MNFI-R&S-SG 12 August 2006

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Mental Health Advisory Team (MHAT) IV

1. Purpose: To provide information on the mission, concept of operation, and deliverables of MHAT IV.

2. (U) Facts.

a. (U) Mission: MHAT IV examines force mental health status and behavioral health care delivery in OIF focusing on Soldiers, Marines, medical professionals, Chaplains, and Military Assistance Teams, analyzes information obtained, and makes recommendations for sustainment and improvement to the command.

b. (U) General Concept: The MHAT, as an outside agency, augments organic Corps mental health programs that continually assess unit and individual needs in that it provides scientific rigor, analyzes demographic groups, and provides formal assessments and recommendations for the command. MHAT will evaluate Mental Health delivery to OIF to include pre deployment mental health and ethic training perceptions, Service Members' perceptions of existing Command and Mental Health programs (training, Division Mental health, CSCs, management of Combat Operational Stress Reactions, Level II and Level III clinical services, Unit Ministry Teams, Command support and stigma) ability to meet their needs, and if existing programs are integrated and effective. Suicide prevention programs are included in this evaluation.

c. (U) Methodology highlights of MHAT IV and differences from MHAT I-III.

(1) (U) Questionnaire and focus group interviews include focus on military ethics and ethics training. Intent is to analyze effectiveness of ethical training, Service Members perceptions of what is ethically acceptable behavior, and what the norm is for ethical behavior and attitudes in Iraq. Based on findings, MHAT makes recommendations to improve ethical training and increase Command awareness of stressors that may contribute to unethical behavior.

(2) (U) Includes sampling of 500 Marines. Marines not previously included in MHAT.

(3) (U) Sampling size goal of 2,100 Service Members is similar to MHAT II, larger than I and III.

(4) (U) Combat Stress Control (CSC) Teams will conduct focus group interviews in outlying areas while MHAT personnel participate at (b)(3):[10 USC 130b] and immediately surrounding FOBs. Previously MHAT conducted all focus group interviews. This capitalizes on existing rapport between CSCs, Commanders, and Service Members and enhances flexibility in scheduling to lessen operational impact on units.

(5) (U) MHAT IV will consist of only 3 personnel from out of theatre as dissemination of questionnaires and conduct of focus group interviews will be conducted by organic assets.

d. (U) Timeline. Written questionnaires received, distributed, administered and collected from 16 AUG to 3 SEP by units and CSC teams. MHAT team arrives in theatre 29 AUG, conducts focus group interviews, analyzes data and identifies findings and recommendations NLT 21 SEP, and completes draft MHAT IV report prior to departing theatre on or about 5 OCT 2006.

(b)(6)-2