Appendix B: MHAT III Charter

CHARTER

Charter for Consultation Proposal for Operation Iraqi Freedom 04-06 Related Behavioral Health Issues

1. ESTABLISHMENT, PURPOSE, MEMBERSHIP, AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES.

a. ESTABLISHMENT. At the request of the Commanding General, Multi-National Forces-Iraq (MNF-I), the Office of The Surgeon General (OTSG) established the Mental Health Advisory Team III (MHAT III) to assess Soldier Well Being and the behavioral healthcare of Soldiers deployed to OIF 04-06. The MHAT III will provide recommendations for improvement. This Charter delineates the MHAT's purpose, membership, and scope of activities.

b. PURPOSE. MHAT III will consult with operational, medical, and behavioral health unit leaders. This consultation will assess and recommend actions in the following areas.

(1) Soldier Well Being

(2) Behavioral health needs of Soldiers in Iraq

(3) Status of the Theater Soldier Suicide Prevention Program

(4) Status of implementation of recommendations from MHAT I and MHAT II

c. MEMBERSHIP.

(1) The MHAT III will consist of the following Army members:

(a) Team Leader, Clinical Psychologist

(b) Psychiatric Nurse

(c) Social Worker

(d) Psychiatrist

(e) Occupational Therapist

(f) WRAIR Research Team

(g) Senior Mental Health Noncommissioned Officer

(i) US Army Reserve Clinical Psychology Consultant to The Surgeon General

(j) Army Chaplain

(k) Senior Theater Mental Health Officer

(l) Other representatives/subject matter experts as deemed appropriate by OTSG

(2) The MHAT III will coordinate with the leadership within the OIF 04-06 area of operations, as well as other echelons of relevant operational and policy leaders, to accomplish the stated Purpose and Scope of Activity.

d. SCOPE OF ACTIVITY. The MHAT III will assess behavioral health factors to include:

(1) Soldier Well Being

(2) Soldier knowledge and utilization of behavioral health resources

(3) Soldier suicide event data and prevention activities

(4) Implementation of previous MHAT recommendations

(5) Field the standardized Unit Needs Assessment Survey to behavioral health providers in theater.

2. PROCEDURES.

a. The MHAT III will initiate these actions on the date of this Charter's approval, and will visit designated sites in the OIF 04-06 area of operations, beginning in October 2005 for a period of approximately 30 days but not to exceed 60 days in order to collect data to satisfy Purpose and Scope of Activities objectives.

b. The MHAT III will conduct an in-brief to Division and echelons above Division unit leaders as requested on the first day of each site visit. The MHAT III will conduct an out-brief to the leadership at the conclusion of the site visit, which will include preliminary findings and recommendations.

c. The MHAT III will require access to relevant local and central data sources such as behavioral health personnel and behavioral health patient flow data.

d. The MHAT III will conduct interviews with relevant leadership at each site and with leadership at higher echelons as appropriate.

e. The MHAT III will conduct surveys needed to assess the morale of troops, determine the availability and effectiveness of behavioral health services, and review significant trends as needed (i.e., suicides, MH admissions, evacuations from theater).

3. DELIVERABLES.

a. The MHAT III will prepare a preliminary briefing of its findings and recommendations for the Commander, MNF-I prior to departure from Iraq. The preliminary briefing will be stripped of protected health information prior to its release. The draft report will be due to the Commander MNF-I within 120 days of departure from Iraq. The final report's submission date is contingent on completion of any relevant data analyses.

b. The MHAT III will conduct subsequent briefings of its final findings and recommendations to all appropriate echelons as directed by OTSG.

c. The MHAT III members will not communicate with the media without approval of The Surgeon General or his designee prior to release of the MHAT III report.

FOR THE SURGEON GENERAL:

JOSEPH G. WEBB, JR.
Major General
Deputy Surgeon General