



Defense Health Board

Medical Ethics Subcommittee Update

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Defense Health Board Meeting
March 8, 2011



Outline

- Subcommittee Membership
- Subcommittee Charge
- Recent Activities
- Active Issues
- Potential Issues
- Discussion



Subcommittee Membership

- Membership pending reappointments



Subcommittee Charge

- Address issues pertaining to moral values as they apply to medicine and their practical application in clinical settings
- Review latest developments in medical ethics as they pertain to the DoD



Active Issues

- How can military medical professionals **most appropriately balance** their **obligations** to their **patients** against their **obligations** as **military officers** to help commanders **maintain military readiness**?
- **How much latitude** should military medical professionals be given to **refuse participation in medical procedures or military operations** with which they have **ethical reservations** or **disagreement**?



Active Issues (Continued)

December 2, 2010 Meeting: Briefers

- **Dr. Jack Smith**
Director, Clinical and Program Policy Integration, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
- **Dr. Edmund Howe**
Director of Programs in Ethics and Chair, Institutional Review Board, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
- **Dr. Edward Gabriele**
Special Assistant for Ethics and Professional Integrity, Office of the Surgeon General of the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
- **Dr. Albert Pierce**
Director, Institute for National Security Ethics and Leadership (INSEL), National Defense University



December 2, 2010 Meeting Briefers (Continued)

- **Dr. Elizabeth Holmes**
Director of Assessment, James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership, United States Naval Academy
- **Dr. Griffin Trotter**
Associate Professor, Center for Health Care Ethics, Saint Louis University
- **Mr. Jonathan H. Marks**
Associate Professor of Bioethics, Humanities and Law and Affiliate Law Faculty, Penn State University; Fellow, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University
- **Dr. Sondra Crosby**
Associate Professor of Medicine, Boston University



Active Issues (Continued)

December 2, 2010 Meeting: Discussion Topics

- Dual loyalties
 - Medical Ethical codes
 - Military law
- Belief systems and moral influences
- Support for providers handling difficult ethical dilemmas
- Ethics training for military providers



Potential Issues

- Ethics education for medical personnel within the Military Health System
- Ethics primer for Board members



Discussion