



VFP 2024–2025

RESPOND-US: Shoring Up National Military and Disaster Medical Readiness

RESPOND-US seeks to eliminate preventable death in combat and mass casualty events by establishing a National Trauma and Emergency Preparedness System and leveraging military-civilian partnerships to optimize medical readiness on day one of future conflicts and disasters.



Jeremy Cannon
 COLONEL | US AIR FORCE

Challenges

1 in 4

combat deaths since WWII were potentially preventable with an optimized, prepared medical system.

100,000

US service members have died due to the “peacetime effect” erosion of military medical readiness.

4%

of US inpatient capacity is represented by combined VA and DoD inpatient medical beds, ensuring a large-scale peer conflict will overwhelm these systems.

Achievements

★ Testified before the **Senate Armed Services Committee** on **stabilizing the military health system**.

★ Secured a **\$1 million grant** to establish and launch **RESPOND-US**, a **national advocacy coalition** for optimizing **trauma and disaster response**.

★ Convened the **“Medical Boots on the Ground” policy conference** at University of Pennsylvania's Perry World House to translate **Ukraine battlefield lessons into US policy**.

Activities

1. **Advocacy:** Testified before the **Senate Armed Services Committee** and briefed **Senate Appropriations staffers**, urging measures to mitigate the “peacetime effect.”
2. **Publishing:** Articulated the **strategic case for Battlefield Medical Supremacy** in *Strategika* and *Defining Ideas* to build **foundational support for system reform**.
3. **Policy development:** Authored a **targeted white paper** for **House Armed Services Committee** to support **FY26 NDAA legislative language**.
4. **Engagement:** Hosted the **Medical Boots on the Ground symposium** at **Perry World House**.
5. **Implementation:** Launched **RESPOND-US** to catalyze a whole-of-nation effort to improve **medical surge capacity**.

Learn More
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