



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TASK FORCE ON THE CARE, MANAGEMENT, AND TRANSITION OF RECOVERING WOUNDED, ILL, AND INJURED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Wednesday, 9 July 2014

The second day of the meeting began at 8:10am with Task Force Members and staff photos taken before holding the public forum for a statement by Mr. Paul Reiker, a hypnotherapist. Mr. Reiker spoke about his personal experience, background, and research with hypnotherapy for those suffering with post-traumatic stress. The Members asked Mr. Reiker about the success rate of the hypnotherapy methods as well as his success in having the Military recognize the methods. Mr. Michael Parker, a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and wounded warrior advocate, provided a written statement for the Task Force to review. The public forum session ended at 8:28am.

The Task Force promptly began a short discussion on recommendation D8, which focused on ways to optimize family contribution to Recovering Warrior recovery efforts. The Members identified the positive and negative risks with this recommendation. They spoke about how the recommendation could be life-saving in getting families more involved, but also considered if it could be an obstacle in deterring a Service member from getting necessary assistance. The Members then motioned to vote on the recommendation, which passed unanimously at 8:42am.

The Task Force then transitioned into recommendation D9, regarding the facilitation of transferring Service members to the VA. As the Members discussed the draft recommendation, they identified an unintended consequence of congesting the VA system. They also highlighted the various complications and challenges with facilitating the Service members' first appointment during transition process. They further spoke about the transition assistance program training that emphasizes the utilization of the VA benefit. The Members wanted the recommendation to focus more on having a system in place that automatically populate the VA database with transitioning Service members. As a result, the Task Force made changes to the language of the recommendation before motioning to vote. Recommendation D9 was passed by a majority vote at 9:34am. At the conclusion of the vote, the Task Force took a break before proceeding with the session.

At 9:50am, the Task Force Members reconvened to start their discussion on recommendation D10, which covered vocational and employment programs. The Members communicated their concerns with the high veteran unemployment rate. The Members identified the many vocational and employment programs in place within DoD but wanted DoD to determine how effective their programs were and make necessary modifications to improve them. They also discussed the synchronization of DoD, VA, and the Department of Labor in order to track employment programs. The Members decided to take a short break at 10:25am to allow the staff to revise the recommendation to address additional items. The Task Force



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At 1:14pm, the Task Force Members addressed recommendation D7, regarding the center of excellence (CoE) alignment. The Members agreed that the CoEs continued to be underutilized and needed additional oversight to ensure their culmination of research and findings are being propagated to the Services. The Members remained split on whether the Defense Health Agency (DHA) or the military Services as the executive agent was the best solution. In lieu of recommending an alignment of the CoEs under the DHA, the Members spoke about having an oversight board reporting directly to DHA and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. As a result of the Task Force Members deliberation, recommendation D7 was voted down, but the issue was referred to be included with other issues within Chapter 1 of the annual report.

The Task Force took a short break at 1:49pm before reviewing the voted recommendations from the day. The first day of the voting session ended at 2:10pm.



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The Task Force began discussion regarding recommendation D4, which addressed having uniformed representatives at the Office of Warrior Care Policy (WCP). The Members identified and discussed risk areas pertaining to the placement of the WCP office within the Department of Defense (DoD), the assignment of appropriate leadership levels within WCP, and WCP's linkage to the military Services. They further highlighted the need to revisit the alignment of WCP, and consider placing it directly underneath the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. The Members then concluded that much of their discussion should be captured in a separate recommendation apart from establishing uniformed representatives at WCP. A motion to vote on recommendation D4 was made by the Members of the Task Force, resulting in the recommendation passing by a majority vote.

The Members continued their deliberation at 11:02am concerning the WCP office, while working towards a new recommendation numbered D4.1. During their conversation, the Members addressed the turnover rate with the office's Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense position, as well as how to position the office to better operate in an inter-agency environment. They highlighted that although recommendation D4 would address the operational needs of the Service departments, realigning WCP would amplify the office's voice and increase opportunities to standardize policy across the Services. After drafting the appropriate language for the recommendation, the Members motioned a vote and passed recommendation D4.1 by a majority vote. At 11:32am, the Task Force took a break for lunch, at which time Dr. Richard Stone left for the day.

The Task Force returned from lunch at 12:30pm and started a short discussion on recommendation D5, which covered securing enduring resources for Recovering Warrior programs. The Members were in unison regarding the need for this recommendation. They believed the Task Force needed to go on record stating the DoD needs to preserve the work that has been done for the Recovering Warrior population. The Members motioned a vote for the recommendation, which was unanimously approved.

The Task Force immediately transitioned to recommendation D6, focused on Inter-agency and Cross-agency policy. The Members discussed the Joint Executive Council (JEC) and the perception of the JEC's responsibility to serve as the broker for the development of common policy. They further identified and deliberated over Congress' role in empowering the JEC to guide the creation of inter-agency policy. Through their discussion, the Members understood that the recommendation needed to be revised to address Congress providing legislation allowing for inter-agency policy and for the JEC to write inter-agency legislation. After changing the language of recommendation D6, the Task Force motioned for a vote and passed the recommendation with by a majority.



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July Business Meeting Minutes Doubletree Hotel Washington, D.C.-Crystal City

Tuesday, 8 July 2014

The meeting began at 8:00am with Mrs. Suzanne Crockett-Jones opening the meeting and asking the Members to conduct introductions. Major General (MG) Richard Mustion was scheduled to be absent for both days of the meeting and requested that Vice Admiral (VADM) Matthew Nathan serve as his proxy during the voting session. Ms. Karen Malebranche was scheduled to arrive late for the first day of the business meeting. Before the Task Force commenced voting, VADM Nathan provided the Members with an understanding of the voting procedures and guidelines.

The Members promptly began discussing recommendation D1, regarding a new approach to the current disability evaluation system. During discussions, the Task Force strongly communicated the need to design a system based on evidence-based compensation information. The Members also wanted to ensure the recommendation communicated the need for a new system and not a redesign of the current system. The Task Force discussed in detail career compensation and transition, as well as the focus on health and quality of life within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) rating system. As a result of their discussion, the Members conducted language updates to strengthen the recommendation and added specific information to the findings. At 9:54am, the Task Force took a short break to capture necessary updates to recommendation D1. Once they reconvened, a motion was made to vote, in which the recommendation was passed unanimously. Ms. Karen Malebranche joined the meeting at 8:57am.

The Task Force continued the session with a discussion on recommendation D2, which covered improvements to the current integrated disability evaluation system (IDES) process. The Members deliberated on possible conflicts and complications recommendation D2 could have on implementing recommendation D1. The Members concluded that language from this recommendation could be added to the findings in recommendation D1. A motion was made to vote and the Members voted down the recommendation by a majority.

At 10:35am, the Task Force started their discussion on recommendation D3. This recommendation focused on publishing a Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) addressing Recovering Warrior family member and caregiver needs. The Members were in agreement with this recommendation and made minor updates to the language before making a motion to vote. Recommendation D3 was voted on and passed unanimously at 10:41am.



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conducted a final review of the 10 approved, voted recommendations as well as the other chapters and appendices for the 2013-2014 Annual Report. During the Co-Chairs' final remarks before concluding the meeting, they applauded the knowledge, compassion, and expertise of the Members and stated that the Nation owed a debt of gratitude for their individual and collective efforts. At 2:42pm, the Task Force completed their final voting session and business meeting.

Verified by:

Department of Defense Co-Chair:

Vice Admiral Matthew L. Nathan, M.D.



Date: 11 AUG 2014

Verified by:

Non-Department of Defense Co-Chair:

Mrs. Suzanne Crockett-Jones



Date: 31 JUL 2014



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Members came back together at 10:36am and motioned to vote on the recommendation. By a majority vote, the Members passed recommendation D10.

Beginning at 11:02am, the Task Force held a short deliberation towards recommendation D11. This recommendation focused on recruitment standards. The Members discussed that the intent of this recommendation was to help set standards for future accessions, but this topic has already been addressed by the Services. As a result, the Task Force motioned for a vote and the recommendation was unanimously disapproved.

The Task Force continued their session at 11:09am and discussed recommendation D12 which addressed health insurance for Reserve Component Service members. The Task Force Members explained how integral having health insurance is when going into a high-risk job. This recommendation would ensure Service members have access to health care between duty statuses. They further discussed how the recommendation would relieve the burden from Reserve Component commanders regarding Service member access to health and medical readiness. After additional deliberations on whether or not to specifically mention TRICARE Reserve Select as a viable option, the Members revised the recommendation and motioned to vote. By a majority vote, recommendation D12 was passed at 12:10pm. At the completion of the vote, the Task Force Members took a break for lunch.

At 1:10pm, the Task Force returned from their lunch break and the Members began deliberations on recommendation D13. This recommendation addressed expanding access to care for Service members and Veterans. The Members believed that there are issues with access to care, especially with the Recovering Warrior population, but identified that there is already a lot of attention in this area. Various Members also believed that the Task Force needed more information regarding this subject. Although the Members were hesitant about the topic as a recommendation, they supported adding it to their list of pernicious issues within the report. At 1:44pm, the Members motioned for a vote in which a majority disapproved the recommendation, before a taking short break.

The Members reconvened at 1:55pm to conduct an awards ceremony in which Dr. Karen Guice, a past Task Force Co-Chair, provided comments and distributed the awards. Technical Sergeant Alex Eudy, Command Sergeant Major DeJong, Lieutenant Colonel Sean Keane, Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Wong, Captain Robert Sanders, Major General Richard Mustion, and Vice Admiral Matthew Nathan received Recovering Warrior Task Force Certificates of Appreciation. Mrs. Suzanne Crockett-Jones, Mr. Ronald Drach, Mr. David Rehbein, and Dr. Richard Stone were awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense Award for Outstanding Achievement. Ms. Karen Malebranche and Dr. Steven Phillips were awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense Award for Excellence. Following the awards presentation, the Task Force



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Members Present:

- Mr. Ronald Drach
- CSM Steven D. DeJong
- TSgt Alex Eudy
- Mrs. Suzanne Crockett-Jones (Non-DoD Co-Chair)
- LtCol Sean P. K. Keane
- Ms. Karen Malebranche
- VADM Matthew Nathan (DoD Co-Chair)
- Dr. Steven Phillips
- Mr. David Rehbein
- CAPT Robert Sanders
- Dr. Richard Stone
- LtCol Theodore Wong

Members Not Present:

- MG Richard Mustion

Members Arrived Late:

- None

Members Left Early:

- None



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Appendix A:

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Members Present:

- Mr. Ronald Drach
- CSM Steven D. DeJong
- TSgt Alex Eudy
- Mrs. Suzanne Crockett-Jones (Non-DoD Co-Chair)
- LtCol Sean P. K. Keane
- Ms. Karen Malebranche
- VADM Matthew Nathan (DoD Co-Chair)
- Dr. Steven Phillips
- Mr. David Rehbein
- CAPT Robert Sanders
- Dr. Richard Stone
- LtCol Theodore Wong

Members Not Present:

- MG Richard Mustion

Members Arrived Late:

- Ms. Karen Malebranche (8:57am)

Members Left Early:

- Dr. Richard Stone (11:32am)