Department of Defense
Task Force on Mental Health

Thomas J. Burke, MD MPH
Executive Secretary
Purpose

- Update the Defense Health Board on the status of DoD Mental Health Task Force efforts during the period December 2006 to April 2007.
Membership

- VADM Donald Arthur, Surgeon General of the Navy, appointed Department of Defense Co-chair March 27, 2007
Activities of the Task Force

- Information gathering
- Deliberation of findings and recommendations
- Administrative, writing and report editing
Information Gathering

- Full Task Force Meetings
  - The Task Force has held eight meetings of the full Task Force membership
  - Informational briefings in open sessions from subject matter experts
  - Open “town hall” format sessions at which the public was provided an opportunity to address the Task Force
Information Gathering

- Site visits
  - The Task Force has sent delegations of 2-5 members on site visits to 38 military installations from all four Services in the continental United States, Europe, and the Far East.
  - Completed final site visit in February 2007
Information Gathering

- Site visits
  - Installation commander
  - Post “town hall” meeting
  - Resident military units
  - Medical Treatment Facilities
  - Non-medical behavioral health support
  - Local community medical support
Information Gathering

- Site visits
  - Standard list of questions
  - Problem areas and model programs
  - Exact agenda negotiated with each installation
Information Gathering

- Data Call
  - Extensive list of questions
  - Tasked to responding organizations by Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)
- Responding organizations
  - DUSD(Military Community and Family Policy)
  - ASD(HA)
  - TRICARE Management Activity
  - Military Departments
Information Gathering

- Web page for submission of written statements

- Web page closed for testimony March 9, 2007

- Web site remains open for public information
Information Gathering

- Literature review
- Information posted for Task Force use on AKO website (password protected)
Deliberation of Findings and Recommendations

- Full Task Force meetings
  - Washington, DC February 2007
  - San Antonio, TX April 2007

- Defense Health Board
  - Fort Detrick, MD May 3, 2007
Remaining Activities

- April 10-11: Defense Health Board (DHB) meeting.
- April 16-18: Full TF meeting to deliberate draft report.
- May 3: DHB meeting. DHB deliberates edited draft report (in soft copy only).
- May 15: MHTF delivers report to Secretary of Defense
Questions?