



## ***OPERATION RECOVERY - FACT SHEET***

1. Military suicide rates increased 150% from 2001 to 2009. Fort Hood has the highest suicide rate of any Army post, with an admitted twenty-two cases of suicide last year. This is nearly twice as many suicides as any other post. <sup>1</sup>
2. Fort Hood psychological counselors meet with 4,000 patients every month. The base counseling services are overwhelmed and have to refer many soldiers for counseling off post.<sup>2</sup>
3. In 2009, over 7,000 Fort Hood soldiers were on anti-depressants or anti-psychotic medications. <sup>3</sup>
4. As of fall 2010, there was only one social worker available at all of Fort Hood to handle cases of Military Sexual Trauma.<sup>4</sup>
5. 1 in 3 women in the military are sexually assaulted.<sup>5</sup>
6. 1 in 3 soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq say they can't see a mental health professional when they need to.<sup>6</sup>
7. Suicide rates among active-duty troops are twice as high as that of the civilian population, and veterans with PTSD are 6 times more likely to attempt suicide.<sup>7</sup>
8. 20% to 50% of all service members deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This means 350,000 to 900,000 troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from PTSD.<sup>8</sup>
9. By 2008, nearly 33% of all service members have served 2 tours in Iraq and/or Afghanistan and 10% have served 3 tours. Today over 11,000 troops have served 6 tours or more. The likelihood that a service member suffers from PTSD is compounded by each tour. Almost 30% of service members on their third deployment suffer from serious mental-health problems. <sup>9</sup>
10. Nearly 20% of service members are taking some kind of psychiatric drug. Among service members currently in combat, 12% in Iraq and 17% in Afghanistan are taking prescription antidepressants or sleeping meds. Yet, the military has no way of tracking prescription drug use by military service members. <sup>10</sup>
11. When service members are deemed ineligible for deployment by a military mental health professional, a commanding officer can still force the service member to deploy. <sup>11</sup>



# IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR



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2 Zoroya, Greg. (2010, August 23). Thousands strain fort hood's mental health system. USA Today, Retrieved from [http://www.usatoday.com/news/military/2010-08-23-1Aforthood23\\_CV\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/military/2010-08-23-1Aforthood23_CV_N.htm)

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10 Mark Thompson, "America's Medicated Army" Time, June 5th, 2008 <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1811858-2,00.html> See also, Bob Brewin, Nextgov, 06/08/2010, Defense unable to track deployed troops' use of psychiatric drugs, [http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng\\_20100608\\_2900.php](http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20100608_2900.php) and "Medicating the military" By Andrew Tilghman and B. McGarry, Army Times, 03/17/2010 [http://www.armytimes.com/news/2010/03/military\\_psychiatric\\_drugs\\_031710w/](http://www.armytimes.com/news/2010/03/military_psychiatric_drugs_031710w/)

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