About the International Health Division OASD(HA)-IHD

The International Health Division (IHD) advises the assistant secretary of defense (Health Affairs) on policy related to interaction of the military health system with host nation civilians and their health infrastructure in stability operations, counterinsurgency, and humanitarian assistance/disaster response. The IHD is supervised and resourced by the deputy assistant secretary of defense for force health protection and readiness.

In accordance with DOD instructions, IHD is committed to partnerships in policy with NGOs, the Interagency, allies, private groups and others. IHD identifies gaps in knowledge, policy and capabilities, and informs OASD(HA)'s continuous quality improvement to meet the challenges of disaster response, complex emergencies, fragile states, and conflict zones. In these circumstances, DOD recognizes it is rarely the health lead except by default; however, MHS must be able to effectively support other agencies and, when necessary, take lead in areas that are too dangerous or otherwise inaccessible to nonmilitary agencies and assets.