

IV. U.S. DEPARTMENTS – IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

A. Joint Resolution creating ICAIHR and task force



Due to similar characteristics and challenges of logistics, lack of resources, transportation and technology within each of the Insular Areas, all of the health-related challenges discussed at the summit, in varying degrees, are applicable to each of the Insular Areas. Secretary Kempthorne recognized the need for formal identification of specific challenges in each Insular Area to allow for the formulization of a targeted game plan to address each need. In line with

this, a Joint Agreement among the U.S. Departments represented was signed by each U.S. cabinet member, thereby establishing the Interagency Coordinated Assets for Insular Health Response (ICAIHR).

Secretary Kempthorne stated, “[I] had mentioned in the opening comments that these four departments (i.e., U.S. Departments of the Interior, Health and Human Services, Defense and Veterans Administration) who all have a key role to play are going to coordinate those roles and we’re going to commit to the establishment of the interagency coordinating assets for insular health response. Now let me give you an idea of what this will do. This is a positive action, it comes from the summit and, as is pointed out by some of the leaders of the islands, they would like this to be a system that is passed on to the next administration so the benefits from this continue. The purpose of the task force will be to assess the health care needs of each of the seven insular areas including Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the US Virgin Islands, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, in consultation with appropriate leaders from these areas, to develop a priority list of actions specific to each Insular Area that addresses the most critical health care needs. The task force will prepare a report for each Insular Area and submit a report to the IGIA by June of 2009.”

Task Force ICAIHR: Joint Resolution signed by the Secretaries of the U.S. Departments of Interior, Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs and Defense establishing the Interagency Coordinated Assets for Insular Health Response (ICAIHR). ICAIHR will work within the existing structure of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas and will, by June 1, 2009, complete a report on the specific health care needs of each Insular Area. The Joint Resolution was completed at the summit and signed on September 29, 2008, by Secretary Kempthorne, Secretary Peake, Under Secretary Chu and Assistant Secretary Garcia (Copy of Joint Agreement Follows).



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERAGENCY COORDINATED ASSETS FOR INSULAR HEALTH RESPONSE

We hereby create the Interagency Coordinated Assets for Insular Health Response (ICAIHR).

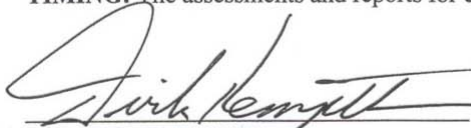
ORGANIZATION: ICAIHR will be established within the existing structure of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas (IGIA). Established by the President on May 8, 2003, (Executive Order 13299) the IGIA is administered by Department of the Interior and consists exclusively of the heads of the executive departments and the heads of such agencies as the Secretary of the Interior may designate.

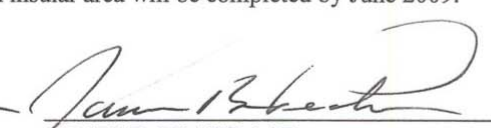
PURPOSE: The purpose of ICAIHR will be:

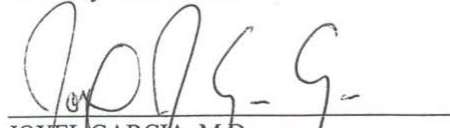
- To assess the health care needs of each of the seven insular areas including Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, in consultation with appropriate leaders from these areas.
- To develop a priority list of actions, specific to each insular area, that addresses the most critical health care needs.
- To prepare a report for each insular area and submit the report to the IGIA.

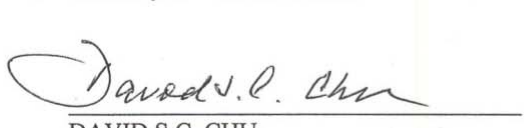
MEMBERSHIP: Membership of the ICAIHR will include representatives of the Departments of Health and Human Services, Defense, Veterans Affairs, and the Interior, and will be designated by each Department.

TIMING: The assessments and reports for each insular area will be completed by June 2009.


 DIRK KEMPTHORNE
 Secretary of the Interior


 JAMES B. PEAKE, M.D.
 Secretary of Veterans Affairs


 JOJEL GARCIA, M.D.
 Assistant Secretary for Health
 Department of Health and Human Services


 DAVID S.C. CHU
 Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel
 and Readiness

DATE: September 29, 2008

B. White House Office of USA Freedom Corps, Health Care Initiative

A new volunteer link titled “Insular Health Initiative” has been established on the website of the USA Freedom Corps. This new interactive site will be a one-stop to connect health care volunteers with volunteer opportunities in the islands.



Island Health Initiative

Mobilizing Volunteers to Generate Results for Insular Health

To strengthen health services throughout the Insular areas, the U.S. Department of the Interior is partnering with USA Freedom Corps (USAFC) on a volunteer-driven “Island Health Initiative.” This initiative will connect skilled medical and public health professionals to health-related volunteer service opportunities throughout the Insular areas.

Volunteers can search the network for health-related volunteer opportunities throughout the Insular areas. Hospitals and health-related nonprofits can recruit volunteers at no charge.



The Island Health Initiative will, for the first time, make service opportunities throughout all the Insular areas easily accessible through the USAFC Volunteer Network, which is the most comprehensive clearinghouse of volunteer opportunities. This initiative is now accessible through the USA Freedom Corps at http://www.freedomcorps.gov/about_usafc/initiatives/doi.asp.

For more information or to list a volunteer opportunity on the website, please contact Joseph McDermott in the Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs by email Joseph_McDermott@ios.doi.gov or by phone at 202-208-4736.

C. Report on the summit: “Future of Health Care in the Insular Areas Leaders Summit”

This report is to be an information source, not the “game plan” as that is the intent of the report to be produced by ICAIHR. Rather, this report on the summit is a compilation of what was said, information identifying challenges, possible solutions and actions taken. Per Secretary Kempthorne, “[I]t would have been very helpful if I had this when I began my tenure, something that identified the challenges, identified the foundations, identified the assets, and had a path forward. In as much as possible, actions will be taken on the recommendations and possible solutions. During the transition period, information identifying key areas of importance of the respective departments will be passed to the successors. This report will be one of the things that I will pass on to the transition team. All of this is going to be very beneficial.”