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For Immediate Release:

NCDMPH Releases the Report on the Domestic Natural Disaster Health Workforce

Bethesda, MD – The National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH) has released the *Report on the Domestic Natural Disaster Health Workforce*, a landscape analysis describing selected aspects of the health professions workforce who would respond to a catastrophic domestic natural disaster.

The report analyzes the core Federal departments supporting Emergency Support Function #8 (ESF#8) - Public Health and Medical Services - of the National Response Framework by examining three key occupational sub-groups (emergency and critical care physicians, emergency and critical care nurses, and paramedics) at the national, state and local levels.

Additional examination of these three key sub-groups was accomplished by a case study focusing on a theoretical major earthquake scenario in the southern California region. The case study was used to describe how the anticipated local, State, and Federal ESF#8 workforce would respond to the disaster.

This analysis, combined with interviews of federal partners, a literature review, and a national stakeholder conference, allowed the NCDMPH to issue 14 recommendations in the report covering the following issues: double counting of responders, volunteer failure to respond, an aging medical workforce, human capital development, personnel asset visibility, readiness and the deployment of subunits.

“This report gets to the crux of defining the domestic natural disaster workforce,” said Dr. Kenneth Schor, Acting Director. “By understanding who we have responding to a disaster, we can improve the competencies and standards of our nation’s disaster education curricula. Our recommendations can help inform our partners as they develop supporting policies, plans, programs, training, and exercises.”

To read the full report and learn more about the NCDMPH’s work, visit <http://ncdmph.usuhs.edu>.

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About NCDMPH:

Created by Presidential Directive HSPD-21 in 2008, the NCDMPH has been charged with “leading Federal efforts to develop and propagate core curricula, training and research related to medicine and public health in disaster” by serving the U.S. government as an academic home for the development and dissemination of this information. The NCDMPH is supported by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the nation’s only federal health sciences university.

About the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Located on the grounds of Bethesda’s National Naval Medical Center and across from the National Institutes of Health, USU is the nation’s federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. The university educates health care professionals dedicated to career service in the Department of Defense and the U.S. Public Health Service. Students are active-duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service, who are being educated to deal with wartime casualties, natural disasters, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health emergencies. Of the 4,713 physician alumni, more than 75 percent currently serve on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and U.S. Public Health Service. Additionally, many alumni are assigned to provide medical support to Marine Corps and Coast Guard units.