

Optimizing Brain Health by Reducing PTSD

We know that you are busy and also want to help improve the SOF enterprise.

1. How much time do you have to commit to the survey
Less than 10 minutes
More than 10 minutes

Demographics and Military Service Characteristics Form

2. How would you describe your **current** role in the SOF community?
Operator
Enabler
Leadership
Healthcare provider
Policy maker
Administration / Support
3. Have you **ever** been an operator or enabler? (branching logic will be used in that only the operators and enablers will receive the self-report measures). YES NO
4. (If yes to item 3, then get item 4. If no to item 3, then skip logic will be used). For which component did you complete **selection**?
Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC)
Army Special Operations Command (USASOC)
Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC)
Naval Special Warfare Command (NSW)
5. Which of the following best describes your status in SOF:
Active Duty Military Member
Reservist or National Guard
GS employee
Contractor
6. What is your age?
Under 20
20-29
30-39
40-49
50-59
60 or above

7. What is your gender? Female Male Transgender, non-binary, or another gender
8. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
12 years or less of school (no diploma)
High School or GED
Some college education
Bachelor's degree (BA, BS, AB, etc.)
Master's degree (MA, MS, MSW, etc.)
Professional school degree (MD, DO, PT, OT, DDC, JD, etc.)
Doctoral degree (PhD, EdD, etc.)
9. Marital status (choose all that apply)
Married
In relationship but not married
Divorced
Widowed
Not in a relationship, never married
10. What is your Race? (choose all that apply)
Alaskan Native
American Indian
Asian
Black / African American
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
White / Caucasian
Other
11. What is your Ethnicity?
Hispanic or Latino
Not Hispanic or Latino
11. What component do you belong?
HQ USSOCOM
Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC)
Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC)
Army Special Operations Command (USASOC)
Naval Special Warfare Command (NSW)
Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC)
Theater Special Operations Command (SOCEUR, SOCPAC, SOCKOR, SOCAFRICA, SOCCENT, SOCSOUTH, SOCNORTH)
12. What is your military occupational specialty code (i.e., MOS / AFSC / Designator)? _____

- NA, I'm a GS employee or contractor

13. What is/was your rank? _____ or NA, I've never served in the military.

14. How many years of active military service do you have? _____ or NA, I've never served in the military.

15. How many years have you been assigned to SOF? _____

16. What location are you assigned to? _____

17. How many combat deployments have you completed? _____

Perceived Stigma and Barriers to Care (PSBC)

Please rate each of the possible concerns that might affect your decision to receive mental health counseling or services if you ever had a problem (e.g. PTSD).

1 (Strongly Disagree), 2 (Disagree), 3 (Neither agree or Disagree) 4 (Agree), 5 (Strongly Agree)

1. It would be too embarrassing.
2. It would harm my career.
3. Members in my unit might have less confidence in me.
4. My unit leadership might treat me differently.
5. My leaders would blame me for the problem.
6. I would be seen as weak.
7. I don't know where to get help.
8. I don't have adequate transportation.
9. It is difficult to schedule an appointment.
10. There would be difficulty getting time off work for treatment.
11. Mental health care costs too much money.

Barriers and Facilitators of Mental Health Treatment for SOF

Please rate each of the possible concerns that might affect your decision to receive mental health counseling or services if you ever had a problem (e.g. PTSD).

1 (Strongly Disagree), 2 (Disagree), 3 (Neither agree or Disagree) 4 (Agree), 5 (Strongly Agree)

Barriers

1. SOF are too resilient to develop PTSD.
2. It is better not to think about past painful events.
3. I have trouble recognizing what I am feeling.
4. Treatment would not be effective.
5. I have bigger problems than my mental health.
6. If I got treatment it might negatively impact my clearance.
7. I won't be able to manage my emotions if I started thinking about what I've been through.
8. If I start therapy, I will no longer be allowed to deploy.
9. If I take medications for a mental health problem, I will no longer be allowed to deploy.
10. Mental health providers only want to put me on medications.
11. Wait times are too long to get mental health treatment.
12. Leadership states they are supportive of seeking treatment as a public gesture but they are not actually supportive.
13. I don't trust that my mental health treatment will be confidential.
14. People outside the SOF community cannot understand us.
15. People with PTSD are dangerous.
16. People have implied that I did immoral or unethical things on deployment.
17. I am worried about investigations.
18. My friends or family have reacted negatively toward me after I got home from deployment.

Facilitators

19. My mental health is causing me to be less effective than I want to be.
20. I have the time in my schedule to get mental health care.
21. Getting treatment can make me more successful at my job.
22. I understand the value of a healthy mind.
23. People can benefit from treatment.
24. There are trustworthy providers I can go to if I need to talk.
25. USSOCOM has good programs in place that I can use for my mental health needs (i.e. POTFF).
26. USSOCOM policy protects me if I need to get mental health care.
27. I feel comfortable getting treatment on base.

28.	I feel comfortable getting treatment from the VA.
29.	Virtual and telehealth treatment options have helped me get access to treatment
30.	Residential programs, such as National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NiCoE), that offer treatment for physical and mental health in a condensed time frame are helpful.
31.	Having providers in close proximity to our campus is beneficial.
32.	Leaders have encouraged me to get treatment.
33.	I want to get treatment to be a better parent.
34.	My family supports me in seeking treatment.
35.	A teammate performed better because he got treatment.
36.	Getting treatment could improve my relationships with my family.
37.	Civilians are understanding when SOF personnel have PTSD.
38.	A teammate encouraged me to get treatment.

Mental Health Service Use.

1.) Do you think you could benefit from mental health treatment, including therapy, counseling, or medications, **right now**?

(Skip logic will be used.) If the participants answers “no” to item 1, then they will be skipped to item 3. If the participant answers “yes” to item 1, the following questions will be asked:

2.) How many years have you been dealing with mental health symptoms?

(answer choices: <1 year, 1-3 years, 4-7 year, 8+ years).

3.) Have you used any mental health services during your time in the service? For example, working with a psychologist, social worker, military family life consultant, etc.

(Skip logic will be used). If the participants answers “no” to item 3, the measure will be considered complete. If the participant answers “yes” to item 3 the following questions will be asked the next 2 questions.

4.) What mental health services did you use you in the past year? (check all that apply)

(answer choices: Psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker, military family life consultant, counselor, Chaplain)

5.) Which mental health services have you used at any time in your military career? (check all that apply)

(answer choices: Psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker, military family life consultant, counselor, Chaplain)

PCL-5

Instructions: Below is a list of problems that people sometimes have in response to a very stressful experience. Please read each problem carefully and then circle one of the numbers to the right to indicate how much you have been bothered by that problem in the past month.

In the past month, how much were you bothered by:	Not at all	A little bit	Moderately	Quite a bit	Extremely
1. Repeated, disturbing, and unwanted memories of the stressful experience?	0	1	2	3	4
2. Repeated, disturbing dreams of the stressful experience?	0	1	2	3	4
3. Suddenly feeling or acting as if the stressful experience were actually happening again (as if you were actually back there reliving it)?	0	1	2	3	4
4. Feeling very upset when something reminded you of the stressful experience?	0	1	2	3	4
5. Having strong physical reactions when something reminded you of the stressful experience (for example, heart pounding, trouble breathing, sweating)?	0	1	2	3	4
6. Avoiding memories, thoughts, or feelings related to the stressful experience?	0	1	2	3	4
7. Avoiding external reminders of the stressful experience (for example, people, places, conversations, activities, objects, or situations)?	0	1	2	3	4
8. Trouble remembering important parts of the stressful experience?	0	1	2	3	4
9. Having strong negative beliefs about yourself, other people, or the world (for example, having thoughts such as: I am bad, there is something seriously wrong with me, no one can be trusted, the world is completely dangerous)?	0	1	2	3	4
10. Blaming yourself or someone else for the stressful experience or what happened after it?	0	1	2	3	4
11. Having strong negative feelings such as fear, horror, anger, guilt, or shame?	0	1	2	3	4
12. Loss of interest in activities that you used to enjoy?	0	1	2	3	4
13. Feeling distant or cut off from other people?	0	1	2	3	4
14. Trouble experiencing positive feelings (for example, being unable to feel happiness or have loving feelings for people close to you)?	0	1	2	3	4
15. Irritable behavior, angry outbursts, or acting aggressively?	0	1	2	3	4
16. Taking too many risks or doing things that could cause you harm?	0	1	2	3	4
17. Being "superalert" or watchful or on guard?	0	1	2	3	4
18. Feeling jumpy or easily startled?	0	1	2	3	4
19. Having difficulty concentrating?	0	1	2	3	4
20. Trouble falling or staying asleep?	0	1	2	3	4

DAR-5

Thinking over the past 4 weeks, circle the number under the option that best describes the amount of time you felt that way.

	None or almost none of the time	A little of the time	Some of the time	Most of the time	All or almost all of the time
I found myself getting angry at people or situations	1	2	3	4	5
When I got angry, I got really mad	1	2	3	4	5
When I got angry, I stayed angry	1	2	3	4	5
When I got angry at someone I wanted to hit them	1	2	3	4	5
My anger prevented me from getting along with people as well as I'd have liked to	1	2	3	4	5

Insomnia Severity Index

The Insomnia Severity Index has seven questions. The seven answers are added up to get a total score. When you have your total score, look at the 'Guidelines for Scoring/Interpretation' below to see where your sleep difficulty fits.

For each question, please CIRCLE the number that best describes your answer.

Please rate the CURRENT (i.e. LAST 2 WEEKS) SEVERITY of your insomnia problem(s).

Insomnia Problem	None	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Very Severe
1. Difficulty falling asleep	0	1	2	3	4
2. Difficulty staying asleep	0	1	2	3	4
3. Problems waking up too early	0	1	2	3	4

4. How SATISFIED/DISSATISFIED are you with your CURRENT sleep pattern?

Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
0	1	2	3	4

5. How NOTICEABLE to others do you think your sleep problem is in terms of impairing the quality of your life?

Not at all Noticeable	A Little	Somewhat	Much	Very Much Noticeable
0	1	2	3	4

6. How WORRIED/DISTRESSED are you about your current sleep problem?

Not at all Worried	A Little	Somewhat	Much	Very Much Worried
0	1	2	3	4

7. To what extent do you consider your sleep problem to INTERFERE with your daily functioning (e.g. daytime fatigue, mood, ability to function at work/daily chores, concentration, memory, mood, etc.) CURRENTLY?

Not at all Interfering	A Little	Somewhat	Much	Very Much Interfering
0	1	2	3	4

AUDIT-C (skip logic will be used if item1 = “never”, then skip items 2-3).

1. How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-3 times a week |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly or less | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 or more times a week |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-4 times a month | |

2. How many standard drinks containing alcohol do you have on a typical day?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 or 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 to 9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 to 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 to 6 | |

3. How often do you have six or more drinks on one occasion?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daily or almost daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than monthly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly | <input type="checkbox"/> Never |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly | |

Thank you for your time and expertise. We are going to be conducting interviews with SOF operators and enablers to generate solutions to overcome the barriers to getting mental health treatment.

Can the study team contact you for an interview? YES NO
If you would like to provide your opinions and expertise on how to best improve PTSD treatment for the SOF community, please leave your name and telephone number below.

If you have any additional comments about this survey, you can also leave those below.
