

Captain Mike Colston, MD, Medical Corps, US Navy, is the Director of Mental Health Program in the Clinical and Program Policy Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs). His duties include media and congressional liaison, development of mental health policy, and oversight of mental health program management and strategy within the OSD. His professional focus is on accurate portrayals of military mental health to public bodies, and execution of mental health policy stemming from law and executive orders. He serves on several national panels, including advisory panels underwritten by the National Institute of Health and Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program, and committees, including the President's Office of National Drug Control Policy and the DoD Addictive Substances Misuse Advisory Committee, which he co-chairs.

Captain Colston was commissioned an Ensign in the Navy in 1986, after completing a BS in Industrial Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Following nuclear power training and Surface Warfare Officer School, he was assigned to the *USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70)* in 1987. During this tour, Captain Colston served as Reactor Mechanical Officer and Reactor Training Assistant, deploying on two six-month WESTPACs and one PACEX. Captain Colston earned Nuclear Engineer Officer certification and his Surface Warfare Officer device during this tour. In 1991, Captain Colston was transferred to NETC Newport, Rhode Island, where he served as a Small Craft Officer-in-Charge, completing many littoral voyages, including command of his boat's final transit to NAS Pensacola. During his tour at NETC he earned a Master's Degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island. In 1994, CAPT Colston completed his career as a line officer and was accessed as a Medical Officer, matriculating at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS). He was awarded an MD in 1998 and completed residency training in the USUHS/National Capital Consortium psychiatry program in 2002. Captain Colston was then transferred to NAVHOSP Great Lakes, where he practiced outpatient, forensic, consultation-liaison, and inpatient psychiatry, and addiction medicine. While practicing there, he was awarded a clinical assistant professorship in psychiatry at the Chicago Medical School of Rosalind Franklin University. In 2004, he assumed the duties as head of the NAVHOSP psychiatry department, beginning a large-scale clinical integration that led to the current VA-DoD psychiatry service at the Lovell Federal Health Care Center. During this tour, he completed adjunctive clinical work at MCB Camp Lejeune, NAS Whidbey Island, NAS Corpus Christie, and NAS Jacksonville. In 2008, he completed a six-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where he headed a combat and operational stress team. In 2009, Captain Colston transferred to a Child and Adolescent Psychiatry fellowship at McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University, finishing in 2011.

Captain Colston is board certified in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and is a member of the American Psychiatric Association. Awards include 3 Deployment medals and the Armed Forces expeditionary medal, and induction into Alpha Omega Alpha, the honor medical society, and Alpha Pi Mu, the industrial engineering honor society. He is a credentialed psychiatrist at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital caring for wounded warriors in a co-occurring (trauma/addiction) partial hospitalization program.