

2010 Military Health System Conference

Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction

Sharing Knowledge: Achieving Breakthrough Performance

CDR Janet Hawkins

**Defense Centers of Excellence, Resilience and Prevention
Directorate**

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Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction Committee (SPARRC)



- **SPARRC is a forum for developing /expanding partnerships**
- **Committee's goal is to improve policies, programs and systems across DoD**
- **Group provides support for medical, line, and community leaders**
- **SPARRC includes representatives from all Services, VA, SAMHSA, CDC, Medical Examiners, Chaplains, Telehealth/Technology and National Guard/Reserves**

2009 SPARRRC and DoD Projects



- **DoD/VA Suicide Prevention Conference**
- **RAND Research Project**
- **DoD Suicide Prevention Task Force**
- **SPARRRC Website**
- **DoD Suicide Event Report (DoDSER)**
- **Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI)**

2010 DoD/VA Suicide Prevention Conference



- **Expanded knowledge of suicide prevention and leadership training to quickly identify and support service members in distress**
- **Offered four focused tracks: clinical intervention, multi-disciplinary, practical applications/tools and research**
- **Shared stories about the struggles and triumphs in dealing with suicide issues**
- **Provided a collaborative forum to discuss all prevention and risk-reduction activities, policies and best practices**

RAND Study



Objective: Review and catalog suicide prevention activities

- **Collect information on effectiveness of suicide prevention programs in military and civilian populations**
- **Examine existing DoD suicide prevention programs**
- **Review data analyses from DoD database sources**
- **Develop recommendations DoD can use to enhance suicide prevention activities**

DoD Suicide Prevention Task Force



- **Task Force consists of 14 members**
- **Goals are to:**
 - **Identify suicide trends**
 - **Establish suicide education/prevention programs**
 - **Assess incidents and identify high risk groups**
 - **Identify qualifications of suicide investigators**
 - **Determine type and method of investigation to identify causes**
 - **Establish appropriate reporting requirements following investigation**
 - **Identify methods for protecting confidentiality of information**

SPARRC Website



- **The purpose of a SPARRC website is to:**
 - **Create a “clearinghouse” for suicide prevention information, contacts, innovative approaches and tools**
 - **Create a joint, collaborative space for active duty and veterans**
 - **More fully utilize the benefits of current and future web technologies**
- **Three project phases**
 - **Coordinating resources**
 - **Building in social networking capabilities, such as forums**
 - **Adding depth of resources and capabilities**
- **Goal: Coordinate existing sites/resources and expanding their audiences**

Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSEER)



- **Previously, the Services collected suicide data through separate processes (e.g., ASER, SESS, DONSIR)**
- **In order to develop a centralized, comparable collection process, all Services worked with the SPARRC to develop a standardized system**
 - The Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSEER) was launched 1 JAN 08
- **DoDSEER provides a comprehensive, annual DoD-wide suicide report that supports examination of risk factors within and between Services**

DoDSER Data Collection



- **The Services submit DoDSERs via web form for all suicides, as they are determined by the AFMES**
 - This includes Active Duty, Active Guard Reserve and Activated Reserve and Guard
 - There may be Reserve and Guard members whose death by suicide is not reported
 - Active duty deaths by suicide may also not be captured, if AFMES is not involved
- **DoDSERs are submitted by behavioral health providers, health care providers, or command appointed representatives**
- **For calendar year (CY) 2008, DoDSERs were submitted for 90 percent of suicides (235/260)**

Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI)



- **DoD has developed a Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) recommending policy for suicide prevention, data collection and reporting**
 - **Draft version has been completed by a working group that includes representation from all services, Department of Veterans Affairs and civilian partners**
 - **Currently being routed for approval(s)**

Questions



Contact Information:

**CDR Janet L. Hawkins
(SPARRC Chair)**

Chief Prevention Branch

Resilience and Prevention Directorate

1335 East West Hwy

Silver Spring, MD 20901

(301) 295-3551

Janet.Hawkins@tma.osd.mil