



# Transition Update



No. 1

1 Feb 2019

149 Days to IOC

## Message from the Commander



**Brig Gen James H. Dienst**  
Commander  
Air Force Medical Operations Agency (AFMOA)

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *Transition Update*! As we continue on this journey of historic change within the Military Health System (MHS), consistent communication is incredibly important, and I will do everything I can to keep you informed along the way.

As I have said many times, transparency is a top priority for me, and I am committed to telling you what I know—and what I don't know, which is often the most challenging part. As we have seen, plans can change day by day—and sometimes minute by minute, so it can be difficult to stay abreast of progress as it happens. This high level of fluidity is precisely why I'm introducing the

*Transition Update*. It will be published regularly and as needed to ensure you have the latest information as soon it becomes available. Keep an eye on your inbox for future editions!

I also want to thank everyone who attended the town halls last week. We had a great turnout, and I truly appreciate your time and input. As discussed, the Air Force Medical Readiness Agency (AFMRA) is projected to stand up at initial operational capability (IOC) on 1 Jul 19. At IOC, the Air Force Medical Support Agency (AFMSA) will be deactivated, while AFMOA will be re-designated and re-focused for the readiness mission. The AFMRA commander will also be named and in place at the Defense Health Headquarters (DHHQ) in Falls Church; all other staff will remain in place. Over the following year and a half, AFMRA will continue to grow and solidify until 1 Oct 20, when we expect it to reach full operational capability (FOC). As always, plans can change at any moment, but this is our path as of today.

As AFMRA develops to FOC, the Defense Health Agency (DHA) will continue to ramp up responsibility for the management and administration of all Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) worldwide. The most

recent timeline shows DHA at full force on 1 Oct 21; however, signs from higher headquarters point to accelerating the timeline to culminate in fiscal year 2020.

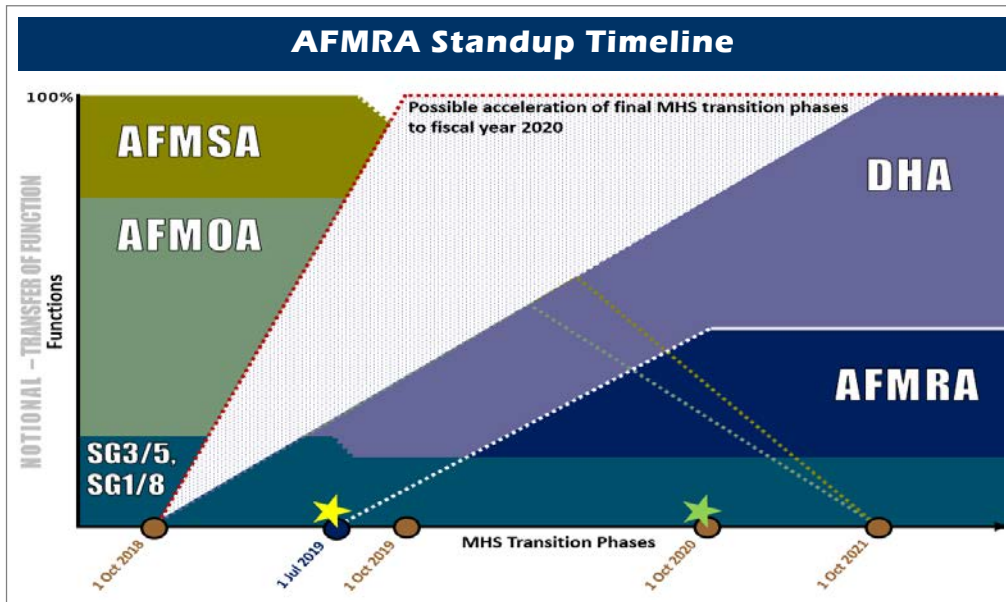
DHA's plan for MTF management and administration currently centers on a regional model, covering catchment areas around multiservice markets and designated MTFs. Facilities that don't fit neatly into a catchment area will be managed by a DHA Market Development Office (MDO) dedicated solely to stand-alone MTFs. Recognizing the outstanding capabilities already in place at AFMOA, DHA is partnering with us on a proposal to open the office right here in San Antonio; the proposal should go before MHS governance in the coming months. My hope is that many of our talented AFMOA personnel will be able to transition to the MDO, if the San Antonio plan is approved. I will provide an update as soon as possible, so stay tuned.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to elevate any questions or concerns you may have about the transition. Feel free to e-mail me personally or leave a note on my leader management board under "Concerns/Frustrations/Ideas." As I said at the town halls last week, YOU are my #1 priority, and I look forward to hearing from you!

### What's Your Elevator Speech?

Imagine you're on an elevator with someone asking about the MHS transition. Would you be able to hit the high points before the doors open? Here are some talking points that may help:

- The MHS is undergoing a historic transformation, consolidating health care operations across all Services
- The DHA is assuming responsibility for the management and administration of all Services' MTFs
- The goal is to improve quality of care for veterans, Service members, and their families, while cutting costs to taxpayers
- The Air Force will continue to manage health care for mission readiness—ensuring both a medically ready force and a ready medical force to win any fight, any time



- ★ 1 Jul 2019 | AFMRA IOC
  - AFMSA/AFMOA are rebranded/renamed
  - Commander is named and in place at DHHQ
  - All other staff remain in their current locations
  - Two vice commanders (one in San Antonio and one in Falls Church) and support staff are identified
  - Directors are named and begin shaping their staff
  - Passcode is established
  - Staff realignment begins
- ★ 1 Oct 2020 | AFMRA FOC
  - All functions are fully established
  - Through 1 Oct 2021:
    - AFMSA / AFMOA will be fully absorbed
    - All personnel actions will be completed
    - Active Duty, Civilian, and Contractor issues will be resolved
    - All contracts will be realigned

**Monthly TOWN HALL** With Brig Gen Dienst

**First Mondays @1000 & 1430**

4 Mar 2019	6 May 2019	1 Jul 2019	2 Sep 2019	4 Nov 2019
1 Apr 2019	3 Jun 2019	5 Aug 2019	7 Oct 2019	2 Dec 2019

*Mark your calendar!*

**Civilian All Call**

U.S. AIR FORCE **Wednesday, 13 Feb 2019**

**1000 and 1300, Conf Rm 2019**

Join Brig Gen Dienst and his distinguished guests, Ms. Ellen Greenwood and Ms. Patricia Dorsey, to learn more about AFMOA's transition to AFMRA and what it means for DAF Civilians. See you there!

*Videos | dial-in info is forthcoming for Ft Detrick and Falls Church*