

ACRONYMS

Definitions, including military and surveillance context.

Acronym	Definition	Military & Surveillance Context
ACSM	Active Component Service Member	A full-time, active-duty member of the military services; this population constitutes the primary cohort tracked in standard military medical surveillance. It excludes activated Reserve and National Guard personnel.
AFHSD	Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division	The central epidemiology agency of the DHA responsible for monitoring military health trends, analyzing disease outbreaks, and managing core surveillance systems to support evidence-based medicine and force health protection decisions; <i>early 2023-present</i>. Legacy designations: - Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch (AFHSB); <i>August 2015 until early 2023</i>. - Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC); <i>2008-2015</i>. - Army Medical Surveillance Activity (AMSA); <i>1997-2008</i>. Agency responsible for developing and running the military's first centralized medical surveillance databases.
AHRQ	Agency for Health Research and Quality	Federal agency that develops evidence-based guidelines and research to improve healthcare quality.
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Federal public health agency, under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), responsible for detecting, tracking, and preventing disease threats; partners with AFHSD on global biosurveillance and biodefense to ensure force health protection.
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Federal agency, under HHS, that administers Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and health insurance marketplace portals. Responsible for establishing national healthcare quality standards, EHR requirements and clinical coding standards.
CPT Codes	Current Procedural Terminology Codes	Standardized codes, maintained by the American Medical Association (AMA), used to document medical, surgical, and diagnostic procedures in clinical records.
CVX Codes	Clinical Vaccine Formulation Codes	Standardized, numeric database code set developed by the CDC to identify the precise formulation and clinical type of vaccine administered. It allows DHA to track standardized immunization histories for force readiness and adverse reactions.

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DCPH-A	Defense Centers for Public Health – Aberdeen (Army)	Center that provides public health and epidemiological support for DHA; <i>2022-present</i> . Legacy designations: - Army Public Health Center (APHC); <i>2015-2022</i>. - US Army Public Health Command (USAPHC); <i>2010-2015</i>. - US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (CHPPM); <i>1994-2010</i>.
DCPH-D	Defense Centers for Public Health – Dayton (Air Force)	Center that provides public health and epidemiological support for DHA; <i>2022-present</i> . Legacy designations: - Public Health and Preventative Medicine Department of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM); <i>1918-2022</i>.
DCPH-P	Defense Centers for Public Health – Portsmouth (Navy and Marine Corps)	Center that provides public health and epidemiological support for DHA; <i>2023-present</i> . Legacy designations: - Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC); <i>2007-2023</i>.
DHA-PH	Defense Health Agency – Public Health	Directorate that oversees public health activities across the Military Health System; serves as the central authority administering the regional Defense Centers for Public Health (DCPH-A/P/D) and the AFHSD.
DMED	Defense Medical Epidemiology Database	Web-based application for military medical providers, researchers, and epidemiologists to query aggregated, de-identified medical encounter data stored in the DMSS.
DMSS	Defense Medical Surveillance System	Comprehensive, longitudinal relational database that integrates demographic, operational, and clinical encounter data for all service members. It serves as the primary repository for the AFHSD to monitor disease trends, evaluate medical readiness, and support evidence-based force health protection decisions.
DMSSMT	Defense Medical Surveillance System Management Tool	Internal analytic management and query system utilized by AFHSD to submit, track, and process specific data extraction requests from DMSS.
DOD	Department of Defense	The official statutory name of the executive department of the U.S. government that oversees the military departments, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and all defense agencies.
DODD	DoD Directive	High-level policy publications mandating military protocols and standards (e.g., DODD 6490.02E is the overarching directive that legally mandates “Comprehensive Health Surveillance” across the DoD. <i>(continued on next page)</i>



DODID	Department of Defense Identification Number	Unique 10-digit number assigned to eligible personnel; used to securely track a patient's medical history in place of an SSN.
DoDSER	DoD Suicide Event Report	Standardized tracking system used to collect detailed epidemiological data on suicides and suicide attempts across the military.
DoDSR	DoD Serum Repository	Centralized biological repository storing service member serum samples, linked to DMSS records, for epidemiological research and force health protection.
DoW	Department of War	Executive department responsible for coordinating and supervising all agencies and functions of the Armed Forces; tasked with providing the military forces needed to deter war and ensure national security.
DRSi	Disease Reporting System internet	The official DoW enterprise platform used to report, track and monitor Reportable Medical Events (RMEs).
EHR	Electronic Health Record	A secure, digital collection of a patient's longitudinal medical history accessible to authorized providers.
ELISA / EIA	Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay / Enzyme Immunoassay	Highly sensitive laboratory test used to detect specific antibodies or antigens.
ESSENCE	Electronic Surveillance System for Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics	The DoD's primary syndromic surveillance system designed for early infectious disease outbreak detection.
FHP&R	Force Health Protection and Readiness	Within the OASD(HA), the operational defense directorate that develops policies, implements programs, and oversees standards for military medical readiness, deployment health, and global health engagement across the Joint Force.
GBD	Global Burden of Disease	Standardized framework utilized by AFHSD for evaluating the comparative impact of various diseases and injuries.
GEIS	Global Emerging Infections Surveillance	A core branch of AFHSD that coordinates a global network of partner laboratories to detect, characterize and respond to emerging infectious disease threats.
GWOT	Global War on Terrorism	Post-911 operational framework that catalyzed rapid advancements in tactical medicine and blast-injury surveillance.
HL-7 Data	Health Level 7 Data	Standardized clinical data feed used in military health surveillance for near-real-time tracking of objective laboratory results and diagnostic events (e.g., laboratory test orders, positive cultures, and chemistry/microbiology results).

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HCUP	Health Cost Utilization Project	Family of databases and software tools, sponsored by AHRQ, used to analyze national healthcare utilization, quality, outcomes and costs.
HHS	Health and Human Services	Federal department responsible for overseeing national public health agencies, including the CDC and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
ICD9 / ICD-9	International Classification of Disease, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM)	Legacy system of diagnostic codes used prior to October 2015. Currently used for retroactive epidemiological surveillance at AFHSD.
ICD10 / ICD-10	International Classification of Disease, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM)	Current standard diagnostic classification system used across the United States healthcare sector for clinical medical coding and billing. Primary tool for epidemiological surveillance based on administrative data at AFHSD.
IFA / DFA	Indirect / Direct Immunofluorescent Antibody	Laboratory technique that uses fluorescent dye to detect specific pathogens or antibodies under a microscope.
IgG / IgM	Immunoglobulin G / Immunoglobulin M	Blood antibodies measured to determine acute infection (IgM) or past infection or immunity (IgG).
ILI	Influenza-Like Illness	Clinical syndrome characterized by fever and cough or sore throat; used to track flu-like activity and identify emerging respiratory outbreaks.
MEPRS	Medical Expense Performance Reporting System	Standardized DoD system for tracking healthcare costs, personal utilization, and clinical workload at fixed military medical and dental treatment facilities.
MHS	Military Health System	The global, integrated healthcare network serving active-duty U.S. military personnel, retirees, and their dependents.
MHS Genesis	MHS Genesis	The modern, unified electronic health record system deployed across the DoD.
MSMR	Medical Surveillance Monthly Report	Flagship peer-reviewed journal of the AFHSD publishing monthly epidemiological data, disease trends, and medical surveillance reports for the Joint Force and military beneficiaries.
MTF	Military Treatment Facility	Military-run hospital, clinic, or medical center providing direct medical, dental, and preventive care to eligible beneficiaries.
NAAT	Nucleic Acid Amplification Test	Highly sensitive molecular diagnostic test used to amplify and detect active viral or bacterial infectious pathogens.

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NCHS	National Center for Health Statistics	The principal federal agency responsible for collecting and analyzing the nation's baseline health and epidemiological statistics. Housed within the CDC, it monitors population health trends, tracks national vital events (births and deaths), and conducts major national health surveys (NHANES and NHIS) to inform public health policy and scientific research.
OASD(HA)	Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs	The primary advisory and policymaking body for the MHS. It utilizes public health data, outbreak monitoring, and surveillance reports generated by the AFHSD to allocate medical resources and shape strategic deployment health policies.
OEF	Operation Enduring Freedom (primarily Afghanistan)	Military campaign designations, primarily referenced in deployment health tracking and longitudinal surveillance studies.
OIF	Operation Iraqi Freedom	
OND	Operation New Dawn (Iraq, 2010-2011)	
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction	Molecular laboratory technique used to amplify and detect viral and bacterial genetic material (DNA/RNA).
PPV	Positive Predictive Value	Statistical metric indicating the probability that a positive test or query result represents a true case.
PDTS	Pharmacy Data Transaction Service	Centralized database system that aggregates and tracks prescription history for all DoD beneficiaries worldwide. It integrates transaction data across MTFs, commercial retail pharmacy networks, and mail order-delivery services to prevent adverse drug interactions and support outcomes research.
RME	Reportable Medical Event	Specific disease or condition requiring mandatory reporting, through the DRSi, to military public health officials. These events must meet strict clinical, laboratory, and epidemiological criteria outlined in the <i>Armed Forces Reportable Medical Events Guidelines and Case Definitions</i> .
RPR / VDRL	Rapid Plasma Reagin / Venereal Disease Research Laboratory	Standardized serologic screening tests used to detect active syphilis infections.
SADR	Standard Ambulatory Data Records	Legacy administrative record dataset (1997–2012) used to track clinical, diagnostic, and demographic data for outpatient medical encounters at MTFs; succeeded by the Comprehensive Ambulatory/Professional Encounter Record (CAPER) dataset.
SARI	Severe Acute Respiratory Infection	Clinical classification for serious respiratory illness requiring hospitalization; often used for avian flu and COVID-19 surveillance. (continued on next page)



SIDR	Standard Inpatient Data Records	Legacy administrative record dataset used to track clinical, diagnostic, and demographic data for hospital admissions and inpatient procedures at MTFs; succeeded by the MHS GENESIS Inpatient dataset.
SMS Workgroup	Surveillance Methods and Standards Workgroup	The authoritative body within DHA Public Health that develops, reviews, and standardizes epidemiological case definitions, including incidence rules, code sets, and rationale for development decisions, to ensure consistent public health reporting throughout the MHS.
STEC	Shiga Toxin-Producing <i>Escherichia coli</i>	Specific class of foodborne bacteria monitored to prevent and track gastrointestinal outbreaks.
TBICoE	Traumatic Brain Injury Centers of Excellence	The current, congressionally mandated Center of Excellence under DHA responsible for tracking military TBI data, establishing clinical standards and conducting research to optimize warfighter brain health. Legacy designations: - 1992-2020: Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DIVBIC)
TMDS	Theater Medical Data Store	Web-based system and authoritative repository used to compile and track inpatient and outpatient medical encounters, and patient-movement data occurring in deployed, operational, or combat environments.
TRAC² ES	TRANSCOM Regulating and Command & Control Evacuation System	Automated, web-based system managed by the U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) to coordinate, track, and support clinical decision-making for global joint-service patient movement and aeromedical evacuations (medevacs).
TRADOC	United States Army Training and Doctrine Command	Army command overseeing recruiting, training, and doctrine development. It utilizes epidemiological data and health surveillance reports from the AFHSD to update physical fitness standards, mitigate musculoskeletal training injuries, and enforce environmental casualty prevention regulations across basic training installations.
UBU	Unified Biostatistical Utility	A DHA data management and policy group responsible for standardizing healthcare coding, clinical data quality, and business rules across the MHS.

