



Neurological/Behavioral Health Subcommittee

Examination of Mental Health Accession Screening: Predictive Value of Current Measures and Processes
Report Update

February 10, 2020



Overview

- **Membership**
- **Review Tasking**
- **Summary of Subcommittee Activities to Date**
- **Areas of Interest**
- **Way Ahead**



Membership



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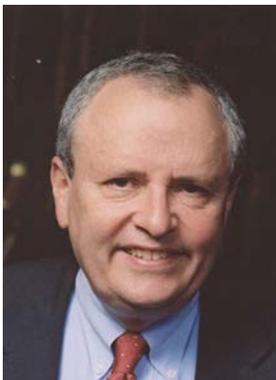
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Tasking

- **On July 29, 2019, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, directed the Defense Health Board (“the Board”) to provide recommendations to the DoD in order to improve mental health accession measures/processes.**



Tasking

The Board should address and develop findings and recommendations on the policies and practices in place to:

- Determine factors, to include historical or current diagnoses or symptoms, that predispose or promote a person to/from poor outcomes under stress of military service;
- Evaluate the predictive validity and effectiveness of psychiatric/psychological assessments and applicability to accession screening;
- Identify stressors and risks inherent in military service that can both positively and negatively influence Service member mental health morbidity; and;
- Optimize ways to support recruits' mental fitness.



Objectives

- Review the most current research findings regarding factors that predispose or protect a person to/from poor outcomes under stress, such as PTSD and suicide, including the most current DoD Clinical Guidelines regarding suicide prevention.
- Review the most current research findings on the ability to predict future functioning based on historical or current diagnoses or symptoms and on factors that may promote resilience. Include work done by the Defense Science Board and both the Navy and the independent investigation of the Washington Navy Yard shooting.
- Review findings on predictive validity of psychiatric/psychological screenings within the context of data on predictive validity of physical screenings.



Objectives

- Review existing mental health and neuropsychological assessments and evaluation strategies to assess effectiveness and applicability to use in the pre-accession period.
- Describe how the stressors, risks, and structure inherent in military service can both positively and negatively influence Service member mental health morbidity.
- Consider alternative ways to assess future mental fitness among recruits (e.g. an increased post-accession period subject to Existing Prior to Service (EPTS) discharges during which fitness can be assessed) and alternative means of supporting recruits (e.g., Israeli Defense Force's Suicide Prevention Program)



Summary of Activities to Date

Date	Activity
November 12, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Briefing from Dr. John Oldham on screening for personality disorders
December 9, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DHB support staff visited the Baltimore Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS), toured the facility, and interviewed staff
December 10, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Briefings from Dr. Diane Williams:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Should We Access Service Members with ADHD?Military Service Outcomes of Marines Who Report a History of ADHD, Learning Disability, or Being in Special Education
December 13, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Half-day teleconference with briefings from:<ol style="list-style-type: none">DHB support staff summary of Baltimore MEPS visitService Medical Waiver Review Authority personnelMs. Stephanie Miller, Director of Accession Policy for the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
January 14, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Briefing from Dr. Howard Garb and Maj Jeremy Pallas on the U.S. Air Force “Behavioral Evaluation and Screening of Trainees (BEST)” Program at Lackland Air Force Base



Areas of Interest

Topic	Discussion Points
Accessions as Part of the Military Lifecycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding how accession medical screening contributes to the welfare of both the Service member and the Service throughout his or her career.
Managing Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do mental health screening tools and waivers help DoD manage risk to the Service member and the Services?• What is the definition of mental health risk according to the DoD? According to the Services?
Limited Predictive Validity and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existing tools have limited predictive validity.• Integrating additional tools into accessions may be too resource intensive.
Novel Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What novel solutions could help to prevent and mitigate adverse outcomes from mental health conditions among Service members?



Way Ahead

- **Continue with monthly teleconferences**
- **Convene additional teleconferences as needed to discuss report chapters and revisions**
- **Potential in-person meeting at Naval Station Great Lakes in North Chicago, IL in May, 2020**

Questions ?