

POINT PAPER

OREGON/VA/MILITARY

SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGIES:

- Since 9/11 > 153,000 military suicides; upward trend continues (1).
- Suicides: Unaltered by White House, NIH, CDC, VA, DoD, US Army, USMC prevention programs (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11).
- Programs focus on: “risk/protective factors,” not healing brain wounds (At ATT - A).
- White House (2): “We increasingly know what works”: Wrong answer that only reinforces existing suicide prevention strategies (at ATT - B):
 - Suicide Rates continue unabated for VA/DoD/military services.
 - Despite over \$3B spent on Suicide Prevention since 9/11, there is no science available to support government prevention programs, and
 - Prevention not alleged by any government agency, for any strategy.
- Suicides more likely with debilitating, physical brain injury, unaddressed by government programs:

Dysfunctional Injury = Pain/Suffering = Hopelessness/Despair = Suicide (13,14,15,16).

- VA: “TBI Veteran 2.45 times more likely to die by suicide” (14).
- 10 States have legislation: HBOT-for-TBI/PTSD [OK, TX, IN, KY, AZ, FL, NC, MD, WY, VA] with over \$32Million appropriated for treatments
- **Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) for TBI/PTSD Injured:**
 - **Restores Hope/Life, Stops Suicide** (16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24).
 - **TreatNOW Coalition: 31,000 successes, including over 12,500 Veterans, including over 700 Special Operators**
 - **Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) virtually eliminates suicidal ideation by healing the underlying/invisible brain wound. VA does not use HBOT** (25)

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ATTACHMENT A

MILITARY SUICIDE RISK FACTORS

- Mental Health/Substance Disorders
- TBI
- TBI Cognitive/Behavioral Symptoms
- Lethal Means Access
- Depressed Mood
- Suicidal Thoughts
- Chronic Pain
- History of Suicide Attempts
- Recently Released from Jail
- Exposure to Suicide Behavior
- Intimate Partner Problems
- Health Problems
- Alcohol Dependence
- Hopelessness
- Lack of Access to Care/Medications
- Lack of individual/community connectedness
- Insufficient training
- Veteran inequity, inequality and injustice

*Compilation from references 1-11.

ATTACHMENT B

SUICIDE PREVENTION

OREGON/VA/MILITARY SERVICE STRATEGIES

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