

VOLUME VII
SENIOR REVIEW GROUP (SRG)
THEMES/TRENDS and/or LESSONS LEARNED
April 2010

1. Theme: Wayward Behavior Equals the “Perfect Storm” for Failure

- Legal Issues = UCMJ, AWOL Status, Pending Civilian Charges, Article 15
- Drug and Alcohol Problems = Prescription/Illegal Drug Abuse, High Blood Alcohol Content, ASAP Failures, Positive Urinalysis Results
- Relationship Failures = Spouse, Family / Extended Family, Friends, Fellow Soldiers and Unit Leaders

2. Theme: Collaborative Communication

- Medical Providers and Commanders must share information
- Battle buddies seek assistance when a fellow Soldier talks about suicide
- Talk to your Soldiers frequently and display genuine caring and concern
- Establish an open door policy; Soldiers should feel comfortable talking to you
- Engage the “High Risk” Soldier – offer assistance and be available

3. Theme: Transitions across the Spectrum

- PCS/Deployment/integration/Retirement/Separation/Relationships/Changes
- Identify “high-risk” Soldiers during in-processing
- Improve sponsorship programs so Soldiers don’t fall through the cracks
- Newly assigned Soldiers may isolate themselves

4. Theme: Lessons for Leaders

- Beware of “pattern breaking” i.e. Soldiers displaying atypical behavior

- Know your Soldiers from all dimensions – have a 360 degree view
- Teach Soldiers about risky behaviors and be prepared to react
- Be current so you can stay in touch with your Soldiers (Webcam)
- There is no “common” picture of a Soldier
- Soldiers with stressors should not be Casualty Assistance Officers
- Frequent contact with new Soldiers helps with unit cohesion and building trust

5. Theme: Medical Malfunctions

- Isolation and medication don't mix
- Drugs and alcohol don't mix
- Ensure Soldiers on medication are closely monitored
- Alcohol abuse violations require treatment/follow-up

6. Theme: Soldier Footprint - Know Your Soldiers

- Professional Failures / Dissatisfaction with MOS
- Relationship break-ups
- Low self-esteem
- Loss of a loved one (spouse/fellow Soldier)
- Feelings of Humiliation