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Army To Study Soldier Suicide

The Army is announcing a \$17-million, three-year effort to learn why soldiers and veterans take their own lives. The Army's Military Operational Medicine Research Program at Ft. Detrick, Md., said Wednesday the money will be split evenly between the Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Florida State University. Suicide researchers at the two institutions will serve as co-directors of the Military Suicide Research Consortium.

The Pentagon has been trying to reverse rising suicide numbers. More than 1,100 servicemen and women killed themselves between 2005 and 2009. In July, the Army announced a \$50-million study of suicide and mental health involving about 500,000 service members and four other research institutions.

Also of interest:

Health Promotion, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention -

<http://www.army.mil/-news/2010/07/28/42934-army-health-promotion-risk-reduction-and-suicide-prevention-report/index.html>

During the summer of 2010, the Army released the results of a 15-month study into the service's growing suicide rate. The 350-page report, "Health Promotion, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention," provides new context for the 239 suicides (including reservists) and 1,713 attempted suicides in the Army last year.

US Department of Defense Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces -

http://www.health.mil/dhb/downloads/Suicide%20Prevention%20Task%20Force%20report%2008-21-10_V4_RLN.pdf

In August 2010, the US Department of Defense Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces issued a report that included 13 foundational recommendations based on 76 targeted recommendations across the focus areas of organization and leadership; wellness enhancement and training; access to and delivery of quality care; and surveillance, investigations, and research.