

From: Surgeon General of the Navy
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2004 5:11 PM
To: All Senior NAVMED Leaders; All BUMED
Subject: Surgeon General's Priorities

Shipmates,

Having assumed duties as your Surgeon General, I want to convey how impressed I am with Navy Medicine's professionalism and commitment to excellence. It is an honor to lead such an impressive organization. Thank you for the privilege!

Navy Medicine exists to support the CNO's and Commandant's vision for the Navy-Marine Corps team. We are entrusted with a tremendous responsibility - the health of our Sailors, Marines, families, and retirees. We provide highly skilled, operationally agile and combat-ready forces who ensure our Sailors and Marines are physically and mentally ready for the challenges of deployment.

My Vision. Navy Medicine will keep Sailors and Marines fit to fight, will serve as a defensive weapon system protecting the warfighter and deterring threats, will provide flexible medical support in combat overseas and emergency response at home, and will provide incomparable health services economically to all whom we are honored to serve.

My Priorities. To achieve this vision and provide Force Health Protection for those entrusted to our care, I have five priorities for Navy Medicine – all will be achieved through expert leadership, education, and research:

1. Readiness - aligned and agile. Our most important priority is readiness. To be ready, Navy Medicine must be responsive, agile, and aligned with the operational forces. We must have the right people with the right capabilities continually ready to deploy in support of the Navy-Marine Corps team. The Global War on Terrorism has challenged us to broaden our view of readiness. Our MTFs must be prepared to respond to any contingency, to provide expert care to casualties returning from theatre, and be ready to support the Nation's needs in collaboration with the National Disaster Medical System.

2. Quality, Economical Health Services. Navy Medicine will continue to provide the finest, cost-effective health services in the world to America's heroes and their families - those who currently serve, those who have served, and the family members who support them.

3. One Navy Medicine – Active, Reserve and Civilian. Navy Medicine is one team. We must seamlessly integrate the talents and strengths of our entire workforce to accomplish our mission of force health protection.

4. Shaping Tomorrow's Force. Our human capital strategy must provide the right force to accomplish our mission. This means refining and shaping our force by recruiting, training and retaining the right mix of health professionals.

5. Joint Medical Capabilities. Navy Medicine will continue to collaborate with our counterparts in the other Services to ensure optimal Department of Defense mission achievement. We will be fully integrated with local, State, and Federal agencies to respond to homeland security threats. The Military Health System plays a critical role in national security and we will be trained, fully integrated with our colleagues, and absolutely ready to respond.

Our Nation is at war against threats that demand our best efforts and innovative leadership. Our Nation has accepted a 'new normal' since the terror attacks of 2001. Navy Medicine must be ready whenever and wherever we are called upon to serve – aboard ship, on foreign soil, and here at home.

The priorities outlined here will guide our efforts and, in coming weeks, I will provide additional guidance on them. I am confident in your support and dedication to this honorable calling. I encourage your continued best efforts as we work to provide Force Health Protection for the Navy and Marine Corps in the era of the war on terrorism.

Vice Admiral Don Arthur, MC, USN
Surgeon General of the Navy