



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

The Honorable Mike D. Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

JAN 15 2026


Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department's response to section 723 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31), "Program of the Department of Defense to Study Treatment of Certain Conditions Using Certain Psychedelic Substances," is enclosed.

The Department's second annual report summarizes the two clinical trials funded by the Fiscal Year 2024 Defense Medical Research and Development Program Psychedelic Treatment Research Clinical Trial Award, including their status, design, participant recruitment, location, funded entities, and designated host clinics.

Thank you for your continued strong support for the health and well-being of our Service members. I am sending a similar letter to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

Sincerely,

  
Sean O'Keefe  
Deputy Under Secretary of War for Personnel  
and Readiness

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND  
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The Honorable Roger F. Wicker  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

JAN 15 2026

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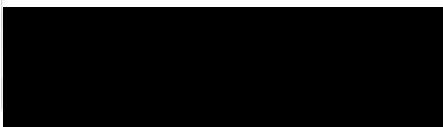
Sincerely,



Sean O'Keefe  
Deputy Under Secretary of War for Personnel  
and Readiness

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member



# **Report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives**



## **Program of the Department of Defense to Study Treatment of Certain Conditions Using Certain Psychedelic Substances**

**Annual Update**

**January 2026**

The estimated cost of this report for the Department of War is approximately \$600.00 for Fiscal Year 2025. This includes \$200.00 in expenses and \$400.00 in DoW labor.

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## PURPOSE

This report is in response to section 723 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 (Public Law 118–31), “Program of the Department of Defense to Study Treatment of Certain Conditions Using Certain Psychedelic Substances.” Section 723 requests that the Secretary report annually on awards funded under this section. This report provides an overview and status of studies funded under section 723 that use psychedelic substances as treatment.

## BACKGROUND

In response to section 723 of the NDAA for FY 2024, the Defense Health Agency as the lead administrator, with execution management support from the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, released a targeted clinical trial award, the Psychedelic Treatment Research Clinical Trial Award (PTRCTA), through the FY 2024 Defense Medical Research and Development Program (DMRDP). The FY 2024 DMRDP received applications for the PTRCTA in October 2024, which then underwent peer review in December 2024. The DMRDP conducted a programmatic review in January 2025. In response to the PTRCTA Program Announcement, the DMRDP received 13 letters of intent. Of the nine compliant applications received, the DMRDP recommended funding two (22.2 percent) for a total of \$9.80 million.<sup>1</sup> The following institutions received funding:

- Henry M. Jackson Foundation (HJF)/Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC):<sup>2</sup> \$4,899,065.
- University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health San Antonio):<sup>3</sup> \$4,899,999.

The intent of the DMRDP PTRCTA is to support clinical trials with eligible U.S. Service members to evaluate treatments for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and/or traumatic brain injury (TBI) involving the use of covered psychedelic substances. Applicants were required to select at least one of the two covered conditions (PTSD or TBI) and one or more of the covered psychedelic substances (i.e., 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), psilocybin, ibogaine, 5-Methoxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine (commonly known as “5-MeO-DMT”), and qualified plant-based alternative therapies). Treatment may involve the use of covered psychedelic substances alone or in conjunction with other evidence-based treatments.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Defense Medical Research and Development Program (DMRDP). Description of Review Procedures. [https://cdmrp.health.mil/dmrpd/pdfs/HT94254DMRDPTRCTA\\_Information%20Paper\\_Final.pdf](https://cdmrp.health.mil/dmrpd/pdfs/HT94254DMRDPTRCTA_Information%20Paper_Final.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Defense Medical Research and Development Program. FY 2024 Psychedelic Treatment Research Clinical Trial. <https://cdmrp.health.mil/dmrpd/awards/24ptrct>.

<sup>3</sup> Defense Medical Research and Development Program. FY 2024 Psychedelic Treatment Research Clinical Trial. <https://cdmrp.health.mil/dmrpd/awards/24ptrct>.

<sup>4</sup> Program Announcement. Defense Medical Research and Development Program, “Psychedelic Treatment Research Clinical Trial Award.” [https://cdmrp.health.mil/funding/pa/HT94254DMRDPTRCTA\\_GG.pdf](https://cdmrp.health.mil/funding/pa/HT94254DMRDPTRCTA_GG.pdf).

## OVERVIEW AND STATUS OF FUNDED AWARDS

The first award, “A Randomized, Double-Blind, Active-Controlled, Clinical Trial of the Safety, Efficacy, and Durability of MDMA-Assisted Therapy for Military Service Members with PTSD,” is being conducted by HJF and WRNMMC. The period of performance is from September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2028. This award involves a randomized, double-blind, active-controlled, two-arm, phase 2 clinical trial to determine the safety, efficacy, durability, tolerability, and acceptability of MDMA integrated with acceptance and commitment therapy for Service members with moderate to severe PTSD. The 86 participants will be recruited throughout the Military Health System (MHS), and the study will take place at WRNMMC. The study team is currently finalizing the study protocol in preparation for a pre-investigational new drug meeting with the Food and Drug Administration and obtaining all necessary regulatory approvals. Participant enrollment has not yet begun; therefore, there are no results to report.

The second award is titled: “MDMA-Enhanced Massed Prolonged Exposure for PTSD in Active-Duty Military Personnel.” The performing and contracting organization is UT Health San Antonio. The period of performance is from August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2028. This award involves a randomized, double-blind, two-arm phase 2 clinical trial to evaluate the efficacy of MDMA combined with massed prolonged exposure therapy among 100 active duty, National Guard, and Reserve Service members with PTSD. Enrollment and treatment will occur at two sites: UT Health San Antonio, and Emory University, Atlanta. Participants will be recruited from Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center (CRDAMC), the Emory Healthcare Veterans Program/Warrior Care Network, and the Grady Trauma Project. The study team is currently preparing the protocol documents to obtain all necessary regulatory approvals. Participant enrollment has not yet begun; therefore, there are no results to report at this time.

## CONCLUSION

As noted in this report, the entities awarded funding under the FY 2024 DMRDP are HJF/WRNMMC and UT Health San Antonio, and the clinics or sites designated to host activities are WRNMMC, UT Health San Antonio, and Emory University.<sup>5</sup> The anticipated number of participants in the clinical trials is 186 Service members,<sup>6</sup> with recruitment throughout the MHS and broader military medical networks (i.e., BAMC, CRDAMC, Emory Healthcare Veterans Program/Warrior Care Network, and the Grady Trauma Project). While there are no results to report at this time,<sup>7</sup> the Department will continue to submit annual reports on the status and outcomes of this program.

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<sup>5</sup> Section 723(d)(1-2) of the NDAA for FY 2024 (Public Law 118–31), “Program of the Department of Defense to Study Treatment of Certain Conditions Using Certain Psychedelic Substances.” December 22, 2023.

<sup>6</sup> Section 723(d)(3) of the NDAA for FY 2024 (Public Law 118–31), “Program of the Department of Defense to Study Treatment of Certain Conditions Using Certain Psychedelic Substances.” December 22, 2023.

<sup>7</sup> Section 723(d)(4) of the NDAA for FY 2024 (Public Law 118–31), “Program of the Department of Defense to Study Treatment of Certain Conditions Using Certain Psychedelic Substances.” December 22, 2023.