



#DoDVA2017

1-800-273-8255

PRESS KIT

Interview Requests:

Ms. Wendy Lakso, 703-801-9103,
wendy.e.lakso.civ@mail.mil

To schedule an interview please give 24 hours notice and submit interview questions.

General Inquiries & Registration:

OSD.DSPO.Outreach@mail.mil

Please put your question in the subject line of your email.

Press Room Location:

Iris Room

AUGUST 1-3, 2017 | DENVER, CO

Denver Marriott Tech Center
4900 South Syracuse Street
Denver, Colorado 80237

www.dspo.mil/conference

#BeThere
★ YOUR ACTION COULD SAVE A LIFE ★



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Every two years the DoD and VA collaborate to host the Suicide Prevention Conference. The conference focuses on suicide prevention efforts across both departments and is the only suicide prevention conference that specifically addresses suicide among Military and Veteran populations at a national level. This year's conference theme, #BeThere – It Takes a Community, is consistent with DoD and VA methodologies, which require a multi-pronged strategy for prevention including: media messaging, non-medical interventions, mental health interventions, training for gatekeepers, peer-to-peer support, troop and family member training, and leadership engagement. The DoD and VA recognize that education on a comprehensive public health approach to suicide prevention is vital.

CONFERENCE DETAILS

Conference Arrival: Monday, July 31, 2017

Conference Departure: Thursday, August 3, 2017
after 2:00 PM

Military Dress: Uniform of the Day

Civilian Dress: Business Casual

Optional post-conference trainings are offered Friday, August 4, from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Space is limited for the Friday training.



LOCATION INFORMATION

The Denver Marriott Tech Center boasts 29 meeting rooms and offers 50,092 sq. ft. of event space including an outdoor terrace. The flexible meeting space in Denver offers drive-up access and seats 1,500 with 605 rooms including 41 suites.

SESSIONS

For detailed conference scheduling information, visit www.dspo.mil/conference. Prompt arrival for sessions is strongly advised.

REGISTRATION

All media attending **must register** prior to the conference at: www.dspo.mil/Conference.

MEDIA PASS

The Media Pass includes admission to the 2017 DoD/VA Suicide Prevention Conference General Sessions beginning Tuesday, August 1, through Thursday, August 3.

CONFERENCE PRESS ROOM – THE IRIS ROOM

Located in the Iris Room in the Denver Marriott Tech Center, the Press Room will be open from Monday – Thursday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Friday upon request. This room is available for reporters' use for conducting interviews and filing stories. Computers and other office equipment will not be provided and the room will not be staffed. Free Wi-Fi will be available in the Press Room and throughout the tech center.

2017 DoD/VA SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE ONLINE

Follow **#DoDVA2017** for conference updates.



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DoD) ONLINE

DoD on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DeptofDefense

DoD on Instagram: @DeptofDefense www.instagram.com/DeptofDefense

DoD on Twitter: @DeptofDefense www.twitter.com/DeptofDefense

DoD on YouTube: www.youtube.com/DeptofDefense

DoD on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company-beta/7510

DoD Blog: www.DoDlive.mil



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) ONLINE

VA on Facebook: www.facebook.com/VeteransAffairs

VA on Instagram: @DeptVetAffairs www.instagram.com/DeptVetAffairs

VA on Twitter: @DeptVetAffairs www.twitter.com/DeptVetAffairs

VA on YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/DeptVetAffairs

VA on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company-beta/23789

VA on Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/DeptVetAffairs

VA Blog: www.blogs.VA.gov



DEFENSE SUICIDE PREVENTION OFFICE (DSPO) ONLINE

DSPO on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DSPOMil

DSPO on Instagram: @DSPOMil www.instagram.com/DSPOMil

DSPO on Twitter: @DSPOMil www.twitter.com/DSPOMil

DSPO on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/DSPOMil

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS: EVENTS & EXHIBITS

This conference brings together experts from a variety of disciplines for cross-training and pollination of research findings, clinical pathways, and empirical experience. Our participants include caregivers, clinicians, researchers, suicide prevention and postvention specialists, Service members and Veterans, and their families with interest and involvement in suicide prevention.

WELCOME RECEPTION

Monday, July 31, 2017 at 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Reception Sponsored by Wounded Warrior Project

Room: Atrium Hallway

RECEPTION

Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Sponsored by Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors (TAPS)

TAPS - Kim Ruocco and Shauna Springer

Room: Atrium Hallway

ANCILLARY EVENT

Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 6:40 PM

Colorado Rockies vs New York Mets Baseball Game
Service Member & Veteran Suicide Prevention Night
Sponsored by PsychArmor Institute

Where: Coors Stadium

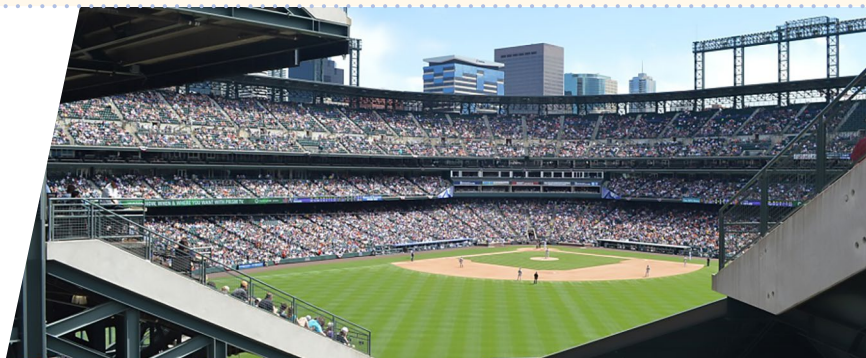


EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

Exhibit hours:

	Start	End
Monday, July 31st	1:00 PM	7:00 PM
Tuesday, August 1st	10:00 AM	4:00 PM
Wednesday, August 2nd	10:00 PM	4:00 PM
Thursday, August 3rd	8:30 AM	10:30 AM

**Please note: Exhibits are closed during the General Sessions.*

EXHIBITS

Reflections of Generosity, Mr. Ron Kelsey

Reflections of Generosity is a traveling exhibition about the power of painting, sculpture, and song to facilitate restoration through generosity, community, and beauty. Artwork and performances reflect the spirit of ongoing generosity demonstrated by the military. Each exhibit is dedicated to the memory of the heroes of 9/11 and the soldiers who have given their lives in recent conflict.

Room: Atrium Hallway

Exhibitor Hall

The 2017 DoD/VA Suicide Prevention Conference, #BeThere – It Takes a Community offers a unique opportunity for exhibitors to meet over 1,000 participants from across the country. Many organizations are working to support the mission of Service member and veteran suicide prevention by representing multiple sectors of our communities. We thank these organizations and welcome them to showcase their resources during the conference.

Room: Exhibitor Hall

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

PRE-CONFERENCE: MONDAY, JULY 31, 2017

11:00 AM – 7:00 PM: EXHIBITS Reflections of Generosity, Mr. Ron Kelsey Room: Atrium Hallway

1:00 PM – 7:00 PM: EXHIBITS Organization Exhibits Room: Exhibit Hall

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM: WELCOME RECEPTION Reception Sponsored by: Wounded Warrior Project Room: Atrium Hallway

DAY 1: TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017

7:00 AM – 12:00 PM: REGISTRATION

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM: GENERAL SESSION

The Honorable Patrick Murphy, Former Secretary of the Army (Master of Ceremonies)

Welcome & Opening Remarks: Dr. Keita Franklin, *Director, Defense Suicide Prevention Office*

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM: GENERAL SESSION

Remarks by Distinguished Speakers

Speakers: Mr. Scott Blackburn, *Interim Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs* and Ms. Virginia (Vee) Penrod, *Chief of Staff, Personnel & Readiness*

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM: BREAK

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM: GENERAL SESSION

Presentation

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM: GENERAL SESSION: Keynote

The Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale: Helping the Department of Defense Save Lives

Speaker: Dr. Kelly Posner, *Founder and Director, The Columbia Lighthouse Project*

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM: SESSIONS

Visit: www.dsps.mil/conference for agenda.

11:00 AM – 4:30 PM: EXHIBITS

Organization Exhibits

Room: Exhibit Hall

11:00 AM – 7:00 PM: EXHIBITS

Reflections of Generosity, Mr. Ron Kelsey

Room: Atrium Hallway

4:00 PM – 4:15 PM: GENERAL SESSION

“TED-like” Talk

Speaker: Facebook

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

4:15 PM – 5:00 PM: GENERAL SESSION

Keynote

Speaker: Kevin Hines, Suicide Survivor. Activist. Storyteller. Filmmaker

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM: RECEPTION

Sponsored by TAPS

TAPS - Kim Ruocco and Shauna Springer

Room: Atrium Hallway

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM: GALLERY TALK

Reflections of Generosity

Room: Atrium Hallway

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2017

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM: GENERAL SESSION

Welcome/Administrative Announcements

The Honorable Patrick Murphy, Former Secretary of the Army (Master of Ceremonies)

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

8:30 AM – 8:50 AM: GENERAL SESSION

“TED-like” Talk

Speaker: Barbara Van Dahlen, *President, Give an Hour*

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

11:15 AM – 12:15 AM: GENERAL SESSION

Keynote

Speaker: Dr. Thomas Joiner, *Lawton Professor of Psychology at Florida State University*

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

10:00 AM – 4:45 PM: SESSIONS

Visit: www.dsps.mil/conference for agenda.

11:00 AM – 4:30 PM: EXHIBITS

Organization Exhibits

Room: Exhibit Hall

10:00 AM – 7:00 PM: EXHIBITS

Reflections of Generosity, Mr. Ron Kelsey

Room: Atrium Hallway

1:00 PM – 4:45 PM: POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Room: Atrium

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM: GENERAL SESSION

VA Suicide Data Update

Speaker: John McCarthy, Ph.D., MPH, *Department of Veterans Affairs*

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

4:30 PM – 4:45 PM: GENERAL SESSION

MCL/VCL 10th Anniversary

Speaker: Susan Strickland, *Acting Director of the Veterans Health Administration's Veterans Crisis Line*

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM: GENERAL SESSION

Daily Wrap-up and Administration

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

6:40 PM – 10:00 PM: EVENING EVENT

Service Member & Veteran Suicide Prevention Night: Colorado Rockies vs. New York Mets

Sponsored by: PsychArmor Institute

Location: Coors Field

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

DAY 3: THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017

8:00 AM – 8:15 AM: GENERAL SESSION

Welcome/Administrative Announcements

The Honorable Patrick Murphy, Former Secretary of the Army (Master of Ceremonies)

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

8:15 AM – 8:30 AM: GENERAL SESSION

DoD MOU Signing with PsychArmor Institute and Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

Speakers: Dr. Keita Franklin, Marjorie Morrison, CEO and Founder of PsychArmor Institute, Bonnie Carroll, TAPS President and Founder

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

8:45 AM – 9:15 AM: GENERAL SESSION

Keynote

Speaker: LTG Thomas Seamands, The 48th Deputy Chief of Staff G-1

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM: SESSIONS

Visit: www.dspo.mil/conference for agenda.

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: EXHIBITS

Organization Exhibits

Room: Exhibit Hall

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM: EXHIBITS

Reflections of Generosity, Mr. Ron Kelsey

Room: Atrium Hallway

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM: GENERAL SESSION

Closing Ceremony

The Honorable Patrick Murphy, Former Secretary of the Army (Master of Ceremonies)

Closing Remarks: Dr. Keita Franklin, Director, Defense Suicide Prevention Office

Room: Rocky Mountain Event Center

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

All presenters listed are available for interviews with the press. To schedule an interview please give 24 hours notice and submit interview questions. For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact: Ms. Wendy Lakso, 703-801-9103, wendy.e.lakso.civ@mail.mil.



SCOTT R. BLACKBURN

Interim Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Mr. Scott R. Blackburn was appointed the Department of Veterans Affairs interim deputy secretary on February 26, 2017.

Mr. Blackburn previously served as interim executive director of the MyVA Task Force. In that role, Mr. Blackburn helped lead the department's ambitious transformational journey to be a world-class service provider and the No. 1 customer-service agency in the federal government.

Mr. Blackburn joined the Department of Veterans Affairs in November 2014 as senior advisor to the Secretary on VA transformation. In that capacity, he helped conceive, design, launch and manage VA's transformation initiative to provide Veterans more consistent, high-quality experiences. Prior to joining VA, Mr. Blackburn was a consultant at the global management consulting firm McKinsey & Company, where he was named a partner in 2011. At McKinsey & Company, Mr. Blackburn was known for his expertise transforming cultures of large, often bureaucratic, Fortune 500 companies.

Mr. Blackburn is a Veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom. He is one of five children, all of whom are Veterans, and his father, grandfathers, uncles, and both a brother- and sister-in-law have served the nation in uniform. Mr. Blackburn is 1999 graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he studied Mechanical Engineering. He was commissioned in the United States Army through the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and served in the Army from 1999 to 2003 as an Armor and Signals Corps officer. Mr. Blackburn was medically discharged from the Army after suffering a non-combat-related back injury in Kuwait when returning from Afghanistan and Operation Anaconda. VA's Vocational Rehabilitation Program, however, facilitated his transition from uniform to university, and in 2005, Mr. Blackburn graduated from Harvard Business School.

Mr. Blackburn was born in Concord, Massachusetts, and was raised in Scituate, a seacoast town south of Boston. He receives his healthcare at the Washington VA Medical Center and in the local community through the Veterans Choice Program.



MS. VIRGINIA (VEE) PENROD

Chief of Staff, Personnel & Readiness

Ms. Virginia (Vee) Penrod, assumed the duties of the Chief of Staff, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (OUSD P&R), on March 30, 2014.

As the Chief of Staff, Ms. Penrod serves as an enabler for the work the OUSD P&R needs to accomplish by providing concise and consistent guidance and assistance, and continuously

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS CONTINUED

identifying ways to improve processes and procedures to increase efficiency and expand upon P&R's collective success.

A member of the Senior Executive Service, she is responsible for the management and day-to-day operations, including financial management, administration, personnel management, correspondence management, career development, space and facilities management services, internal management controls, foreign travel, and personnel security for the OUSD (P&R).

Prior to her assignment as the Chief of Staff, Ms. Penrod served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy beginning October 2010, where she was responsible for recruiting, retention, compensation, travel and the related human resource management for the 1.4 million Active Duty military members of the U.S. Armed Services.

A graduate of Chapman University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, Ms. Penrod holds a Master of Business Administration Degree from Central Michigan University and a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Strategy from National Defense University.

Ms. Penrod's career includes 35 years of service in the Air Force in the field of manpower management at Air Force Logistics Command, executive-level management at the 601st Tactical Control Wing in Germany, and military personnel management, including Command at base level and personnel policy at Headquarters Air Force and the Air Force Personnel Center.

She has also served as the Acting Principal Director and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy from April through September 2010.

Her awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Superior Service Medal, and the Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Award.



THE HONORABLE PATRICK MURPHY

Former Under Secretary of the Army

Mr. Patrick J. Murphy was appointed as the 32nd Under Secretary of the Army and Chief Management Officer (CMO) by President Obama on January 4, 2016. Mr. Murphy assumed duties as the Acting Secretary of the Army three days after being sworn-in and remained in the position until May 18, 2016. He leads the management and operation of the Army, which would rank as a Fortune 10 company if it was a public company. His focus is on dynamic and efficient business operations, transforming the Army to be more innovative and responsive, expanding the Soldier for Life initiative, public-private partnerships, and aggressively utilizing social media to tell the Army story to new audiences in a more compelling way.

Prior to his confirmation, Mr. Murphy was a litigation partner and served as an outside general counsel for small businesses at a national law firm. Previously he served as a Special Assistant for the Southern District of New York.

From 2011-2015, Mr. Murphy was a television anchor and contributor to NBC Universal and executive producer for MSNBC's "Taking the Hill," a national security policy show, which specialized in breaking down the civil- military divide that's occurred with an all-volunteer force.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS CONTINUED

From 2007-2011, Mr. Murphy served as the first Iraq War Veteran elected to the U.S. Congress, representing the Eighth Congressional District of Pennsylvania. He served on the Armed Services, Select Intelligence, and Appropriations committees, responsible for the \$3.4 trillion budget. He co-authored several initiatives including the 21st Century GI Bill, the Repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, and Hire Our Heroes legislation. In 2008, he was instrumental in establishing the Washington Crossing National Veterans Cemetery for over 300,000 veterans. He also authored the Improper Payments Bill, which has saved the American taxpayer tens of billions of dollars.

Mr. Murphy, a third-generation veteran, was commissioned as a second lieutenant and later served in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps as a criminal prosecutor and as an assistant professor in the Department of Law at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY. Following 9/11, he served two overseas deployments-Tuzla, Bosnia, in 2002 and Baghdad, Iraq, in 2003-04. While serving in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division, he led a Brigade Operational Law Team (BOLT) and earned a Bronze Star for his service. Overseeing the justice system for the 1.5 million Iraqis in south central Baghdad, he prosecuted two high-level terrorists in Iraq's highest court.

A former collegiate hockey player, Mr. Murphy is a graduate of King's College, the University of Scranton ROTC program, and the Widener University Commonwealth School of Law. Besides teaching at West Point, he has lectured at Harvard, Stanford, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, the U.S. Air Force Academy and his alma maters.

He is married and has two children.



LTG THOMAS C. SEAMANDS The 48th Deputy Chief of Staff G-1

LTG Thomas C. Seamands is the product of an Army Family. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from the University of Dayton and was commissioned through the ROTC program into the Adjutant General's Corps. He is a graduate of the AG Officer Basic Course, AG Officer Advanced Course, and the Army Command and General Staff College. He attained a Master of Science Degree in Management from Webster University, was the Army's Leadership and Management Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and a Fellow at MIT's Seminar XXI: Foreign Politics, International Relations and the National Interest. LTG Seamands assumed his current assignment as the Commanding General, Army Human Resources Command, Fort Knox, KY in June 2015.

LTG Seamands' most recent assignment was as the Commanding General, Human Resources Command, Ft. Knox, KY. His previous assignments include: Director of Personnel Management, Army G-1, Washington, DC; Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, United States Army Forces Command, Washington, DC; S-1, 649th Engineer Battalion, Germany; Executive Officer, HHC, 1st PERSCOM, Germany; Chief, Personnel Administrative Service Affairs Division, later Chief, Enlisted Strength Management Division, 82d Adjutant General Company, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Commander, 82d Replacement Detachment, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Chief, Officer Strength Management Division, 82d Adjutant General Company, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Chief, Personnel Actions, later Executive Officer, 556th Personnel Services Company, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Deputy G-1, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, North Carolina; Chief, Enlisted Distribution Division, United States Army Pacific, Hawaii; Chief, Combat Service Support Team and Continental United States Distribution Team, United States

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS CONTINUED

Army Personnel Command, Alexandria, Virginia; Executive Officer, 82d Personnel Services Battalion, later Executive Officer, 82d Soldier Support Battalion, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Deputy Commander, 18th Personnel Group (Airborne) and 18th Soldier Support Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Commander, 556th Personnel Services Battalion, later Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Assistant Chief of Staff, CJ-1, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq; and Chief, General Officer Management Office, Office of the Chief of Staff, Army, Pentagon.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Army Staff Identification Badge.



KEITA FRANKLIN, PH.D.

Director, Defense Suicide Prevention Office

Dr. Franklin previously served as the Behavioral Health Branch Head where she was charged with leading the integration of USMC behavioral health programs. In this capacity, she was responsible for the administration of key program areas including; Research, Program Evaluation, Data Surveillance, Program Development, Functional Systems and Prevention and Clinical Services comprised of Substance Abuse, Family Advocacy, Suicide Prevention, Combat Operational Stress Control and non-medical counseling programs.

Dr. Franklin directed the policy, future planning, training, technical assistance, resource management and advocacy efforts for seventeen installations and over 200,000 Marines and families across the Corps. Her focus centered on leveraging the science to develop and execute an integrated service delivery built on a common risk and protective factors. In this capacity Dr. Franklin led a team of cross disciplinary professionals in the standing up a comprehensive system of care composed of new programs while ensuring strong program evaluation processes were in place for monitoring program effectiveness. Dr. Franklin also transitioned the United States Marines Corps non-medical providers from paper based files to an IT care management documentation system. Dr. Franklin's specialty area of focus is on impact of deployment and trauma on military and family relationships, particularly spouses and children. Dr. Franklin has published on deployment and psychological well-being on family relationships and alcohol-related issues. She has served as an adjunct faculty member at George Mason University and Virginia Commonwealth University and has lectured on numerous topics impacting military service members including; deployment stress, secondary trauma, women's mental health issues in the military, parenting in the military and behavioral health needs of today's service members. Prior to working for the Marine Corps, Dr. Franklin served at the installation and regional levels for both the United States Air Force and United States Army. She has worked in the areas of prevention, clinical treatment, child welfare and program administration over a variety of programs. Dr. Franklin has also worked in the non-profit sector in the area of adoptions.

Dr. Franklin is a licensed social worker with a specialization in children and families and has a Ph.D. in social work with specialized training/certifications from the Center for the Advancement of Research Methods and Analysis. Dr. Franklin received a leadership award from Virginia Commonwealth University for leading efforts to help train and advise the social work profession on working with military families.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS CONTINUED

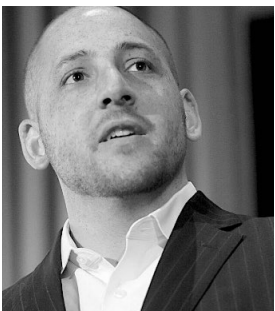


KELLY POSNER, PH.D.

Founder and Director, The Columbia Lighthouse Project

Dr. Kelly Posner is a visionary scientist, humanitarian, and philanthropist with a long-standing commitment to saving lives. Her focus on preventing death by suicide and reducing the stigma associated with mental illness has brought relief to those suffering in silence around the world. Posner's method for suicide risk assessment, commissioned by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and developed by a team she led, has been transformative and contributed to what The

New York Times in 2008 called "one of the most profound changes of the past 16 years to regulations governing drug development." That change was the FDA's decision to require drug developers to assess patients for suicidal thoughts and behaviors during clinical trials.



KEVIN HINES

Suicide Survivor. Activist. Storyteller. Filmmaker

In September 2000, Kevin Hines leapt off the Golden Gate Bridge, a method of suicide attempt that has resulted in death for most of the 2000 people who have made that jump since the bridge was erected in 1937.

He is one of only thirty-six (less than 1%) to survive the fall and he is the only Golden Gate Bridge jump survivor who is actively spreading the message of living mentally healthy around the globe.

In 2016, Mental Health America awarded Kevin their highest honor, The Clifford W. Beers Award for his efforts to improve the lives of and attitudes toward people with mental illnesses. Previously, he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Council of Behavioral Health in partnership with Eli Lilly. Kevin has also been awarded by SAMSHA as a Voice Awards Fellow and Award Winner, an Achievement Winner by the US Veterans Affairs and received over 30 U.S. military excellence medals as a civilian.

Kevin sits on the boards of the International Bipolar Foundation (IBPF), the Bridge Rail Foundation (BRF) and the Mental Health Association of San Francisco (MHASF) and on the Survivors Committee of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Previously, he was a board member of the Northern California Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and was a two-term member of San Francisco's Mental Health Board. He has spoken in congressional hearings alongside Patrick Kennedy in support of The Mental Health Parity Bill. He continues his policy work as an Ambassador to the National Council for Behavioral Health.

In the summer of 2013, Kevin released his bestselling memoir titled *Cracked Not Broken, Surviving and Thriving After A Suicide Attempt*. He is currently producing a documentary entitled *Suicide: The Ripple Effect*.

Kevin's will to live and stay mentally well has inspired people worldwide. His compelling story has touched diverse, global audiences within colleges and universities, high schools, corporations, clergy, military, clinicians, health and medical

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS CONTINUED

communities, law enforcement organizations, and various industries. Thousands have communicated to Hines that his story helped save their lives. He has reached millions with his story.

His story was featured in the 2006 film *The Bridge* by the film director and producer Eric Steel.

Kevin believes in the power of the human spirit and in the fact that you can find the ability to live mentally well. His mantra: “Life is a gift, that is why they call it the present. Cherish it always.”



THOMAS JOINER, PH.D.

Lawton Professor of Psychology at Florida State University

Thomas Joiner is an American academic psychologist and leading expert on suicide. He is the Robert O. Lawton Professor of Psychology at Florida State University, where he operates his Laboratory for the Study of the Psychology and Neurobiology of Mood Disorders, Suicide, and Related Conditions. He is author of *Why People Die by Suicide* (Harvard University Press 2005) and *Myths about Suicide* (Harvard University Press 2010), and the current editor-in-chief of *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*.

In *Why People Die by Suicide*, Joiner posits the interpersonal theory of suicide, a three-part explanation of suicide, which focuses on ability and desire. The desire to die by suicide comes from a sense of disconnection from others and lack of belonging, combined with a belief that one is a burden on others. The ability to die by suicide comes from a gradual desensitization to violence and a decreased fear of pain, combined with technical competence in one or more suicide methods. Under this model, a combination of desire and ability will precede most serious suicide attempts.

Joiner holds a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.

ABOUT THE DEFENSE SUICIDE PREVENTION OFFICE

The Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) was established in 2011, as part of the Department of Defense’s Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. DSPO supports a collaborative public health approach where suicide prevention is integrated into military, family, and civilian policies and programs to reduce suicidal behavior in Service members, their families, and DoD civilians. We work closely with Military Services, civilian organizations and the community to create a network of support for suicide prevention efforts. Visit us at www.dspo.mil.

Learn how to **#BeThere** for yourself and others at www.dspo.mil.