

IATDD General FAQs

Overarching

1. What does **IATD** stand for?
Innovation and Advanced Technology Development
2. What is the IATD's **primary area of responsibility and three focus areas**?
The IATD is focused on improving the strategy, management and execution of Health IT (HIT) Innovation, Advanced Technology Development, Service Oriented Architecture and Technical Architecture activities. Together these areas are helping drive HIT improvements that will help enhance the timely capture and exchange of healthcare data and services provided to our nation's service members, their families and beneficiaries.

Focus Areas

3. What is the objective of the IATD's **Advanced Technology Development** focus area?
To rapidly identify, pilot and evaluate IT-enabled health technologies that meet or address known functional gaps and have the potential to provide tangible benefits to the military health community
4. What is the objective of the IATD's **HIT Innovation** focus area?
To rapidly identify, pilot and evaluate transformational and disruptive IT-enabled health technologies that have the potential to provide tangible benefits to the military health community
5. What is the objective of the IATD's **Service Oriented Architecture** focus area?
To provide an organizational framework for instilling, governing and evolving the culture of 'reuse' and 'sharing' of enterprise SOA assets for improved interoperability and agility in the delivery of healthcare data
6. What is the objective of the IATD's **Technical Architecture** focus area?
To maintain a joint, technical "city plan" linking business needs to technical solutions; to provide enterprise 'knowledge' through data democratization
7. What is the difference between the **Health IT Innovation and Advanced Technology Development** function areas?
Health IT Innovation addresses long-term needs and is driven by ideas that seem disruptive or forward thinking. Despite a high risk for failure, these types of pilots have the potential to reap large returns on investment. Advanced Technology Development addresses near-term needs. These projects focus on addressing top gaps faced by providers today that can be improved through technology enablement and processes.

Technology Buckets

8. What technology buckets is the IATD using to address the **long-term technology landscape** and needs of the MHS?
 - o **Cognitive Analytics:** To combine human insight and intuition with machine number-crunching and visualizations to discover important new questions they didn't know they could ask
 - o **Mobile Wars:** To reshape operations, businesses and marketplaces to deliver information and services to where decisions are made and transactions occur
 - o **Cloud Computing:** To create an enterprise-wide digital backbone to accelerate design as a discipline adoption and create clarity about the integrated nature of foundational technologies
 - o **Digital Engagement:** To engineer social platforms for specific context platforms that can relieve traditional organizational constraints and fundamentally transform how work gets completed
 - o However, the IATD remains open to reviewing technologies and initiatives that may fall outside of these categories
9. What technology buckets is the IATD using to address the **near-term technology landscape** and needs of the MHS?
 - o **Health Service Delivery:** Ability to build healthy communities by managing and delivering the TRICARE health benefit
 - o **Health System Support:** Ability to sustain and continuously improve MHS mission effectiveness through the focused development of people, technology, infrastructure and joint organizational culture
 - o **Force Health Protection:** Ability to sustain and protect the health and effectiveness of the human centerpiece of the American military

Joint Service Offerings

10. How is the IATD working to increase transparency of HIT research initiatives across the enterprise?

The IATD is committed to ensuring a consistent and centrally managed approach of HIT research initiatives. IATD has developed a process to identify, research, develop, test and evaluate innovative solutions that benefit the MHS enterprise. This streamlined evaluation process will increase transparency into HIT research initiatives and reduce parallel efforts underway. Be sure to view the latest snapshot of HIT R&D projects by checking out our HIT R&D catalog.
11. What can the Pacific Joint Information Technology Center (JITC) offer Program Managers and other agencies?

The Pacific JITC is the MHS' prime research center for joint concept technology development, prototyping, piloting and proof-of-concept for Health IM/IT products and services to support DoD medical readiness requirements and IT modernization needs across the medical continuum of care. Pacific JITC offers many services for system support and testing, which include operations research, software development, network testing and design, and clinical informatics expertise. The DHA and other agencies have used Pacific JITC's services to reduce the risk of selecting the wrong IT approach, which has allowed them to realize acquisition cost savings and a reduction of contract operational costs and time to market. To contact Pacific JITC directly to learn more, email PJITC@dha.mil.
12. What are the different labs Pacific JITC operates?
 - **Pacific JITC's Integrated Test and Evaluation Center (ITEC)** is a computing resource center, providing an agile computing environment for military health and interagency research and development, testing and evaluation missions. The ITEC provides developer sandboxes – testing environments that confine code changes and experimentation to isolate effects on live systems. The center delivers virtualization and cloud technologies to provide system designs that fit into the future MHS system architecture.
 - **Pacific JITC's Biotechnology Hui** provides a broad range of cutting-edge expertise and support for biotechnology and telehealth research, funding, and execution. Many of their projects also have an IT component that fits with the overall Health IT (HIT) mission of Pacific JITC. The Hui's service areas include program management, regulatory compliance, research design and methods, proposal writing, statistical analysis, and subject matter expertise in informatics, medicine, and health psychology. This "blending" of bioresearch and IM/IT technology stands to change battlefield/humanitarian first responder care and triage guidelines, and fit emerging bioresearch successes into information capture and documentation concurrently while still in prototype or development.
13. What is the difference between the MHS Innovations office and the IATD division?

The MHS Innovations office is focused on overarching innovation that supports the transformation of the organization's culture into a more agile system that will help the MHS become a leader in healthcare delivery. The IATD division is focused specifically on health IT innovation and technologies that have the potential to transform the care delivered to our beneficiaries. Together, these teams work hand-in-hand to leverage innovations to improve the DoD patient and provider experience.
14. How can I have my ideas heard by the IATD?

To have your ideas heard by us, visit Health.mil/ITIdeas to complete a submission form or email IATDD@dha.mil.

Contact Info

15. Where I can learn more about the IATD?
 - Health.mil/IATDD for general information
 - IATD [milSuite page](#) to learn about our innovation idea challenges
 - IATD [SharePoint](#) site for recent announcements and informational documents
16. How can I find out more information about an IATD initiative, project or activity?

For more information about an IATD initiative, project or activity, please email IATDD@dha.mil.