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

**Update to DHB  
1 March 2010**

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



# Overview

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- **Task Force Membership**
- **Questions to be addressed by the Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces**
- **December, January Meeting Summaries**
- **February Site Visit Summary**
- **Future site visits and meeting schedule**



# Task Force Membership

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- **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

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- 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

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- 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.



# December 14-15, 2009 Meeting Agenda & Briefers

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- **ARMY STARRS** - Dr Robert Ursano
- **US Army Criminal Investigation CMD** – COL Eric Belcher and Mr. Guy Surian
- **AF OSI brief** – Ms. Joanna Collins
- **Navy/Marine Corps Investigations** – Mr. Michael Keleher and LCDR Sara Tetreault
- **Navy/Marine Corps Aviation & Safety Investigations** – LCDR Jeffrey Alton and Mr. Kimball Thompson



# January 11-12, 2010

## Meeting Agenda & Briefers

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- **Root Cause Analysis** – Dr. Geoffrey Rake
- **AFME Psychological Autopsies** – CDR Rosemary Malone
- **Army studies programs** – COL Carl Castro
- **MHAT VI** – MAJ Jeffrey Thomas
- **RAND study** – Mr. Rajeev Ramchand
- **Service member Panel discussion**



# February 9-12, 2010 Site Visits & Meeting

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- **Camp Lejeune, NC – February 9-10**
- **Norfolk Navy Base – February 9**
- **Portsmouth Navy Hospital – February 10**
  
- **The Task Force meeting scheduled to be held in Norfolk, VA on Feb 12-13 was cancelled due to weather conditions in Washington, DC**



# Future Meetings & Site Visits

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- **February 22-26**
  - Beaufort, SC Feb 22-23
  - King's Bay, GA Feb 22-23
  - Parris Island, SC Feb 24-25
- **March 8-12, 2010**
  - Ft Bliss, TX March 9-10
  - Lackland, TX AFB – March 9-10
  - Task Force meeting, San Antonio, March 11-12
- **April 12-16, 2010 –**
  - Task Force meeting April 12-13, Denver area
  - Peterson/Buckley, CO Apr 14-15
  - Ft Riley, KS April 16



# Questions?

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**Other Considerations?**

**Offers of Advice and Assistance?**