
FEATURE ARTICLE

U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency International Logistics Office

By

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Introduction

Our Stakeholders and Parent Commands

To understand the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency's (USAMMA) roles and position in the military, it is important to understand our principal stakeholders and parent command. At the highest level is Army Medicine; our parent Command is the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC).

The Army Medical Department (AMEDD) is synonymous with Army Medicine. The AMEDD consists of Army fixed hospitals and dental facilities; preventive health, medical research, development and training institutions; and a veterinary command that provides food inspection and animal care services for the entire Department of Defense (DoD). Directing the Army Medical Department is the Army's Surgeon General who also serves as the Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Command. In these capacities, the Surgeon General-Commanding General has the dual responsibility of advising the Army's senior leaders on health matters and conducting Army staff actions, as well as managing one of the largest, most complex healthcare delivery systems in the world. Within the security assistance arena, the AMEDD participates in three areas: training, teams, and equipment. It is the latter that involves USAMMA.



USAMRMC, USAMMA's parent headquarters, is situated at Fort Detrick, Maryland, approximately 60 miles north of Washington, D.C. This multifaceted command serves as the Army's medical materiel developer and logistics manager for the execution of crucial materiel support missions. USAMRMC performs its important medical research and materiel missions through its many organizations located in the United States and around the world. USAMRMC is the lead agency responsibility in these key areas:

- Medical research and product development,
- Technology assessment and rapid prototyping,

- Medical logistics management and facility planning, and
- Medical information management and technology.

The Command also conducts technology watch, acquisition logistics, and materiel distribution. Moreover, USAMRMC centrally manages several Army and the Surgeon General readiness programs that include the acquisition, storage, distribution and transfer of prepositioned stocks located ashore and afloat, as well as medical chemical defense packages and short shelf-life pharmaceuticals and other materiel. Within the area of force sustainment, the Command is constantly exploring and employing innovative methods to meld automated information technologies with logistics and transportation best business practices. Such focused logistics initiatives provide more efficient and accurate ways to deliver and manage precision packages and biomedical maintenance capabilities.



U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency

USAMMA acts as the Army Surgeon General’s focal point and executive agent for strategic medical logistics programs and initiatives. The Agency’s mission is to enhance medical materiel preparedness, develop and implement innovative logistics concepts and technologies, and promote medical logistics information and knowledge. USAMMA is the core skills and technologies center for conducting medical materiel life-cycle management for commercial and non-developmental items, sustaining and modernizing the medical force, supporting exercises and contingency operations, and promoting medical logistics information and knowledge.



Further, the Agency has responsibility for the medical materiel, Supply Class VIII, portion of Foreign Military Sales (FMS) as part of the DoD security assistance programs. In this role, USAMMA serves as the DoD

principal and command case manager for the medical materiel inquiries, sales, and follow-on support. USAMMA performs its security assistance mission through the International Logistics Office (ILO).

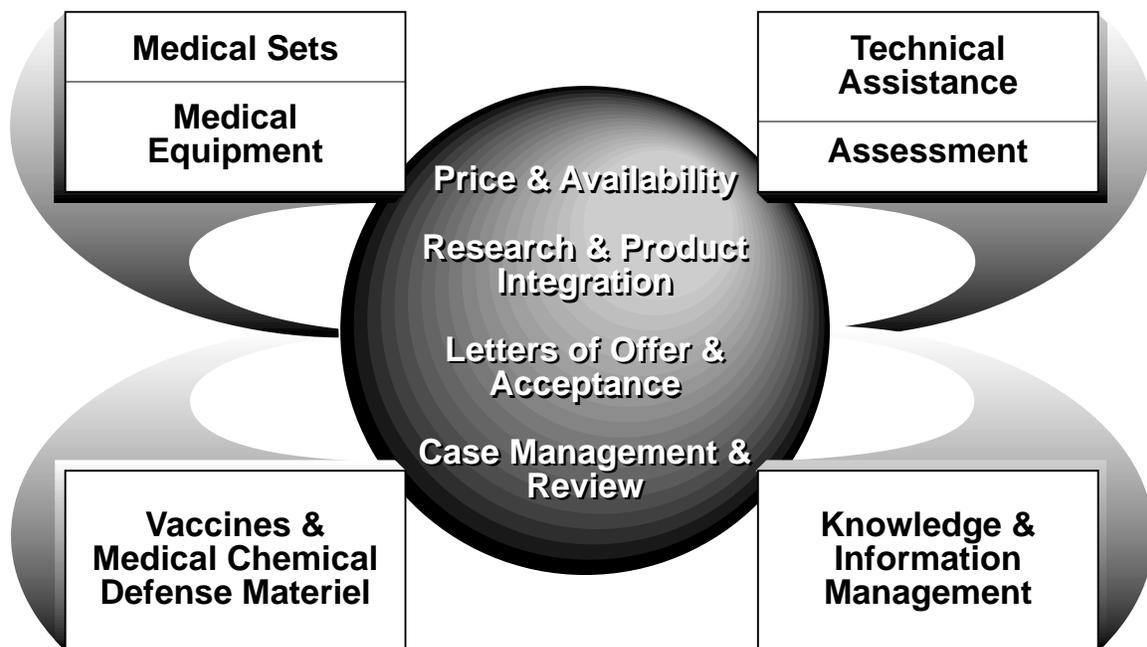
USAMMA’s International Logistics Office

The ILO continues its mission of providing a full array of customer services in the area of medical logistics support. As an integral part of USAMMA, the ILO possesses the requisite talent

and experience to provide the right solution within the far-reaching security assistance programs. This office's competency is integrated security assistance case management whose strengths parallel USAMMA's core missions discussed earlier.

Further, the ILO specializes in assisting the customer from the requirements definition phase, through technical assistance and product design, to delivery and follow-on support for the tailored medical materiel and maintenance solutions. The ILO with a staff of two manages a caseload with a value of approximately \$77 million.

The diagram below depicts the ILO's FMS core functions surrounded by the USAMMA products and services available to the FMS customers. Essential to the success of the ILO are timely, relevant solutions, and integrated products and services. This office is committed to innovative, responsive, responsible and integrated health service to support our security assistance customers.



Department of Defense Medical Catalog

Currently, there are over 78,000 medical equipment and supply items in the U.S. federal supply system. The DoD Medical Catalog, published monthly on CD-ROM, provides descriptive, illustrative, management and reference data on these items. The medical equipment and supply items, as well as most commercial items, can be purchased through the security assistance medical program. While the majority of these items are purchased individually, there are minor and major sets, kits and outfits, such as medical and dental equipment sets available. Many times, existing systems such as deployable medical systems, and diagnostic imaging equipment are tailored for the customer's special requirements. By using the total package approach, we ensure each customer is afforded the opportunity to plan for obtaining the support articles and services required to efficiently introduce and operationally sustain equipment considered for purchase. Our office provides the means for customers to get operator and maintenance training on equipment as required.

The ILO also arranges for the repair and return of unserviceable medical equipment for countries that need to augment their internal maintenance facilities. Those items that are not repaired in U.S. medical maintenance facilities are competitively bid through commercial maintenance contracts for pertinent services or repairs. An FMS case can be written specifically for repair and return.

Under the provision of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act, many medical substances require export certificates. The ILO maintains this registry and provides administrative support to the customer in acquiring this certification.

In addition to equipment and supply sales and support, USAMMA is the training site for a six-month Medical Logistics Management Internship. This training is offered through the U.S. Army Medical Department security assistance training program. It centers on six programs components: materiel acquisition, medical logistics support, Department of Defense (DoD) and civilian healthcare organizations, advanced technology, Department of Defense/Department of the Army systems and processes, and business practices and management techniques.

Recent initiatives undertaken by the ILO in support of the FMS customers include the sale of the anthrax vaccine on a worldwide level, and humanitarian/disaster relief type efforts in regions such as Central America, Africa and the Middle East.

Nicaragua

January 1999 - The Honorable Lino Gutierrez, U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua, requested excess DoD medical materiel to support the recovery and rehabilitation efforts following the catastrophic aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency through the Joint Staff authorized the transfer of approximately 4 tons of excess DoD medical supplies and equipment to Nicaragua. USAMMA and the ILO coordinated this effort. Approximately \$165,106 of excess supplies were utilized in this disaster relief effort.

Nigeria

January 1999 - Following the military coup by the Revolutionary United Front, the Nigerian Government requested assistance from the United States and the United Kingdom in the form of medical supplies, communications equipment, transport, and political support.

The Secretary of State authorized the sale of medical equipment through USAMMA and the ILO to Nigeria in support of the peacekeeping mission to restore Sierra Leone's government. The total cost to Nigeria for this purchase was \$173,992.

USAMMA and the ILO frequently host foreign visitors and their delegations who wish to obtain logistical information briefings pertaining to medical materiel. These briefings have included such topics as country specific FMS program, anthrax vaccine availability and distribution, prime vendor program and maintenance of medical materiel.

Anthrax Vaccine

Requests for the anthrax vaccine are submitted through defense ministries to the Joint Staff, Deputy Director for Strategy and Policy (DDS&P), J-5.

- DDS&P reviews requests and assess the ability to fill them based on stockpile quantities and their effect on the U.S. forces accelerated vaccination program and total force vaccination program. The J-5 recommends how best to support each request;

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- The J-5 staffs the requests with the Joint Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM), defense agencies, U.S. security assistance agency for FMS, and the Army as the executive agent for the anthrax vaccination program;
 - Upon completion of staffing, the J-5 forwards a recommendation for approval to the director, Joint Staff;
 - Upon approval, the Joint Staff forwards the requirement for providing the vaccine through the J-4 to the program executive agent to execute in coordination with the appropriate USCENTCOM office; and
 - Nations purchase the vaccine through the FMS process and each country retains responsibility for all packing and shipping costs and transportation arrangements.

Contact information for requesting anthrax vaccine is:

Mail: The Joint Chiefs of Staff (J-5 DDS&P)
 The Pentagon, Room 2D938
 Washington, D.C. 20318-5116

Fax: (703) 697-8353

The anthrax vaccine has a 12-month shelf-life and requires constant refrigeration. Immunization consists of a 6-shot series. Shots are 0.5 ml each and are given at zero, two and four weeks, then again at six, twelve and eighteen months followed by an annual booster. Because of the shelf-life, the first three shots should be ordered together and the remaining shots should be ordered at six-month intervals (allowing 90-day order-ship time).

To date the ILO has managed cases involving over 13,000 doses of the anthrax vaccine to five countries.

Another area of importance is USAMMA's anthrax vaccine distribution. USAMMA's role is to coordinate the distribution of the vaccine from the manufacturer, BioPort, formally Michigan Biological Products Institute, to 574 medical activities representing the DoD, Coast Guard, Department of State, and FMS customers. To accomplish this mission, USAMMA has established the Focused Distribution Management Branch to work closely with the medical organizations and distribution companies.

USAMMA achieved a 99 percent success ratio for 1998 and 1999. These accomplishments were the direct result of extensive partnering with the following commercial companies: Federal Express, DHL Worldwide Express, Polar Air Cargo, Roberts Express, Key Scientific, Cyonics Inc., Envirotainer Inc., and Insulated Shipping Container (ISC).

About the Author

Mrs. Nancy Crampton is a logistics management specialist with the International Logistics Office at the United States Army Medical Materiel Agency (USAMMA) located at Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland. She is responsible for regions within the EUCOM, SOUTHCOM and ACOM with eight years of experience in the security assistance foreign military sales program. Mrs. Crampton was instrumental in the success of the disaster relief efforts documented in this issue.

For further information and/or assistance contact the USAMMA ILO by mail: USAMMA, Attn: MCMR-MMS-I, 1423 Sultan, Drive, Suite 100, Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5001. Telephone: Mrs. Crampton at DSN 343-2058 or Mrs. Patricia Pinnix, DSN 343-4419, FAX: DSN 343-4166, E-MAIL: Nancy.Crampton@amedd.army.mil or Pat.Pinnix@amedd.army.mil. Internet address: <http://www.armymedicine.army.mil/usamma>