



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION C
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FROM: SAF/AAZ
1720 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC, 20330-1720

SUBJECT: Department of the Air Force Invisible Wounds Initiative and Personnel Security

- References: (a) DoDM 5200.02, *Procedures for the DoD Personnel Security Program (PSP)*, 3 Apr 2017, Change 1, 29 Oct 2020
(b) DoDI 6490.08, *Command Notification Requirements to Dispel Stigma in Providing Mental Health Care to Service Members*, 17 Aug 2011
(c) DoDM 5200.01, *DoD Information Security Program: Overview, Classification, and Declassification*, 24 Feb 2012, Change 2, 28 Jul 2020
(d) DoDM 5200.02, AFMAN16-1405, *Air Force Personnel Security Program*, 01 Aug 2018
(e) Security Executive Agent Directive 3, *Reporting Requirements for Personnel With Access to Classified Information or Who Hold a Sensitive Position*, 12 Jun 2017
(f) Security Executive Agent Directive 4, *National Security Adjudicative Guidelines*, 08 Jun 2017
(g) AFD 34-11, *Warrior and Survivor Care Services*, 11 Mar 2019
(h) AFI 34-1101, *Warrior and Survivor Care*, 30 Apr 2019

This memorandum is to reaffirm support for Department of the Air Force total force members who have or may be seeking mental health services. The misinformation surrounding the potential loss of an individual's security clearance eligibility for receiving or seeking mental health services, is abundant and invalid. Current social stigmas on mental health can have a profound impact on treatment outcomes or hinder effective and efficient recovery, if an individual faces exclusion or discrimination when he/she proactively seeks support services. This self and culturally-imposed silence not only hurts the individual, but his/her chain-of-command's unit readiness and ultimately, the mission.


Commanders, and those serving in an individual's chain-of-command, are reminded that the intent of personnel security continuous evaluation program (CEP) is timely detection and reporting of potential issues that could cause damage to National Security. Assisting Service Members get the help they need to cope with invisible wounds has the potential to markedly improve care and ensure high-risk personnel are identified and supported, thus upholding your CEP responsibilities.

Unit Security Managers, along with the Information Protection Office, have the responsibility to provide security related guidance to Service Members and their Commanders, as outlined in references (a) through (h). Ultimately, whether combat-related or not, seeking help is a positive indicator of an individual's trustworthiness and should always be treated as such.

Service Members who believe they may have inadvertently disclosed classified information during a counseling session are encouraged to consult their local Security Manager for further guidance. Questions can be referred to local level Information Protection Office, Special Security Office, and/or Program Security Officer, as needed.

My POC for security-related Invisible Wounds Initiative questions is Mr. Richard Hebblethwaite, SETA Program Manager, SAF/AAZE at richard.hebblethwaite@us.af.mil.

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