

The Military Suicide Research Consortium (MSRC): An Infrastructure Improving Mental Health Outcomes for Active Duty Military, Veterans and Civilians



VA HEALTH CARE
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in the 21st Century

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VISN 19 Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) Military Suicide Research Consortium

Background & Rationale

In response to the rise of suicide rates in the military, the Department of Defense (DoD) awarded the VISN 19 MIRECC and Florida State University \$17 million to establish a Consortium addressing this concern. The MSRC applies a multidisciplinary approach and multi-site effort to produce new scientific knowledge about self-directed violence in the military.

The MSRC's mission is to:

- Produce new scientific knowledge about suicidal behavior in the military that improves mental health outcomes for our men and women in uniform
- Use high-quality research methods and analyses to address problems in policy and practice
- Rapidly disseminate knowledge and findings
- And train future leaders in military suicide research

Innovative Approach

This is the first collaboration of its kind, incorporating military and civilian efforts to support national and international military-relevant research. The MSRC consists of three Cores, a Military External Advisory Board, an Independent Scientific Peer Review Program, a Training Component, and Research Program. This infrastructure enhances the military's ability to quickly identify those at risk for suicide and results in more effective evidence-based prevention and treatment strategies.

MSRC Opportunities

The MSRC provides the following opportunities to encourage and support future leaders in military suicide research:

- Dissertation Completion Awards
- Pilot Grants
- Travel Awards for the MSRC Pre-conference Research Training Day

**Disseminate to
Decision Makers**

Core A

Executive Management Core

Oversees all aspects of the Consortium, including other cores, external advisory board, training, the research program and public relations.

Co-Directors: Drs. Peter Gutierrez & Thomas Joiner

Core B

Information Management/ Scientific Communications Core

Catalogue stores of information on suicidal behavior in the military.

Ensures that all aspects of the Consortium are relevant and sensitive to military-related issues.

Core Director: Dr. Greg Riccardi

Core C

Database/Statistical Management Core

Provide data management and analysis infrastructure and consulting to the entire Consortium.

Core Director: Dr. Jon Maner

Research Program

Runs cutting-edge empirical studies to further the knowledge base on topics such as risk assessment, treatment, prevention, and postvention, as they pertain to suicidal behavior in the military.

Seven studies are currently in progress, with three proposals under review for funding.

**To learn more about these studies, please visit the
Military Suicide Research Consortium:
Current Funded Studies poster**

Methodology

The MSRC Co-Directors, funded PIs, and MSRC Senior Advisors compiled a list of *Common Data Elements*. In addition to the measures unique to each of the funded studies, necessary to test individual hypotheses, all projects will also collect a battery of 57 items across a range of key suicide-related domains. Having the same data from the pooled participants will allow a range of secondary analyses to be conducted. Portions of the following scales are included in the *Common Data Elements*:

- Depression Symptom Index-Suicidality Subscale (DSI SS, Metalsky & Joiner, 1997)
- Suicidal Behaviors Questionnaire-Revised (SBQ-R, Osman et al., 2001)
- Suicide Intent Scale (SIS, Beck, Shuyler, & Herman, 1974)
- Beck Scale for Suicide Ideation (BSS, Beck & Steer, 1991)
- Beck Hopelessness Scale (BHS, Beck, Weissman, Lester, & Trexler, 1972)
- Interpersonal Needs Questionnaire (INQ, Van Orden et al., 2012)
- Anxiety Sensitivity Scale-3 (ASI-3, Taylor et al., 2007)
- PTSD Checklist – Military Version (PCL-M, Weathers et al., 1993)
- TBI-4 (TBI-4, Brenner et al., in press)
- Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT-C, Bush, Kivlahan, McDonnell, Fihn, & Bradley, 1998)
- Insomnia Severity Index (ISI, Bastien, Vallieres, & Morin, 2001)

Through the MSRC's multidisciplinary approach and use of state-of-the-art research methodology, the MSRC will yield new scientific data that will influence not only active-duty military and Veterans, but the general public as well.

MSRC Website

To learn more about the MSRC research and opportunities, please visit <https://msrc.fsu.edu/>.

Access daily news and updates on military suicide related research.
Browse the state-of-the-art research database.
Connect with research experts.



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