

Jacqueline Garrick, LCSW-C, BCETS
Acting Director,
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
Department of Defense

Jacqueline Garrick has been named the Acting Director for the Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) under Readiness. Since November 2011, she has lead the charge to create a Defense Suicide Prevention Program that includes drafting policies, standardizing data collection and reporting, evaluating programs, reducing stigma, building resilience, and increasing help seeking behavior through partnerships and outreach efforts to Service members and their families.

In 2009, she was appointed to the Department of Defense first as the Principal Director and was briefly the Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for the Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy (WWCTP) Office and then assigned to be the Special Assistant in Reserve Affairs to oversee Resiliency, Readiness and Suicide Prevention. She has had responsibility for Recovery Care, Transition Assistance, Disability Evaluation and Suicide Prevention activities across the Department.

Prior to that, she served the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs as a Professional Staff Member to assist the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee hold hearings and draft legislation on such issues as stressor evaluations, benefits outreach, and information technology. She was a Senior Policy Analyst for the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission from 2005 to 2007 and supported the Commission in its efforts to evaluate all benefits programs available for disabled veterans, supervised research and legal assistants, and contributed to its Final Report.

Ms. Garrick was the Deputy Director for Health Care at The American Legion for six years. She developed and implemented its policies on veterans' healthcare issues, gave congressional testimony, ran outreach initiatives, and was a media spokesperson. She supervised the Gulf War Task Force and the National Field Service, which visited all VA facilities. She led task force visits to over 50 VA facilities exploring issues, such as patient care, budget, and research compliance.

In 1992, she accepted a commission as a United States Army captain, and served as a social work officer at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. During that time, she managed programs for soldiers who had served in the Gulf War, Somalia, Bosnia, and Haiti and counseled soldiers, retirees, and their families on a myriad of issues and assisted with transition.

Upon completion of her BSW and MSW from Temple University in Philadelphia PA, she returned to her native New York to become the Program Director for the Vietnam Veterans Resource Center. During her tenure, Ms. Garrick provided

individual, group, and family therapy to Vietnam veterans and their dependents. In addition, she ran a program for incarcerated veterans. Ms. Garrick consulted for Vietnam Seminars and Consulting in 1991, and developed a program for former Soviet Union military members who served in Afghanistan. She created a self-help guide for Russian veterans, and traveled extensively throughout the Soviet Union marketing these techniques and educating veterans about Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Ms. Garrick is involved with many professional and civic organizations, and was the editor of *Trauma Lines* for six years. After September 11, she was a disaster mental health counselor at the Pentagon Family Assistance Center. She also ran her own consulting practice for four years, the FARgroup, and provided policy analysis, strategic planning, fundraising, program development and evaluation support to nonprofit, private and government entities. She has presented on PTSD throughout the United States, Germany, Great Britain, Turkey, Russia, the Ukraine, Israel, and the Netherlands. Her books; *You Can Too: A Mind, Body, Spirit Connection for Weight Loss* and *Trauma Treatment Techniques: Innovative Trends* were both published in 2005.