Subject: R 221219Z DEC 16 COMUSFLTFORCOM NORFOLK VA COMBAT AND OPERATIONAL STRESS CONTROL FOR NAVY INDIVIDUAL AUGMENTEES UPDATE

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NARR/REFERENCE (A) DIRECTS ESTABLISHMENT OF COMBAT AND OPERATIONAL STRESS CONTROL (COSC) PROGRAMS IN DOD. REFERENCE (B) ESTABLISHED POLICY, GUIDELINES, PROCEDURES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO STANDARDIZE THE OPERATIONAL STRESS CONTROL (OSC) PROGRAM ACROSS THE NAVY. REFERENCE (C) ANNOUNCED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COSC AND WARRIOR TRANSITION PROGRAM (WTP) FOR EXPEDITIONARY AND INDIVIDUAL AUGMENTEE (IA) SAILORS. //
GENTEXT/REMARKS/1. BACKGROUND. DOD AND NAVY COSC/OSC POLICY IS OUTLINED IN REFERENCES (A) AND (B). REFERENCE (C) ESTABLISHED THE WTP TO SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS COSC NEEDS OF IA'S RETURNING FROM DEPLOYMENT TO A COMBAT ZONE. LOCATED IN SEMBACH GERMANY, WTP SPECIFICALLY SERVES AS A 3-5 DAY THIRD LOCATION DECOMPRESSION (TLD) PROGRAM. NAVY IA'S ATTEND WTP-TLD AFTER DEPLOYMENT BUT PRIOR TO RETURN TO CONUS AND REINTEGRATION WITH FAMILIES. THE WTP-TLD CURRICULUM CONSISTS OF CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONAL EVENTS, ENCOUNTERS WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND CHAPLAIN PERSONNEL, STRUCTURED LIBERTY EVENTS, GROUP WORKSHOPS AND OUTINGS, AS WELL AS DOWN-TIME FOR PARTICIPANTS.
2. As the number of personnel serving in combat tours has steadily decreased since 2010, the number of personnel attending the WTP has decreased as well. However, a study conducted by the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC) revealed that stressors associated with non-traditional IA deployments remain constant and ever present. The study resulted in re-evaluation of IA personnel needs regarding COSC/OSC.

3. Issue. WTP-TLD has been applicable only to IA personnel serving in the countries of Afghanistan and Iraq. Beginning early CY 2017, all IA's serving in CENTCOM or AFRICOM AOR's will attend WTP-TLD in Sembach, Germany. The IA process removes sailors from a standard maritime operating environment and places them in alternative units that perform non-standard, non-maritime core missions. IA sailors face unique challenges which require specific, individualized attention. Sailors do not redeploy from IA tour with a unit and do not have support gained from shared experience during return and reintegration. Many IA personnel originate from the Reserve Component (RC) and have the added challenge of reintegration into a non-military work environment. Post deployment COSC provided by WTP-TLD is intended to ensure returning sailors are prepared to transition from the stresses of military deployment.

4. Execution. The WTP process is now mandatory for all IA personnel. Two levels of WTP have been established. WTP-TLD will be the traditional program delivered in Sembach, Germany and will be mandatory for all CENTCOM and AFRICOM IAs. Upon completion of WTP-TLD, reserve IAs will return to Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC) in Norfolk, VA to complete the redeployment and demobilization process before returning to their Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC). Active duty sailors will return to their parent command following completion of the WTP-TLD. Sailors serving in IA billets that do not deploy and remain CONUS will participate in a shorter Warrior Transition Program (WTP-Light) conducted at ECRC during the redeployment process.

5. Waivers. Sailors requesting waivers from the WTP-TLD in Sembach shall submit a request via the TACON chain of command to the respective ECRC Action Officer (ECRC_NRFK_N33(AT)NAVY.MIL) no later than 60 days prior to the transfer date from theater. Specific requirements for waiver application will be promulgated SEP COR via ECRC instruction. The ECRC Commanding Officer is the final approval authority for waiver requests. All IA personnel approved to waive WTP-TLD are required to demobilize via ECRC Norfolk and attend WTP-Light.

6. Points of Contact.
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7. Released by A. H. Gonzalez, JR., USFF N1, SES.// BT 
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