

The Honorable Donald Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Your Executive Order 13822 of January 9, 2018, established requirements for the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a Joint Action Plan describing actions to provide (to the extent consistent with law) seamless access to mental health care and suicide prevention resources for transitioning uniformed Service members during the year following discharge, separation, or retirement.

The enclosed 180-day status report describes the implementation of the Joint Action Plan to date. While much work remains, the Executive Order provided the foundational impetus for the three aforementioned agencies to expand coordination efforts to address the issue of suicide among Veterans and transitioning Service members. Collectively, we are committed to the vision you have described. Thank you for your continued support of our Veterans and Service members.

Sincerely,

Robert O'Rourke  
Acting

Enclosure

EXECUTIVE ORDER 13822  
180-DAY STATUS REPORT:  
SUPPORTING VETERANS DURING THEIR  
TRANSITION FROM UNIFORMED SERVICE TO  
CIVILIAN LIFE

July 9, 2018

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## Status Update

On March 9, 2018, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) submitted a Joint Action Plan in response to Executive Order (EO) 13822. The Joint Action Plan contains three overarching goals and 16 individual actions with associated metrics and targets. The 16 actions outlined in the Plan are bucketed into four areas: Outreach (1.1, 1.4, 2.1, 2.5, 2.6, 3.3), Transition (1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 2.3), Monitoring (2.1, 2.7, 3.2), and Access (2.4, 3.1, 3.4). Thirteen of the sixteen actions are on track with key milestones met, and near and far term tasks well underway. Three of the actions are progressing favorably but require necessary and expected additional action, including collaboration, coordination, and consensus building between the three Departments. As the task leads began the work to implement each Section, the metrics have evolved to better measure the needs of our transitioning Service members and Veterans. The improvements are described in this report.

The three Departments are currently working through several project specific requirements that are essential to fulfilling the requirements of the EO. Outstanding actions include; potential need for additional non-clinical and case management staff to conduct outreach; potential staffing to support Clay Hunt Peer Specialist Community Outreach Pilots; and need for Office of Management and Budget approval for survey questions required for follow-up and satisfaction data. Other barriers and challenges are managed through creative solutions by SMEs, such as collaborating to address gaps while also mitigating duplication in effort.

Senior leaders from the VA, DoD, and DHS continue to provide guidance and support to implement the objectives of the Joint Action Plan. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been signed by senior leaders at the three Departments, to convey the urgency of addressing the issue of suicide prevention among our Nation's Veterans, Service members, and their families.

## Metrics Modifications

The following metrics evolved over the course of Joint Action Plan implementation:

### 2.1: Warm Hand-off for Peer Support

- **Original Metric:** Total number of contacts made by "BeThere" peer support specialists in response to referrals.
- **Evolved Metric:** Total number of connections to peer support offered through "BeThere."

### 2.3: Readiness Standards

- **Original Metric:** Total number of contacts made by peer support specialists in response to referrals, and total number of warm hand-offs to clinical care. Patient satisfaction self-report on peer and clinical care.
- **Evolved Metric:** Total number of connections to peer support offered through "BeThere" and total number of warm hand-offs to clinical care. Customer satisfaction on peer and clinical care.

### 2.4: Whole Health Peer Groups

- **Original Metric:** Collect data on percentage of recently transitioned Service members who attend monthly orientation groups, satisfaction with groups, and the number of those attending who are then referred into mental health care.
- **Evolved Metric:** Total number of Veterans participating in *Introduction to Whole Health* that also enroll and participate in Whole Health Group Sessions.

#### 2.5: Peer Support Outreach

- **Original Metric:** Number of Veterans reached by a peer support specialist between 90 – 180-days post-separation.
- **Evolved Metric:** Number of Veterans reached by Military OneSource/“BeThere” offering these Veterans peer support at key determined intervals post-transition.

#### 2.7: Predictive Analytics

- **Original Metric:** VA/DoD/DHS will share all predictive analytics models by July 2018. Departments will document any gaps to improve predictive analytics models (e.g., data sources, data integrity) by September 2018. Departments will document a way forward for an integrated data environment and interagency analytical platform that could adequately support development of a single predictive model by April 2019.
- **Evolved Metric:** VA/DoD/DHS will share all predictive analytics models by July 2018. Departments will document any gaps to improve predictive analytics models (e.g., data sources, data integrity) by September 2018. Departments will document a way forward for an integrated data environment and interagency analytical platform that could adequately support development of a **joint approach** to predictive modeling by April 2019.

#### 3.2: Improved Monitoring

- **Original Metric:** Percentage of Veterans reporting improvement on individual measures (specific focus on transition stressors) and symptoms assessed over time throughout care.
- **Evolved Metric:** All transitioning Service members will be invited to participate in the Veterans Outcome Assessment within two weeks of beginning mental health treatment (or at discharge from an acute inpatient mental health program). Those who accept the invitation to participate will be contacted 3 months afterwards to repeat the outcomes assessment.

#### 3.3: Expand Military OneSource

- **Original Metric:** Percentage of Veterans accessing Military OneSource post-service. Percentage referred to medical services and to clinical mental health care upon enhancement of case management system.
- **Evolved Metric:** 100% of Veterans are eligible to access Military OneSource up to 365 days post-transition. Percentage of transitioning Service member respondents on the TAP Participant Assessment who report being informed on expanded Military OneSource services post-separation. Data will be collected quarterly on the TAP Participant Assessment beginning October 2018. Number of Veterans accessing Military OneSource post-service. Number of Veterans referred to medical services and to clinical mental health care upon enhancement of case management system.

## Way Forward:

The Departments are thankful for the opportunity to collaborate to address the important issue affecting Veterans, Service members and their families. The efforts initiated by the EO will continue to be prioritized and implemented. An annual update on the initiatives will be provided until the plan has been completely implemented.

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In the following pages you will find the EO 13822 goals, metrics, and associated targets as well as status as of July 9, 2018.

<b>Goal 1: Improve actions to ensure ALL transitioning Service members are aware of and have access to mental health services.</b>						
	<b>Status</b>	<b>Start Date (mm/yy)</b>	<b>Implementation Date (mm/yy)</b>	<b>Date Updated</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Metrics Status</b>
<b>1.1 – Early and Consistent Contact</b>	<b>On Track</b>	<b>Apr-18</b>	<b>Oct-18</b>	<b>9-Jul-18</b>	<b>VA/DoD</b>	
<b>Metric:</b> Total number of Service members contacted within 90 days prior to their separation from military service.	Progressing favorably but requires additional action					Metrics collection underway.
<b>Metric:</b> Total number of Veterans contacted within 90-, 180-, and 365-days after separation who are receiving VA mental health care. Of those Veterans called, satisfaction and the total number reached will be tracked.	On Track					
<b>Target:</b> 30% contact during 90 days prior to separation (July 2018)	On Track					
<b>Target:</b> 80% of recently transitioned Veterans will be called at each interval (90-, 180-, and 365-days) within one year of implementation date.	On Track					
<b>1.2 – Pre-transition VA Health Care Registration</b>	<b>On Track</b>	<b>Apr-18</b>	<b>Jul-18</b>	<b>9-Jul-18</b>	<b>VA/DoD</b>	
<b>Metric A:</b> Percentage of transitioning service member respondents on the TAP Participant Assessment who report being informed on health care options.	On Track					Content about mental health services and suicide prevention resources was added to the revised curriculum that was deployed on 4/2/2018.
<b>Target A:</b> For FY18 Q4 data: 55% of transitioning service member respondents on the TAP Participant Assessment will report being	On Track					

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<p>informed on health care options. In addition, an increase by 10% for each consecutive quarter until the 12-month mark.</p>						<p>Data collection will begin in Q4 2018.</p>
<p><b>Metric B:</b> Percentage of TAP participants who elect to apply for health benefits during TAP course. Baseline will be zero for both metrics as this is a new capability. Data will be collected quarterly on the TAP Participant Assessment beginning July 2018, and monthly for elections to apply for health benefits.</p>	<p>On Track</p>					<p>Metrics collection underway.</p>
<p><b>Target B:</b> For FY18 Q4 data: 25% of transitioning Service members who participate in TAP after April 2, 2018 will complete an application for VA health care during the VA TAP course. In addition, an increase by 10% for each consecutive quarter until the within 12-month mark.</p>	<p>On Track</p>					
<p><b>1.3 – Modification of TAP</b></p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>Apr-18</p>	<p>Jul-18</p>	<p>9-Jul-18</p>	<p>VA/DoD</p>	
<p><b>Metric:</b> Percentage of transitioning Service member respondents on the TAP Participant Assessment data who report being informed on accessing mental health services (including Military OneSource) post-separation. Data will be collected quarterly on the TAP Participant Assessment beginning July 2018.</p>	<p>On Track</p>					
<p><b>Target:</b> For FY18 Q4 data: 55% of transitioning Service member respondents on the TAP Participant Assessment will report being</p>	<p>On Track</p>					<p>Metrics collection underway.</p>

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informed on accessing mental health services. In addition, an increase by 10% for each consecutive quarter until the 12-month mark.						
<b>1.4 – Messaging Campaign</b>	On Track	Jun-18	Nov-18	9-Jul-18	VA	
<b>Metric:</b> Increase in the total percentage of surveyed Veterans reporting improved awareness of mental health care options after 30 days of separating from military service (documented by peer caring outreach). Data will be gathered from the semi-annual national survey that assesses Veteran awareness/knowledge of resources, perceived barriers, and unmet needs.	On Track					Press Release released on May 31, 2018. Metrics collection underway.
<b>Target:</b> 50% of those surveyed report awareness of mental health care options within one year of execution of new strategy. The goal is to increase this metric to 75% in the second-year survey execution.	On Track					
<b>1.5 – Increased VSO Engagement Pre-Transition</b>	On Track	Jun-18	Jan-19	9-Jul-18	VA	
<b>Metric:</b> Percentage of transitioning Service members respondents on the TAP Participant Assessment data that report being informed of social connectedness support systems available in civilian communities. Data will be collected quarterly on the TAP Participant Assessment beginning July 2018, which will provide baseline data prior to implementation of the initiative.	On Track					Metrics collection underway.



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<b>Target:</b> 55% of transitioning Service member respondents on the TAP Participant Assessment will report being informed on social connectedness support systems available in civilian communities starting in January 2019. Goal is to increase this metric by 10% for each consecutive quarter until the 12-month mark.	On Track					
<b>Goal 2: Improve actions to ensure the needs of at risk Veterans are identified and met.</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Implementation Date</b>	<b>Date Updated</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Metrics Status</b>
<b>2.1 - Warm Hand-off for Peer Support</b>	On Track	Dec-18	May-19	9-Jul-18	DoD	
<b>Metric:</b> Total number of connections to peer support offered through "BeThere."	On Track					Metrics collection underway.
<b>Target:</b> Transitioning service members in need of additional psychosocial support are connected to peer support offered through "BeThere" no later than 180 days post-transition.	On Track					
<b>2.2 – Screening and Identification</b>	On Track	May-18	Dec-18	9-Jul-18	VA/DoD	
<b>Metric:</b> DoD will screen 100% of Service members prior to separation; 100% of Service members and Veterans identified as needing care and electing to participate in VA Health Care are enrolled in care.	On Track					Evaluating capabilities to provide joint metrics <b>Metric Change:</b> Moved "symptom reduction" and key intervals to 3.2
<b>Target:</b> 70% of Service members screened; 70% of those needing care and electing care enrolled.	On Track					
<b>2.3 – Readiness Standards</b>	On Track	Apr-18	Jul-19	9-Jul-18	VA/DoD	

In the following pages you will find the EO 13822 goals, metrics, and associated targets as well as status as of July 9, 2018.

<p><b>Metric:</b> Total number of connections to peer support offered through “BeThere” and total number of warm hand-offs to clinical care.</p>	<p>On Track</p>					<p>Metrics collection underway.</p>
<p><b>Target:</b> Transitioning service members in need of additional psychosocial support are connected to peer support offered through “BeThere” no later than 180 days post-transition.</p>	<p>On Track</p>					<p><b>Metric Change:</b> Adjusted timeline. Start: April to July 2018; Full Implementation: July 2018 to July 2019.</p>
<p><b>2.4 – Whole Health Peer Groups</b></p>	<p>On Track</p>	<p>Apr-18</p>	<p>Jul-18</p>	<p>9-Jul-18</p>	<p>VA</p>	
<p><b>Metric:</b> Total number of Veterans participating in Introduction to Whole Health that also enroll and participate in Whole Health Group Sessions.</p>	<p>On Track</p>					<p>Since February 2018 virtual Intro to WH peer facilitator trainings have been offered weekly (through May 2018) and over 1130 participants trained.</p>
<p><b>Target:</b> Month-over-month increase in number of transitioning Service members participation in Whole Health Groups within first 12 months of execution. Of all Veterans attending, there will be an 80% satisfaction rate within the first 12 months of execution.</p>	<p>On Track</p>					<p>Beginning mid-March 2018 VA Medical centers have begun offering Introduction to Whole Health sessions for transitioning service members and currently enrolled Veterans. Currently collecting data on participant</p>

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<b>2.5 – Peer Support Outreach</b>	On Track	<b>Oct-18</b>	<b>Dec-18</b>	<b>9-Jul-18</b>	<b>DoD</b>	
<b>Metric:</b> Number of Veterans reached by Military OneSource/“BeThere” offering these Veterans peer support at key determined intervals post-transition.	On Track					Data collection will begin on schedule in FY19 Q1.
<b>Target:</b> 100% of Veterans who have opted-in to be contacted for follow-on transition assistance and/or by Military OneSource will be contacted and offered peer support and non-medical counseling resources.	On Track					
<b>2.6 – Peer Specialist Community Outreach Pilot</b>	On Track	<b>18-Jun</b>	<b>May-19</b>	<b>9-Jul-18</b>	<b>VA</b>	
<b>Metric:</b> VA currently has Clay Hunt SAV Act Section 5 pilot sites in five Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) and will expand the pilot to five additional VISNs.	On Track					Metrics collection underway.
<b>2.7 – Predictive Analytics</b>	On Track	<b>Jul-18</b>	<b>Jul-19</b>	<b>9-Jul-18</b>	<b>VA/DoD</b>	
<b>Metric/Target:</b> VA/DoD/DHS will share all predictive analytics models by July 2018.	On Track					Predictive analytics capabilities and projects documented. Project plan to address future targets under review
<b>Metric/Target:</b> Departments will document any gaps to improve predictive analytics models (e.g., data sources, data integrity) by September 2018.	On Track					
<b>Metric/Target:</b> Departments will document a way forward for an integrated data environment and	On Track					

In the following pages you will find the EO 13822 goals, metrics, and associated targets as well as status as of July 9, 2018.

interagency analytical platform that could adequately support development of a joint approach to predictive modeling by April 2019						
<del>Metric/Target: Departments will document a way forward for an integrated data environment and interagency analytical platform that could adequately support development of a single predictive model by April 2019.</del>	Discontinued					
<b>Goal 3: Improve mental health and suicide prevention services for individuals that have been identified (indicated populations) in need of care.</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Implementation Date</b>	<b>Date Updated</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Metrics Update</b>
<b>3.1 – Easy Button</b>	On Track	Jul-18	Nov-18	9-Jul-18	VA	
<b>Metric:</b> The percentage of new Veterans using the Easy Button to enroll in mental health care or to contact VA (new initiative, baseline is zero).	On Track					Metrics collection underway.
<b>Metric:</b> Length of time until first appointment, appointments kept, length of treatment (total number of appointments kept), standardized clinical measures on symptom reduction and stabilization.	On Track					
<b>Target:</b> ≥15% of Veterans utilize capability within the first year.	On Track					
<b>3.2 – Improved Monitoring</b>	On Track	Apr-18	Aug-18	9-Jul-18	VA	
<b>Metric:</b> All transitioning Service members will be invited to participate in the VOA within two weeks of	On Track					Metrics collection underway.

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beginning mental health treatment (or at discharge from an acute inpatient mental health program). Those who accept the invitation to participate will be contacted at 3 months to repeat the outcomes assessment.						<b>Metric Change.</b>
<b>Target:</b> 10% of Veterans new to VA mental health care will have at least two assessments of their progress in care within the first four months.	On Track					
<del><b>Metric:</b> Follow up phone calls at key intervals 30-60-90-365 days to ensure Veterans are receiving the services they need.</del>	Discontinued					
<del><b>Target:</b> July 2018: 20% of Veterans in the first year following separation from active duty will be contacted to ensure care needs are met. Goal is to increase this metric by 10% each month working towards 80% of Veterans referred are reached within one year of execution of new strategy.</del>	Discontinued					
<b>3.3 – Expand Military OneSource</b>	On Track	Jul-18	Aug-18	9-Jul-18	DoD	
<b>Metric:</b> 100% of Veterans are eligible to access Military OneSource up to 365 days post-transition. Percentage of transitioning Service member respondents on the TAP Participant Assessment who report being informed on expanded Military OneSource services post-separation. Data will be collected quarterly on the TAP Participant Assessment beginning October 2018. Number of Veterans	On Track					Metrics collection ready to begin upon implementation. Data collection will begin on schedule in FY19 Q1 for the TAP Participant Assessment data.

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accessing Military OneSource post-service. Number of Veterans referred to medical services and to clinical mental health care upon enhancement of case management system.						
	On Track					
<b>Target:</b> 100% of Veterans are eligible to access Military OneSource up to 365 days post-transition. For FY19 Q1 data: 55% of transitioning Service member respondents on the TAP Participant Assessment will report being informed on expanded Military OneSource services post-separation. In addition, an increase by 10% for each consecutive quarter until the 12-month mark. Quarter-over-quarter increase in the number of Veterans who contact Military OneSource 7-12 months post-transition through the 12-month mark.						
	On Track					
<b>3.4 – Build and Expand Partnership Models</b>	On Track	Jun-18	Jun-19	9-Jul-18	VA	
<b>Metric:</b> Percentage of applicable Department personnel that are trained on availability and referral process to community-based support resources.	On Track					
<b>Metric:</b> Follow-up phone calls at key intervals (30-,60-, 90-, 365-days) to ensure Veterans are receiving needed community-based services.	On Track					
<b>Target:</b> Baseline of trained personnel will be zero as this is a new initiative.	On Track					Metrics collection underway.

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<p>Within 6 months of execution, ensure 50% of providers are trained.</p>						
<p><b>Target:</b> July 2018: 20% of transitioning Service members referred to community mental health care will be contacted to ensure care needs are met. Goal is to increase this metric by 10% each month working towards 80% of Veterans that are referred are reached within one year of execution of new strategy.</p>	<p>On Track</p>					

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