Development of policy guidance and recommendations that addresses current gaps in policy impacting Women in Service.
 - Suggesting updates to Department of Defense Instructions (DoDI) related to pertinent women's health and associated personnel issues.



Women and Infant Clinical Community

- Within DHA, the Women and Infant Clinical Community (WICC) defines, prioritizes, and implements initiatives to:
 - Increase readiness;
 - Decrease non-beneficial clinical variation;
 - Improve health outcomes; and
 - Positively impact women's and infants health.
- WICC develops implementation guidance and clinical practice recommendations.
- WICC also works in collaboration Service-aligned groups, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (OASD(HA)), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
- Women's Health Clinical Management Team (WHCMT) implements continuous process improvement approaches from the WICC, create DHA market level implementation plans and guidance.



Ongoing Women's Health Initiatives in Development

- Standardization of walk-in (no appointment/consult required) contraception services at every military medical treatment facility (MTF);
- Standardization of opioid prescribing practices for OB/GYN surgeries;
- Data collection for leveling of maternal and neonatal care;
- Adoption of methodology from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for review of adverse maternal events;
- Revision of the 2018 VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Pregnancy; and
- Collaboration with White House Office of the Vice President Integrated Practice Council for Maternal Care.



Current WICC Areas of Focus

- Reduction of severe maternal mortality and morbidity, through ongoing implementation of the postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) bundle;
- Readiness issues related to gynecological care, including pelvic floor disorder, diastasis recti, and human papillomavirus vaccination;
- Reproductive health, including contraception, menstrual suppression, fertility/miscarriage, perinatal outcomes, and intimate partner violence;
- Standardization of electronic medical record (MHS GENESIS and legacy Essentris) for OB/GYN care, in collaboration with VA, as applicable;
- Optimizing resources through use of social media (e.g., [mobile health applications](#), [podcasts](#) (e.g., *Wise Health for Women Warriors*), etc.).



Back-up Slides



Health Executive Committee

VA/DoD Health Executive Committee

VA Chair: Under Secretary for Health (VHA)
DoD Chair: Assistant Secretary of Defense (HA)

Healthcare Operations Business Line

VA Lead: Assistant Under Secretary for Health Operations, VHA
DoD Lead: Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Services
 Policy & Oversight, Health Affairs

- Acquisition & Medical Materiel Management WG
- Care Coordination WG
- Continuing Education & Training WG
- Duplicate Claims IPT
- James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center
Advisory Board
- Reimbursements IPT
- Shared Resources WG

Clinical Care Business Line

VA Lead: Deputy to the Assistant Under Secretary for Health for
 Patient Care Services, VHA
DoD Lead: Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Services
 Policy & Oversight, Health Affairs

- Deployment Health WG
- Evidence Based Clinical Guidelines WG
- Pain Management WG
- Patient Safety WG
- Telehealth WG
- Transgender Healthcare WG
- Women's Health WG

Health Informatics Business Line

VA Lead: Chief Medical Informatics Officer, VHA
DoD Lead: Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Services
 Policy & Oversight, Health Affairs

- Interagency Clinical Informatics Board
 - Interagency Data and Analytics WG
 - Patient Engagement WG
 - Joint Clinical Information & Standards
Implementation WG
 - Continuity of Care WG
 - Health Information Policy WG



MEDPERS Organization and Membership

- The MEDPERS will report to the USD(P&R) as appropriate. MEDPERS will convene semiannually, at a minimum, and at the discretion of the Co-Chairs.
- MEDPERS members provide ongoing liaison with respective organizations and shall be full-time or part-time employees of the military. Voting members:

DASD (Military Personnel Policy) – Chair	PDASD(HA) - Chair
DASD (Civilian Personnel Policy)	DASD (Reserve Integration)
Surgeon General of the Army	Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force	Director, Health Services, HQ USMC
USCG Director, Health, Safety, Work Life (CG-11)	Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (Army)
Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (Navy)	Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (Air Force)
Asst. Secretary of the Army (M&RA)	Asst. Secretary of the Navy (M&RA)
Asst. Secretary of the Air Force (M&RA)	Deputy Chief of Staff, USMC
CG Director Reserve & Military Personnel (CG-13)	Joint Staff Surgeon
Joint Staff, Director Manpower & Personnel (JS/J1)	

As you consider your birth control options... Decide + Be Ready Mobile App

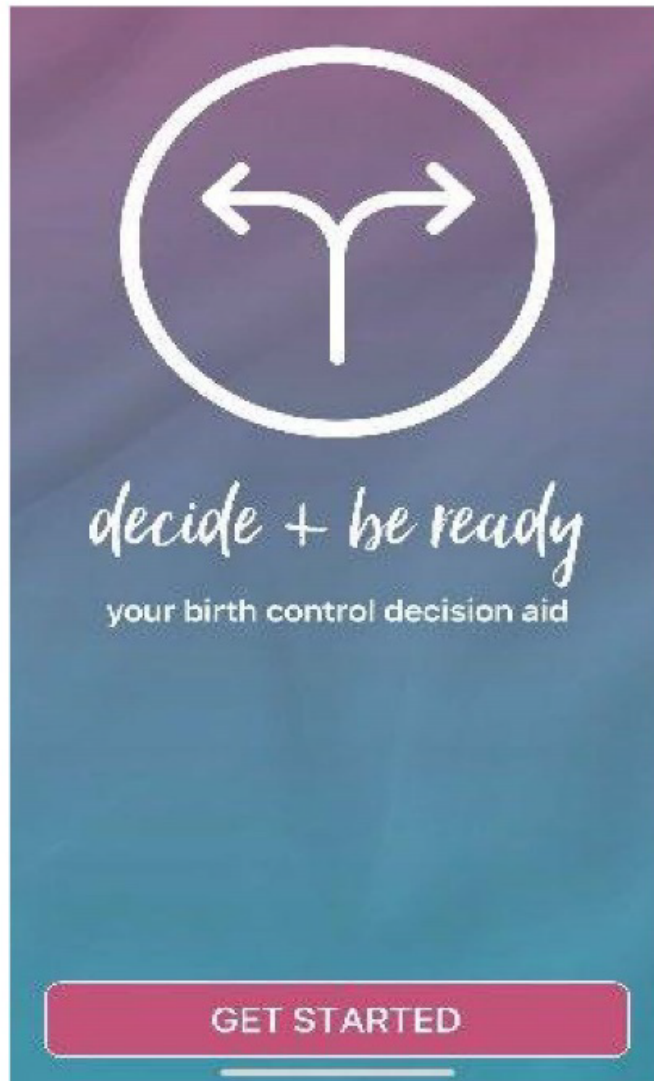
- Decide + Be Ready is designed to help women make decisions regarding contraception to also meet the unique needs of servicewomen.
- This app supports military women in their decision-making related to contraception, taking into consideration that servicewomen, when deployed or working in uniquely challenging environments, may also choose to use one of the birth control methods to manage or even skip menstrual periods.

The screenshot displays four screens from the 'Decide + Be Ready' mobile app:

- How Well Does It Work?**: A screen titled 'BIRTH CONTROL METHODS' featuring a grid of 12 icons representing different contraceptive options: No Method, Internal Condom, Male Condom, Diaphragm, The Pill, The Patch, The Ring, The Shot, The Implant, Hormonal IUD, Copper IUD, and Sterilization.
- Things to Think About**: A checklist of questions for users to consider:
 - ✓ HOW WELL DOES IT PREVENT PREGNANCY?
 - ✓ HOW DO I USE IT?
 - ✓ HOW OFTEN DO I HAVE TO REMEMBER IT?
 - ✓ ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?
 - ✓ WHAT IF I DECIDE TO GET PREGNANT?
 - ✓ CONSIDERATIONS FOR A SERVICEWOMAN
- For Servicewomen**: A screen with a female silhouette and a callout box for 'HORMONAL IUD'. Below the silhouette, text reads: 'You don't have to do anything! Using this method can make your periods go away completely while using it.'
- Create Your Birth Control...**: A screen asking 'When do you think you might want to get pregnant?' with five response buttons: 'Never', 'In a year or less', 'In a year or more' (highlighted in purple), and 'Not sure'.

As you consider your birth control options...

Decide + Be Ready Mobile App



Easy Download Options:

- Search Decide + Be Ready in App Store for iOS Version
- Search Decide + Be Ready in Google Play for Android Version
- Follow the link:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/decide-be-ready/id1451879300>



**Scan this Quick
Response Code to
Download from
App Store**



Deployment Readiness Education for Service Women (DRES) Application



- TriService product built on the Navy framework with the goal to equip service women with the knowledge they need to effectively understand their bodies, use preventative practices, identify symptoms of concern, and optimize readiness.
- The DRES content was written by Military Medical providers across the Military Health System to provide easily accessible, comprehensive, and unbiased health education to service women across the force.
- The app can be downloaded at <https://mobile.health.mil/Dres>



Deployment Readiness Education for Service Women (DRES) Application

