

Navy Surgeon General Presides Over International Healthcare Professionals Meeting

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PHOENIX (NNS) -- The Navy surgeon general highlighted the medical role in the U.S. military's growing humanitarian assistance mission during the 116th meeting of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) at the Phoenix Convention Center Nov. 1-4.

Vice Adm. Adam M. Robinson Jr., president of this year's annual meeting, commended the federal medical community for their ability to work seamlessly as a team to help those in need during the opening ceremony Nov. 1.

"Our humanitarian assistance and disaster response capability is becoming the norm rather than the exception to our set of core missions," said Robinson. "Through your collective work, we are working toward a common goal of improving the situations of many in need. We help create the conditions of hope that are the seeds of stable society in many places that previously knew none."

In addition to Robinson, several leaders in the U.S. Federal healthcare system participated in this year's week-long meeting including U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin; Dr. George Peach Taylor Jr, performing the duties of the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs; Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker; Air Force Deputy Surgeon General Brig. Gen. Byron Hepburn; and Robert Petzel, under secretary for health in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The AMSUS organization also hosts government healthcare professionals from around the world each year. This year's meeting included 22 senior medical delegations from many European, Asian and African partners, in addition to, representatives from Iraq, Kosovo and Pakistan.

Robinson addressed the significance of fostering global military medical partnerships during a luncheon honoring the international delegations Nov. 2.

"Medicine is a common language that all nations understand," said Robinson. "It's a bridge between cultures and a key enabler in creating the conditions for hope to flourish. This meeting helps us develop relationships which builds trust and confidence in one another, so that we can all work for the greater good together."

This year's meeting gathered more than 3,000 U.S. federal, international and military medical professionals to share best practices and challenges in global healthcare.

Founded in 1891, AMSUS was chartered by Congress in 1903 to advance the knowledge of healthcare within the federal agencies and is dedicated to all aspects of federal medicine - professional, scientific, educational and administrative. Today, AMSUS has

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nearly 8,000 members representing all healthcare disciplines from all the U.S. military services, the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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