



The U.S. Army Pain Management Campaign

What has the United States Army Medical Command (USAMEDCOM) done to address Pain?

In August 2009, The U.S. Army Surgeon General chartered the U.S. Army Pain Management Task Force (PMTF). Its purpose was to develop and recommend a U.S. Army Medical Command (USAMEDCOM) comprehensive pain management strategy that is holistic, multidisciplinary, and multimodal in approach, utilizes state of the art/science modalities and technologies, and provides optimal quality of life for Soldiers and other patients with acute and chronic pain.

The PMTF conducted 28 site visits at U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force Medical Centers, Hospitals, and Health Clinics, as well as Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and civilian hospitals. During the site visits, leadership and staff were asked to assess pain management capabilities, strengths, weaknesses, and best practices at their respective facilities.

The PMTF developed 109 recommendations based on its findings. These findings and recommendations were compiled and published in the May 2010 Pain Management Task Force Report.

Army Pain Management Campaign Top Initiatives

- Meet the needs of Soldiers in recovery, rehabilitation, and transition
- Create a level of awareness/urgency regarding pain management that leads to changing our culture in pain management practices
- Establish a Defense and Veterans Pain Management Initiative (DVPMI) as the Department of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) central pain management advisory board for pain medicine issues
- Identify and implement standards for pain care to minimize suffering, mitigate related adverse events, optimize functional outcomes and return Soldiers to duty
- Educate and train Soldiers and Families through a comprehensive pain management curriculum that promotes patient involvement in their own care
- Partner with DoD, Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA), civilians, and academics to leverage expertise

Report Highlights

- Focus on the Warrior and Family - Sustaining the Force
- The right treatment...the right provider... at the right time
- Standardize pain management health practices across the military healthcare system
- Develop a uniform approach to pain care for providers
- Improve rehabilitation, reintegration, and recovery
- Provide options for safe and effective complementary approaches to pain management (i.e., acupuncture, meditation, biofeedback, and yoga)

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Interdisciplinary Pain Management Centers (IPMCs)

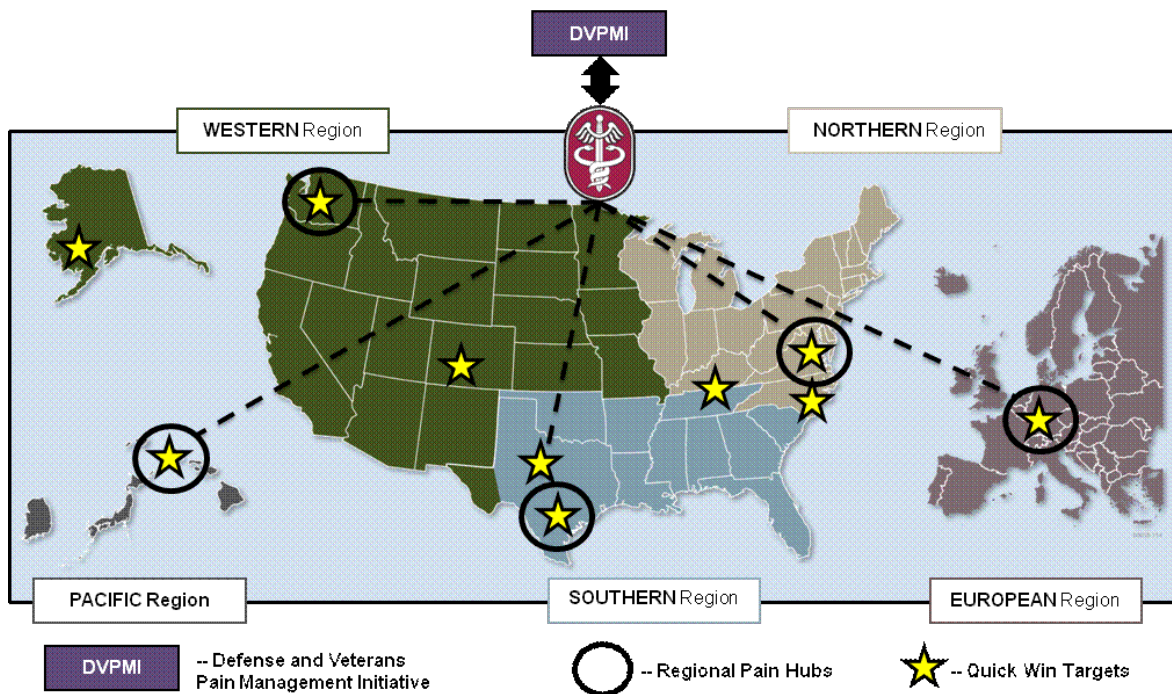
IPMCs serve as pain medicine hubs for each Regional Medical Command. The initial requirements (personnel, services, and modalities) for five Regional IPMCs will provide Service Members and Families with a holistic, interdisciplinary, and multimodal approach to managing pain.

IPMCs will be responsible for all local acute, chronic, and cancer pain services within the hosting Military Treatment Facility (MTF) and serve as the primary

pain medicine consultant service for MTFs within a Region. Each IPMC will operate within an integrated pain management model that utilizes state of the art/science modalities and technologies to provide optimal quality of life for Soldiers and other patients with acute and chronic pain.

For more information on the U.S. Army Pain Management Campaign, visit us at

www.armymedicine.army.mil/prr/pain_management.html



The Way Ahead



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