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Dr. David J. SMITH

Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Defense Health Headquarters United States of America

Dr. David J. Smith is the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD/HA) is the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense for all Defense health programs, activities and force health protection policies. The ASD/HA provides leadership over the Military Health System, a worldwide \$50 billion dollar integrated health system composed of 50 hospitals and hundreds of clinics serving 9.6 million beneficiaries.

Prior to retiring as a Rear Admiral (Upper Half) in 2012, Dr. Smith's executive leadership positions included Joint Staff Surgeon where he was the chief medical advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Director, Medical Resources, Plans and Policy Division on the Chief of Naval Operations Staff. In October 2010, he deployed as the International Security Assistance Force-Afghanistan (ISAF) medical advisor and Chief, Joint Medical overseeing medical care for the Afghan theater of operations.

Dr. Smith received a B.S. degree from the University of Illinois in 1977 and completed his MD degree at Northwestern University Medical School in 1981. He completed his Occupational Medicine Training at the University of Cincinnati Medical School in 1989, where he received an M.S. in Environmental Health. Dr. Smith is a certified physician executive (CPE), fellow of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (FACOEM) and is board certified in Occupational Medicine with a certificate in Undersea Medicine.