



# Naval Health Research Center

## Fact Sheet

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Naval Health Research Center (NHRC) was initially established in June 1959 as the U.S. Navy Medical Neuropsychiatric Research Unit (NPRU). Designated as the Navy's primary research capability in the areas of psychiatry and neurology, NPRU's mission, defined by the Secretary of the Navy, was to conduct research in the area of neuropsychiatry as it applies to the naval service. In 1974, by authority of the Chief of Naval Operations, NPRU was re-designated as the Naval Health Research Center. Today, NHRC is the DoD's premier deployment health research center strategically located on Naval Base Point Loma, San Diego, within proximity to more than 95,000 uniformed service members, world-class universities and industry partners. NHRC's cutting-edge research and development is used to optimize the operational health and readiness of the nation's armed forces.

NHRC's team executes many of the nation's top tri-service research and development projects such as the military's largest longitudinal study, the Millennium Cohort Study, the Consortium on the Health and Readiness of Servicewomen (CHARS) and the Joint Medical Planners Toolkit. NHRC is a service-based organization executing more than 100 research and development projects on a daily basis.

## Research Areas

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### Operational Readiness

As one of four research areas, NHRC's team dedicated to optimizing operational readiness specializes in warfighter performance, medical modeling, medical planning, technology and database development and wounded warrior care. Research and development in this area answers questions about what physical and psychological stressors face warfighters, how technological and medical advances can be integrated into military operations and what supplies and capabilities are needed to conduct forward operations. NHRC's team maximizes performance, enhances warfighter resilience, improves assessment, diagnosis and rehabilitation, and designs tools that support medical decisions in support of our armed forces and their families.

### Military Population Health

NHRC's team dedicated to the health and wellness of the military population examines the effect of deployments and career experiences on the overall physical and mental health of service members and their families. Behavioral science and epidemiology research and development focuses on musculoskeletal injury prevention; substance abuse interventions; and studies in the areas such as stress, mental health, suicide, and domestic violence. Based upon research findings, the team frequently develops behavioral change methods for distribution to the fleet. Deployment health studies investigate the longitudinal health experiences of previously deployed military personnel and develops or evaluates appropriate health surveillance strategies.

### DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program

As Executive Agent, the DHAPP Management Office at NHRC provides day-to-day direction of the DoD effort to foreign militaries in over 70 countries worldwide, to deliver military-to-military HIV/AIDS prevention strategies as part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

### Operational Infectious Diseases

As the Navy's hub for the DoD Global Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance and Response System (GEIS), NHRC's team performs research and conducts active, laboratory-based surveillance for infectious diseases that affect military personnel with emphasis on respiratory pathogens and enterics. The team also addresses the safety and efficacy of drugs, vaccines, and new diagnostics.

### Science Support Office

As a contract-based organization, NHRC's SSO assists enterprise scientists and BUMED managers with contract action preparation and post-award contract management activities.