

[WORLD NEWS ★★] WHERE'S THE SURGEON GENERAL WHEN YOU NEED ONE?

(P1) President Barack Obama has appointed **Ron Klain**, former chief of staff to Vice President **Joe Biden**, to **oversee** the government's Ebola response effort in the United States and West Africa, a position the media quickly **dubbed** the "Ebola **czar**."

(P2) Klain's new position, which **the White House** is calling the "Ebola response coordinator," will be largely **managerial** and **behind the scenes**. He will report to National Security Adviser **Susan Rice** and Counterterrorism Adviser **Lisa Monaco**, according to **The Associated Press**.

(P3) But during public health scares like the occurrence of Ebola in the U.S., the government also needs to communicate health advice to the public. As the media—and some political candidates—**stoke** fears about a **full-blown** Ebola **outbreak** in the U.S., shouldn't there be someone to tell us what's going on?

(P4) The answer is yes. That person is the **surgeon general** of the United States.

(P5) The problem is, the U.S. doesn't have a surgeon general. Last year, Obama **nominated** public health **advocate** **Dr. Vivek Murthy** to the position. But Republicans didn't like Murthy, who thinks gun violence is a public health issue. A year ago he tweeted, "Tired of politicians playing politics w/ guns, putting lives at risk b/c they're scared of **NRA**. Guns are a health care issue."

(P6) That didn't go over well with the powerful gun lobby headed by the National Rifle Association, which opposed Murthy's nomination. Republicans who fear the NRA's **wrath** opposed Murthy's nomination, as did some **red state** Democrats.

(P7) Republicans also questioned Murthy's youth (he was 36) and his obvious support for the president's policies as head of the Obama campaign-**affiliated** group **Doctors for Obama**. Murthy's nomination never came to a vote in the Senate, which has gone nearly a year without confirming a new surgeon general.

(P8) Today, we have an Ebola czar but no surgeon general. There is an acting surgeon general, **Rear Admiral** Boris Lushniak, but **in light of** the Ebola outbreak and panic, he hasn't **stepped up** in the way a confirmed surgeon general would be expected to. The public face of the Ebola response has, instead, become Thomas Frieden, director of the **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, whose efforts have come under criticism since two nurses **contracted** the disease from contact with a patient being treated in Dallas.

(P9) Reassuring the nation over health issues should be the job of the surgeon general, who, as the "nation's doctor," is supposed to inform Americans about diseases and **allay** their fears about catching them.

(P10) "The surgeon general is America's doctor, delivering information to the American people in a language they can understand," former surgeon general **Regina Benjamin** told MSNBC. "Not having one right now, you don't have that face and that person that the American people can identify with as their doctor who's **looking out for** them on a large scale."

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If you found the passage difficult to read or had problems understanding specific words or idiomatic expressions, please discuss them with your tutor. The following discussion questions should be answered in your own words and with your own arguments.

1. Briefly summarize the content of the article in your own words.
 2. What does a surgeon general do (P4)? Why doesn't the White House have a surgeon general (P5)?
 3. What happened to Dr. Vivek Murthy? What prevented him from becoming a surgeon general for Obama's administration (P5 -7)?
 4. Do you think the States need a surgeon general? (After all, it has been operating fine without one for two years.) What do you think Obama should do as the president of the US?
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WHO / WHAT / WHERE ARE THEY?

Ron Klain

(Person) Ronald A. "Ron" Klain is an American lawyer who on October 17, 2014, was named for the newly created position of "Ebola response coordinator" or, less officially, Ebola Czar.

Joe Biden

(Person) Joseph Robinette "Joe" Biden, Jr. is the 47th and current Vice President of the United States, jointly elected with President Barack Obama.

Susan Rice

(Person) Susan Elizabeth Rice is the United States National Security Advisor. Rice is a former U.S. diplomat, former Brookings Institution fellow, and former United States Ambassador to the United Nations.

Lisa Monaco

(Person) an American federal prosecutor who currently serves as the United States Homeland Security Advisor to President Barack Obama; the chief counterterrorism advisor to the President, and a statutory member of the United States Homeland Security Council. Monaco previously served as the Assistant Attorney General for National Security from 2011 to 2013, and as the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Justice Department.

The Associated Press

(Organization) The Associated Press (AP) is an American multinational nonprofit news agency headquartered in New York City. The AP is owned by its contributing newspapers, radio, and television stations in the United States, all of which contribute stories to the AP and use material written by its staff journalists. The AP staff is represented by the Newspaper Guild union, which operates under the Communication Workers union, which operates under the AFL-CIO.

Dr. Vivek Murthy

(Person) British-born American physician who has been nominated by U.S. President Barack Obama to serve as the 19th Surgeon General of the United States. Murthy is co-founder of Doctors for America, formerly known as "Doctors For Obama." If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Murthy would become the youngest Surgeon General in U.S. history and would succeed the current acting Surgeon General Boris D. Lushniak.

NRA (National Rifle Organization)

(Organization) The National Rifle Association of America (NRA) is an American nonprofit organization whose primary mission is "[to] protect and defend the Constitution of the United States...", especially the right to keep and bear arms. Founded in 1871, the group has informed its

members about firearm related bills since 1934, and it has directly lobbied for and against legislation since 1975.

Doctors for Obama

(Organization) "Doctors for America" is a national movement of physicians and medical students in the United States with a stated goal of improving affordable health care access. The movement was started in 2008 as "Doctors for Obama" and rapidly grew to 10,000 members within a few months.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(Organization) the national public health institute of the United States. The CDC is a federal agency under the Department of Health and Human Services and is headquartered in unincorporated DeKalb County, Georgia, a few miles northeast of the Atlanta city limits. Its main goal is to protect public health and safety through the control and prevention of disease, injury, and disability. The CDC focuses national attention on developing and applying disease control and prevention. It especially focuses its attention on infectious disease, food borne pathogens, environmental health, occupational safety and health, health promotion, injury prevention and educational activities designed to improve the health of United States citizens. In addition, the CDC researches and provides information on non-infectious diseases such as obesity and diabetes and is a founding member of the International Association of National Public Health Institutes.

Regina Benjamin

(Person) an American physician and a former vice admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps who served as the 18th Surgeon General of the United States. Benjamin previously directed a nonprofit primary care medical clinic in Bayou La Batre, Alabama, and served on the Board of Trustees for the Morehouse School of Medicine.

VOCABULARY

Oversee	(v) (작업·활동이 제대로 이뤄지는지) 감독하다
Dub	(v) 별명을 붙이다
Czar	(n) [C~] 제정 러시아의 황제; 권력자, 지도자
The White House	(n) (미국의) 백악관
Managerial	(adj) 경영의
Behind the scenes	(expression) 막후의, 배후의
Stoke	(v) 불을 때다, 연료를 더 넣다
Full-blown	(adj) ...의 모든 특성을 갖춘, 완전히 발달한
Outbreak	(n) (전쟁·사고·질병 등의) 발생
Surgeon general	(n) (미국 군대에서) 의무감
Nominate	(v) (중요한 역할·수상자·지위 등의 후보자로) 지명하다
Advocate	(n) 공개적인 지지자
Wrath	(n) (극도의) 분노, 노여움
Red state	(n) 공화당 지지 주(州).
Affiliated	(adj) 소속된, 연계된
Rear Admiral	(n) 해군 소장
In light of	(expression) ...에 비추어, ...을 고려하여
Step up	(expression) 앞으로 나오다[나가다]
Contract	(v) (의학) (병에) 걸리다
Allay	(v) (특히 감정을) 가라앉히다
Look out for	(expression) (~에게 나쁜 일이 생기지 않도록) ~를 보살피다