

MHS 2020 PROJECT, JANUARY 1996

Proponent

The proponent for this project is the Department of Defense (Health Affairs).

Web Site Location

The documents addressing the MHS 2020 efforts are accessible from the MHS 2020 homepage at <http://keydet.sra.com/hs2020/homepage/hs2020.htm>.

Definition

MHS 2020 Shared Identity Statement - We are the healers who walk with warriors in unison. We are on a journey to do what must be done. We are a community of healers who know health is a wholeness. Our caring runs as deep as the pain of war. We take those who are broken and make them whole. We serve through a system of values, our roots reaching down to a stream flowing from generation to generation. Duty, honor, loyalty, and courage to sacrifice are the bonds that hold us together. We are an awesome force of warriors and healers protecting the values of home.

Synopsis

MHS 2020 is a part of the Military Health System (MHS) strategic planning process. MHS 2020 engages national and international health care experts to envision the practice and delivery of health care in the year 2020. The health futures group's mission is to synthesize future health care directions and to seamlessly integrate military health functions ranging from individual fitness to warzone operations.

The MHS 2020 vision is:

- ◆ The MHS is a model for future health care delivery systems, preferred by patients, providers, and line commanders. We serve our country and the world by sustaining a warrior capacity that keeps others from engaging in war.
- ◆ We are an integrated health care system functioning as a unified command with a seamless delivery of health care to the entire military family. We demonstrate prevention as the most cost-effective strategy for readiness and knowledge as the most powerful form of prevention.
- ◆ We are builders of nations and healthy communities. We respect and protect the environment as an essential component of health. We employ the strengths of our technology to design disease and illness out of our society. We express the depth of our compassion to make people whole. We are essential partners and a major force in the creation of health and global peace.

The working group developed eight futuristic goals:

- ◆ a 50% reduction in facility requirements through prevention, self-managed care, telemedicine, and outpatient care by 2005;
- ◆ an increase in spending for preventive and "partnered/self-managed" care from 1% of MHS budget to 50% by 2005;
- ◆ a 75% decrease in the number of medically discharged active duty soldiers, by 2005;
- ◆ the golden hour in the warzone is six hours by 2010;



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- ◆ a 75% reduction for warzone in-theater hospital beds by 2005;
- ◆ a 75% reduction in the primary care usage rate by 2005;
- ◆ a 1/3 reduction in costs per person per year through partnered self-managed care by 2010; and
- ◆ health operations other than war has developed doctrine, formal structure, and is published in the Defense Planning Guidance.

The group developed four scenarios in 1996. The alternatives envision society, health care, and the MHS in 25 years. The group explored widely divergent images of the world and the MHS in 2020. In 1997, they revised these scenarios. Each scenario describes “The Big Picture”, “Health Care”, and “Military Medicine in 2020.” The basic scenario characteristics are:

- ◆ Global Mind Change - Progress in conflict resolution, sustainable development and technology force a rethinking of the military's role. Health for all becomes a major focus of national security and global strategy.
- ◆ The Dark Side - A negative extrapolation of current fears-economic, social, and environmental problems worsen, and new security threats emerge on many fronts. Resources to meet these challenges decline.
- ◆ Turbulent Third Wave - The pattern of current expectations- a successful information society emerges bringing a revolution in military affairs. Yet some problems worsen, including inequities, terrorism and information warfare.
- ◆ The Technology Transformation - The best that could possibly be-momentous technological advances. Moreover, traumatized by worsening chaos, world leaders cooperate as never before. Problems remain, but human society begins moving to an entirely new level of capabilities.

Products developed by the MHS 2020 working group include:

- ◆ FY 96 - The 2020 Book containing the original scenarios, vision, shared identity statement, goals, and other important information.
- ◆ FY 97 - The Biotechnology and Nanotechnology Report and the Early Indicators Chronicles.
- ◆ FY 98 – OOTW in the 21st Century – A MHS Virtual Community of Practice

What Does This Mean for Army Preventive Medicine?

To perform our preventive medicine mission effectively in the future, we must:

- ◆ develop partnerships among the MHS, other government agencies, and the private sector to create healthier environments and workplaces;
- ◆ accurately account for health promotion and preventive medicine assets;
- ◆ determine cost avoidance and cost-effectiveness of preventive medicine and health promotion programs;
- ◆ use comprehensive, population-based, medical information systems as a foundation for evidence-based disease prevention and health decision making;
- ◆ partner with private industry, other nongovernmental, and governmental agencies for identification and integration of best practices;
- ◆ assist in the development of health promotion and preventive medicine curricula for Army and all other service schools, basic officer and enlisted, advanced individual training, and

senior service schools. The curricula must stress the connection between health promotion and preventive medicine and commander's Force protection policies; and

- ◆ assist in development of AMEDD and other service medical specific curricula for health promotion and preventive medicine for required officer and enlisted specialties.

We must adopt the following themes common to other planning documents on our list:

- ◆ create a common culture throughout the DoD that values health and fitness. We will focus on value added products and services that will increase our ability to help shape the international HP & PM environment of tomorrow;
- ◆ USACHPPM could serve as a center of excellence for the full spectrum of health promotion and preventive medicine services in managing the health of our soldiers and beneficiaries;
- ◆ demonstrate the effectiveness of environmental health, occupational health and health promotion in minimizing risk and optimizing readiness, fitness, and health;
- ◆ disseminate current, available, integrated health information for decision support to commanders, policy makers and individuals who can act to influence health and prevent diseases and injuries; and
- ◆ assist with the development of a Joint service approach in addressing the health promotion and preventive medicine needs of commanders, especially the CINCs;

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