



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

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MAR 04 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSPECTOR GENERAL

This memorandum is my response to your request for comments on the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General (DoDIG) follow-up on Report No. DODIG-2015-016, "Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) Data Quality Assessment," dated November 14, 2014 (Project No. D2013-D00SPO-0183.000).

Your memorandum requested the status of four recommendations specifically for the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD (P&R)). Two recommendations were complete when the then Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD (P&R)) signed the memorandum "Implementation of Department of Defense Suicide Event Report Data Quality Assessment (DODIG-2015-016) Recommendations," August 18, 2015. The other two recommendations are in progress and anticipate being complete in Fall 2016 with the publication of the Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6490.XX, currently in coordination.

The status of the recommendations is attached. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments on this report. My point of contact for this matter is (b)(6) (b)(6) can be reached at (b)(6) or (b)(6)

Keita M. Franklin, LCSW, Ph.D
Director,
Defense Suicide Prevention Office

Attachment:
As stated

**Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) Comments on
Follow-up on Report No. DODIG-2015-016, "Department of Defense Suicide Event Report
(DoDSER) Data Quality Assessment,"
November 14, 2014 (Project No. D2013-D00SPO-0183.000)**

Recommendation 1a: "The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness should publish guidance on the Department of Defense Suicide Event Report submission process to require: (1) initiating Department of Defense Suicide Event Reports within 30 days of suspected suicide death, (2) completing Department of Defense Suicide Event Report submission no earlier than the Armed Forces Medical Examiner determination that the death was a result of suicide and no later than 60 days after the Armed Forces Medical Examiner determination, (3) allowing the first Flag/General Officer in a chain of command to authorize an extension for an additional 60 days, and (4) eliminating the 180-day auto-archive requirement on open Department of Defense Suicide Event Report death records."

DSPO Response to Recommendation 1a: **Complete** – The then Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD (P&R)) signed a memorandum, Subject: Implementation of Department of Defense Suicide Event Report Data Quality Assessment (DODIG-2015-016) Recommendations, dated August 18, 2015, that publishes guidance. In addition, the recommendations are included in the Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6490.XX, which is currently in coordination and expected to be published Fall 2016.

Recommendation 2a: "The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness should publish guidance requiring suicide event boards to establish a multidisciplinary approach for obtaining the data necessary to make comprehensive Department of Defense Suicide Event Report submissions. For each suicide death this board should: (1) be a locally (command or installation level) chartered board with defined task, purpose, and outcome for each suicide death review, (2) include participation by unit leadership, medical/mental health, and Military Criminal Investigative Organizations, and (3) articulate the requirement to appropriately share information (for example, medical and law enforcement reports) from ongoing investigations."

DSPO Response to Recommendation 2a: **In progress** – Although, USD (P&R) published guidance with the signed memorandum on August 18, 2015, the recommendations will be included in the Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6490.XX, which is currently in coordination and expected to be published Fall 2016.

Recommendation 3a: "The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, in accordance with Recommendation 2.a, should publish guidance requiring a suicide event board to enable a multidisciplinary approach for obtaining the data required to make a comprehensive Department of Defense Suicide Event Report submission."

DSPO Response to Recommendation 3a: **Complete** – The then Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD (P&R)) signed a memorandum, Subject:

Implementation of Department of Defense Suicide Event Report Data Quality Assessment (DODIG-2015-016) Recommendations, dated August 18, 2015, that publishes guidance. In addition, the recommendations are included in the Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6490.XX, which is currently in coordination and expected to be published Fall 2016.

Recommendation 4a: "The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness authorize senior commanders to produce unit/installation reports to better understand suicide trends, make informed local suicide prevention policy, and relate their trends to Service and DoD trends."

DSPO Response to Recommendation 4a: In progress – The recommendations will be included in the Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6490.XX, which is currently in coordination and expected to be published Fall 2016.