



Bi-Annual DoD/VA Suicide Prevention Conference
A Community Approach to Suicide Prevention
August 2017
Denver, Colorado



*This year's conference theme, **#BeThere – It takes a community** is consistent with the DoD and VA methodologies which require a multi-pronged strategy for prevention; including media messaging, non-medical interventions in the community, medical mental health interventions, training for gatekeepers, peer-to-peer support, troop and family member training, and leadership engagement.*

Conference presented by the Department of Defense Suicide Prevention Office

Call for Abstracts

Deadline for submission: May 3, 2017

Who and What:

We invite researchers, clinicians, public health experts, students and other practitioners to submit abstracts on on-going research, or clinical or descriptive projects. Data collection may be in process. There are three presentation formats for the DoD/VA Suicide Prevention Conference: paper presentation, poster presentation, or panel discussion.

Focus:

Submission should align with the following conference objectives.

Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Applying evidence- based or informed approaches in suicidology to prevention efforts within and across DoD and VA communities.- Using risk and protective factors to prevent suicide.- Describing the latest findings with regard to suicide data about Service Members and Veterans and discuss how these might inform clinical practice or prevention efforts.
Postvention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implementing a multi-disciplinary approach to postvention practice with suicide attempt survivors (clinicians, Chaplains / religious / spiritual leaders, social contacts, employer, loved ones, etc.).- Identifying the best practice components of a postvention program.- Focusing postvention on the unit, community, and family / peers.
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identifying strategies for safe messaging as it relates to media, social media and public speaking about suicidal behavior.- Identifying specific outreach efforts to both identify and engage Service Members and Veterans via media, social media and public speaking events.- Training on the impact of culture on suicide prevention and postvention.



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Military Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understanding the military professional impacts on suicide prevention and defining the role(s) the military professional plays regarding suicide prevention.
Community Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understanding a community-based public health approach to suicide.- Identifying the public health impact that suicide loss has on our communities.- Describing the overlap between suicidal behavior and other adverse health outcomes (intimate partner violence, interpersonal violence, etc.) and how they might be addressed simultaneously.- Describing novel peer-to-peer support interventions or models.
Clinical Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identifying new evidence-informed clinical tools that can be applied to direct practice with Service Members, Veterans and families at risk for suicide.
Lethal Means	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Developing novel interventions targeting the use of lethal means involved in suicidal behavior among Service Members and Veterans.- Understanding how to talk about lethal means with Service Members, Veterans and their families.- Identifying strategies for engagement related to lethal means.

Content:

Abstracts for research projects should include a research design and outcome data. All other projects should include evaluation data.

Format

Abstracts formatted in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Saved as a Word document
- Not to exceed 250 words
- Times New Roman, font size 12, with one-inch page margins
- Provide names of authors: last name followed by first and degree(s). The first author listed will be considered the presenter unless otherwise noted.
- Provide affiliations of all authors
- Provide complete contact information of the first author, including name, mailing address, phone number and email address.



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Submission Guidelines

Please submit abstracts as an attachment to OSD.DSPO.Outreach@mail.mil by May 3, 2017.

Review Process:

Abstracts will be reviewed by a committee of experts and will be evaluated on quality, design and methodology, and relevance to the conference theme. Acceptance notifications will be sent no later than June 12, 2017.

Following acceptance, **presentations due no later than June 27, 2017.**

Travel Costs

Authors whose abstracts are accepted must work with their facility or network to secure funding for travel expenses. Funding for travel is not available.

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For more information about abstract submissions, please contact
OSD.DSPO.Outreach@mail.mil; subject “Abstract Submission Question”.

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Abstract submission template

Presentation Format	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Poster	<input type="checkbox"/> Panel
Presentation Title			
Author(s) Name(s)	Last name followed by first name and degree(s). The first author will be considered the presenter unless otherwise noted <i>Ex. Jones, Robert, Ph.D.</i>		
Affiliation			
Contact Information	Name, Organization, Mailing Address, Phone Number, Email Address		
Abstract	Text should be Times New Roman, 12-point font size and not exceed 250 words.		