



United States Air Force Global Health Engagement Newsletter

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This quarter, we're focused on Europe for the feature article and spotlight. The Global Health Engagement (GHE) team at US Air Forces Europe and Africa (USAFE-AFAPRICA) recently hosted a medical knowledge exchange with Denmark, Bulgaria and Serbia, at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, which facilitated sharing of information and experiences from a range of operations. The exchange included visits to several aeromedical facilities, including a medical simulation center. USAFE-AFAPRICA and the Tennessee National Guard previously supported Bulgaria's development of a medical simulation center, so this was also a great opportunity for continued dialogue on best practices in medical simulation and training. Enduring relationships are at the heart of our alliances and partnerships.

We're shining our spotlight on Major Nisha Baur, an International Health Specialist (IHS) on the USAFE-AFAPRICA GHE team. As a Pediatrician and Flight Surgeon, she brings a unique perspective to her work with Allies and partners in Europe. I think you'll enjoy learning about her path to IHS and her work in support of NATO medical interoperability.

Since our last newsletter, we held the second iteration of what I call our "Fall GHE training extravaganza" over two weeks, including the GHE Orientation Course with joint partners, an Air Advisor course, and our annual IHS Leadership Meeting. This is one of my favorite times of the year, since it brings together newly assigned IHS personnel and leaders from our teams supporting GHE around the world. We also enjoyed the opportunity to share information about GHE and the IHS program at the recent Air Force Medical Service (AFMS) Senior Leadership Workshop.

The AFMS is preparing for historic organizational change. In the midst of change and uncertainty, one constant that guides us is the Department of the Air Force Operational Imperative of Readiness to Deploy and Fight. Since we know future operations will include our unmatched network of Alliances and partnership, GHE activities and programs that enhance medical interoperability are critical for readiness. I look forward to continued GHE innovation across the AFMS in the new year.

Warm wishes for joyful holidays, and a fantastic 2024.

Elizabeth A. Erickson, Colonel, USAF, MC
Chief, GHE Branch & IHS Program



GLOBAL MINDS CONVERGE: EMPOWERING INNOVATION THROUGH EXCHANGE OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

The United States Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa Office of the Command Surgeon hosted a medical knowledge exchange with NATO allies Denmark and Bulgaria as well as U.S. partner nation Serbia at Ramstein Air Base Germany, Nov. 28-Dec. 1, 2023.

The exchange granted the participants a chance to trade information and experience with one another to further integrate them with their unique mission sets and form best practices.

"This workshop is more than just a meeting of minds," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Lyubormir Angelov, USAFE-AFAFRICA Office of the Command Surgeon International Health Specialist. "It's a testament to the unwavering commitment to advancing military medicine and solidifying an alliance that transcends borders. We are proud to have NATO and partners here to make us stronger together."

The medics from the four nations participated in multiple scenarios to discuss how each nation achieves their

intended results and ways to combine them into the best practice. They visited locations such as the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Theater Patient Movement Requirement Center, 86th Medical Group Simulation Center and 86th MDG Flight Medicine.

"The aim of this assembly is significant, offering an unmatched opportunity for partnership nation members to collaborate with U.S. subject matter experts," Angelov said. "Collectively, we explored the intricacies of aerospace medicine, aeromedical evacuation, patient movement, and enhanced our simulation centers, creating a fertile ground for events like these."

Participants also toured aeromedical facilities around the base and Kaiserslautern Military Community, including the Landstuhl Medical Simulation Center, Ramstein En-Route Patient Staging Flight, and 86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

IHS SPOTLIGHT: MAJOR NISHA BAUR



Since she was in junior high, Major Nisha Baur had been taking classes to become a doctor. Her desire to help others grew when she started college and went on humanitarian missions to various countries. After completing medical school and serving ten years as a pediatrician in the civilian sector, where she had the opportunity to do more humanitarian service, she decided to pursue her passion as a full-time career. She researched different options, and after meeting with an Air Force recruiter and learning about Global Health Engagement (GHE) career paths, she joined the Air Force as a Flight Surgeon. While assigned to Kunsan Air Base in Korea, she spoke with the United States Pacific Air Forces Surgeon General about opportunities to strengthen capabilities and interoperability with partner nations. Maj Baur emphasizes how her medical experience led her to

pursue an International Health Specialist (IHS) position. “The possibility of becoming an IHS after joining the Air Force was an opportunity I could not pass up. My medical background has been a great foundation and inspiration for my current work. Having a background in aerospace medical knowledge helps me understand the capabilities we develop in a more intimate way,” said Maj Baur.

After completing her tour in Korea, Maj Baur transitioned to her current job at the United States Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa (USAFE-AFAFRICA), where she works as part of the Europe GHE team. Maj Baur works with ally and partner nations to strengthen NATO interoperability and develop expeditionary medical capabilities. She emphasized the importance of NATO courses and learning how countries in the NATO alliance execute medical operations. “After becoming a NATO evaluator, I had the opportunity to work with Austria to complete a medical evaluation. It was amazing to work with NATO and see how each nation maintains their own uniqueness within the organization,” said Maj Baur. She went on to state, “A main medical goal for everyone involved in NATO is to make the world a better, safer place, and I am honored to be a part of that.”

As an International Health Specialist, Maj Baur builds friendships with partner nation counterparts, engages in planning conferences, and works alongside the U.S. State Department, Contingency Response Squadrons, the National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP), and other civilian and military entities. Maj Baur describes her job as like a health diplomat. “I interface with different entities, and I am in charge of coordinating those engagements.” Maj Baur said. One joint engagement that stands out for Maj Baur is working with Armenia to exercise their expeditionary hospital capabilities. “We brought together the SPP, USAFE, and the Army’s Security Force Assistance Brigade. This engagement led Armenia to go to Exercise Sabre Junction and have their own medical evaluation. It was great to see all the different entities come together to partner with Armenia and be successful,” said Maj Baur.

Maj Baur considers that her passion for humanitarianism, her experience as an IHS, and her understanding of GHE helps her to be a better leader now and in any future leadership role within the Air Force Medical Service. “My experience as an IHS helps me advocate for others. I know about more opportunities that can broaden my career in the Air Force because of my time at USAFE. Going forward, I feel better equipped to help those around me,” Maj Baur stated.

2023 Q4 IHS SPECIAL EXPERIENCE IDENTIFIER (SEI) AWARDEES

Familiarized

Lt Col Lisa Donovan
Maj Alisha Harris
Maj Chantel Armstrong
Maj Christal Clements
Maj Izabella Villalonga
Maj Lyndsey Vu
Maj Sarah Cokely
Maj Sayjai Boonmee
Maj Shanna Vaughan
Capt Audrey Belmonte [ANG]
Capt Bandelia De Santiago
Capt Edward Antonio
Capt Nicholas Doe
MSgt Logan Latimer
TSgt Catherine Deacon
TSgt Getahun Mhiretie
SSgt Aerial Macabeo
SSgt Georges Yaguibou
SrA Alex Doxey
SrA Fatou Sagne

Enabled

Maj Catherine Polley
Maj Justin Peterson
MSgt Carlos Marques Waren
MSgt Kerim Kodai

APPLY FOR THE IHS SEI

The next IHS SEI application due date is 2 Feb 2024. SEI applications are recently updated! To see the new application format, visit the [AFMS GHE MilSuite page](#) (CAC login required). For more information about the IHS SEI, check out the frequently asked questions section on the MilSuite page.



Did you know?

86 IHS SEIs were awarded in 2023!

IHS CORE COMPETENCY CORNER

Security Cooperation

Personnel will be trained, educated, and experienced in security cooperation and the use of health capabilities to attain combatant command security cooperation goals. The role of health in all aspects of improving security and stability are prioritized in this competency. This is one of ten competencies for International Health Specialists. Read about the others [here](#).

CAREER BROADENING, EDUCATION, & TRAINING

Introduction to Security Cooperation Course (SC-101)

The Defense Security Cooperation University provides this introductory course for personnel who perform SC duties, and provides an overview of the full range of SC activities. The course will prepare students to interact with numerous stakeholders in executing SC activities and programs in support of U.S. national security objectives. More information can be found on the DSCU site: <https://www.dscu.edu/m/course-card?id=3>

IN THE NEWS



Royal Thai Air Force nurses team up with 59th MDW for U.S. health care collaboration

During July and August 2023, the 59th Medical Wing hosted a team of five Royal Thai Air Force nurses from Bhumibol [...]



U.S. and Colombia Soar Together: Ángel de los Andes and Relámpago VII Bolster Interoperability

The U.S. military recently teamed up with the Colombian Aerospace Force to showcase bilateral cooperation and a commitment [...]

Oregon Guard Helps Vietnam with Trauma Care Requirements

Defense Security Cooperation University Marks 4 Years of Growth, Change

GHE THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



Strategic Health Diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific: A Comparative Analysis of US and Chinese Efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean Col Brian Neese, MD, MPH, USAF



Expanding Global Health Engagement through Multilateral Security Organizations Derek Licina, (MS, USA), DrPH, MPH, Martin Bricknell, (MC, UK Army), MD, PhD, Elizabeth Erickson, (USAF, MC), MD, MPH, Erika Varnau, (US), MA, Lee Payne, (USAF, MC), MD, MBA, Mark Ediger, (USAF, MC), MD, MPH

2023 GHE & IHS HIGHLIGHTS



Global Health Engagement personnel and Global Health Engagement Orientation Course instructors pose for a group photo on the last day of the Fall 2023 course.



Col Susan Moran, Command Surgeon, Pacific Air Forces, shakes hands with an Australian senior leader at COPE NORTH 2023.



TSgt Samara Brown, IHS at USAFE, gives a presentation at the 13th African Partner Outbreak Response Alliance conference in Lusaka, Zambia. Brown spoke about Women, Peace, and Security and the impact of gender perspective regarding healthcare.



Lt. Gen. Robert I. Miller, Surgeon General, Department of the U.S. Air Force, presents Lt Col Richard Caballero, IHS at U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, with a coin at the Indo-Pacific Military Health Conference.



Capt Carrie Redpath, recipient of the 2022 Lt Gen Paul K. Carlton Outstanding IHS Award, poses with nurse counterparts from Jordan during a knowledge exchange.

Subscribe to
this newsletter

Email us your success stories and announcements to include in future editions at usaf.pentagon.af-sg.mbx.ihs-program-office@health.mil.

Engage with Air Force Medical Service:



Engage with the IHS program and learn how to apply:



DISCLAIMER: This newsletter may include information that was obtained from publicly available sources, and the views expressed represent the personal views of the author and does not imply Department of the Air Force endorsement of factual accuracy or opinion. The information is presented for information purposes only. While this information has been gathered from reliable sources, its currency and completeness cannot be guaranteed. Your comments on any of these topics are welcome.