

# DEFENSE ISSUES, VOLUME 11, NUMBER 44: FULFILLING THE ROLE OF PREVENTIVE DEFENSE, SECDEF, 13 MAY 1996

## Proponent

The proponent for this document is the Department of Defense. These are prepared remarks by the Secretary of Defense to the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, May 13, 1996.

## Web Site Location

This document is at <http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/di96/di1144.html>.

## Definition

*Preventive Defense - may be thought of as analogous to preventive medicine. Preventive medicine creates the conditions which support health, making disease less likely and clinical care unnecessary. Preventive Defense creates the conditions which support peace, making war less likely and deterrence unnecessary.*

## Synopsis

The article discusses how we need to fulfill the role of preventive defense. Defense establishments have an important role to play in building democracy, trust and understanding in and among nations. Just a few examples of accomplishing a preventive defense include:

- ◆ engaging military and defense establishments around the world to further the spread of democracy and to further trust and understanding among nations.
- ◆ holding joint training exercises in peacekeeping, disaster relief, and search and rescue operations.

Our hopes for democracy and regional understanding and our opportunities to support them through the tools of preventive defense are worldwide.

## What Does This Mean for Army Preventive Medicine?

We must create a common culture throughout the DoD that values health and fitness. We will focus on value added products and services that will increase our ability to help shape the international HP & PM environment of tomorrow.

We must serve as a center of excellence for the full spectrum of health promotion and preventive medicine services in managing the health of our soldiers and beneficiaries.

We must assist with the development of a Joint service approach in addressing the health promotion and preventive medicine needs of commanders, especially the CINCs.

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We must assist the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Center and School in developing solutions to address lessons learned and doctrine, training, leader development, organization, materiel, and soldiers (DTLOMS) deficiencies.

We must increase and foster individual contact with our allies' health promotion and preventive medicine personnel.

We must incorporate health promotion and preventive medicine principles and their role in international collaboration in military courses such as those taught at the AMEDD Center and School, Army War College, Command and General Staff College, and Sergeant Major Academy.

We need to optimize the use of technology to obtain, evaluate, and disseminate preventive medicine information.

We need to disseminate this integrated health information to commanders, policy makers and individuals who can act to influence health and prevent diseases and injuries.

By establishing health promotion and preventive medicine forums and providing information to our friends and allies, we will forge new individual relationships and enhance alliance relationships which will prove as useful in the future, as they have in the past.