



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
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FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22042-5101

DHA-IPM 18-002
February 20, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH READINESS POLICY AND OVERSIGHT)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH SERVICES POLICY AND OVERSIGHT)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND POLICY)
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Interim Procedures Memorandum 18-002, Guidance for Service Implementation of In-Theater Mental Health Assessments (MHAs)

References: (a) DoD Directive 5136.01, "Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD(HA))," September 30, 2013, as amended
(b) DoD Directive 5136.13, "Defense Health Agency (DHA)," September 30, 2013
(c) DHA-Procedural Instruction 5025.01, "Publication System," August 21, 2015
(d) DoD Instruction 6490.12, "Mental Health Assessments for Service Members Deployed in Connection with a Contingency Operation," February 26, 2013, as amended
(e) DoD Instruction 6490.03, "Deployment Health," August 11, 2006
(f) Title 10, United States Code, Section 1074m

Purpose. This Defense Health Agency-Interim Procedures Memorandum (DHA-IPM), based on the authority of References (a) through (c), and in accordance with the guidance of References (d) and (f):

- With the concurrence and on behalf of Joint Staff, assigns responsibilities and provides instructions for implementing Reference (d), which requires an MHA once during every 180 days a Service member is deployed in accordance with Reference (f).

- Is effective immediately; it will be incorporated into DHA-Procedural Instruction 6490.03, "Deployment Health." This DHA-IPM will expire effective 12 months from the date of issue.


Applicability. This DHA-IPM applies to medical personnel assigned to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of DoD, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD (referred to collectively in this DHA-IPM as the "DoD Components").

Responsibilities. The Combatant Commands with support from the Surgeons General of the Military Departments will:

- Develop procedures to execute this DHA-IPM.
- Execute the developed procedures as soon as practicable.
- Make reasonable efforts to educate providers about the subject matter of this DHA-IPM.

Procedures. See Attachment.

Releasability. **Cleared for public release.** This DHA-IPM is available on the Internet from the DHA SharePoint site at: <http://www.health.mil/dhapublications>.



R. C. BONO
VADM, MC, USN
Director

cc:

Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
Surgeon General of the Army
Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force
Medical Officer of the Marine Corps
Joint Staff Surgeon
Director of Health, Safety, and Work-Life, U.S. Coast Guard
Surgeon General of the National Guard Bureau
Director, National Capital Region Medical Directorate

ATTACHMENT

1. OVERVIEW. In accordance with References (d) and (f):

a. For all Service members who are deployed in connection with a contingency operation for more than an anticipated 179-day deployment tasking:

(1) An in-theater MHA will be conducted by trained personnel supporting deployed units whose responsibilities include providing unit health services, if such personnel are available and the use of such personnel for the assessments would not impair the capacity of such personnel to perform higher priority tasks;

(2) MHAs should be administered not earlier than 90 days and no later than 180 days after entering theater. The in-theater MHA should be re-administered accordingly for each 180 days of deployment (e.g., between 181 and 360 days) with a minimum of 90 days between each in-theater MHA administration.

b. In-theater MHAs are not required for members redeploying to home station at or around 179 days or less.

c. Scheduling in-theater MHAs must be made in consideration of and seek to lessen potential impacts on the operational mission.

d. In-theater MHAs are to be conducted by either an independently licensed mental health professional or a trained and certified health care provider (specifically a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, advanced practice nurse, independent duty corpsman, special forces medical sergeant, independent duty medical technician, or independent health services technician). Deployment MHAs may also be conducted by a mental health technician provided: (1) That technician has completed the training and certification requirements described in Reference (d) of this DHA-IPM; and (2) An independently licensed mental health provider, physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant is available to supervise and countersign each assessment before a disposition is made.

e. The DD Form 2978, Deployment Mental Health Assessments, is in the process of being updated for use in theater, in the interim, the current form will be used as a guide for implementation of the in-theater MHA, with the following elements included at a minimum:

(1) Demographics (last name, first name, Social Security number, date of birth, Service, and component);

(2) Date entered theater;

(3) Deployment Question 5 (posttraumatic stress disorder screening);

(4) Deployment Question 6 (depression screening);

- (5) Health Care Provider Question 4 (posttraumatic stress disorder provider assessment);
- (6) Health Care Provider Question 5 (depression provider assessment);
- (7) Health Care Provider Question 6 (suicide risk evaluation);
- (8) Health Care Provider Question 7 (violence/harm risk evaluation);
- (9) Health Care Provider Questions 9–10 (assessment and referral); and
- (10) Provider information and certification (name, date, title, and certification).

f. Ensure all forms, including the minimum elements listed above, are submitted to the Defense Medical Surveillance System, which is maintained by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch. When operational circumstances preclude electronic completion, these assessments can be performed using hard-copy documentation.

g. Ensure assessments are documented in the individual's health record in accordance with Reference (e).

GLOSSARY

PART I. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

DHA	Defense Health Agency
DHA-IPM	Defense Health Agency-Interim Procedures Memorandum
MHA	Mental Health Assessment

PART II. DEFINITION

deployed in connection with a contingency operation. The relocation of forces and materiel to desired operational areas in which Service members are or may become involved in military actions, operations, or hostilities against an enemy of the United States or against an opposing military force for a period longer than 30 days pursuant to temporary or permanent official orders.