



# **DHS Office of Health Affairs**

## *Overview Briefing*

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Deputy Assistant Secretary  
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**Homeland  
Security**

# Overview of Office of Health Affairs

- ▶ **The DHS Chief Medical Officer was created as part of the Department's 2005 Second Stage Review.**
- ▶ **The FY 2007 DHS Appropriations Bill authorized the CMO and listed 5 core responsibilities:**
  - Serve as Secretary's principal medical advisor
  - Coordinate DHS biodefense activities
  - Ensure internal/external coordination of DHS' medical preparedness activities
  - Serve as primary DHS point of contact for Federal/state/local/tribal governments and the private sector on medical and public health issues
  - Discharge DHS responsibilities under Project BioShield (in coordination w/ S&T)
- ▶ **Secretary Chertoff created the [Office of Health Affairs](#) as part of the Departmental reorganization announced on January 18, 2007**



# Presidential Mandates for DHS Health Affairs

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## ➤ HSPD 5

- DHS is the overall incident coordinator in a catastrophic incident
- Link together HHS, USDA, DoD, VHA, ST&L, Private sector

## ➤ HSPD 7

- Mitigate vulnerabilities in the safety and security of the medical, public health and emergency service critical infrastructures and key resources

## ➤ HSPD 8

- Achieve an all-hazards National Preparedness Goal with Target Capabilities on which to base planning at federal, state, and local levels.

## ➤ HSPD 9

- Mitigate vulnerabilities in food, agriculture and water systems
- Develop a robust biological threat awareness capacity

## ➤ HSPD 10

- Ensure a coordinated architecture for bio-monitoring, biosurveillance, aerosol detection, clinical syndrome detection, suspicious substance handling and mail room monitoring



# DHS Office of Health Affairs

## ▶ VISION

*A Nation prepared for the medical and public 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 public health matters*. Working throughout the Federal interagency and with the private sector, the Office *leads the Department's role in developing, supporting, measuring and refining a scientifically rigorous, intelligence-based medical and biodefense architecture to ensure the public health and medical security of our Nation*.



# Goals

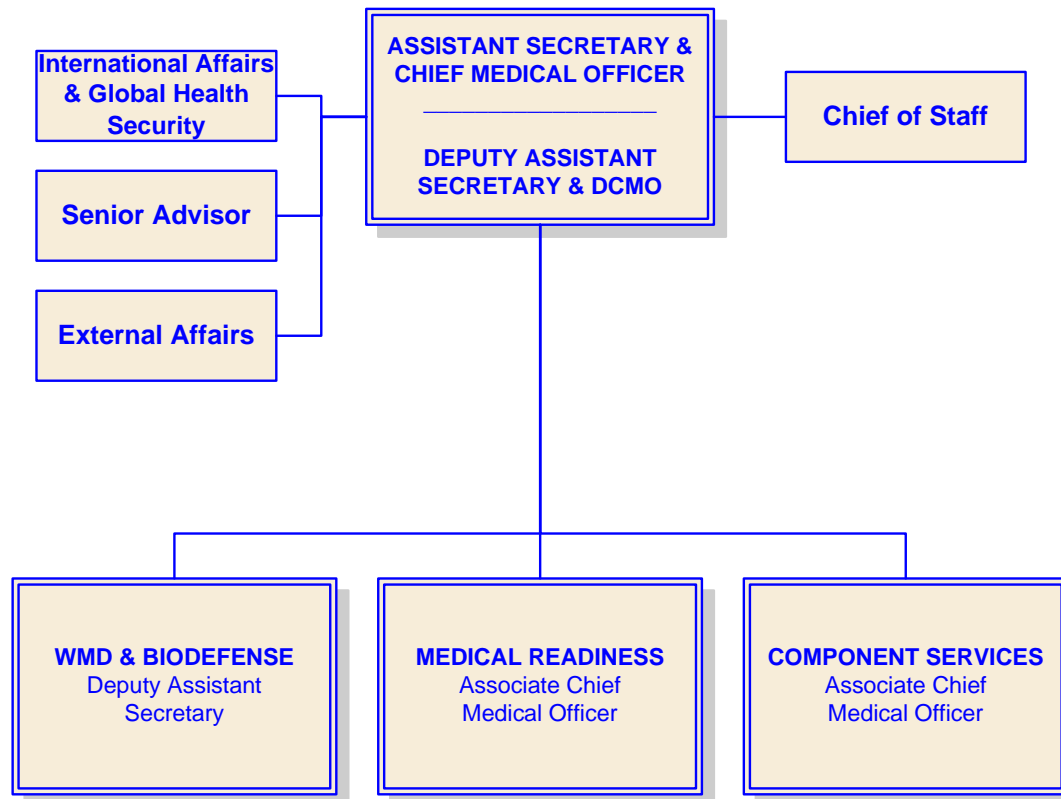
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- ▶ **The mission of the OHA is guided by 4 over-arching goals:**
  1. Serve as the **principal medical authority** for the Department of Homeland Security.  
*Principal point of contact for local, tribal, regional and state health care and public health organizations.*
  2. Lead the Department's **biodefense activities**, to include policy, planning, strategy, requirements, operational programs, and metrics.
  3. Lead a coordinated **National architecture for biological & chemical WMD planning and catastrophic incident management.**
  4. Ensure that DHS employees are supported by an effective **occupational health and safety** program.

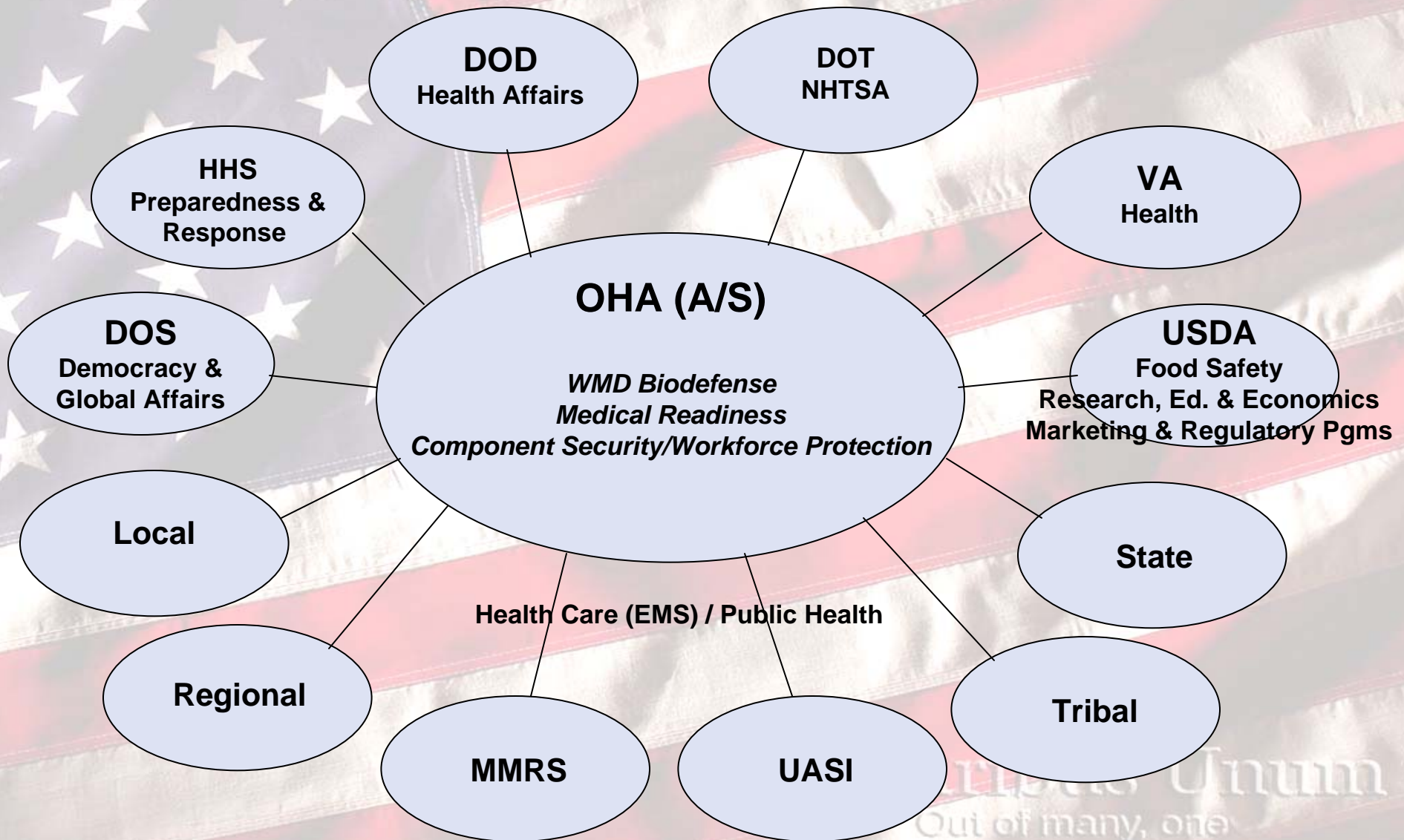


# Organizational Structure

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS



# Office of Health Affairs Integration



# Office of Health Affairs

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# Homeland Security