

Re-Deployment Medical Threat Briefing

Name & Unit



Prepared by:

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http://usachppm.apgea.army.mil

Re-deployment Medical Briefing

- Purpose of this briefing
- Background on health concerns
- Health threats from this region
- Re-deployment medical requirements
- Homecoming Stress
- Summary and where to get more information



Purpose of this briefing

To ensure that any concerns you may have about your health are addressed and that you understand the medical requirements for re-deployment



Background

 Over 300,000 US and Coalition Forces are re-deploying from support of Operation Iraqi Freedom



 Of utmost importance is force health protection and addressing concerns you might have about your health

Medical Requirements for Re-deployment

In-theater

- Receiving this post-deployment medical threat briefing
- Completing the Post-Deployment Health Assessment (DD Form 2796)
- Receiving post-deployment medical screening (of 2796), testing, and follow-up
- Understanding where to go for health problems or concerns after you return home

Home Station

 Tuberculosis skin test (TB), blood draw and any indicated referral appointments, DD2900

Medical Threats for the Region

- Threat Categories
 - Infectious
 - Vector borne
 - Animal associated
 - Environmental

- Diarrheal diseases
- Tuberculosis
- Malaria
- Dengue
- Meningococcal Meningitis
- Leishmaniasis
- Q-Fever
- Rabies
- Avian Influenza
- Sandfly Fever
- Schistosomiasis
- Typhoid/Paratyphoid
- Typhus
- Boutonneuse Fever
- West Nile Fever
- Leptospirosis

Common Health Problems Reported

The most commonly reported health problems observed in theater:

- Upper respiratory illness
- Diarrhea

Upper Respiratory Infection

- Can be caused by a number of different things, viruses, bacteria, dust particles
- The contributing factors are close living quarters, variation in sleep routine, stress, change in hygiene habits
- Symptoms resolve in a few days
- If you are experiencing signs of a cold, like draining sinuses, sore throat or cough for more than 2 weeks, seek medical attention

Diarrheal Diseases

- It is normal for almost everyone to have some bowel disturbances due to changes in diet and eating habits
 - Can be caused by bacteria, viruses, or parasites
 - If you currently have diarrhea symptoms (loose watery stools, more than 3 times per day), speak to a health care provider

Infectious Diseases: STDs/Bloodborne

- Sexually Transmitted and/or Bloodborne Diseases
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Gonorrhea
 - Chlamydia
 - Syphilis
 - Hepatitis B

If you abstained from sexual contact while deployed, you are not at risk for STDs

Infectious Diseases: Tuberculosis

- Tuberculosis disease is present in the Iraqi local population
 - Caused by a bacteria spread by coughing, sneezing, speaking, or spitting from infected persons
- Symptoms
 - Cough continuing for a long time, chest pain, weight loss, night sweats, fever, and weakness
- The TB skin test will show if you have been exposed to someone with active disease, not necessarily that you have the disease

Infectious Diseases: Malaria

- Blood parasite transmitted by mosquitoes
 - Disease is not in Kuwait
 - Your risk is very low in most Iraq locations and is seasonally influenced
- Symptoms
 - Incubation period: 8-14 days
 - Symptoms: fever, flu-like illness, chills, headache, muscle aches, and fatigue
- If you are at high risk of getting this disease you will be told to take malaria drugs
 - Follow your instructions completely to avoid getting sick!

Infectious Diseases: Leishmaniasis

- A parasite transmitted by sand fly bites
- Symptoms
 - Non-healing sores
 - Sometimes fever, weight loss, weakness, anemia, swelling of spleen and liver
 - Symptoms can appear weeks to months after getting bitten
- If you experience any of these symptoms, while deployed or after you get home, make sure you speak to a health care provider!







Sand flies are very small - only one-third the size of mosquitoes.

Animal Associated Diseases

- Naturally occurring Anthrax
- Rabies
- Avian Influenza

Anthrax (Naturally Occurring)

- No exposure to bioagent Anthrax reported
 - Bacteria transmitted by animals,
 animal hides or contaminated meat
- Symptoms
 - On skin. Progresses from
 - bump → blister → ulcer, swelling, and fever
- If you have an ulcer with a black scab or that has had a difficult time healing, please make sure you speak to a health care provider



Rabies

- The wild dogs roaming troop areas in Kuwait and Iraq could be carrying rabies
- Caused by virus in the saliva of infected mammals or bats
- Rabies is nearly 100% fatal
- If you were bitten by a dog, or any other animal, post exposure treatment must be started immediately

Animal Contact Diseases

Avian Influenza H5N1

- Rare cases of H5N1 influenza could occur in operational forces exposed to infected poultry flocks.
- In the unlikely event that H5N1 influenza gains the ability to efficiently spread directly from person to person, initiating a human influenza pandemic, a significant number of operational forces worldwide could be affected.
- Very severe illness; fatality rate higher than 50% in symptomatic cases
- Seek medical treatment immediately if you feel ill.

Other Disease Threats

 Other less common infectious diseases are covered in your Redeployment Medical Guide for Missions in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom tri-fold

Environmental Threats

- Environmental assessments ongoing at all primary troop locations in Kuwait and Iraq
- Air, soil and water analyzed for:
 - Pesticides
 - Chemicals and heavy metals
 - Radiation
- As of May, 2003, particulate matter (dust) levels were a moderate hazard but no other health risks found
- Smoke from battlefield and oil well fires was not a health hazard

Environmental Threats: Dust

- Dust levels are consistently higher than other areas of the world
- Smoke and air pollution are similar to many industrial areas in the US
- Can cause runny nose, sore throat and cough; may worsen allergies
- Symptoms usually resolve in a few days after leaving the area; if not, seek medical attention

Blood Donation

Soldiers who have been to Iraq cannot donate blood for a year after redeploying.

 If you get malaria you will be deferred from donating blood for 3 years

Post Deployment Requirements

In-theater

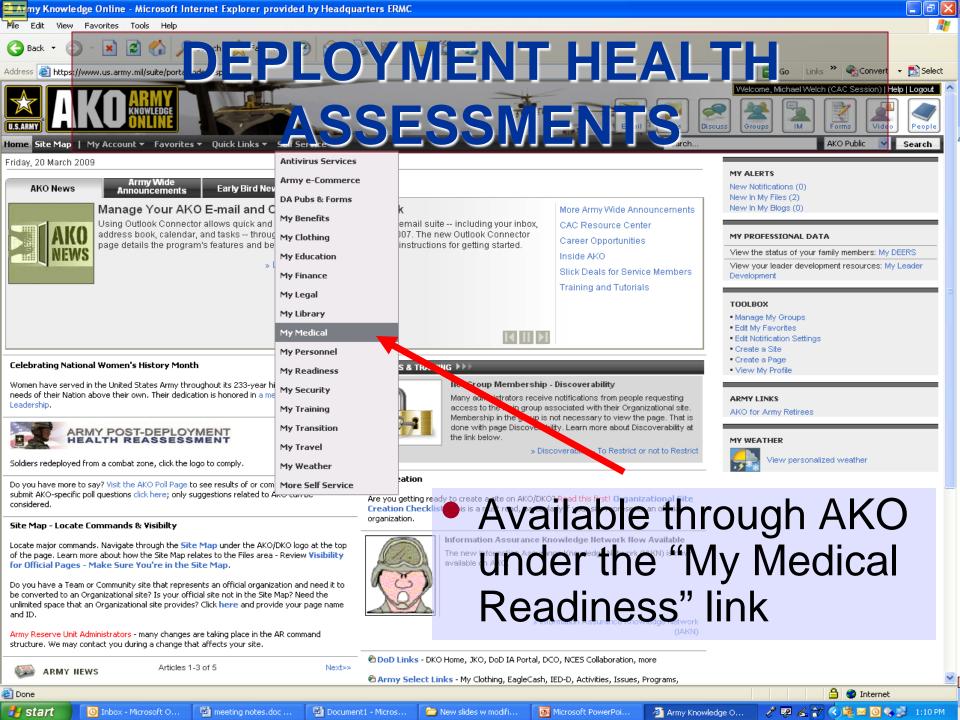
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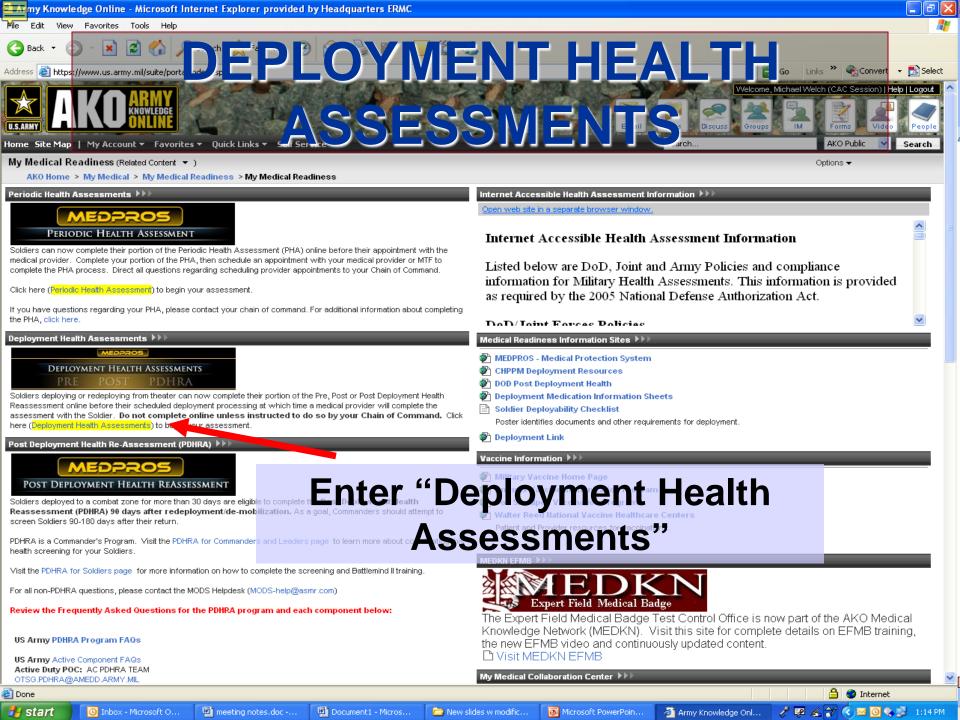
Home Station

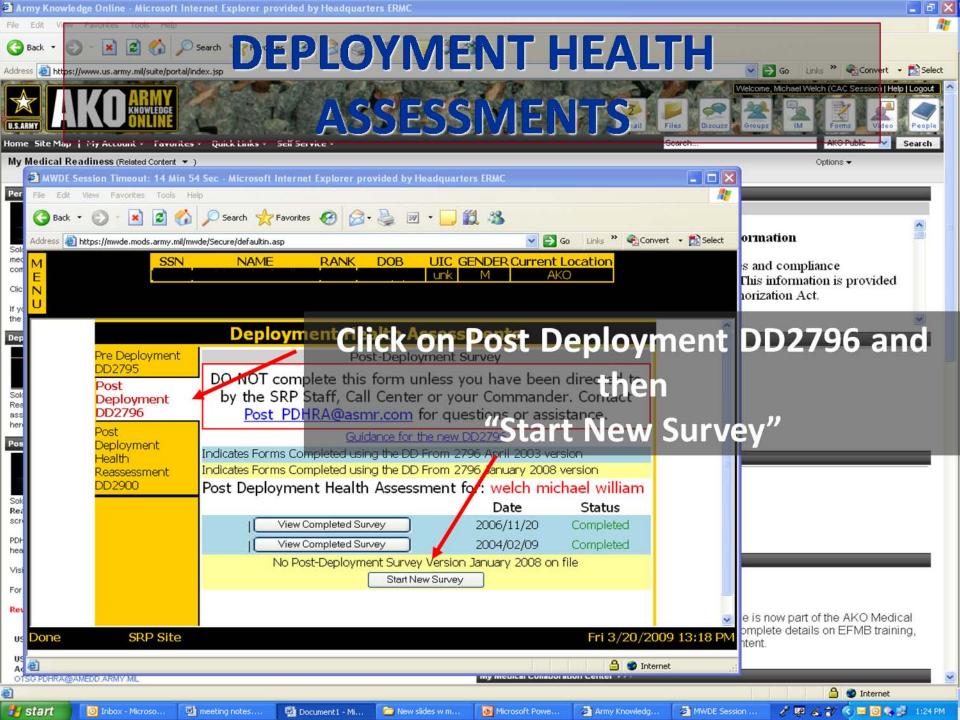
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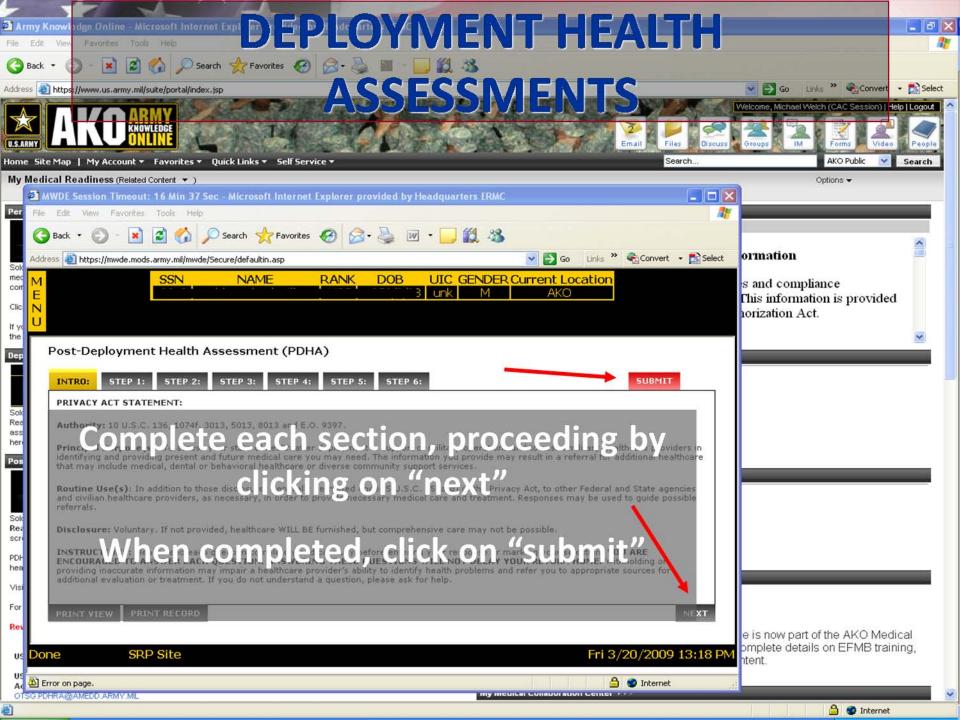
Post Deployment Health Assessment Form

 DD Form 2796 <u>must</u> be completed no more than 30 days prior to departing for home station OR within 7 days upon return to home station.









Post Deployment Health Assessment Form

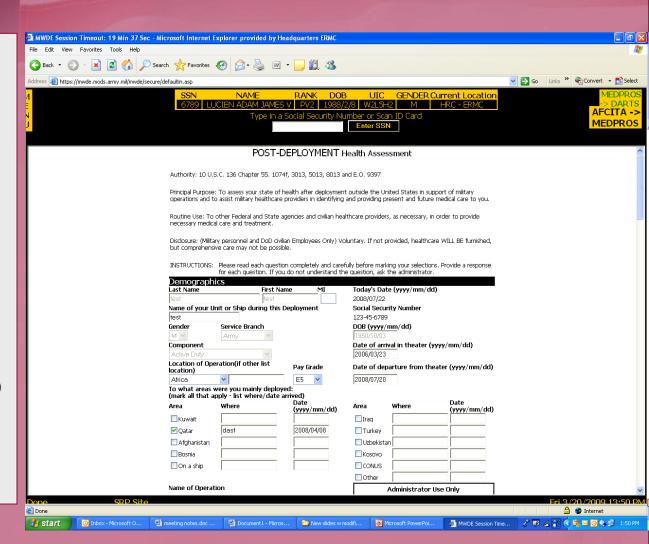
- Step 1 Demographics
 - Deployment location
 - -Country, list all
 - Operation Iraqi Freedom

Redeployment Requirements

- In-theater
 - Redeployment medical threat briefing
 - Post-deployment health assessment (DD Form 2796)
 - Post-deployment medical screening, testing, and follow-up
 - Know where to go for health problems or concerns after you return home
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Post-Deployment Health Assessment Form

One-on-one Health
Care Provider
interview, follow-up
and referral



Post Deployment Health Assessment Form

- Health Assessment
 - Face-to-face discussion with Health Care Provider (HCP)
 - Answer based on your down range experiences and how you are feeling today
 - -Review of completed DD 2796 with HCP
 - Follow-up may be recommended at home station
 - Answering <u>yes</u> to any questions <u>will not</u> delay your departure from theater or delay block leave

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Directions for post-deployment health questions and concerns

Step 1

 Be aware that some conditions (like malaria, tuberculosis, and others) may not produce symptoms for weeks to months after you return home.

Step 2

 Contact your local MTF or civilian health care provider for problems, questions, or concerns noticed after re-deployment, and make sure to tell him/her about your deployment.

Step 3

 If you feel ill, your primary health care provider can do an initial assessment. If symptoms persist or your condition is not improving, make sure you return to your health care provider.

Step 4

 The DoD Deployment Health Clinical Center is always available to answer your questions, and any questions your health care provider (civilian or military) may have about your health.

DoD Deployment Health Clinical Center

Walter Reed Army Medical Center 6900 Georgia Avenue, NW Building 2, Room 3G04

Washington, DC 20307-5001

Phone: (202) 782-6563

Fax: (202) 782-3539

DSN: 662-3577

Toll Free Help Line: (800) 796-9699

http://www.pdhealth.mil

Remember "deploymenthealth.mil"

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Preventive Measures Required

- Tuberculosis Skin Test
 - A skin test on the forearm to show if you have been exposed to tuberculosis
 - Delayed onset of positive test in some folks requires that you be tested twice:
 - At the time of redeployment as determined by your HCP
 - At 3-6 months after redeployment (Date will be indicated on your DD Form 2796)
 - You must return 48-72 hours after the test to have it read and documented by a health care professional
- Blood sample taken at home station

DD FORM 2900

- Post Deployment Health Reassessment
 - Completed 3-6 months after re-deployment
 - Must complete the demographic information portion; the remainder of the form is voluntary
 - The form will be completed through AKO
 - An audiogram must be completed prior to provider interview
 - A healthcare provider will review and discuss your answers with you

Reunion with family and friends

Reunion is a part of the deployment cycle and can be filled with joy and stress. Reintegration into the family structure is a critical process.

Refer to the A Soldier and Family Guide to redeploying for things to remember during

reunion with family and friends.

 Chaplains and counselors are available to help cope with homecoming stress



Summary

- Background
- Post Deployment Requirements
- Potential health threats
- Completion of DD Form 2796
- Where to go for health information
- Homecoming Stress

Conclusion

It is important to the US military and the Nation that you enjoy good health as you rejoin your family and friends upon return to home station.

If you have health problems or concerns, it is critical that you let someone know. It will not delay your departure for home station.

Are there any questions?