



DoD Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces

**Update to DHB
13 Nov 09**

MG Philip Volpe, Co-Chair
Ms. Bonnie Carroll, Co-Chair
Col Joanne P. McPherson
Executive Secretary



Overview

- **Task Force Membership**
- **Questions to be addressed by the Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces**
- **October, November Meeting Summaries**
- **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings**



Task Force Membership

- **MG Philip Volpe**
- **Ms. Bonnie Carroll**
- **Dr. Alan Berman**
- **COL John Bradley**
- **Dr. Robert Certain**
- **CMSgt Jeffory Gabrelcik**
- **SgtMaj Ronald Green**
- **Dr. Marjan Holloway**
- **Dr. David Jobes**
- **Dr. Janet Kemp**
- **Dr. David Litts**
- **Dr. Richard McKeon**
- **MGySgt Peter Proietto**
- **CDR Aaron Werbel**



Questions to be addressed by the Task Force

- Methods to identify trends and common causal factors in suicides by members of the Armed Forces.
- Methods to establish or update suicide education and prevention programs conducted by each military department based on identified trends and causal factors.
- An assessment of current suicide education and prevention programs of each military department.
- An assessment of suicide incidence by military occupation to include identification of military occupations with a high incidence of suicide.
- The appropriate type and method of investigation to determine the causes and factors surrounding each suicide by a member of the Armed Forces.
- The qualifications of the individual appointed to conduct an investigation of a suicide by a member of the Armed Forces.



Questions to be addressed by the Task Force

- The required information to be determined by an investigation in order to determine the causes and factors surrounding suicides by members of the Armed Forces.
- The appropriate reporting requirements following an investigation conducted on a suicide by a member of the Armed Forces.
- The appropriate official or executive agent within the military department and DoD to receive and analyze reports on investigations of suicides by members of the Armed Forces.
- The appropriate use of the information gathered during investigations of suicides by members of the Armed Forces.
- Methods for protecting confidentiality of information contained in reports of investigations of suicides by members of the Armed Forces.



October 1, 2009

Meeting Agenda & Briefers

- **Service Data Review : Army** – Mr. Bruce Shabaz and Mr. Walter Morales
- **Service Data Review: Marine Corps** – CDR Aaron Werbel
- **Service Data Review: Navy** – LCDR Bonnie Chavez
- **Service Data Review: Air Force** – Lt Col Michael Kindt
- **Suicide Prevention: Valuable Information Learned from Army Surveillance and Research** – COL Elspeth Ritchie
- **Armed Forces Institute of Pathology** – CAPT Joyce Cantrell, CDR Rosemary Malone, and Ms. Lynne Oetjen-Gerdes



October 8, 2009

Meeting Agenda & Briefers

- **Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction Committee/Defense Centers of Excellence – CDR Janet Hawkins**
- **DoD Suicide Event Report – Dr. Greg Gahm**
- **Families of Suicide Discussion – Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)**



November 10, 2009

Meeting Agenda & Briefers

- **Defense Centers of Excellence – BG Loree Sutton**
- **Army Suicide Prevention Task Force – BG Colleen McGuire**
- **Epidemiological and public health perspectives in military suicide research, WRAIR – COL Charles Hoge**
- **Behavioral and Social Health Outcomes Programs, USACHPPM – LTC Michael Bell**
- **Service Member Panel discussion – Service members**



Future Meetings

- **December 14, 2009 – Preparatory Session, Bethesda, MD**
- **December 15, 2009 – Task Force meeting, Bethesda, MD**
 - **Topics include focusing on the Services' suicide investigation processes**
- **January, 15, 2010 – Task Force meeting, Washington, DC**
 - **Topics TBD**



Questions?

Other Considerations?

Offers of Advice and Assistance?