

# Department of Defense Task Force on Mental Health

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Executive Secretary

# Purpose

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

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

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

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## □ 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
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# Information Gathering

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## □ 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
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# Information Gathering

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## □ Site visits

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

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

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## 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
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# Information Gathering

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- Web page for submission of written statements
    - <http://www.ha.osd.mil/DHB/mhtf/testimony.cfm>
  - Web page closed for testimony March 9, 2007
  - Web site remains open for public information
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# Information Gathering

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

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- Full Task Force meetings
    - Washington, DC February 2007
    - San Antonio, TX April 2007
  
  - Defense Health Board
    - Fort Detrick, MD May 3, 2007
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# Remaining Activities

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- 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
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# Questions?

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