

# Deployment Health Assessments

U.S. Armed Forces

December 2015

(Data through November 2015)

Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch

# Update: Deployment Health Assessments, U.S. Armed Forces, December 2015

Since January 2003, peaks and troughs in the monthly numbers of pre- and post-deployment health assessment forms transmitted to the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center generally corresponded to times of departure and return of large numbers of deployers. Between April 2006 and November 2015, the number of post-deployment reassessment (PDHRA) forms per month ranged from 15,114 to 45,768 (Table 1, Figure 1). The November 2015 number of pre-deployment assessments (11,741) was the lowest since January 2003.

During the past 12 months, the proportions of returned deployers who rated their health as “fair” or “poor” were 5.3–8.0% on post-deployment health assessment questionnaires and 7.6–10.3% on PDHRA questionnaires (Figure 2). The proportion of pre-deployment service members who rated their health as “fair” or “poor” ranged from 2.9–4.5% during the past 12 months.

In general, the proportions of reserve component members reporting “exposure concerns” and “health concerns” on post-deployment assessments and reassessments have been consistently greater than among active component members (Table 2, Figure 3). Service members in the active component of the Marine Corps and reserve component of the Army were more likely to report exposure concerns three to six months after, compared to the time of, return from deployment (Table 2).

At the time of return from deployment, service members serving in the active and reserve component of the Army and reserve component of the Marine Corps were the most likely of all deployers to receive mental health referrals; three to six months after returning, at the time of the PDHRA, reservists in all services were more likely than their active component counterparts to receive mental health referrals (Table 2).

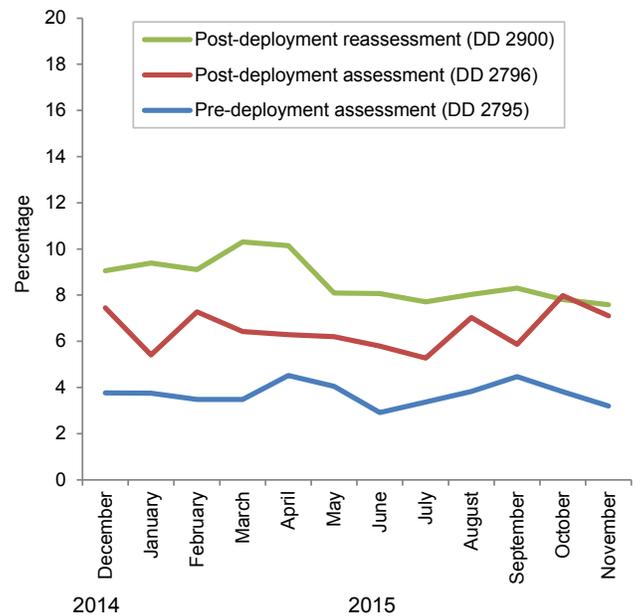
**Table 1.** Deployment-related health assessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, December 2014–November 2015

	Pre-deployment assessment DD2795		Post-deployment assessment DD2796		Post-deployment reassessment DD2900	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	225,421	100	134,939	100	254,855	100
2014						
December	20,836	9.2	12,326	9.1	22,058	8.7
2015						
January	22,903	10.2	10,999	8.2	24,182	9.5
February	19,121	8.5	8,177	6.1	24,789	9.7
March	17,970	8.0	15,522	11.5	27,855	10.9
April	20,788	9.2	10,365	7.7	22,557	8.9
May	18,887	8.4	7,357	5.5	20,042	7.9
June	17,794	7.9	10,373	7.7	20,199	7.9
July	17,970	8.0	13,181	9.8	19,691	7.7
August	19,699	8.7	10,325	7.7	21,264	8.3
September	18,417	8.2	14,075	10.4	16,940	6.6
October	19,295	8.6	12,549	9.3	18,002	7.1
November	11,741	5.2	9,690	7.2	17,276	6.8

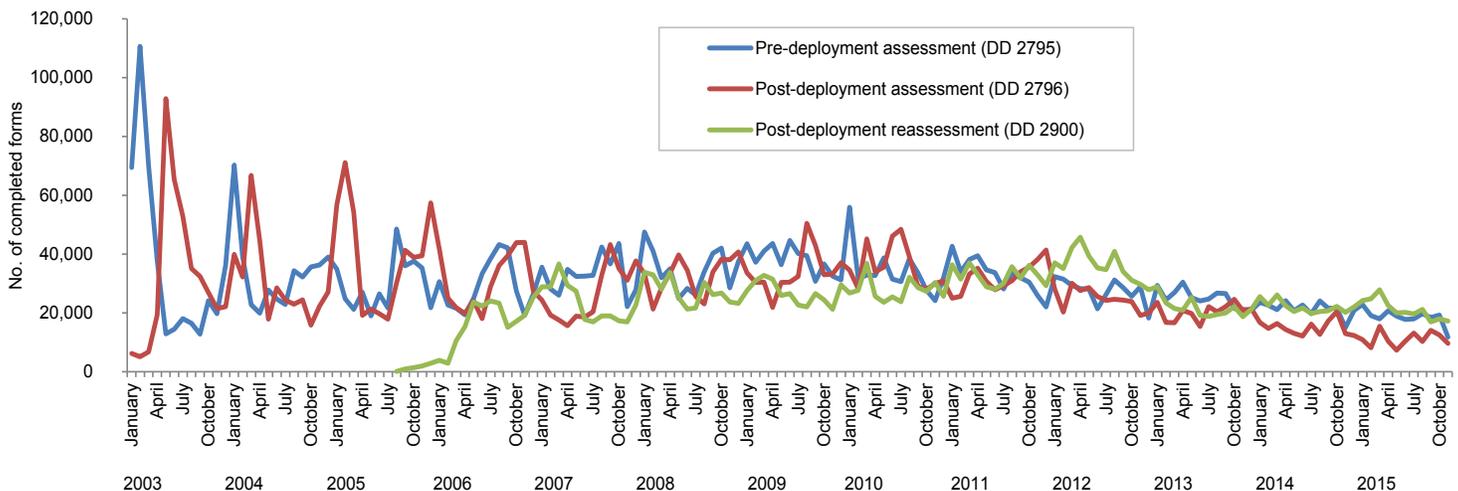
Source: Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS) as of 07DEC2015  
Prepared by Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch (AFHSB)

**Table Summary:** This table shows, for the 12-month period December 2014 through November 2015, the monthly counts and the whole year’s counts of health assessment forms completed by service members. The counts are shown separately for the pre- and post-deployment assessments and for the post-deployment reassessments. The monthly counts for each assessment are trending downward.

**Figure 2.** Proportion of deployment health assessment forms with self-assessed health status as “fair” or “poor,” U.S. Armed Forces, December 2014–November 2015



**Figure 1.** Total deployment health assessment and reassessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2003–November 2015



**Table 2.** Percentage of service members who endorsed selected questions/received referrals on health assessment forms, U.S. Armed Forces, December 2014–November 2015

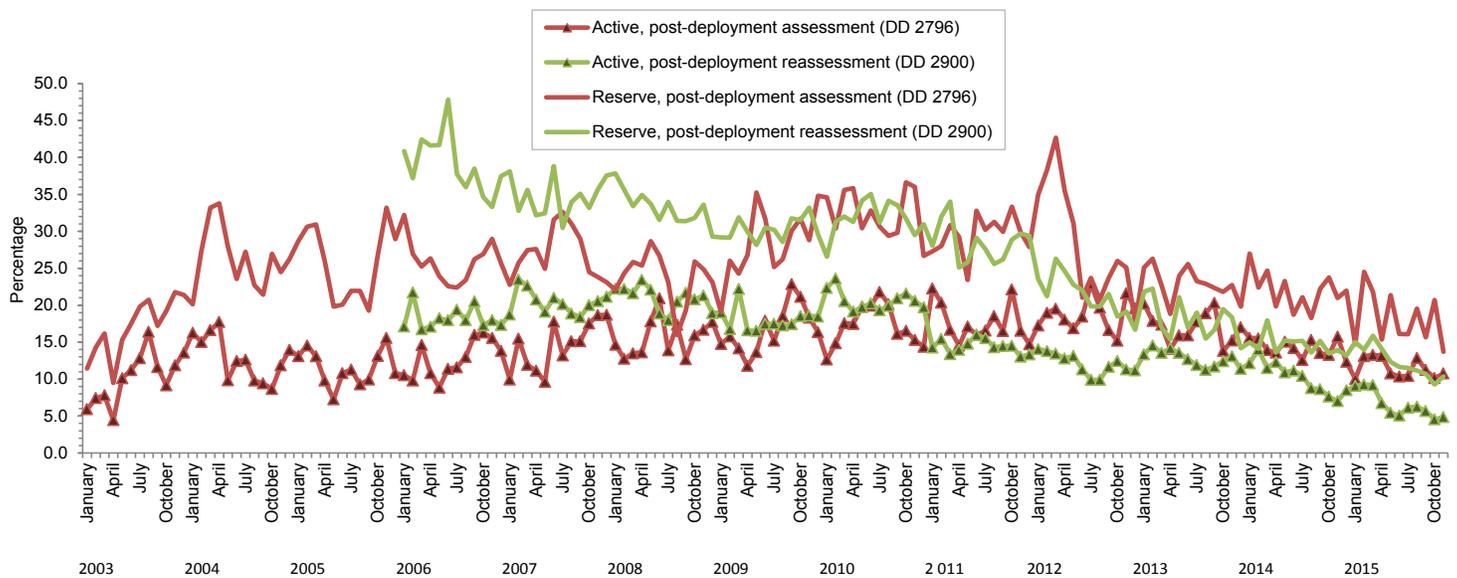
	Army			Navy			Air Force			Marine Corps			All service members		
	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900
<b>Active component</b>	n=100,104 %	n=47,258 %	n=98,059 %	n=6,593 %	n=6,259 %	n=8,112 %	n=38,531 %	n=35,554 %	n=69,654 %	n=19,029 %	n=11,607 %	n=16,672 %	n=164,257 %	n=100,678 %	n=192,497 %
General health "fair" or "poor"	5.7	8.4	6.1	1.9	4.5	3.2	1.2	2.6	1.3	2.9	6.1	7.5	4.1	5.8	4.4
Health concerns, not wound or injury	7.2	19.6	8.5	3.2	10.5	7.4	2.9	7.4	7.7	3.3	9.7	8.4	5.6	13.6	8.1
Health worse now than before deployed	na	72.1	40.2	na	70.6	50.7	na	59.5	27.4	na	71.0	69.8	na	67.4	38.6
Exposure concerns	na	12.1	7.5	na	14.8	11.4	na	10.6	3.1	na	11.0	18.0	na	11.6	7.0
PTSD symptoms (2 or more)	na	6.2	4.9	na	3.4	8.1	na	2.2	3.2	na	3.0	7.9	na	4.2	4.7
Depression symptoms (any)	na	21.1	12.0	na	14.9	17.9	na	8.1	9.5	na	15.4	20.2	na	15.5	12.0
Referral indicated by provider (any)	7.6	20.0	17.3	4.7	29.1	13.6	5.6	12.4	8.9	5.6	21.8	15.6	6.8	18.1	14.0
Mental health referral indicated <sup>a</sup>	2.3	3.5	14.1	0.6	3.3	11.2	0.9	1.6	7.3	0.7	2.2	13.3	1.7	2.7	11.5
Medical visit following referral <sup>b</sup>	99.1	99.4	97.6	74.7	88.2	90.4	99.7	99.0	99.7	90.7	86.6	92.0	97.6	97.1	97.1
<b>Reserve component</b>	n=20,656 %	n=15,082 %	n=20,925 %	n=2,233 %	n=1,860 %	n=3,843 %	n=12,020 %	n=9,450 %	n=21,541 %	n=366 %	n=225 %	n=2,249 %	n=35,275 %	n=26,617 %	n=48,558 %
General health "fair" or "poor"	1.1	11.2	13.4	0.2	9.0	5.3	1.0	4.0	1.5	0.3	8.9	3.5	1.0	8.5	7.0
Health concerns, not wound or injury	2.8	23.9	19.3	1.0	39.1	9.0	1.6	8.8	3.7	2.2	23.6	5.8	2.2	19.6	10.9
Health worse now than before deployed	na	70.7	78.8	na	75.1	44.0	na	67.0	24.5	na	76.0	28.1	na	69.8	49.6
Exposure concerns	na	18.3	21.9	na	36.2	18.8	na	14.6	3.6	na	24.9	7.4	na	18.3	12.9
PTSD symptoms (2 or more)	na	7.8	14.1	na	6.1	11.8	na	1.7	2.6	na	9.8	12.5	na	5.5	8.8
Depression symptoms (any)	na	21.6	24.3	na	17.4	22.9	na	7.4	7.5	na	15.1	23.7	na	16.2	16.7
Referral indicated by provider (any)	4.1	30.8	46.9	4.2	35.5	26.6	3.0	14.6	9.0	3.3	49.8	24.1	3.7	25.5	27.4
Mental health referral indicated <sup>a</sup>	0.8	4.8	46.2	0.2	2.4	26.2	0.4	1.1	8.7	0.8	5.3	22.7	0.6	3.3	26.9
Medical visit following referral <sup>b</sup>	88.8	99.6	47.5	95.3	99.1	52.7	58.5	74.5	58.5	100.0	85.7	47.0	80.8	94.4	49.0

<sup>a</sup>Includes behavioral health, combat stress and substance abuse referrals.

<sup>b</sup>Record of inpatient or outpatient visit within 6 months after referral.

**Table Summary:** This large table depicts, for the most recent 12-month period as a whole, the percentages of service members whose responses endorsed health concerns, problems, or symptoms, or who received referrals for follow-up health care. The table distinguishes members of the active and reserve components, members of the four Services, and responses on each of the three different types of questionnaire. A summary of notable findings is given in the main text.

**Figure 3.** Proportion of service members who endorsed exposure concerns on post-deployment health assessments, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2003–November 2015



**Data Source:** Defense Medical Surveillance System