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UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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AUG 18 2015

**MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSPECTOR GENERAL
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH
AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS**

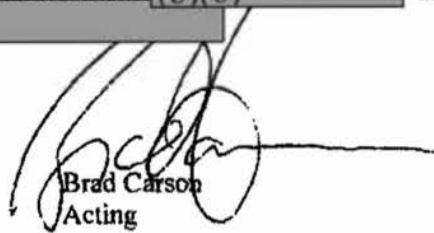
**SUBJECT: Implementation of Department of Defense Suicide Event Report Data Quality
Assessment (DODIG-2015-016) Recommendations**

The Department of Defense Inspector General Report, "DoD Suicide Event Report Data Quality Assessment," dated November 14, 2014, provided recommendations that are intended to improve the processes for collecting Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) information and submitting DoDSER data.

The Department agreed to implement the recommendations and is working to modify policy for the DoDSER submission process. Specifically, the Defense Suicide Prevention Office will work with the Services to incorporate the recommendations into an upcoming Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI), which is currently in development. The DoDI will include requirements to:

- Initiate a DoDSER within 30 days of a suspected suicide.
- Complete the DoDSER no earlier than a determination of suicide is made by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System and no later than 60 days following the determination, in accordance with Department of Defense Directive 6490.14, "Defense Suicide Prevention Program."
- Allow the first Flag/General Officer in the chain-of-command to authorize an extension of an additional 60 days when necessary.
- Establish a Suicide Event Board at command or installation level for each suicide.
- Authorize installation/unit commanders' access to the DoDSER on-demand reports.
- Instruct the Director, Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, Telehealth and Technology Directorate, to:
 - Modify the DoDSER software to eliminate the 180-day auto-archive function.
 - Update the DoDSER software to allow unit/installation trend reports.

I know that several steps have already been taken to improve the information collection process, and I appreciate your support and encourage your continued progress in implementing the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General's recommendations while the DoDI is being developed. My point of contact for this effort is (b)(6) He may be reached at (b)(6)



Brad Carson
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