

International Response Program

The International Response Program of the Partner Readiness and Emergency Programs (PREP) Division, which resides within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response's (ASPR) Office of Emergency Management (OEM), serves as ASPR/OEM's point of contact and coordination for OEM international response and related missions. The PREP International Response Program works in close coordination with the HHS/ASPR Office of Global Affairs and Office of Policy and Planning (Division of International Health). Two vital response assets of OEM are the Civilian Response Corps (CRC) and the International Medical Surgical Response Team (IMSuRT).

The **Civilian Response Corps (CRC)** is a program of the United States Department of State, Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS). The Civilian Response Corps is a group of federal employees and volunteers from the private sector, state and local governments who are trained and equipped to deploy rapidly to countries in crisis or emerging from conflict in order to provide reconstruction and stabilization assistance. They are diplomats, development specialists, public health officials, law enforcement and corrections officers, engineers, economists, lawyers, public administrators, agronomists, among others. The CRC offers the full range of skills needed to assist fragile states restore stability and the rule of law, and achieve economic recovery and sustainable growth as quickly as possible. Other domestic federal agencies participating in the CRC along with HHS include the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Homeland Security, Justice and Transportation.

Failing and post-conflict states pose one of the greatest national and international security challenges of our day, threatening vulnerable populations, their neighbors, our allies, and ourselves. The S/CRS supports a whole of government approach and interagency goals to enhance U.S. institutional capacity to respond to crises involving failing, failed, and post-conflict states and complex emergencies.

The **International Medical Surgical Response Team (IMSuRT)** is a National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) team of medical specialists who provide surgical and critical care during a disaster or public health emergency. Originally conceived to address the needs of U.S. citizens injured overseas, the IMSuRT role has expanded over the years to include both domestic deployments, including the World Trade Center Bombings and Hurricane Katrina, and international deployments, including the earthquakes in Bam, Iran, and Port au Prince, Haiti.

IMSuRT deployments often occur in austere environments where many of the conveniences of modern life are limited or unavailable. Personnel are deployed normally in fourteen day periods or longer until local medical resources are sufficiently recovered or have been supplemented by other organizations.

As the primary Federal Agency responsible for public health and medical emergency planning, preparations, response, and recovery, HHS's elite team of highly qualified public health professionals and subject matter experts provide critical services that strengthen the impacts of the CRC and IMSuRT.

Last Updated: July 9, 2015