

Project Title: Leader Assessment of the DoD's Toolkit for Managing Suicide-Related Events
Principal Investigator (PI): Amy B. Adler, PhD, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research
Contact Info: Amy.b.adler.civ@health.mil

You are being asked to take part in a program evaluation. The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) is conducting this program evaluation through funding from the Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO). The box below tells you important information about the project. We provide more detailed information below the box. Please ask questions about any of the information before you decide whether to participate.

Key Information for You to Consider

- **Voluntary Participation.** You are being asked to participate in a program evaluation. It is up to you whether you choose to participate in the evaluation or not. There are no penalties if you decide not to participate or, if after you begin, you decide to quit.
- **Purpose.** We are conducting this project to gather information for the DSPO to support military leaders' needs after a suicide-related event.
- **Duration.** Your participation in the project will last approximately 60-120 minutes.
- **Procedures and Activities.** We will ask you to participate in one semi-structured interview. In the interview, we will ask questions about (1) your experience as a leader managing a suicide-related event, (2) the DSPO postvention toolkit, (3) reintegrating service members after a non-lethal suicide attempt, and (4) experience regarding clusters of suicide-related events.
- **Risks.** In this project, you might be uncomfortable with some of the questions. You may skip any questions that make you uncomfortable. Although a breach of confidentiality is possible, interview information will be stored on a secure network drive, with access limited to authorized project personnel. To mitigate this risk, all names and identifying details will be removed from data used for analysis.
- **Benefits.** There is no guarantee that you will directly benefit from the project results. The information you provide may inform Department of Defense Postvention efforts that may benefit the U.S. Military as a whole.
- **Alternatives.** Participation in this interview is voluntary, and the alternative is to not complete the interview.
- **Confidentiality.** No identifying information, such as your name or email address, will be stored in the final database.

Why are we doing this project?

You are being asked to take part in this project because you are a military leader who managed a suicide-related event in the past 5 years. The main objective of this project is to provide evidence-based feedback for DSPO's Postvention Toolkit for Military Suicide Loss. The goal is to ensure that military leaders are provided optimal support. Furthermore, this project aims to provide information to support future programming and efforts to help re-integration of soldiers following a suicide attempt and provide guidance for leaders who have to manage suicide clusters. Overall, knowledge gained from this project may help inform the development of the

Postvention Toolkit and new resources to support military leaders following a suicide-related event.

What happens to the information collected?

The responses you provide will be summarized along with the responses of other participants to inform the development of information and programs that may help future military leaders.

When the results of this project are published or discussed, no information will be included that would reveal your identity. Your data may be used for future research purposes if you provide permission during the interview. If you do not provide permission, your data will not be included in any future datasets.

How will my privacy and data confidentiality be protected?

Your information from the project will remain confidential. All names and identifying details will be removed from data used for analysis. Furthermore, at the conclusion of this project, data will be stripped of any potentially identifying information, such as your name. Your interview information will be stored at WRAIR in Silver Spring, MD, where only authorized personnel will have access. Representatives from the following agencies may have access to the project records as part of their responsibility to oversee the quality of the project efforts. These government agencies are required to maintain confidentiality of your records within the limits of the law.

- Department of Defense
- WRAIR Institutional Review Board

Your responses will not have any impact on your job performance or evaluation, and self-reported individual performance information collected through interviews will not be made available to any military entities on an individual basis.

What happens if I withdraw from this project?

You are free to skip any questions that make you uncomfortable. There are no penalties if you choose not to participate or if you later choose to withdraw. Leadership will not be informed if you decide to withdraw.

What are the anticipated risks if I participate in this project?

Some individuals may experience discomfort from discussing this project topic. Since some of the issues we will be discussing are of a sensitive nature, you may skip any questions that make you feel too uncomfortable.

We will make every effort to protect your privacy. However, please be advised that there are limits to confidentiality to ensure safety in situations involving risk to self or others. If you are an active-duty member of the armed forces, we may also be required to report UCMJ violations; please refrain from using this interview as an opportunity to make such disclosures.

If at any time during the course of the interview you feel upset or distressed, please feel free to indicate that you need a break. As you know, resources for you to receive medical or behavioral health support, if needed, are available through your medical clinic, behavioral health personnel,

or unit chaplain. Confidential support is also available at all times through the Military Crisis Line (Dial 988 and Press 1), online chat, and text (838255).

Will I be compensated for participating in this project?

No, you will not receive compensation for participating in this project. Your time is appreciated.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions about this activity, you may contact the Principal Investigator identified at the beginning of this document or our project email at dha.detrick.WRAIR.mbx.dspo-postvention@health.mil. If you have questions related to the DSPO, you may contact Dr. Kathryn Holloway at kathryn.j.holloway.civ@mail.mil. If you have questions regarding your rights related to participation in this activity, please feel free to contact the WRAIR HSPB at (301) 319-9940 or usarmy.detrick.medcom-wrair.mbx.hspb@health.mil.

Please keep this copy for your own records.