INFORMATION PAPER

22 September 2010

SUBJECT: Current status of the DoD website, *afterdeployment.org.*

Background

The website, *afterdeployment.org,* is the DoD-response to the 2006/2007 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requiring an Internet-based platform focused on psychological health issues often experienced following a deployment. DCoE and T2 have led the project, along with coordination with TMA and various contributing project experts.   The original site went live in August 2008.

Phases 1 and 2 (first two years of development) targeted site program/design conception and content development across a spectrum of common post-deployment concerns. Emphasis was on "pre-clinical" self-care solutions, anonymous use, interactive exercises, self-assessments, personal stories, narrator-guided workshops, and ability to save work/track progress. Phase 3 targets the release of new content, and social media (blogs, forums) with intent to establish an online community.

As of the end of June 2010, *afterdeployment.org* (AD) reached a milestone of over 109,000 site visits.

Phase 3 Features

- Newly enhanced site design and navigation based on user testing and market research
- Site search function and site map
- Persistent navigation across all of the site's pages
- Site customization per user-preference/status (service member, family member, veteran, provider)
- Folding in of over 108 new personal stories for each existing and new program area into both the AD site and the AD site related YouTube channel; introduction of docudramas to site
- Easier accessibility of resources through geospatial locator and DCoE's outreach center; directly accessible from the landing page; easy access to project partner sites (Real Warriors, MyHealth*e*vet, Sesame Street Workshop)
- New programs: stigma, mTBI, resilience, anxiety, veteran's issues, family/partner issues, military sexual trauma, and tobacco cessation
- Release of new standardized self-assessments (bringing the offerings to 29 assessments)
- Greater emphasis on video-based/multimedia presentation of materials; a media window that introduces program or feature specific content through video
- Content that routinely refreshes (daily quotes, mind flex exercises, health tips, poll)
- RSS feeds from other mental health and/or relevant sites
- Direct link to *afterdeployment.org's* "There & Back" podcasts
- Integration of a "What's New" feature to inform the user regarding newly released materials and other pertinent initiatives
- Active polling of user base through site to inform future development of site-related content and features, and associated mobile applications
- Community building features – customized topical *Forums* and *Blogs*
- Quarterly leadership newsletter

Future Content and Initiatives

- Development of new program materials; new program devoted to suicide prevention materials currently being outlined
- Re-purpose all existing self-paced workshops to improve multimedia features, accessibility and adherence to SCORM specification
- Develop and release new documentary and exercise workshops, based on stages of readiness to change, for each of the topic areas
- Develop programs in e-learning paradigms allowing users to respond to curriculum-based content
- Quarterly leadership forum

- Provider training portal – inclusive of Clinical Practice Guidelines, provider resilience training, provider forums, and a clinical training manual to use in tandem with the site
- Outcome studies and construction of research site
- Versioning of AD content to be accessed via mobile browsing and in a downloadable application to Smartphones

Project Schedule

- Phase III site release, inclusive of the original, occurred 05 March 2010
- Rolling releases to fold in new features, enhancements and additional content
- Integration of existing re-purposed Phase II workshops into site over the course of the year