



# R&D Funding and Collaboration to Deliver Novel Military Medical Solutions

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# Brigadier General Katherine Simonson



- Currently serves as the Defense Health Agency Deputy Assistant Director for Research and Engineering
- Previously served as Commander, 2nd Medical Training Brigade, Medical Readiness and Training Command and Deputy Commander, Task Force 8th MED, in Qatar
- Education includes a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Masters of Nursing in both Critical Care and Education

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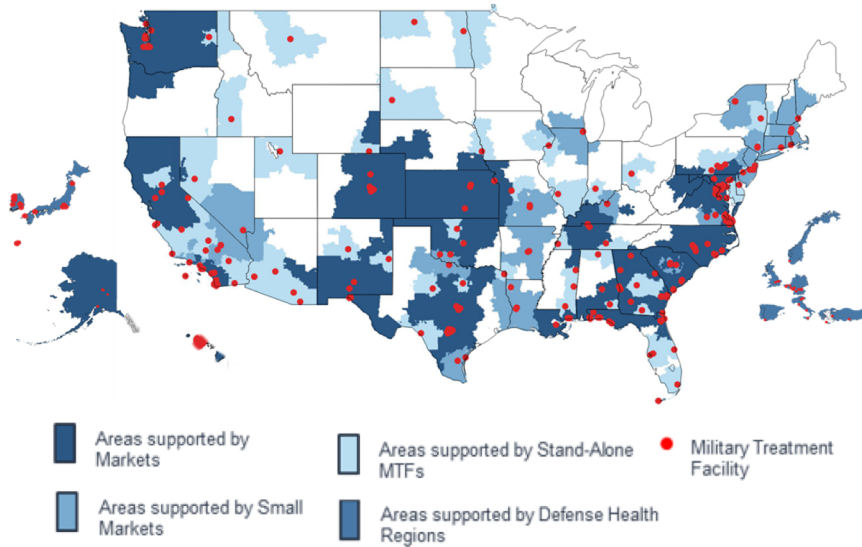


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# Military Health System

## *A comprehensive, integrated healthcare delivery system*



- **\$50+ billion** per year military medical enterprise
- **49** hospitals, **465** medical clinics, **192** dental clinics
- **~130,000** participating providers
- **9.6** million beneficiaries including **1.4 million** active duty, **331,000** reserve-component personnel, military retirees, and family members
- University with **accredited medical school and graduate programs**
- **~\$2.2 billion** medical research and development (R&D) program

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# Defense Health Agency

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) supports the delivery of integrated, affordable, and high-quality health services at all military medical treatment facilities (MTFs).

## DHA Mission:

Support the National Defense Strategy and the Service Military Departments by leading the MHS as an integrated, highly-reliable system of medical training, readiness, and health

## DHA Vision:

Unified, Reliable, and Ready...

## DHA Priorities:

**1** Great  
Outcomes

**2** Ready  
Medical Force

**3** Satisfied  
Patients

**4** Fulfilled  
Staff

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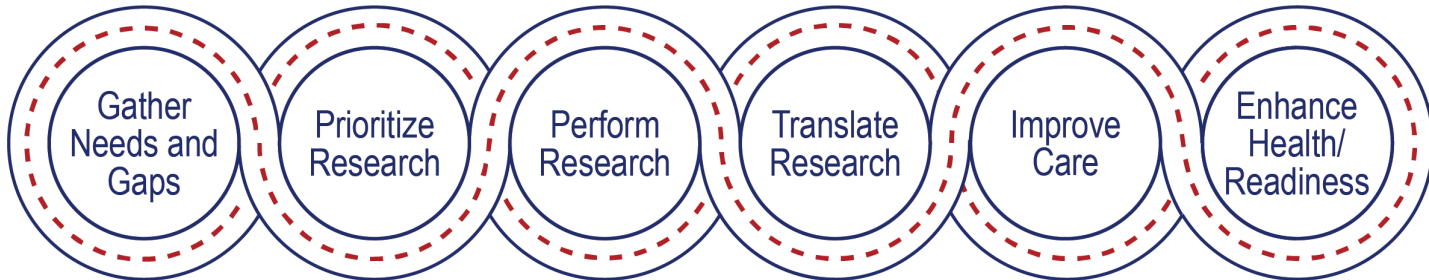


# DHA Research & Engineering

**R&E Mission:** Lead the discovery of innovative medical solutions responsive to the needs of Combatant Commands, the military Services, and the Military Health System

**How we do it:**

- Shepherd innovative materiel and knowledge products from concept to transition
- Manage the enterprise research portfolio to align with medical priorities



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# Research, Studies & Analysis



**R**

## Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDT&E) Funding: Big “R”

- Science and Technology (S&T)
- Develop investment strategies for the Defense Health Program S&T Portfolio
- Create and maintain relationships with biomedical R&D partners



**r**

## Operations and Maintenance Funding: Little “r”

- Studies and Analysis (focus of the Centers of Excellence)
- Military Health System Research
- Clinical Investigations Program
- Implementation Science
- Research Protections

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# RDT&E Major Investment Areas



## Military Operational Medicine

- Musculoskeletal injury prevention and reduction
- Blunt, blast, accelerative, and neurosensory injury prevention and readiness
- Psychological health & resilience
- Performance in extreme environments
- Optimized cognition & fatigue mitigation



## Combat Casualty Care

- Neurotrauma
- Hemorrhage control & battlefield resuscitation
- Prolonged Care
- Severe burn
- En Route Care
- Autonomous care & evacuation
- Radiation health countermeasures
- Sustainment of medical expeditionary skills
- Military medical photonics

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## Military Infectious Diseases

- Viral
- Bacterial
- Wound Healing



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# DHA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) / Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs

- Congressionally mandated programs to increase participation of U.S. small businesses in federal research and development
- Support businesses in developing high-risk, high-impact medical materiel technologies with potential for wider commercialization
- Funding: FY21 SBIR \$63.1 Million, FY21 STTR \$8.8 Million
- DHA topic areas: combat casualty care, military infectious diseases, military operational medicine
- Resources:
  - **SBIR-STTR website ([sbir.gov](http://sbir.gov))** provides information on SBA policy directives, award data, and state-based proposal assistance coordinators
  - **Defense SBIR/STTR Innovation Portal ([dodsbirsttr.mil](http://dodsbirsttr.mil))** offers DoD SBIR/STTR broad agency announcements, topic Q&A, and email list registration for updates
- Contacts:
  - CDR Tatana Olson, Program Director, [tatana.m.olson.mil@mail.mil](mailto:tatana.m.olson.mil@mail.mil)
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# Research, Acquisition and Sustainment Transition Update

- Establishing plans and procedures to execute transition of USAMRMC to DHA by Sep. 30, 2022
- Goal of transition planning is to ensure MRMC remains intact with **minimal disruptions to personnel, processes and functions**
- Congressional Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) will transfer into DHA intact with **no changes to program processes**
- Vast majority of medical RDT&E capability gaps are **joint issues** (i.e., hemorrhage control, resuscitation, vaccines)
- Linking RDT&E investments with the MHS enterprise will support **improved outcomes** across all roles of care



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