

The seal of the Defense Health Board is a circular emblem. It features a central globe with a microscope superimposed over it. The globe is light blue and green, while the microscope is dark grey. Above the globe is a large, stylized yellow starburst. The entire emblem is enclosed in a purple ring with the words "DEFENSE" at the top and "HEALTH BOARD" at the bottom, separated by two small white stars.

Deployment Health Centers Review

Defense Health Board
November 1, 2016



Overview

- Membership
- Background and Current Tasking
- Timeline
- Meeting Highlights
- Areas of Interest
- Way Forward



Membership

Defense Health Board (DHB) members participating in the review:

- There are four Defense Health Board members in the subset with one as the chair.



Requests for Deployment Health Centers Review

- **2002:** The Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB) should “serve as a public health advisory body and provide a forum for program review of ongoing research and clinical efforts” for the Deployment Health Centers (DHCs).
 - Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) Memo, September 17, 2002
- **2003-2012:** The AFEB, and later the DHB, conducted several rounds of reviews, submitting recommendations to the Department.
- **2013:** The Board should “revisit the DHCC [Deployment Health Clinical Center] in 2013, to assess progress and perform a follow-up review” and “conduct reviews of the DHCC, Deployment Health Research Center, and Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center [AFHSC] every 3 years, for the next 6 years.”
 - Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness) Memo, January 22, 2013
- **2013:** The Board conducted a follow-up review of the DHCC and submitted recommendations to the Department.
- **2016:** Board initiating 3-year review in accordance with the January 22, 2013 memo.



Current Tasking: Three DHCs

- **DHCC**
 - Realigned under the Defense Health Agency (DHA) in February 2016
 - A component of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE).
 - Mission: “To improve the lives of our nation's service members, veterans and families by advancing excellence in psychological health care and prevention of psychological health disorders.”
- **Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch (AFHSB), formerly AFHSC**
 - Realigned under DHA in August 2015
 - Mission: “Provide timely, relevant, actionable, and comprehensive health surveillance information to promote, maintain, and enhance the health of military and military-associated populations
Acquire, analyze/interpret, disseminate information, and recommend evidence-based policy
Develop, refine, and improve standardized surveillance methods
Serve as focal point for sharing health surveillance products, expertise, and information
Coordinate a global program of militarily relevant infectious disease surveillance”
- **Naval Health Research Center (NHRC)**
 - Designated as the DoD Deployment Health Research Center in 1999 to conduct epidemiologic studies investigating longitudinal health experience of previously deployed personnel.
 - Mission: “Designated the Department of Defense (DoD) Deployment Health Research Center, Naval Health Research Center (NHRC) optimizes the operational health and readiness of our armed forces by conducting research and development to inform DoD policy and practice.”



Meetings

Meetings Since Previous Board Meeting

- **August 10, 2016 – Meeting**
 - Discussed conducting a gap analysis of previous recommendations and their alignment with DHA and Navy Medicine strategies
- **October 3, 2016 – Teleconference**
 - Reviewed gap analysis, draft Terms of Reference, and slides for leadership briefings
- **October 24, 2016 – Teleconference**
 - Discussion with VADM Raquel Bono and MG Jeffrey Clark
 - Finalized site visit questionnaire



Potential Areas of Interest

- Affirmation of value of DHCs to DoD.
- Comparison of the original intent of the DHCs with the current missions and scopes.
- A review of the responses to DHB's previous findings and recommendations and their continued applicability.
- Alignment of site visit findings and recommendations with the MHS, DHA, and Navy Medicine strategies.
- Examination of resources (funding, manpower, facilities, etc.).
- Potential gap in provision of clinical care services for military personnel after deployment due to DHCC's focus on psychological health.



Key DHA Takeaways

- There have been several organizational changes since previous visits, particularly pertaining to MHS governance, and thus, the review is timely.
- The review may identify opportunities for prioritization and enhanced alignment of DHA resources.



Way Forward

- Meet with Navy leadership (NHRC visit)
- Conduct site visits
 - NHRC: November 29
 - AFHSB: December 5
 - DHCC: December 6
- Information gathering and report writing through winter 2017
- Develop and refine findings and recommendations in spring 2017
- Present draft report at June 2017 DHB meeting



Questions?