



DEFENSE SUICIDE PREVENTION OFFICE

QUARTERLY CONNECTION



News and Announcements

Suicide Prevention Program Recognition Recipients

DSPO is honored to recognize the following Suicide Prevention Programs for their achievements in creating innovative and effective programming for Suicide Prevention Month in September 2022 and for the entire 2021-2022 calendar year.

- Army: U.S. Army Garrison, Rheinland-Pfalz, Kaiserslautern, Germany
- Army National Guard: Guam Army National Guard, Barrigada, Guam
- Marine Corps: Marine Aircraft Group 12, Iwakuni, Japan
- Navy: Naval Special Warfare SOCOM, San Diego, California
- Air Force: ACC/Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Hampton and Newport News, Virginia

Congratulations to this year's recognition recipients! We will see you at the Suicide Prevention Month Recognition Ceremony in September.

Pride Month

June is National Pride Month which recognizes the LGBTQ+ community and their contributions to history and society. DSPO was honored to participate in the Capital Area Pride Festival. The staff distributed resources and engaged meaningfully with a community that can be disproportionately affected by suicide ideation.

Minority Mental Health Month

July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. While mental health conditions do not discriminate based on race, color, or gender, background and identity can make access to mental health



SUMMER 2023

Director's Corner



Dr. Liz Clark, Director

Summer is here! This is a season of celebration when we commemorate America's birthday, Juneteenth, Pride Month, and Women's Equality Day. We are grateful for our diverse military community and express our heartfelt appreciation for your unwavering service. I'm very proud to announce that DSPO participated in the Capital Pride Festival where we enjoyed connecting with over 1,000 LGBTQ+ Service and family members at this year's event.

June 27 was PTSD Awareness Day. If you or someone you know is experiencing PTSD symptoms, we encourage you to seek support. Contact your chaplain, MilitaryOneSource.mil, or dial 988 and press one for the Veterans/Military Crisis Line.

Celebratory moments are an extraordinary opportunity to shed light on the challenges faced by Service members and families. DSPO strives to bring hope, community, and care every day.





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treatment more difficult. We encourage everyone to address the [unique challenges](#) facing our minority Service members and families.

DSPO at Texas Suicide Prevention Symposium

On June 13-15, the DSPO team attended and connected with 173 participants at the Texas Suicide Prevention Symposium hosted by the Texas Suicide Prevention Collaborative. This annual event is where DSPO staff dives deep into the latest terminology, risk factors and prevention best practices and connects with our allies across the community. The third day featured Mr. George Parisi, DSPO Advisor to the Director, joined Dr. Matt Miller, Director of VA’s Suicide Prevention Program, as a speaker and as part of an open forum question and answer session.

Happy 4th of July!

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July. To our Service members and veterans, thank you for protecting our freedom.

Resource Spotlight

Traumatic Brain Injury

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) affects many Service members and can cause an increase in suicidal ideation. The [What You Should Know About Traumatic Brain Injury and Suicidality fact sheet](#) provides TBI information sources.

Real Warriors Campaign

DSPO is teaming up with the Real Warriors Campaign to bring more great resources to our community. Learn more about our combined efforts, [Mental Health Stigma Campaign Will Be New Hub of Hope](#).

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Happening Soon

August 14-17, 2023
Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center
Kissimmee, FL

2023 Military Health System Research Symposium
DSPO will educate health providers on our resources and mission.

September 14-15, 2023
Dayton, OH

Air Force Marathon, Dayton, OH
DSPO will engage with participants and supporters to provide resources and educate them on the DSPO mission.

