



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD
2002 SOUTH HOLT RD
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46241

08 November 2017

The Honorable Joe Donnelly
United States Senator
Suite 720, Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1406

Dear Senator Donnelly,

I am writing in response to your inquiry regarding the Indiana National Guard's implementation of provisions directed through the Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act, as noted within the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

In accordance with Section 701, the Indiana National Guard has established full implementation of the required provisions of the Sexton Act. The first requirement regarding annual mental health assessments for all service members is addressed through a mandatory annual Periodic Health Assessment (PHA). Licensed primary care providers screen all service members annually using electronic version of Department of Defense (DD) Forms, DD 2766 Physical Health Assessment and DD 2978, Deployment Mental Health Assessment. DD form 2978 dated February 2014 solely involves behavioral health screening. Any behavioral health indicators identified by the primary care provider results in a referral to a licensed mental health professional on site for a detailed behavioral health screening. Referrals to treatment resources, case management, and individual follow-up are coordinated dependent on individual case needs.

The second directive requires maintaining strong privacy protections for service members. Operationally, during PHA and Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) events, enhanced behavioral health screenings are held in locations maximizing privacy. Administratively, the Indiana National Guard maintains compliance with HIPAA regulations to ensure privacy of the service member. Health records are retained in sensitive folders within electronic medical management systems. Behavioral health data access is restricted, with a notification to system access managers when case files are accessed. Both assessment forms and chain of custody for behavioral health documentation are maintained separately from other medical documentation. Additionally, medical restriction profiles do not contain any behavioral health related Personal Health Information (PHI) ensuring health information, to ensure remains private from his or her leadership.

Finally, regarding mental health best practices, the Indiana National Guard has regionalized behavioral health providers across the state, bringing targeted case management closer to service members' residence. A 24 hour behavior health access line is available to all service members, our crisis intervention team maintains 24 hour support and trains selected unit member on crisis and suicide intervention through Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). Our team ensures service members are informed of available behavioral health resources through information distribution and information briefings.

Thank you for your leadership in passing the provisions of the Jacob Sexton Act. Our full implementation of this act provides more comprehensive support to our service members. I respectfully trust this response answers your inquiry. Should you require any further information, please let me know and I will respond accordingly. Thank you for your continued interest and well-being of the Soldiers and Airmen of the Indiana Army National Guard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Courtney P. Carr', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Courtney P. Carr
Major General, Indiana National Guard
Adjutant General