CHARTER

NATIONAL CENTER FOR DISASTER MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
AT THE
UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

Purpose

This charter provides authority to the Uniformed Services University (USU) of the Health Sciences (hereafter referred to as the University), to establish a National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (hereafter referred to as the National Center) at the University. This document also establishes the organizational structure and general principles for the National Center’s operation.

Authority


Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 5105.45 “Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS),” January 22, 2007 authorizes the University, at the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD (HA))/Director, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), to conduct medical readiness training and continuing education for members of the Uniformed Services in the health professions. It also directs the University to conduct health science research consistent with its academic undertaking.

Organization

The National Center will be a component of the University. The National Center will be headed by a Director appointed by the University President, and will employ or contract subject matter experts for its scholarly faculty, executive management staff, and administrative support to assist in achieving its defined mission and goals.

The National Center will collaborate with the University President and a Federal interagency advisory group, as well as with other academic institutions, State, local, tribal Governments, professional organizations and specialty societies, non-profit and private voluntary organizations, and industry to ensure it achieves the educational and research...
goals that support the intent of HSPD 21, and other appropriate guidance, including the "Pandemic and All Hazard Preparedness Act," Public Law 109-417, dated December 19, 2006.

Mission and Goals

This National Center, as a permanent part of the University, will serve DoD as its academic home to develop and propagate core competencies, training, research, and education related to disaster medicine, behavioral health and public health co-locating, whenever possible, the related specialties of domestic medical preparedness and response, international health, international disaster and humanitarian medical and public health assistance, and military medicine.

Key goals include:

- The National Center shall collaborate with a Federal interagency advisory group, chartered by the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and of Defense, in developing and executing a coordinated approach to developing core curricula, training, and research related to public health and medical disaster preparedness and response.

- The National Center shall promote standardized education and training in public health and medical disaster preparedness and response based upon collaboratively developed and accepted core competencies, procedures, and terms of reference. The National Center will share their findings with Federal, State, local, and tribal Governments; academia; and the private sector.

- The National Center shall maintain cooperation, communication, and collaboration with other Federal agencies, as well as public and private entities interested in education, training, and research in disaster medicine and public health. It will serve as DoD’s lead agent in academic collaboration related to disaster medicine and public health.

- The National Center will, wherever possible, convert translation of research findings into disaster-related medical and public health educational programs, and best practice guidelines available to Federal, State, local, and tribal Governments; academia; and the private sector. In addition, when appropriately resourced, the National Center will serve as a clearinghouse for information sharing among Federal, State, local, and tribal Governments; academia; and the private sector.

- The Center will be an academic center of excellence in disaster medicine and public health, coordinating resources, supporting an environment for information exchange and co-locating, whenever possible, education and research in the related specialties
of domestic medical preparedness and response, international health, international
disaster, and humanitarian medical and public health assistance, and military
medicine.

- The National Center shall, at least annually, advise ASD (HA) of training,
educational, and research missions important to disaster medicine and public health,
upon which policy, or budgetary action may be required.

**Annual Reports, Funding, and Accountability**

The National Center will be funded in the baseline program and budget of the
Defense Health Program. Once established and through the University President, the
National Center will provide ASD (HA) with an annual report of accomplishments. The
Center will operate under the standard processes and procedures of the University.

**Termination Date**

This charter will be subject to update as approved by ASD (HA). It shall have an
indefinite termination date or until such time as rescinded by the ASD (HA).

**APPROVALS**

The signatures below indicate the understanding and agreement to the structure,
authorities and guidelines set forth in this charter.

\[27 \text{ October 2009}\]

Charles L. Rice, M.D.
President
Uniformed Services University

\[20 \text{ OCT 3 O 2008}\]

S. Ward Casscells, M.D.
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)