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

• 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

- 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.
• 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

• 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

- 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

• 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?

Other Considerations?

Offers of Advice and Assistance?