



Captain Paul S. Hammer, MC, USN

Capt. Paul S. Hammer is the director of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE).

He is responsible for the work of DCoE headquarters and centers, the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, the Deployment Health Clinical Center and the National Center for Telehealth and Technology, and a combined mission to improve the lives of our nation's service members, families and veterans by advancing excellence in psychological health and traumatic brain injury (TBI) prevention and care.

He leads a groundbreaking collaborative effort that includes the Department of Veterans Affairs, civilian agencies, community leaders, advocacy groups, clinical experts and academic institutions dedicated to expanding the psychological health and TBI state of knowledge.

Hammer received his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of San Francisco and his medical doctorate from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He completed his psychiatry residency at Naval Medical Center in San Diego and is board certified in psychiatry.

His career has largely focused on psychological trauma following a disaster. He led the Navy's west coast Special Psychiatric Rapid Intervention Team providing numerous interventions to deliver immediate, on-the-ground psychological health support following suicides, training accidents and natural and man-made disasters.

Hammer led international and high-profile disaster response, most notably in the Korean Air Lines crash in Guam in 1997 and the Joint Task Force Mental Health interventions following Hurricane Mitch in 1998. In his various assignments, he has educated thousands of service members on operational stress control, psychological health and traumatic brain injury care.



He has deployed to Iraq twice, spending a total of 18 months in the combat theater. As the Combat Stress Control Team psychiatrist at Camp Fallujah and Camp Taqqadum, he provided direct care to Marines, Sailors and Soldiers suffering from acute combat stress reactions during some of the most intense fighting of the war as part of Operation Al Fajr (also known as Operation New Dawn). He also directed the psychological health care activities of more than two dozen caregivers for 33,000 service members in Al Anbar Province.

His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Sears Award for Excellence in Navy Psychiatry, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, and Expert Rifle and Pistol ribbons.