

# STEPTOE GROUP LLC

Training, Information Management, Communication, and Research

## Newsletter - Oct 2010

### EDITOR'S CORNER

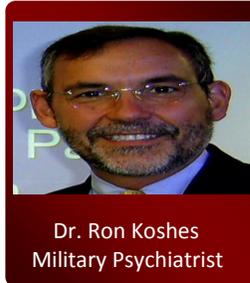
The last ten months were filled with many tangible accomplishments and milestones met. The most notable were the medical accreditation of the Warrior-Centric Healthcare Training (WCHT)\*- Curriculum System, and the award of two contracts. Although these accomplishments are great, there is much work to be done in the area of improving the quality of "Combat Health" care delivery. In particular, there is a pressing need to bring innovative health care training to the first-responders serving the nation's warriors, their families, and Veterans. A recent study in the *Journal of Military Medicine* highlighted a 49% miscategorization for MEDEVACS in Afghanistan from Dec 08' - Jan 09'. The firm is partnering with defense industry leaders to bring cutting-edge solutions to this recently identified capability gap as well as others within the DoD and VA health care systems. This edition of the Steptoe Group Newsletter provides an update on corporate developments.



*Ronald J. Steptoe*

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**Dr. Ron Koshes**  
Military Psychiatrist

**What do you feel is needed in providing a more comprehensive screening, diagnosis, and treatment plan for patients currently impacted by PTSD and TBI?**

"Understanding the culture of Military and Veteran organizations, as well as that of diverse age, gender, regional origin, Reserves versus Active Duty components, and ethnic groups that comprise the military, and then integrating this information into a comprehensive treatment approach ..."

"... a common theme emerges from all the reporting: providers are using out-dated, culturally incompetent techniques for the identification and management of wounded warriors."

"... to improve the identification and care of injured warriors is what the public is calling for, and what the Steptoe Group has developed."

**You Must Know Me to Treat Me** © 2010

### STEPTOE GROUP Contract Awards

#### 1. Walter Reed Army Medical Center—Warrior Transition Unit

The Steptoe Group was awarded a ground breaking contract to implement its proprietary Warrior-Centric Healthcare Training (WCHT)\* and Curriculum System which proactively brings Walter Reed in compliance with the 2011 Joint Commission requirements for hospitals. The Joint Commission accredits hospitals and released a set of new and revised standards for patient-centered communications as part of its project to advance effective communication, cultural competence, and patient-and family centered care. These new standards are designed to improve the safety and quality of care for all patients and to inspire hospitals to adopt practices promoting better communication and patient engagement.

#### 2. Department of Veteran Affairs - IDIQ contact award

Booz Allen Hamilton is the Prime Vendor winner of a 5 year contract to provide outreach and communications strategies to the veteran community. The Steptoe Group was selected as the lead sub-contractor to provide subject matter expertise in the areas of health, science, education, communication, and research.

### The Suicide Epidemic in the DoD and the VA

According to a DoD report, available at [www.health.mil/dhb/default.cfm](http://www.health.mil/dhb/default.cfm), 1,100 servicemen and women committed suicide in 2005 to 2009 -- one suicide every day and a half. The Army's suicide rate doubled in that time.

However, even more alarming is the number of suicides amongst the nation's veteran population. CBS News did an investigative report in 2007 and reviewed the 2005 death record from 45 of 50 states. What CBS discovered was devastating. There were at least 6,256 suicides among those who served in the armed forces in 2005 alone. That's 120 suicides per week or 17 per day.

We must realize that once the battles are over, an individual war often begins for many of our warriors and veterans. The Final Report of the DoD Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces was released August 2010.



#### Why is patient-centered care management and cultural competency important in clinical practice?

"Cultural Competence is an ability to care for your patients effectively and within their cultural context. This includes their family, community, values, beliefs and behaviors. The extent to which an organization's providers practice cultural competency is the extent to which quality care is delivered to their patients. No two people experience the same thing in exactly the same way. Therefore, it is critical for physicians and allied health team members to have a clear understanding of demographic influences on healthcare quality effectiveness and ultimately health outcomes."

**Dr. Evelyn Lewis, Chief Medical Officer— Steptoe Group**

## Step toe Group and Defense Industry Leaders Align

Step toe Group and key defense industry leaders unveil their plans to jointly develop a state of the art Medical Simulation and Intelligent Tutoring training platform for the Ground Forces at the 2010 Association of the United States Army annual meeting & exposition. The Step toe Group is aligned with world leaders in innovative simulation training in various disciplines (ie. Aviation, and Education). The team is leveraging it's best in class technology and industry best practices to fulfill the Ground Forces immediate need and requirements for comprehensive immersive - simulated training platforms.

Combat Health is an area where cutting-edge advancements in first responder training is greatly needed.

*"Simulation as an educational tool has strong ties to aviation, and many safety and team work lessons have been transferred from the aviation industry to healthcare."*  
*The Journal of Military Medicine, Sept 2010*

The Step toe Group is leading the medical and technical efforts in the research, development, and implementation arenas for the Ground Forces' Immersive-Simulation Combat Health training platforms.

## Combat Health Training

The United States is currently engaged in the nation's longest wars (Iraq and Afghanistan). It appears that these conflicts may have just been the gateways to the persistent conflict stance our country will be in for the next 10-15 years. With nearly 2 million troops deployed over the last 9 years, the need to address the resultant "Visible and Invisible" Combat Health needs will only continue to increase for the foreseeable future. It is with this keen understanding that the Step toe Group and its strategic partners will remain unyielding in our quest to bring the best innovation in Health, Science, Education, Training, Information Management, Communications, and Research to the first responders and healthcare professionals serving the nation's warriors, their families, and Veterans.



MG (ret) Gale Pollock, CRNA, FACHE, FAAN

Former Acting Surgeon General of the Army

## Why is Immersive-Simulated Training critical to improving the performance of first responders?

"The need for interoperability and effective use of limited resources by our military and coalition partners makes simulation education a powerful tool to enhance war-fighting and life-saving. Recent research documents the need to vastly improve the understanding by combat medics of the priorities for medical evacuation. These men and women understand the importance of completing this task correctly and minimizing risk to their combat buddies. Traditionally it was not until they faced the situation on the battlefield that the information they had received in training was truly tested. Providing various scenarios in a simulated environment allows them to make decisions, have that decision evaluated and reinforce their understanding and confidence through review and discussion. Immersive technology helps them to maximize survival and use of limited resources--both key to mission accomplishment."

