Leadership Behaviors in War and Disasters for Civilian and Military Populations to Foster Action, Sustainment, and Recovery

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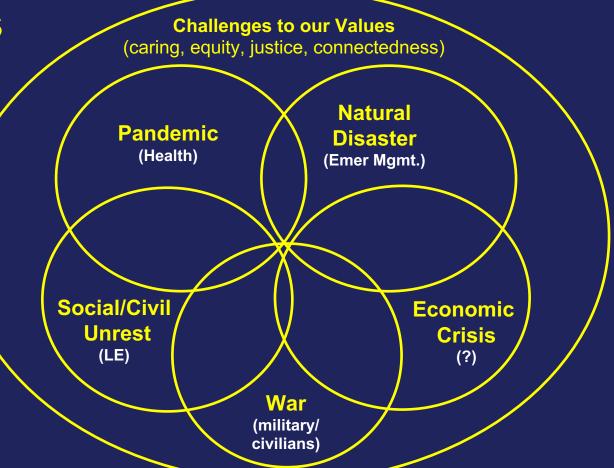
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ASPECTS OF THE DISASTER ENVIRONMENT TO GUIDE LEADERSHIP DECISION-MAKING AND BEHAVIORS



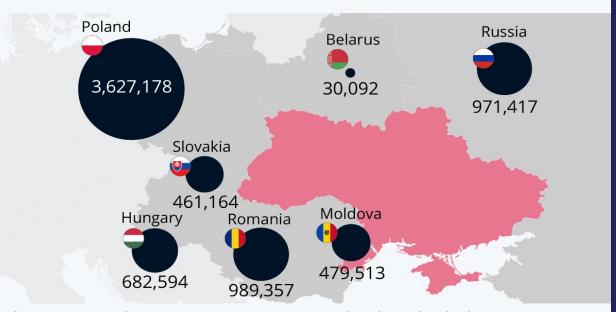
Disasters Collide...





6.8 Million Seeking Refuge from Russia's Invasion

Number of Ukrainian war refugees crossing into neighboring countries*



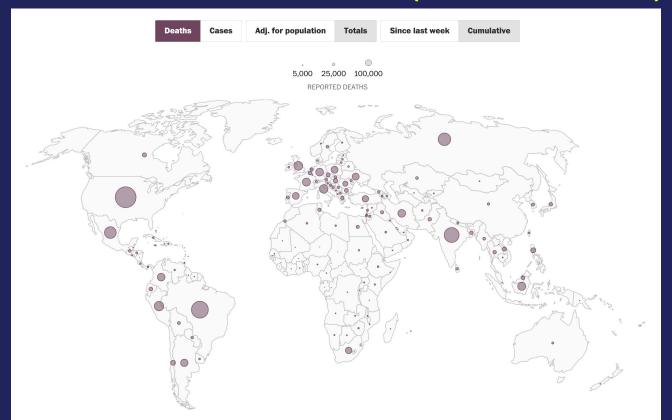
https://www.statista.com/chart/26 960/number-of-ukrainianrefugees-by-target-country/



* Data extracted on June 2, 12 PM CET. Accumulated number higher than total due to border crossings between countries.

Source: UNHCR

COVID-19 Global Deaths (Jul 22, 2022)

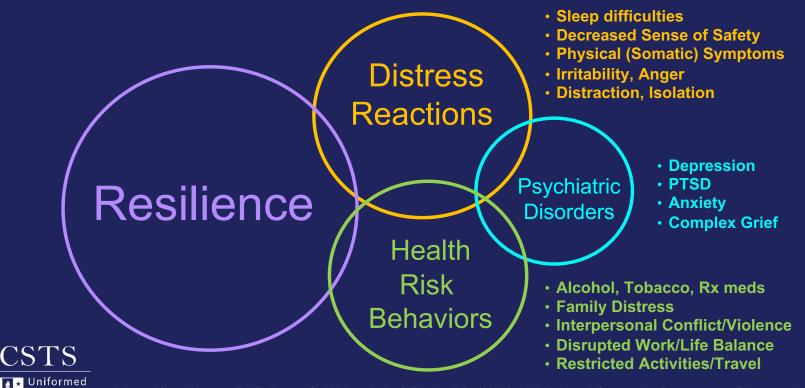


Dimensions of Disasters – War & Pandemics

DIMENSION	WAR	PANDEMIC
Altered sense of safety	++++	++++
Local & National fear	+++	+++
Prolonged stress	++++	++++
Consequences over time	++++	++++
Community disruptions	+++	+++
Overwhelm health systems	++++	++++
Death	++++	++++
National bereavement	++++	+++
Impact societal infrastructure	++++	++
Intentional	++++	-
Opponent is visible	++++	-
Unpredictable	+	+++
Institutional trust loss	-	++++



Psychological & Behavioral Responses to War & Disasters



Stress Continuum

READY	REACTING	INJURED	ILL
DEFINITION	DEFINITION	DEFINITION	DEFINITION
 Adaptive coping 	 Mild and transient distress or 	 More severe and persistent 	 Clinical mental disorders
Effective functioning	loss of function	distress or loss of function	 Unhealed stress injuries
Well-being			
	FEATURES	TYPES	TYPES
FEATURES	Anxious	Trauma	• PTSD
In control	 Irritable, angry 	Fatigue	Depression
 Calm and steady 	Worrying	Grief	Anxiety
 Getting the job done 	 Cutting corners 	Moral injury	 Substance abuse
 Playing 	Poor sleep		
 Sense of humor 	 Poor mental focus 	FEATURES	FEATURES
 Sleeping enough 	 Social isolation 	Loss of control	 Symptoms persist > 60 days
 Ethical and moral behavior 	 Too loud and hyperactive 	Can't sleep	after return from deployment
		 Panic or rage 	
		 Apathy 	
	cor	Shame or guilt	
Stres	501		

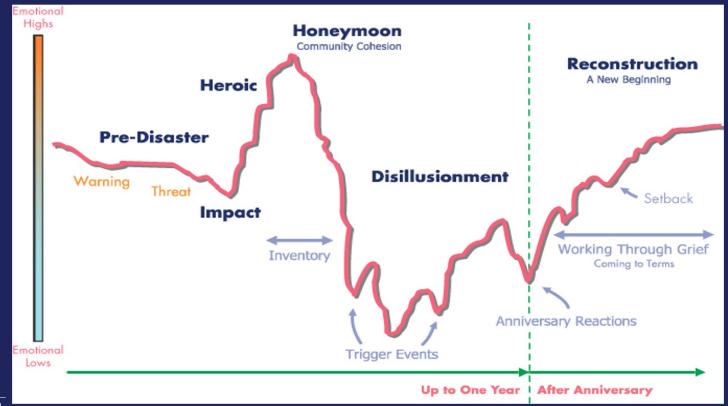
Self Help

Leadership/Organizational Support
Peer Support

Screening/Referral



Psychological & Behavioral Community Phases



Who is at Risk?

PRE

PRE-EVENT

- Socioeconomic Status
- Social Support
- Training Status
- Work Environment
- Underlying Health Conditions
- Help-Seeking Behaviors

DISASTER

EVENT

- Duration & Severity of Exposure
- Psychological Identification
- Illness
- Bereavement
- Guilt / Moral injury

POST

RECOVERY

- Loss of Home & Community
- Displacement
- Financial Hardship
- Social Support Loss
- Low Organizational Support
- Poor Leadership
- Lack of Rest & Recovery



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LEADERSHIP BEHAVIORS TO FOSTER ACTION, SUSTAINMENT & RECOVERY



Psychological First Aid (PFA)

Five Essential Elements:

Safety
Calming
Self/Community Efficacy
Connectedness
Hope/Optimism

- Analogous to "First Aid"
- Population-based "framework"
- "Do no harm" approach
- Resilience-focused
- NOT a cure/tx for illness
- MAY mitigate illness/dz



Leadership Through Walking Around

- Walk around, be present, listen to concerns
- Engage in protective leadership behaviors
- Make time for "face-to-face" activities
- Enhance communication and connection
- Facilitate team building activities
- Pandemic/other factors caused leaders to "hunker down"... creates challenges



Crisis Leadership Behaviors

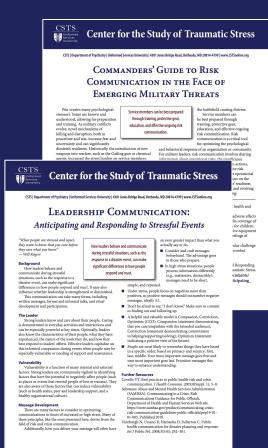
- Communicate Effectively
- Encourage Self-Care
- Promote Cohesion
- Support Emotion Regulation
- Foster Purpose

- Facilitate Help-Seeking
- Encourage Growth
- Promote Reintegration
- Address Grief
- Sustain Morale



Communicate Effectively

- Build trust, cohesion, morale
- Facilitate risk / threat perception
- Influence behaviors & recovery
- Say what you know and don't know
- Early, honest, often
- Mission, goals, objectives
- Anticipate, clarify, normalize
- Rituals & symbols





Encourage Self-Care

- Personal needs
 - Sleep, food, water
- Family needs
 - Safety, clothing, shelter
- Stress management
 - Media exposure, calming
- Peer support



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OPTIMIZING SLEEP IN AN OPERATIONAL **ENVIRONMENT: A GUIDE FOR SERVICE MEMBERS**

During deployment, service members are often required to be alert and functional for irregular or long periods of time under demanding circumstances. However, more than half of deployed service members suffer from chronic sleep restriction. Service members who do not get sufficient sleep report higher

Service members who do not get sufficient sleep report higher rates of accidents and errors that affect their missions. Sleep is a tool that you can utilize to maximize your physical performance.

rates of accidents and errors that affect their missions. Sleep is a tool that you can utilize to maximize your physical performance. While deployed, your ability to manage your sleep may be more limited. However, you should work with the factors under your control and get back to better sleep habits when able.

- Remember the SLANT acronym when selecting a sleep location.
 - » Surface: Select a soft surface
 - » Light: Limit light exposure in your sleep environment with shades and eye masks
 - » Air Quality: Avoid exposure to air contaminants that pollute sleep environment
 - » Noise: Consider using white noise machines and limit exposure to loud noises
 - » Temperature: Obtain air conditioning or heating to keep the ambient temperature between 65-67°F
- Upon waking, get at least 15-60 minutes of bright light. Use natural sunlight or any bright or blueenriched light source (e.g., light box, bright indoor lights) to signal to your biological clock that it's time to
- Exercise closer to wake-time to signal daytime and improve sleep quality. Avoid intense exercise close to bedtime and when you are sick
- Take naps and consider "banking" your sleep. Even short naps (< 20 minutes) can improve alertness, performance, and memory. Taking caffeine immediately prior to a short nap can help boost performance and decrease grogginess. Longer naps (> 60 minutes) or extending sleep can make up for lost sleep or prepare you for anticipated sleep loss with a difficult shift. Naps are best 7-9 hours before bed.
- Use caffeine judiciously. Caffeine is the most commonly used stimulant drug. It can help keep you awake when tired, but those effects remain for hours

and can interfere with your ability to fall asleep. Under continuous operations, taking up to 200mg of caffeine every 6 hours can help maintain performance. Limit caffeine within 6 hours of your desired bedtime. Also, caffeine may become less effective if used frequently, which means you may require more caffeine for the

- Limit alcohol before bed. It may be sedating at first, but it disrupts your sleep quality.
- Keep a regular sleep and wake time schedule. This will help keep your sleep and circadian systems in sync and minimize physiological "iet-lag." Doing this on your days off is helpful.
- Create a regular bedtime routine consisting of quiet activities. This can include taking a warm shower, reading, and brushing your teeth. Ending the night with a relaxing activity will help get your mind and body ready for sleep.
- Limit alerting activities close to bedtime, Light (including mobile device and TV screens), caffeine, exercise, and work should be limited. Also, avoid eating processed or sugary foods prior to bedtime.
- Use caution when operating a vehicle at the end of a nighttime shift. If you are feeling sleepy, pull over and take a nap. Opening the windows or playing loud music will not help reduce the risk of crashing.

Additional resources:

Glickman Lab

https://medschool.usuhs.edu/psy/research/glickman-lab Walter Reed Army Institute of Research https://www.wrair.armv.mil/sites/default/files/2020-04/ COVID-19 Leader Sleep Checklist WRAIR.pdf



Promote Cohesion

SOCIAL	TASK	COLLECTIVE
Encourage proximity for team member interactions	Communicate (mission, goals, objectives, schedules)	Explain and model pride in being a member of the unit
Practice inclusiveness; discourage "out groups"	Train And train some more to build confidence in team capability	Highlight successes to enhance sense of pride
Resolve conflict to show team strength	Establish incentives and rewards to encourage pursuit of goals	Conduct tough training (team does what others shy away from)
Know challenges of your people & share your own	Provide guidance on achieving goals and feedback on progress	Foster friendly competition between team elements
Encourage knowing & caring for people & their families	Cross-train on tasks to enhance shared understanding / confidence	Build group identity with mottos and symbols

Adapted from: https://juniorofficer.army.mil/16-ways-effective-leaders-build-cohesive-teams-in-the-army/



Support Emotion Regulation

- Anger is common adaptive vs problematic
- Sadness, boredom, shame, grief
- Contagion and impact on morale / cohesion
- Breathing, grounding for intense emotions
- Focus & regulate to enhance performance
 - Acceptance what can you control?
 - Perspective will it matter 1 wk / mon / yr?
 - Compartmentalize "Put it away"



Foster Purpose

- Fosters meaning & understanding of individual/shared sacrifices
- Connect the present to the future
- New York National Guard (4k) following COVID-19 missions
 - Leaders reminding people of the purpose of their work a/w:
 - Better health
 - Better mental health
 - Greater unit cohesion



SELECT

Be alert to those who may "carry in" additional stress to the activation:

- COVID history (self/family sick, someone close died)
- Concerns about civilian job
- Financial difficulties
- New unit members

TRAIN

- Provide info on activation tasks and duration
- Remind about strategies to reduce stress (e.g., regular sleep, hydration, exercise)
- Prepare for working in PPE
- Make time to integrate nonintact unit members

DURING ACTIVATION

A ssist

- Walk around and talk with
- Be alert to high stress assignments
- Remind people their good work is valuable
- Encourage team members to support each other
- Facilitate exercise to reduce stress

Help new unit members feel connected

POST-ACTIVATION

R ESET

- Discuss and share accomplishments
- Make time for team support
- Complete the PDHA & PDHRA
- Help people reconnect with family

https://www.cstsonline.org/education-and-training/health-campaigns/leader-support-for-service-members-working-during-covid-19



Facilitate Help-Seeking

- Normalize emotions
- Encourage getting help early
- Remove barriers to care
- Avoid perceived punishment
- Get help/support for yourself
- Leverage family/peer support



A Health Campaign of Uniformed Services University, www.usuhs.edu, and the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, Bethesda, Maryland, www.CSTSonline.org

HOW CAN I GET A SERVICE MEMBER TO SEEK HELP? Talking Points for Loved Ones

Loved ones play a key role in encouraging service members to seek help for health problems. It is often a close family member who is the first to notice changes in their loved one's behavior or appearance. These changes

may signal a physical or mental health problem, or both. There has been an increase in psychological and medical disorders since the start of OEP and OEI. Many service members, some subjected to multiple deployments and combat exposure, have returned with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and drug and alcohol missue. The number of suicides of current and former service members has increased in recent years. Physical highries include traumatic brain injury (TBI), burns, amputations, and multi-traums wounds.

When talking to your loved one about seeking help, emphasize:

1. The Role of Outside Events

When talking to your loved one about seeking help, point to the outside factors that may have contributed to what you are seeing or to your loved one's symptoms. Service members may be more willing to acknowledge a problem in terms of outside events rather than as an illness.

Talkina Point

Twe noticed that you are not yourself lately. You are more irritable, withdrawn, and seem sad a lot of the time. Given what you have been through — multiple deployments, combat stress, and adjusting to being back, it's understandable, but the kids and I are concerned, and we want you to fel better."

2. Help Seeking as a Strength

Many service members are concerned that seeking help means they are weak or dependent, and they worry "what will others think of me?" Talk about seeking help as a sign

Lord one play a key nie in encouraging
service members to seek help for
health problems.
As a result, many are living with
secrious health issues that affect

their well-being and the well-being of their families and children.

Talking to a loved one about seeking help isn't always easy. How do you talk to someone about changes in their behavior (anger, withdrawal, or risky behaviors such as reckless driving and alcohol and drug misuse), and how do you get them to seek professional help?

This Courage to Care provides tips on talking to your loved one using three approaches that may help service members view health seeking in a more favorable light.

of superior judgment, good decision-making, and involving collaboration.

alking Point

"This has lasted a long time — restless sleep, jumpiness, anger. Seeing someone at the clinic would be a good idea and and probably the best thing you can do at this time. I know you and the doctor can work together to help you feel better."

3. One's Obligation to Stay Healthy

Duty is part of military life and culture. Discuss health seeking as fulfilling one's duty to self and important people in the service member's life — family, children, and comrades.

Talking Poi

A spouse or partner might state: "I know that you are 'getting by', but by getting help, you can be doing that much better! By taking care of yourself, you are taking care of our family. We both have a duty to stay healthy for each other, for our work, and, importantly, for our children."

Continued



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Address Grief

- Communicate openly & regularly
- Be visible and present
- Encourage working together
- Anticipate and acknowledge grief
- Honor losses; make meaning
- Look to the future
- Encourage finding a "new normal"

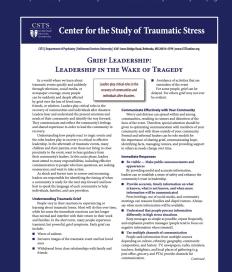


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Scene at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, after military plane crash at Gander, Newfoundland

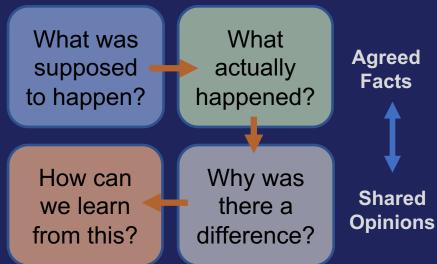
IMAGE: https://history.amedd.armv.mil/booksdocs/historyofusarmvmsc/page374.ipg



Encourage Growth

- Culture of Learning
- What has been gained
- Soldiers 4 mon postcombat deployment w/ growth-focused leaders reported:
 - Lower PTSD and depression
 - Higher unit cohesion, organizational support

AFTER ACTION REVIEW





Wood, M. D., Walker, T., Adler, A. B., & Crouch, C. L. (2020). Post-traumatic growth leadership: mitigating stress in a high-risk occupation. Occupational Health Science, 1-20.

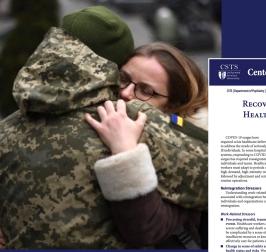
Stoto, M. A., Nelson, C., Piltch-Loeb, R., Mayigane, L. N., Copper, F., & Chungong, S. (2019). Getting the most from after action reviews to improve global health security. *Globalization and Health*, *15*(1), 58.

Promote Reintegration

- Transition from prolonged high stress back to "normal life"
- Loss of meaning and purpose
- Tight knit teams dissolve
- Lack of a shared experience
- Others don't understand
- Usual "problems" seem trivial
- Family expectations collide



IMAGE: https://www.newagebd.net/print/article/164281



COVID-19 SURGES Understanding work-related and

RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS FOLLOWING

Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress

home-related stressors associated with reinterration beins highlight actions tha individuals and organizations can take to promote healthy reintegration.

derstanding work-related and home-related stressors ated with reintegration helps highlight actions that individuals and organizations can take to promote healthy

nstability, workers may have worries about job securit

Processing stressful transmatic, and morally injurious separated from others following the COVID-19 living with their family and for those who live alone

- Reintegrating with family. Returning to pre-Change in sense of safety and uncertainty about with specified protective measures to workplaces that d for perceived lack of support during separations and
- slacing work or others over family prioritie ot require the same vigilance and precautions. Meaning and identity. Workers may need to adjust ■ Childcare concerns. Childcare centers may be reluctar to regular duties after being regarded as a hero during heir COVID-19 related work. This may be particular lifficult for workers who do not typically perform may be reluctant to place their children in commun
- crisis healthcare, and they may feel less support an Adjustment to less demanding, less urgent, and les

address the needs of serious

followed by adjustment and reintegration as they return to

severe suffering and death of potients, which may

effectively care for patients during a pandemic

omfort transitioning from a high-risk envi

ill individuals. In some hospital

Individuals, peer groups, leaders, and



Creech, S. K., Hadley, W., & Borsari, B. (2014). The Impact of Military Deployment and Reintegration on Children and Parenting: A Systematic Review. Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 45(6), 452-464.

Danish, S. J., & Antonides, B. J. (2013). The challenges of reintegration for service members and their families. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 83(4), 550-558.

https://www.cstsonline.org/assets /media/documents/CSTS FS Re covery and Reintegration for H ealthcare Workers Following C OVID 19 Surges.pdf

Sustain Morale

8 Factors Influencing Morale

- Cohesion
- Esprit de corps
- Leadership
- Shared purpose/goal
- Resilience
- Preparedness & training
- Discipline
- Working conditions

Negative Impact on Morale

- Poor communication, rumors
- Mission uncertainty/confusion
- Inadequate supplies
- Disrespect / harassment / racism
- Unresolved interpersonal conflict
- Substance abuse
- Lack of exercise / boredom
- Defeat in combat



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Stockdale Paradox

"You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end — which you can never afford to lose - with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be."



Thank You

