

News Release

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Bill Erwin, USARPAC Public Affairs Office

Army leaders take a close look at programs designed to help Soldiers and their families get the right help

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii -- The discussion at a Fort Shafter Conference ranged from suicide prevention and resilience to identifying risk taking behavior of Soldiers. The eventual goal was to provide Soldiers and their families with the tools to help when needed through the integration of services and the development of information systems to identify those in need.

Health and safety workers from throughout U.S. Army Pacific, Installation Management Command, Pacific and Pacific Region Medical Center talked about how all services for Soldiers and their families should be tied together in some way.

"If we are going to work together we are going to have to know what each is doing," Brig. Gen. Steve Jones, PRMC/TAMC Commanding General said. "It's all about taking care of the Soldier."

Those attending agreed that new programs are not needed; rather a method of bringing them all together, leveraging existing programs and finding ways to make sure those needing services know what exists.

"The hard work is ahead of us," Brig. Gen. Jones said. "We now have to take the ideas developed during this conference and put them together so they will work."

The conference was designed to look specifically at integration of services, the identification of risk factors, resilience building and the creation of a fusion cell.

"If we as the experts can identify and pull all our services together we can come closer to providing the Soldier and/or families with the help they need," said Brig. Gen. Jones.

A tool that was discussed frequently at the conference was some type of web-based database for use by supervisors and commanders that will help them get Soldiers in need into the right mix of programs. Such a database would improve communication between Soldiers, supervisors, leaders and the medical behavioral health system.



Col. John Campbell, Command Surgeon, U. S. Army Combat Readiness Center, Fort Rucker, Ala., leads a discussion about how to integrate services throughout U.S. Army Pacific, Installation Management Command, Pacific and Pacific Regional Medical Command. To help commanders and supervisors get Soldiers into the right programs, a web-based database has been recommended.