

The AFMS Pulse: Mental Health Leads Conversation

AFMS leadership update, 2025 AFMS Award winners are celebrated

AFMEDCOM TLDR

In the [second episode](#) of the Air Force Medical Command TLDR, Lt. Gen. John DeGoes breaks down AFMEDCOM's role in prioritizing readiness to deliver ready medics and to ensure Airmen and Guardians are medically ready. For more information, visit the AFMS [YouTube](#) site.

AFMS Announces Leadership Changes

- [Brig. Gen. \(Dr.\) Leigh Swanson](#), Air Mobility Command surgeon and Air Force Medical Corps chief, was selected as U.S. Air Force and Space Force deputy surgeon general and the AFMEDCOM's first deputy commander.
- [Brig. Gen. \(Dr.\) Robert Bogart](#), former 711th Human Performance Wing commander, was selected as Air Force Medical Readiness-Alpha commander and Defense Health Network Central director, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. He will assume command from Maj. Gen. Thomas Harrell in a ceremony April 1 at 11 a.m. EDT which will be shared live on [DHN Central's Facebook Live](#) page.

2025 AFMS Awards

Lt. Gen. John DeGoes, U.S. Air Force and Space Force Surgeon General, announced the [2025 Air Force Medical Service Annual Awards](#) recipients. The accomplishments of those recognized demonstrate expertise, leadership, and commitment across the full breadth of the mission support medics provide to the Air Force and Space Force.

Air Force Mental Health Conference

The 2026 U.S. Air Force Mental Health Leadership & Readiness Symposium was March 9-13 in Orlando, Florida.

- Session topics ranged from the role of mental health in space operations, family readiness updates, a Department of Air Force mental health enterprise overview, acute stress reactions, and suicide prevention programs, among others.
- Stay tuned to the [AFMS website](#) for an article recapping the event.

AFMS Mental Health Commentary

Col. Elisha Pippin, Air Force director of psychological health, penned a [commentary](#) about the readiness mindset identifying why mental wellness is critical to the mission.

- Pippin highlighted non-clinical approaches to care, taking steps toward specialty care, engaging with providers, and perspectives on mental fitness as people-focused readiness.
- [DAF Mental Health Overview](#).

AMSUS Annual Meeting

Lt. Gen. John DeGoes and Chief Master Sgt. James Woods discussed the future of DAF medicine at the [2026 AMSUS annual meeting](#) March 3-5.

- More than 1,600 federal health experts including joint and international partners discussed the future federal, public, and global health.
- AFMS leaders discussed AFMEDCOM contributions to DAF readiness, ongoing efforts to integrate medical Airmen into the unit of action, medical operations in a contested environment, enlisted medical providers contributions during combat casualty care, and joint force efforts to deliver interchangeable medical capabilities.

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