

INTRODUCTION

The Deployment Health Clinical Center (DHCC) supports the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL) by leading the Military Issues Work Group (MIWG) to facilitate dialogue and information exchange among leaders of psychological health in military health care systems across the world.

AIMS OF IIMHL

- Succeed in moving evidence-based and promising practices into the service provider environment
- Address absence of resources and supports for key leaders in mental health hampers them, their organizations, and communities to obtain and adapt skills and processes identified as most likely to support consumers to achieve recovery
- Organize systems for international innovation sharing, networking, and problem solving across countries and agencies

BACKGROUND

- IIMHL is sponsored in the United States by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- IIMHL provides an international infrastructure for innovation sharing and problem solving across countries and agencies and encourages the development of organizational and management best practices for mental health service delivery
- This effort is in line with the U.S. Military Health System (MHS) existing efforts and spirit behind the Center for Global Health Engagement (GHE) to improve collaboration between global health leaders (MHS Communications Office, 2015)
- IIMHL is a unique international collaborative that focuses on improving leadership of mental health and addictions services. IIMHL is a collaboration of eight countries: Australia, England, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Scotland, United States and Sweden
- National perspectives such as those in Australia, Canada, England, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, Sweden and the United States realize that mental health leadership is just as vital to the success of community-based services as are effective clinical practices
- Over the past 13 years, military units across the globe have been involved in continual conflict. The MIWG focuses on strengthening leadership in military mental health service delivery



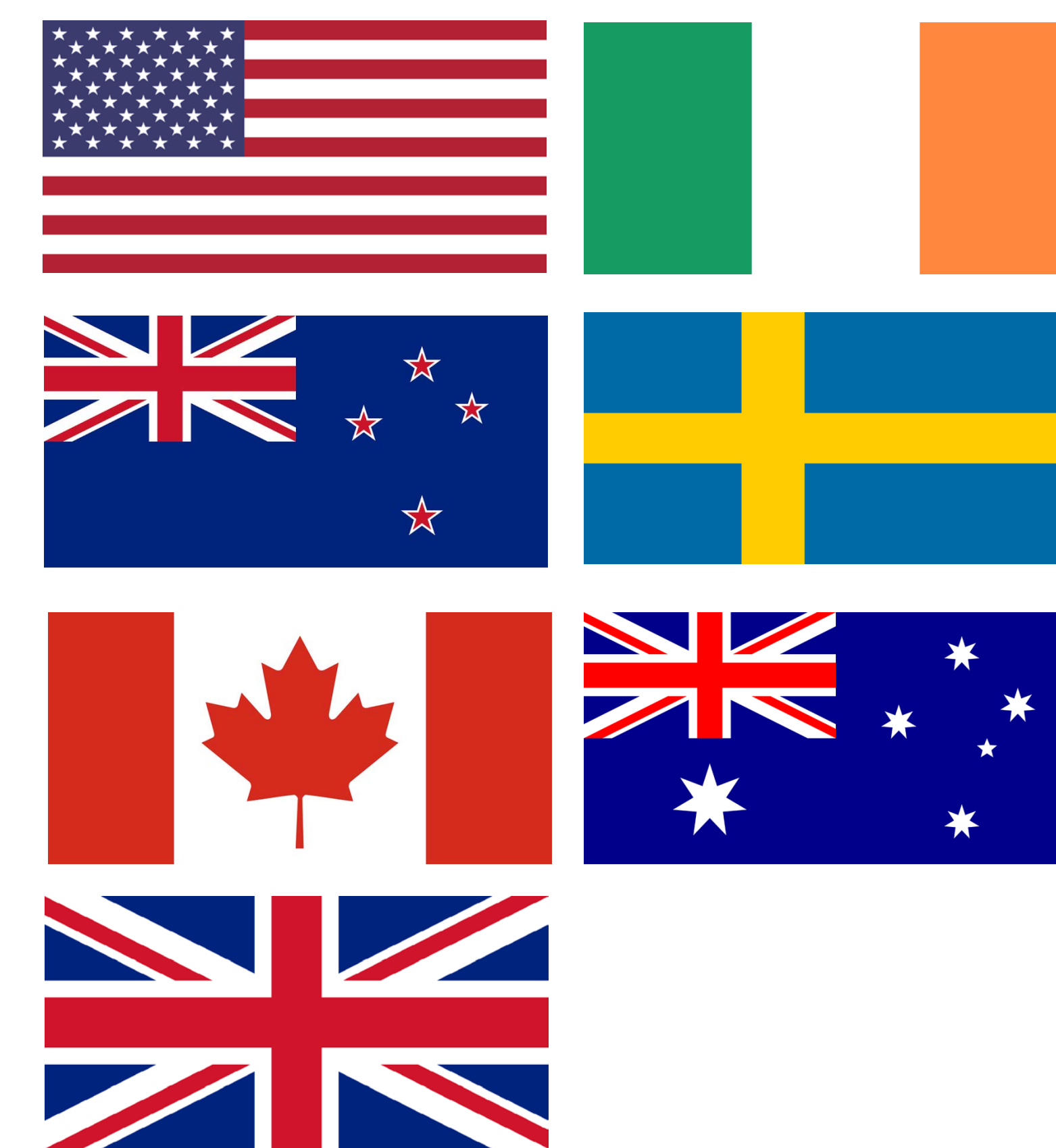
METHODS

- In 2011 the MIWG identified an area of common interest across participating nations: Access to mental health care for service members and their families who live in rural and remote areas
- Identified use of telehealth and technology to bridge access gaps in rural and remote areas
- Conducted an environmental scan for psychological health focused mobile apps geared toward service members, veterans, and beneficiary populations and developed a search strategy outlining the methodology and inclusion/exclusion criteria by which mobile apps were to be identified

RESULTS

- RAND 2015 Improving Access to Behavioral Health Care for Remote Service Members and Their Families http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR578z1.html
- International resource compendium of existing telemental health programs, mobile applications for mental health, and research on the use of technology to extend access to care
- A sortable Excel tracker tool that captured the inclusion criteria of the search strategy for the environmental scan which will be available for use on a secure shared internet location once completed

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CONCLUSIONS

- As growing technology enables and supports GHE efforts, the collection and dissemination of mental health resources by the MIWG can support and strengthen the collaboration between global health leaders on military mental health service delivery
- An ongoing IIMHL collaboration consists of participating military mental health leaders from the United States, Canada, England, New Zealand Australia, Denmark and Germany
- The MIWG’s focus has been on identifying and addressing gaps in mental health service delivery to service members and their families

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