



APPENDIX C: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEDICAL AGENCIES

Last Updated: 29 September 2015

Air Force Medical Service

The Air Force Medical Service (AFMS), led by the Air Force Surgeon General (AF/SG), is the Air Force agency responsible for medical planning, programming, policy, and execution of Service medical operations.³⁹ Unlike the medical functions in other Services, the AFMS is not in itself an organization with its own chain of command, but is an enterprise architecture within the Air Force chain of command ensuring unity of effort. This architecture is necessary to optimize medical operations in support of Air Force missions within the legal, policy, and resource constraints imposed by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD[HA]). The AFMS is comprised of the AF/SG and staff, major command Surgeons (MAJCOM/SGs) and staff, field operating agencies assigned to line of the Air Force commanders, and AFMS Airmen assigned to line organizations as medical subject matter experts.

Air Force Medical Support Agency (AFMSA)

AFMSA, in coordination with the Air Force Medical Operations Agency (AFMOA), oversees the execution of AF/SG policies supporting Air Force expeditionary medicine operations. AFMSA assists the AF/SG on issues related to the overall management of Air Force medical activities. Sample activities are developing policy, addressing AFMS concerns at senior leadership levels, and ensuring centralization of activities to provide process-oriented delivery of complex medical and dental care in coordination with MAJCOMs and field operating agencies. AFMSA improves communication, decision-making, and the ability to plan and program future requirements for those functions identified and centralized. AFMSA partners with the ASD(HA), Secretary of the Air Force, Air Force Chief of Staff, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure the readiness of medical forces, the medical readiness of all Air Force warfighters, as well as a prevention-based health care continuum for beneficiaries worldwide.

Air Force Medical Operations Agency (AFMOA)

AFMOA is the field operating agency located on Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly that is responsible for implementing AF/SG policy and supporting MAJCOM/SGs and military

³⁹ Air Force Instruction (AFI) 41-106, [Medical Readiness Program Management](#).

treatment facility (MTF) commanders. AFMOA was established in 2008 to serve as the interface between the policy-making arm of the AFMS (AFMSA) and the execution arm (MAJCOMS and MTFs).

Major Command Surgeons

The MAJCOM/SGs have the responsibility to organize, train, equip, and package medical forces to ensure those forces are ready to execute medical capabilities in war, peacetime disasters, homeland defense, counterterrorist activities, or any other domestic or worldwide mission requiring medical force expertise.⁴⁰ Where applicable, training should include principles of tactical combat casualty care to ensure medical personnel understand and meet the requirements of this standard of care.

Military Treatment Facilities

At the installation level, medical forces are generally organized into MTFs that are structured and controlled according to mission:

- ✦ **Clinics** provide direct medical support to an installation and are primarily tasked to ensure assigned Airmen are fit and healthy to deploy. Clinics are organized as medical groups or squadrons and are assigned to an installation's host wing.
 - ✦ **Hospitals** are medical facilities with in-patient capability, some of which have trauma capability. In addition to direct medical support to an installation, hospitals provide regional specialty care to eligible beneficiaries. Most importantly, hospitals are strategic nodes in the [En Route Casualty Care System](#) (ERCCS). Hospitals are organized as medical groups with squadrons and are assigned to an installation's host wing.
 - ✦ **Medical Centers** are major medical treatment facilities providing trauma and specialty care as well as training platforms for medical forces. They are both strategic nodes and definitive care endpoints in the ERCCS and are organized as medical groups assigned to the installation's host wing or as a medical wing assigned to a MAJCOM.
-

⁴⁰ [AFI 41-106](#).