



Operation United Assistance

Information for DoD Families of Deploying Personnel

The President and the Secretary of Defense have called upon the men and women of the US armed forces and other government personnel to provide critical support as part of the international response to the Ebola outbreaks in West Africa. This fact sheet highlights the actions that are in place prior to, during, and after deployment in order to protect our service members, families and communities.

- The safety of our people is one of our highest priorities. DoD is taking every precaution to ensure the health and welfare of all service members and their families.
- The Military Health System brings deep expertise in infectious disease and how to medically prepare our people for all contingencies. All deploying personnel will receive needed equipment, get the right training, and be closely monitored before, during, and after deployment.
- The Department of Defense will provide command and control, logistics, training, and engineering support. DoD personnel will not be involved in direct patient care of the local population.
- We are working closely with our federal partners on policies and communications, and our policies build upon CDC guidelines and are tailored to our mission needs.

Before They Deploy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone will receive needed training and the right equipment to perform their mission • Everyone will go through pre-deployment medical screening to ensure they are ready and prepared to deploy
Deployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the deployment, all personnel will be monitored for exposure to Ebola two times per day for clinical symptoms (fever, nausea, etc.) and exposure risks • Anyone with symptoms- or potential risks will be evaluated immediately by medical personnel to decide whether to medically evacuate the individual or return them to duty • Prior to departure from deployment locations, medical personnel will interview and assess each DoD individual and either clear them for flight or retain them for further medical evaluation
Post-Deployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All military personnel (other than transient personnel) returning from deployment to West Africa in support of Operation United Assistance will undergo controlled monitoring and evaluation for 21 days following deployment (the Ebola virus is considered to have an incubation period of 2-21 days).

Exposed Personnel

- Individuals who were removed from the theater due to elevated exposure risk will be quarantined and monitored for 21 days at a designated DoD facility.

Transient Personnel

- DoD personnel supporting Operation United Assistance who transit to and from an airfield of a country where an Ebola outbreak is occurring will not be held for controlled monitoring so long as they:
 - o Do not come into contact with blood or body fluids of individuals in the affected country.
 - o Do not participate in the medical transport or care of an individual suspected of having Ebola, and
 - o Close contact is limited to airfield operations and DoD personnel being monitored daily for signs of Ebola