

# ***United States Special Operations Command***

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## **(U) SOCOM Surgeon Update For Warrior Care Program Conference**

**COL John Detro**

**SOCS- SG**

**Date: 15 FEB 22**



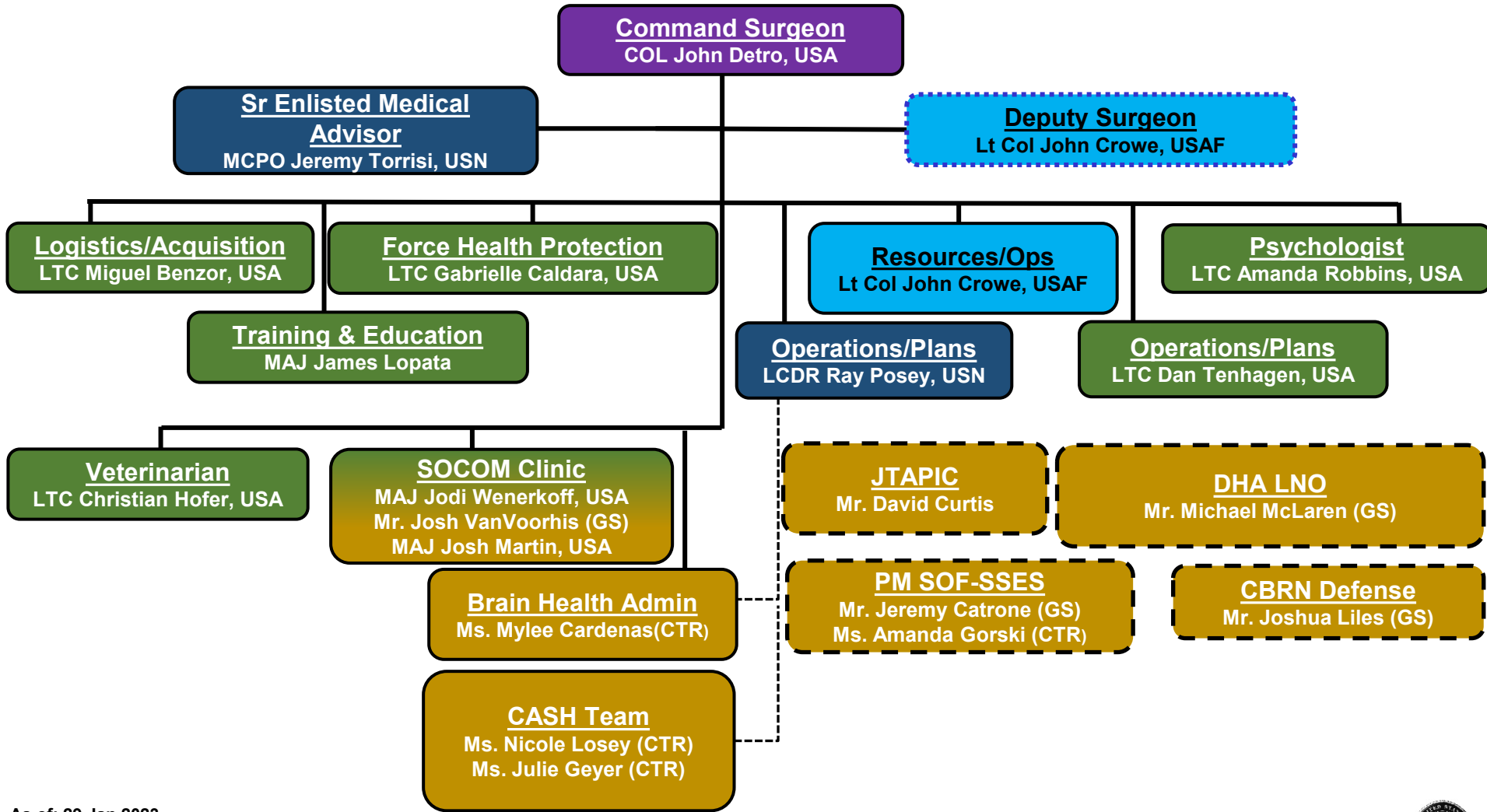
## (U) Purpose & Endstate

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- **Purpose:** Provide guidance, oversight, and influence across the SOF Enterprise to push the advancement of Military Medicine.
- **Endstate:** Ensure an interoperable, responsive, and influential SOF medical enterprise supporting the unique capabilities provided by USSOCOM through collaboration and innovation at the institutional and operational levels.



# (U) SOCOM Surgeon's Office



As of: 29 Jan 2023





# (U) Surgeon's Vision

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- Promote and protect SOF warfighter well-being with evidence-based, ethically-sound, interventions.
- Enhance and extend operator lethality to prosecute the full spectrum of SOF core tasks and, when necessary, deliver combat power.
- Train and empower elite interoperable SOF medical professionals to increase survivability in the global battlespace.
- Synchronize integrated and partnered health service support to meet the demands of an ever-changing SOF global environment.
- Influence and inform medical innovation with a bottom-up, operator-driven approach.



# (U) Surgeon Priorities

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- **Ensure SOF Medical Interoperability**
  - ***“WIN”***
  
- **Establish enduring medical capability and capacity ISO Irregular Warfare (IW)**
  - ***“TRANSFORM”***
  
- **Protect SOF Warfighter Brain Health**
  - ***“PEOPLE”***
  
- **Promote and advance Medical Readiness of the SOF Enterprise**
  - ***“PEOPLE”***



# Surgeon Strategic Map

## SOF Medicine...Keeping SOF Warriors Lethal Longer!

**Mission Statement:** The USSOCOM Surgeon's office provides guidance, oversight, and propanyency in order to protect, promote, and advance military medicine

### Lines of Efforts

### Desired Conditions

### SG Endstate

#### Interoperability

Publish SOF Med Handbook

Complete CTLs

Publish Updated 350-29

Publish TMEPS

Execute JSOTs

Execute JSATs

Ensure SOF Medical Interoperability

#### Irregular Warfare

Update TSOC OPLANS

Update SOF Med Courses with IW Requirements

Updated SOF Med IW Doctrine

Establish IW Prepositioned CL VIII

Determine SOF Surgical Team Requirements

Identify Required GPF Medical Capability

Establish enduring medical capability and capacity ISO IW

#### Brain Health

Publish BH Policy

CASH Implementation

Access ANAM

Execute SPARTAN WG

Protect SOF Warfighter Brain Health

#### Medical Readiness

Publish Updated 40-4

Advance Comprehensive Exposure Monitoring & Documentation Policy

Improve Toxic Exposures and Cancer Awareness

Promote Biosurveillance and Health Risk Assessment Tools

Advance AHI Awareness

Promote and advance Medical Readiness of the SOF Enterprise

Ensure an influential, interoperable, and responsive SOF medical enterprise to support the unique capabilities provided by USSOCOM through collaboration and innovation at the institutional and operational



# (U) Medical Training & Education

## Ensure SOF Medical Interoperability

- **1990s- All SOF medics attended Joint Special Operations Medical Training Center (JSOMTC)**
  - Funded by Congress at SOCOM Commander's request to ensure interoperability
  - 2000s Navy and Air Force departed and started own schools
- **SURG working to ensure interoperability for first time through Special Operations Training Assessment Program (SOTAP)**
  - Individual Critical Task List (ICTLs)
  - SOF Directive 350-29
  - Joint Special Operations Observation Team (JSOT)
  - Joint Special Operations Assessment Team (JSAT)
- **Long-term align refresher and unit level training**



# Medical Support to IW

## ■ Must do's to support IW

### ➤ Shaping the Operating Environment

- Medical Intelligence
- Medical specific Operation Preparation of the Environment

### ➤ Building Ally and Partner Medical Capability

- Wide array of options (education, exchange, exercise)
- Capability development/enhancement of Allied and partners (system, process, structure, training)

### ➤ Enhancing U.S. Operational Flexibility

- What does medical support look like in contested or clandestine environments?
- Development of non-standard supplies and methods





# Defense Health Agency (DHA) Support to USSOCOM

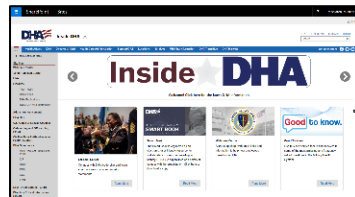
## Support to SOF Enterprise:

- Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) support
- USSOCOM's Warfighter Brain Health strategy
- MHS-Genesis and Preservation of the Force & Family's (POTFF) Smartabase data integration
- POTFF Behavioral Health – DHA Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
- Ongoing efforts with the Autism Care Demonstration
- Joint Operational Medicine Information Systems (JOMIS) development of Operational Medicine Care Delivery Platforms for medical documentation

DHA:



DHA SharePoint:



[es/home.aspx](#)

DHA Smart Book:



<https://info.health.mil/staff/comms/DHAMHSInternalComms/Shared%20Documents/Welcome-Center-Documents/DHA%20Smart%20Book.pdf>

DHA Liaison Officer:



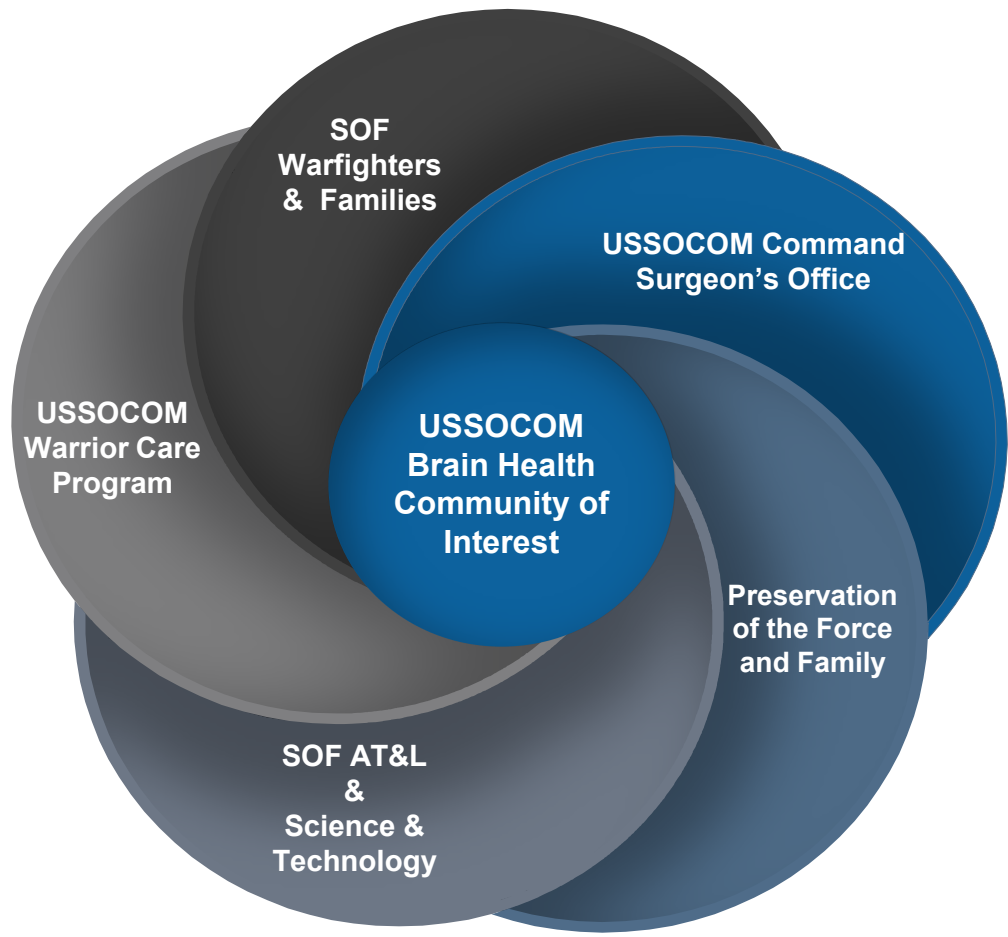
DHA LNO to USSOCOM  
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 ii



# SOCOM Brain Health Community of Interest

**Intent:**

Monitor, enhance, and advance the cognitive health and performance of the SOF Service Member to meet the operational demands now and in the future.



**End State:**

USSOCOM sets the standard for effectively monitoring, optimizing, and protecting SOF personnel brain health and cognitive performance; connecting Service Members to resources during and after service.



# Brain Health Program Lines Of Effort



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Brain Health Directive</li> <li>❖ CASH</li> <li>❖ AHI</li> <li>❖ ANAM</li> <li>❖ BEM</li> <li>❖ SPARTAN Working Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Cognitive &amp; Mental Skills Training</li> <li>❖ Smartabase</li> <li>❖ Biofeedback &amp; Neurofeedback</li> <li>❖ SABRES</li> <li>❖ Sleep Hygiene</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Human Performance Research Advisory Group</li> <li>❖ Joint Health Risk Management</li> <li>❖ REBLAST</li> <li>❖ Biomedical Research Advisory Group</li> <li>❖ ESOF</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ PREP</li> <li>❖ STAR</li> <li>❖ PACER</li> <li>❖ IETP</li> <li>❖ SPaR</li> <li>❖ Home Base Program</li> </ul>
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# Brain Health LOE Alignment



**DoD Warfighter Brain Health Initiative**

**Optimize:**  
LOE 1: Optimize Cognitive & Physical Performance

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**Identify**  
LOE 2: Identify, Monitor, & Mitigate Brain Exposures

**Prevent**  
LOE 3: Prevent, Recognize, & Minimize the Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury

**Reduce**  
LOE 4: Reduce or Eliminate Long-Term & Late Effects

**Advance**  
LOE 5: Advance Warfighter Brain Health Science

**USSOCOM SOF Warfighter Brain Health Directive**

**Enhance:**  
Optimize Cognitive Capacity, Agility, & Resiliency

**Monitor:**  
Monitor Brain Health & Cognitive Performance to Keep Warfighter Lethal Longer

**Connect:**  
SOF Wounded, Ill, & Injured to Treatment Options & Resources to Optimize Care During & After Service

**Advance:**  
Leverage Innovation in Science & Technology to Further Cognitive Function & Protection

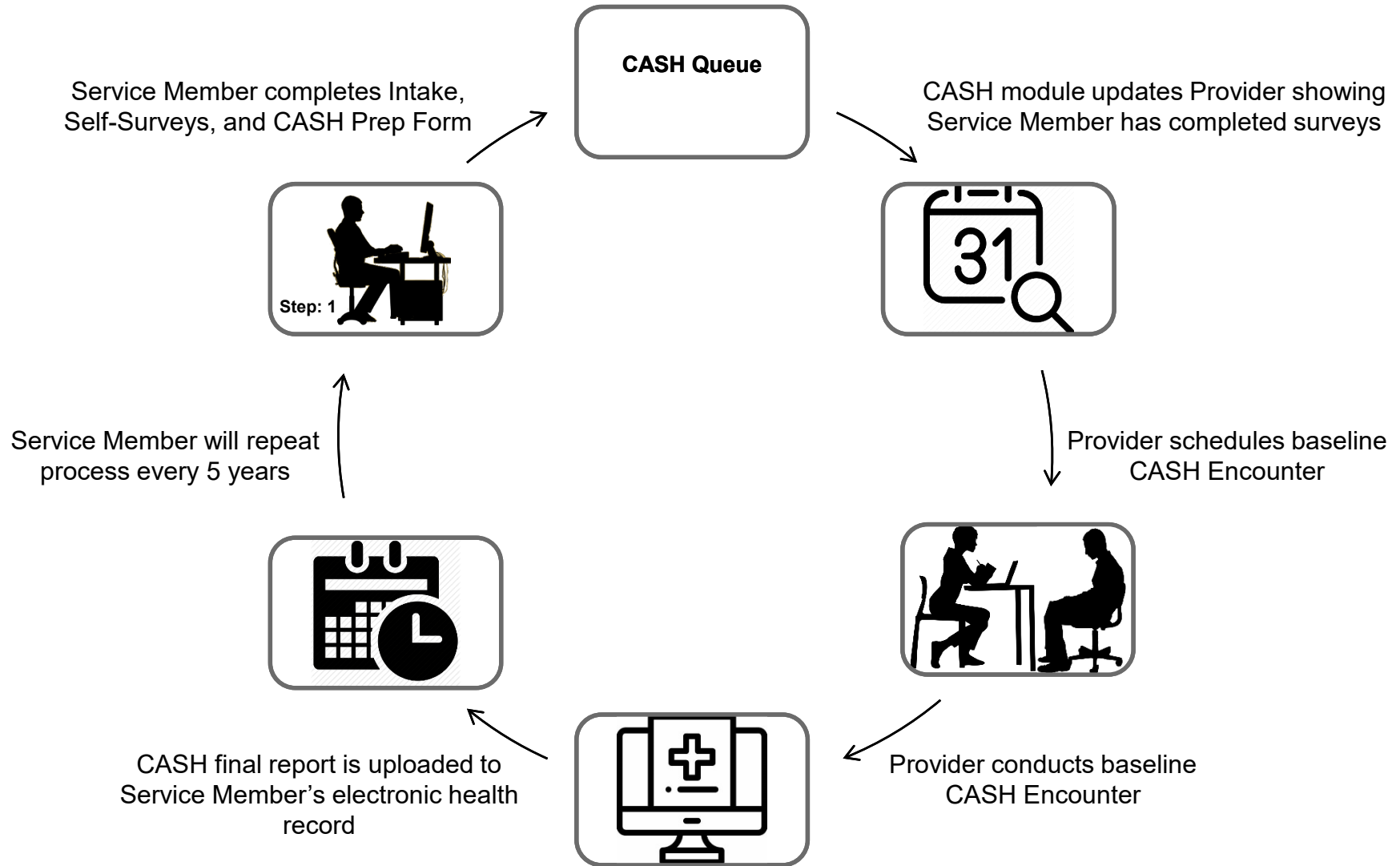


# LOE I: Monitor – CASH

- **Comprehensive Assessment Symptom History (CASH)**
  - A monitoring and data collection tool used to capture longitudinal data and document brain injuries and various brain exposures
  - Required **every 5 years** for all SOF Warfighters and at-risk enablers
- **Current Efforts**
  - Revised CASH implementation plan in Draft Directive 40-6
  - Smartabase CASH module refinement



# LOE I: Monitor – CASH



**SOCS-SG**



# Comprehensive Assessment Symptom History (CASH)

## ■ Intake

- Demographics
- Exposures questionnaire

## ■ Self-Surveys

- Cognitive Symptoms
- Mental Health Symptoms
- Physical symptoms
- Optional Spousal Survey

## ■ Face-to-face interview

The screenshot displays the 'smartabase' web application interface. The top navigation bar includes the 'smartabase' logo and a 'HOME' dropdown menu. Below this, there are three stacked sections: 'Additional Exposures', 'Military Information', and 'Demographics'. The 'Demographics' section contains the following fields and options:

- DATE OF BIRTH:** 03-10-2022
- Gender:**  Male  Female
- Race:**  White (Non-Hispanic),  Black/African American,  Hispanic/Latino,  Asian,  Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander,  American Indian/Alaska Native,  Other
- Marital Status:** [Dropdown menu]
- Handedness:** [Dropdown menu]
- Highest Educational Level Achieved:** [Dropdown menu]
- Is English your primary language:**  Yes  No
- Have you ever suffered from any developmental issues:**  Unknown,  None,  Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD),  Dyslexia,  Learning Disabilities,  Other



# LOE I: Monitor – CASH

## ■ Centralized SOCOM CASH administration

- Ensures standardization and consistent data collection
- Cost efficient and reduces time and resources demand on subordinate commands
- Real-time monitoring across echelons

## ■ Phased Implementation Plan

- **New SOF Warfighters:** baseline: CASH will be administered within 12 months of completion of Qualification Courses
- **Mid-Career SOF Warfighters:** Baseline CASH will be administered within 3 years after resources become available
- **Legacy SOF Warfighters:** Optional and as resources/time permits
- 7500-10,000 baseline CASH assessments/year



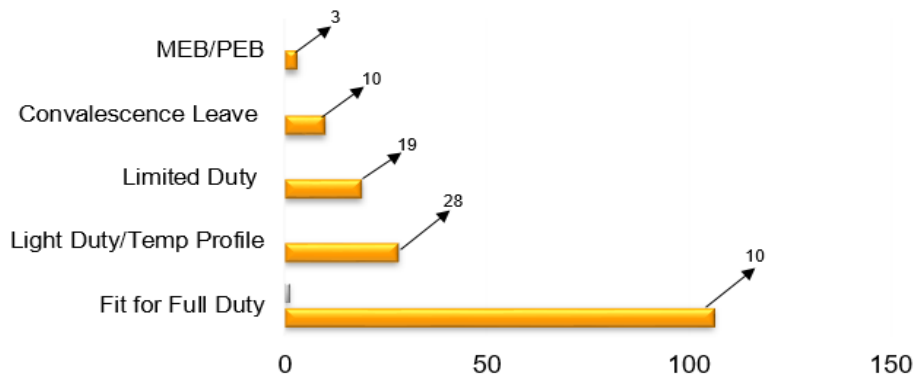


# LOE I: Monitor – CASH

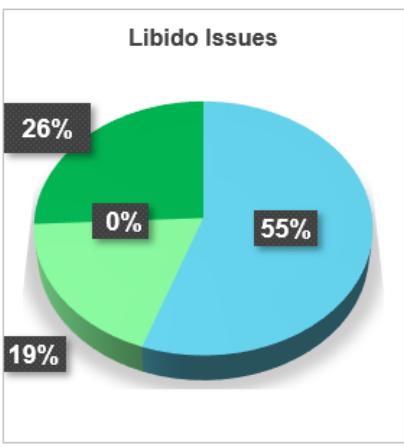
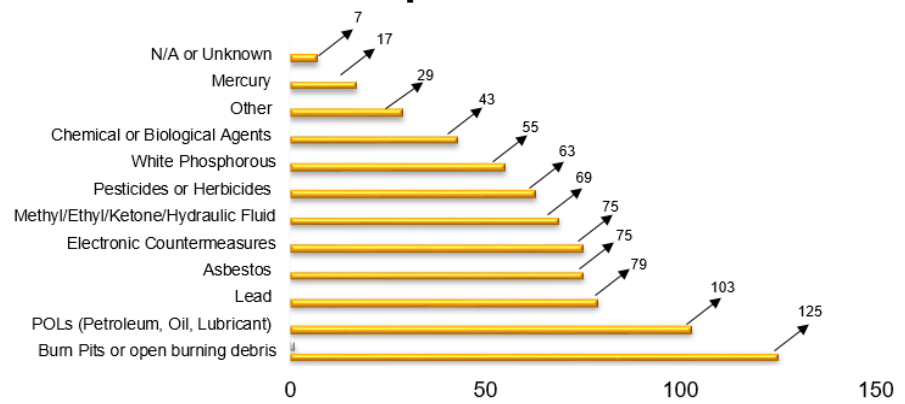
## CASH Dashboard

### Duty Status Changes

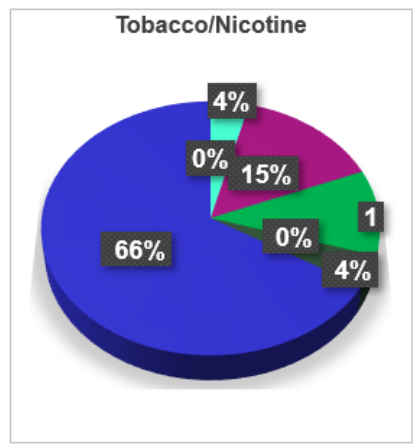
\*Since last CASH assessment



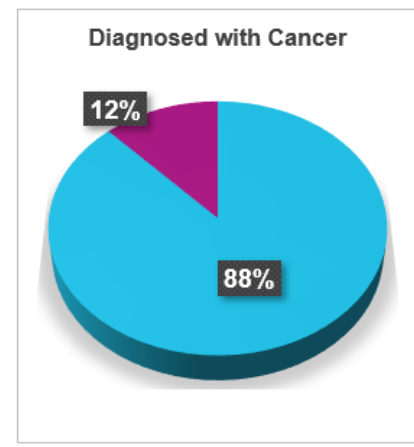
### Exposures



■ No  
■ Libido  
■ Erectile Dysfunction  
■ Both



■ Smoke cigarettes  
■ Smoke cigars  
■ Use dipping or chewing tobacco  
■ Vape/use electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes)  
■ Smoke hookah  
■ Other not mentioned above  
■ None of the above

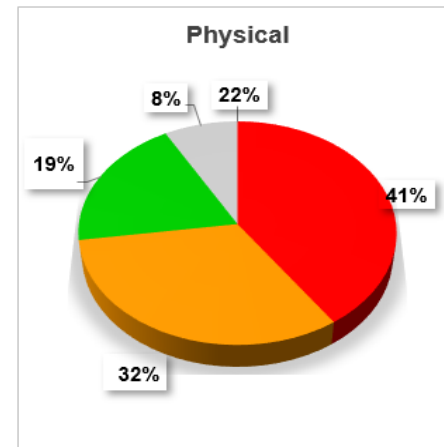
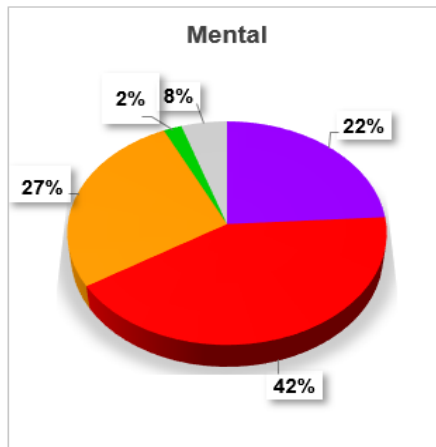
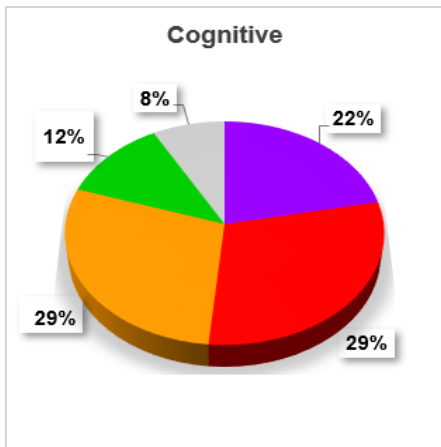


■ No  
■ Yes



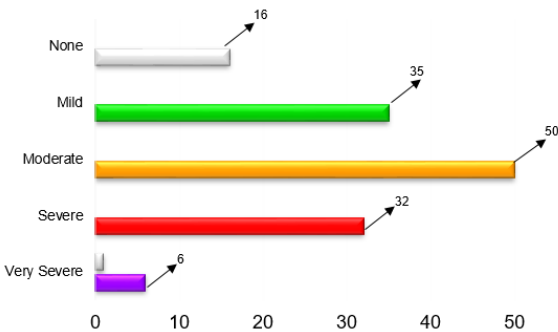
# LOE I: Monitor – CASH

## CASH Dashboard Symptom Severity Overview

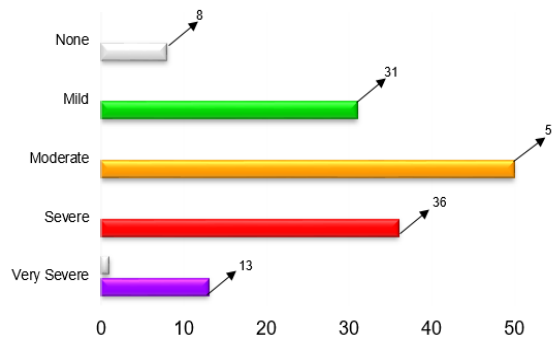


■ Very Severe  
■ Severe  
■ Moderate  
■ Mild  
■ None

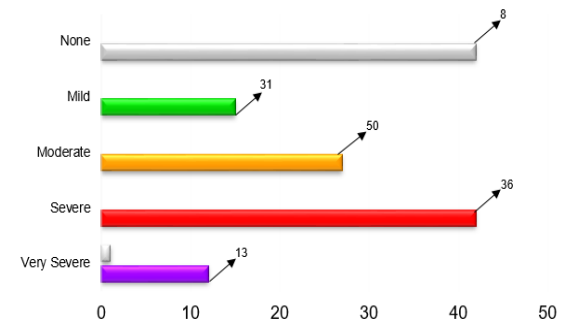
### Anxiety



### Attention Problems



### Depression





# LOE I: Monitor – BEMO

## ■ Blast Exposure Monitoring System

- **Capability:** Accurately identify, measure, and record SOF personnel exposure to blast overpressure in both training and combat environments
- **Hardware:** Automated, lightweight, wearable sensors that accurately capture and wirelessly transmit blast overpressure events which occur from high explosive blasts and non-explosive weapons
- **Software:** Automate, wireless data capture and transmission through end user devices with data integration into multiple DoD information systems



# Blast Exposure Monitoring (BEMO)

- **Two Other Transaction Agreements (OTA) awarded for prototype development (3 Phases)**

## Phase 1

Testing conducted at CCDC-ARL (Aberdeen) to compare prototypes to reference sensors utilizing the MAAWS (Gustaf Range); End-user surveys conducted to inform Phase 2 design updates

## Phase 2

Second round of testing at CCDC-ARL (June and October 2022)

## Phase 3

Final round of comparison testing to be conducted at CCDC-ARL (FEB 2023)



# Questions/Discussion

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