



Mr. Christopher Priest, FACHE
Acting DAD Healthcare Operations/TRICARE
Defense Health Agency

Mr. Priest currently serves as the interim Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) for Healthcare Operations (HCO), Defense Health Agency (DHA). He is responsible for the policy, procedures, and direction of healthcare administration in the military medical treatment facilities. The DAD, HCO portfolio includes the Pharmacy and TRICARE Health Plan programs, healthcare optimization programs and an operations and compliance team. Mr. Priest also chairs the Enterprise Solutions Board in collaboration with the DHA's Chief Medical Officer and the MHS Genesis Functional Champion, in collaboration with the Military Department's medical operations leaders.

Mr. Priest previously served as the Deputy Director, Healthcare Operations Directorate, DHA. He served as an advisor to the Director, Healthcare Operations Directorate and other Senior DoD Leadership on the Directorate's efforts to improve patient safety, quality and access for the 9.5M TRICARE beneficiaries. He coordinated the administrative requirement of the largest Directorate within the DHA, and evaluated, as well as facilitated efforts to ensure continued world-class care for all beneficiaries.

Mr. Priest began his career by enlisting in the California Army National Guard. He entered the ROTC program at California State University, Sacramento, and was commissioned in the Army Reserve as a Medical Service Corps Officer in 1984. As a career officer, he served at various levels in the Army, including tactical, field hospitals and headquarters, Office of the Surgeon General. His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the Army Staff Badge, and the Secretary of Defense Staff Identification Badge. Mr. Priest retired from the United States Army as a Colonel after 30 years of Commissioned Service where he served as the Program Director, Reserve Affairs for the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Health Protection and Readiness).

Mr. Priest is a graduate of the Air War College and the Army War College, member of the Order of Military Medical Merit, and is board certified in Healthcare Administration and a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Human Resource Development, Masters in Healthcare Administration, and a Masters in Strategic Studies. He is married to the former Mary Beth Muha of Ambridge, Pennsylvania. They have two daughters, Ellen and Amelia.

Questions for Panel I

- What role does DHA play in overseeing Chinese activities in U.S. health industries, particularly in regard to delivering health services to military personnel?
- What authorities and regulations can DHA exercise to govern Chinese investments and business arrangements in U.S. health, biotech, and dietary supplement industries?
- What are the national security risks—including the ability to protect and address the health needs of our men and women in uniform, emergency responders, and the public—from current and potentially increasing levels of dependence on Chinese health products?
- To what extent do U.S. pharmaceuticals and dietary products rely on supply chains involving manufacturing plants based in and/or active ingredients sourced from China?
- What agreements (including formal agreements and any commitments made during JCCT, S&ED or other fora) exist between the U.S. and China governing pharmaceuticals, medical products, dietary supplements, and biotechnology? How would you assess the compliance and impact of such agreements?
- Are existing authorities and regulations sufficiently able to address the challenges presented by China's role in global medical and pharmaceutical supply chains?