



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE
JOINT STAFF SURGEON
PRESIDENT, UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE
HEALTH SCIENCES
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY

SUBJECT: Distribution of the Warfighter Brain Health Research Strategy

The Department of Defense (DoD) Warfighter Brain Health Initiative (WBHI) is a joint effort between operational and medical forces. The WBHI is currently in full implementation phase with the finalization of requirements documents in January 2022 and release of the strategy and action plan in June 2022. The WBH Doctrine, Organization, Training, materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel, Facilities and Policy Change Recommendation (DCR) consists of activities for the deliberate, prioritized, and rapid development of end-to-end solutions for warfighter brain health to include the development of a brain health research strategy (DCR Task #1) that is founded on validated warfighter operational requirements.

This memorandum distributes the DoD WBH Research Strategy (attached) which provides guidance for the DoD research and development (R&D) activities to coordinate, optimize, and advance warfighter brain health science. This WBH Research Strategy outlines R&D on brain health hazards, threats, and operational requirements with the goal of rapidly transitioning products and practices to optimize WBH and performance. The WBH Research Strategy complements and draws information from recently completed capabilities-based assessments performed for the Military Health System and incorporates the Defense Health Agency's Traumatic Brain Injury Strategic Research Plan.

The WBH Research Strategy is an additional element in the Department's single, synchronized, and prioritized brain health roadmap to address brain health. Advancing the science on WBH is a critical step in providing the best care possible to our nation's warfighters. Please ensure widest dissemination of the WBH Research Strategy. Thank you for your continued support.

David J. Smith, M.D.
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Health Readiness Policy and Oversight

Attachment:

As stated

cc:

Director, Defense Research Operations, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research
and Engineering