

# DoD Task Force Response

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OSD (Personnel & Readiness)

**June 14, 2011**



# Background

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## □ 2009 NDAA language:

- **“Requirement to Establish.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish within the DoD a task force to examine matters relating to prevention of suicide by members of the Armed Forces.”**
- **“In general.—Not later than 12 months after the date on which all members of the task force have been appointed, the task force shall submit to the Secretary a report containing recommendations regarding a comprehensive policy designed to prevent suicide by members of the Armed Forces.”**



# Background

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- **OSD P&R has been delegated responsibility to respond to the following requirements:**
- **2009 NDAA language:**
  - **“Transmittal to Congress.—Not later than 90 days after the receipt of the report, the Secretary shall transmit the report to the Committees...The Secretary may include in the transmittal such comments on the report as the Secretary considers appropriate.”**
  - **“Plan Required.—Not later than March 1, 2010, the Secretary of Defense shall develop a plan based on the recommendations of the task force and submit the plan to the congressional defense committees.”**



# Background

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- **Report provided an excellent overview of the suicide issue**
- **It has served as a catalyst for a comprehensive review of DoD policy and programs**
- **Report contained:**
  - **49 findings**
  - **13 foundational recommendations**
  - **76 targeted recommendations**



# Approach Overview

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- **Very comprehensive and detailed report required a deliberate and comprehensive approach**
- **Devised a charter to regulate response process**
- **Phased approach**





# Approach Overview

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Tier 1: Suicide Prevention Working Group  
(Core Group + Matrixed Group)

Tier 2: General Officer Steering Committee  
Chaired by Ms. Roby

Tier 3: Executive Review Group  
Chaired by Dr. Stanley

- ❑ Tier 1—Receive inputs and recommendations; organize response; write response; tracking
- ❑ Tier 2—Provides overall direction and adjudicates/resolves issues
- ❑ Tier 3—Provides continuing oversight and policy guidance
- ❑ SECDEF/DEPSECDEF will be briefed at periodic intervals as required



# Approach Overview Phase 1

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## □ Phase One—December 2010 to March 2011

- **Purpose:**

- - Review recommendations at the foundational level and respond with a general gameplan for action
- - Relay to Congress where we are and where we are going
- - Meet NDAA requirements to present an initial plan to implement the recommendations of the Task Force to Congress

- **Who:** A Working Group consisting of a Core Group focused on the task and a Matrixed Group that includes key stakeholders

- **Endstate:**

- - Provide an overview of the Department's views on the Task Force Report
- - Address each of the 13 foundational recommendations in broad terms
- - Address our plan to review each of the 76 specific recommendations and provide a detailed implementation plan in the fall
- - Provide an update of the Services' Suicide Prevention and Resilience programs since the report publish date



# Approach Overview

## Phase 1



### Core Group Key Tasks:

- Meet weekly
- Provide direction to Matrixed Group
- Compile inputs
- Write response
- Provide briefings and updates
- Track status of recommendations

### Matrixed Group Key Tasks:

- Meet on a monthly basis
- Provide a point of entry
- Respond to taskers from the Core Group as required
- Provide organizational position and feedback





# Approach Overview

## Phase 1

No	Foundational Recommendation	Action
1	Create a "Suicide Prevention Policy Division"	Accept for Action
2	Keep suicide prevention programs in the leadership lane	Continue Planned Actions
3	Reduce stress on the force	Continue Planned Actions
4	Focus efforts on Service member resilience	Continue Planned Actions
5	Develop a comprehensive stigma reduction campaign plan	Accept for Action
6	Strengthen strategic messaging to enhance positive communications	Accept for Action
7	Develop skills-based suicide-prevention training in all training arenas	Accept for Action
8	Incorporate program evaluation in all suicide prevention programs	Accept for Action
9	Leverage the strengths of installation and local community support services for both Active and Reserve Service members	Accept for Action
10	Ensure continuity of quality behavioral healthcare, especially while in transition periods	Accept for Action
11	Expand the Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) to serve as the main surveillance method	Accept for Action
12	Expand and standardize suicide investigations	Accept for Action
13	Fund ongoing Department suicide prevention research	Accept for Action



# Approach Overview

## Phase 2

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### □ Phase Two—April 1, 2011 to September 30, 2011

- **Purpose:**

- Fully develop a detailed implementation plan for the recommendations the Secretary of
  - Defense decides to accept for action
  - - Develop/publish policy (if required)
  - - Stand up a permanent governing structure

- **Who:** Core Group and Matrixed Group

- **Endstate:**

- A detailed response plan to Congress and an internal Department memorandum signed by
  - the Secretary
  - - Each of these documents will detail the actions to be taken for each recommendation
- The response plan to Congress will outline our intended actions and dates to be
  - accomplished
  - - The internal Department memo will include the same information, but in more detail



# Approach Overview

## Phase 3

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### □ Phase Three —October 1, 2011

- **Purpose:** Execute the decided upon governance process to provide strategic direction, policy, and oversight
- **Who:** Governance entity, as determined
- **Endstate:** A fully staffed and functioning entity providing strategic direction, policy guidance, and oversight for the Department



# Current Progress

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- **Multiple meetings of Working Group**
- **General Officer Steering Committee met 6 times**
- **Reviewed all 13 foundational recommendations**
- **Reviewed 39 of 76 targeted recommendations**
- **Consensus emerging on:**
  - **Entity focused on suicide prevention at the OSD level**
  - **Strategic communication effort**
  - **Data collection and standardization**
  - **Comprehensive training strategy and plan**



# DoD Task Force Response

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**Questions?**



# Backup Slides

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BACKUP SLIDES



# Suicide Prevention Core Group

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## ❑ Core Group Members

- Mr Len Litton, OUSD P&R
- Mr Bruce Shahbaz, Army HP/RR/SP Task Force
- Dr Jill Carty, Executive Officer, FHP&R Operations
- CDR Janet Hawkins, DCoE, R&P
- Lt Col Andy Rowan, Dir of Training, Psy Residency Program
- Ms Jackie Garrick, OUSD RA
- Mr Peter Donovan, OUSD RA



# Suicide Prevention Working Group

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## ❑ Working Group Representatives

- USAF, Major Mike McCarthy
- USMC, LCDR Andy Martin
- USA, Mr Walter Morales
- USN, LCDR Bonnie Chavez
- DoD IG, Mr Ollie Bray
- OSD PA, Ms Cynthia Smith
- OSD P, Ms Lesley Young
- OSD RA, Ms Jackie Garrick
- OAFME, Ms Lynne Oetjen-Gerdes
- DCoE/SPARRC, CDR Janet Hawkins
- NGB, Capt Joan Hunter
- USCG, Mr John Riebling
- Joint Staff, CDR Cynthia Eythell
- USN M&RA, Ms Evonne Carawan
- VA, Dr Jan Kemp





# Suicide Prevention Working Group

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## ❑ Working Group Representatives

- T2, Dr Mark Reger
- Chaplain, Col Steve Moon