



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

Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria – Alexandria, VA

Business Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 13 June 2012

The open session of the meeting began at 9:07am with introductions by the Members of the Task Force. After introductions, the public forum section of the meeting began at 9:09am, with Mr. Michael Parker noting IDES issues that he believed were not addressed in the draft FY2012 report. He mentioned numerous fit-but-unfit cases that he and others had brought in front of the Task Force and discussed retirement benefits for those with compensable medical conditions. The Task Force then took a short break at 9:27am.

At 9:45am, the Members began to discuss the edits they had made in the preparatory work session that had occurred at 8:00am that morning. The Members had been divided into four working groups, which corresponded with the four sections of the draft report, as follows: Restoring Wellness and Function (Dr. Turner, Dr. Phillips, and LtCol Keane), Restoring into Society (CAPT Evans, Mrs. Crockett-Jones, CSM DeJong), Optimizing Ability (Mr. Drach, Mr. Constantine, and MSgt MacKenzie), and Enabling a Better Future (MG Stone, Ms. Malebranche, and Mr. Rehbein). The Task Force began with the recommendations under Restoring Wellness and Function (1-11), beginning with a recommendation for the DoD to update and publish policy documents on recovering warrior issues. Other recommendations in this group looked to clarify the roles of recovery care coordinators (RCC) and federal recovery coordinators, create a Recovering Warrior (RW) Bill of Rights or content for a commander's letter of intent, DoD/VA collaboration, create permanency for the Office of Wounded Warrior Care & Transition Policy, address the resources of Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, extend the Transitional Assistance Medical Program, ensure 100 percent training in evidence based PTSD treatment, audit PTSD treatment records for lessons learned, adopt a common comprehensive plan in the Services, and for the Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force to ensure RWs and families have access to and the ability to comment on their Comprehensive Recovery Plans. At 12:05pm, the Task Force broke for lunch and a preparatory work session.

The Task Force reconvened at 2:04pm to continue discussing the edits from the preparatory works sessions earlier in the day. The Members made edits to recommendations 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 28 before moving on to the recommendations under Restoring into Society (12-23). They covered recommendations 12-14 on redefining the wounded, will, and injured Category 2, RCC training for non-medical case managers, and increased family member/caregiver support before taking a break at 3:21pm.

The Members resumed at 3:28pm, discussing and editing recommendations 15-20, which recommended the identification of the principal point of contact for all stages of RW recovery, education of family members/caregivers of post-separation benefits, briefings of family members/caregivers by PEBLOs at the beginning of IDES on potential loss of benefits, seeking every opportunity to unify family members and RWs during recovery, the renaming and



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marketing of the National Resource Directory, and specify the RW program relationships with installation level family assistance centers.

The meeting was closed for the day at 5:18pm.

Thursday, 14 June 2012

The second day of the meeting opened at 8:00am with Members organizing to take photographs for the Task Force's website. They sat and began to discuss the report at 8:19am. The Members started reviewing the 20 recommendations which had been edited the previous day, making minor edits to recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and removed recommendation 9 before taking a break at 10:02am. The Task Force resumed at 10:25am, making slight revisions to recommendations 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20. They then moved on to the recommendations which had not been addressed the previous day, starting by deleting recommendations 21 and 23, then moving the findings of those two under recommendation 22. They continued to make changes to recommendations 24 and 25 before breaking at 12:06pm for lunch.

The Task Force resumed at 1:09pm and Ms. Dailey presented letters and a small gift to Lt Gen Green and MSgt MacKenzie, both of whom were leaving the Task Force. The Members then continued to discuss the draft recommendations, editing recommendations 26 through 32. They deleted recommendations 28 and 30. The Members took a break at 2:27pm. The Members resumed at 2:42pm and made edits to recommendations 33-41.

After deletions and combining elements, the second set of the recommendations not discussed on Wednesday under Restoring into Society, the Task Force suggested the Services establish centralized case management for reserve component (RC) RWs on Title 10 orders, that the DoD establish policies that allow for the rapid issuance of Title 10 orders to RC RWs who have sustained line of duty injuries/illnesses, and that the Army WTC should include out-processing with the RC SM's home unit as part of the checklist for leaving Title 10 status. The Optimizing Ability recommendations (24-26) suggested that DoD publish interim guidance to implement NDAA 2012 Section 551, the DoD and VA should expand their existing MOU so RWs receive VR&E counseling upon entering the IDES process, and the DoD should update DoDD 1332.35 and DoDI 1332.36 with specific items. The Enabling a Better Future recommendations (27-35) noted the need for Congressional action to establish the Deputy Secretaries of DoD and VA as co-chairs of the Joint Executive Council and suggested the DOD continue to ensure only RWs likely to separate enter the IDES process, the DoD should create individual electronic records of all IDES information with common storage and retention, WWCTP should utilize survey results to improve the IDES program, terminal leave should not be counted against the IDES timeline, the DoD should consider a joint board to allow joint adjudication to place the Service Formal Physical Review Board, the Services have a minimum of 2 PEBLOs at every MEB, the Services ensure 100 percent of RWs are individually contacted by a MEB outreach lawyer upon notification to the PEBLO that a narrative summary will be



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completed, and that all active duty and RC should be encouraged to register in the VA e-Benefits online program.

The meeting was closed for the day at 4:45pm with the expressed intention to begin voting immediately at the start of the meeting and then to cover other aspects of the report.

Friday, 15 June 2012

The third day of the meeting opened at 8:01am, at which time the Task Force began editing recommendations. Having started with 41 separate recommendations, they consolidated them or moved some to the best practices or findings in order to have 35 recommendations for their final report. The Members made a few grammar and word choice corrections before voting. While Mr. Rehbein was absent from the meeting on Friday, he submitted a proxy voting form on Thursday. The Members made small changes to some recommendations, noting better word choice, but never changing the intent of any of the recommendations from the discussion on Thursday. Voting began at 8:45am. All recommendations were approved unanimously by the Members, with no abstentions. Voting was completed at 9:36am. The Members then took a break until 9:54am.

The Members then discussed possible installation visit sites for FY2013, including the following: Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK; Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA; Medical Hold (MEDHOLD) West, Naval Medical Center - San Diego, San Diego, CA; Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, CO; Tampa Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center, James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, Tampa Bay, FL; Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, HI; Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Center (VA North Chicago), Chicago, IL; Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA; Navy Safe Harbor Headquarters, Arlington, VA; Wounded Warrior Regiment Headquarters, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Quantico, VA; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA; and Joint Force Headquarters (locations to be determined). They also noted possible panels or topics for business meetings including more wounded warrior panels, legal advice for family members on orders without cards, the VA Caregiver program, the Traumatic Extremity Injuries and Amputation Center of Excellence, and a panel of organizations that provide support post-DD214. At 10:52am, the Members discussed the introduction of the report and noted that they would like a chart showing the status of the FY2011 recommendations included as a note on the executive summary. The Task Force took a break from 11:30am until 11:45am and continued to discuss the introduction, noting that they would like it to have a general business like language, avoiding overly congratulatory or critical tones. They also noted some changes they would like made to the report's cover, specifically that the photographs on the front should be changed to include an individual who is ill, thereby covering wounded, ill, and injured Service members. The Task Force then broke for lunch at 12:23pm.



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The Task Force resumed at 1:05pm and decided which agencies should address their recommendations. Many recommendations were to be addressed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) and the Office of Warrior Care Policy. Other recommendations were directed to the DoD to ask Congress for legislative aid, while others were focused on specific Services or the VA. The Members then began to review the best practices section, but decided that they would rather take the time to review it individually and send edits to the research team.

The meeting was closed at 2:02pm. The final report with voted recommendations will be given to the Secretary of Defense by 3 September 2012.

Verified by:

Department of Defense Co-Chair:

Lieutenant General Charles B. Green, M.D.

Date: 10 July 2012

Verified by:

Non-Department of Defense Co-Chair:

Mrs. Suzanne Crockett-Jones

Date: 11 July 2012



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Appendix A:

Wednesday, 13 June 2012

Members Present:

- Mr. Justin Constantine
- CSM Steven D. DeJong
- Mr. Ronald Drach
- CAPT Constance Evans
- Lt Gen Charles B. Green (DoD Co-Chair)
- Mrs. Suzanne Crockett-Jones (Non-DoD Co-Chair)
- LtCol Sean P. K. Keane
- MSgt Christian MacKenzie
- Ms. Karen Malebranche
- Dr. Steven Phillips
- Mr. David Rehbein
- MG Richard Stone
- Dr. Russell Turner

Members Not Present:

- MG Karl Horst

Members Arrived Late:

- Lt Gen Charles B. Green (11:15am)
- Ms. Karen Malebranche (11:12am)

Members Left Early:

- Mr. Justin Constantine (5:09pm)



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- Ms. Karen Malebranche
- Dr. Steven Phillips
- Mr. David Rehbein
- MG Richard Stone
- Dr. Russell Turner

Members Not Present:

- MG Karl Horst

Members Arrived Late:

- LtCol Sean P. K. Keane (8:05am)

Members Left Early:

- Dr. Steven Phillips (1:33pm)



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- Ms. Karen Malebranche
- Dr. Steven Phillips
- MG Richard Stone
- Dr. Russell Turner

Members Not Present:

- MG Karl Horst
- Mr. David Rehbein

Members Arrived Late:

- CAPT Constance Evans (8:31am)

Members Left Early:

- Lt Gen Charles B. Green (12:23pm)
- MG Richard Stone (9:40am)



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Appendix B:

Sign-in Sheet:

