

Media Report 18 March 2022

This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are still asking such as Frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19 in Ottawa. Due to ongoing and evolving COVID-19 pandemic callers may experience increased wait times when calling the Government of Canada Pension Center. Callers may also experience dropped calls, as all telecommunication networks across Canada are presently facing capacity challenges. and local Media Articles and An illness or injury can have an impact on your ability to adjust to life after service. We all need healthcare services. The Treatment benefits program provides coverage for a variety of benefits and services to help you get—and stay healthy. Have you made an application for disability benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada and received a decision? If you disagree with that decision, you have the right to review or appeal

NATO NEWS AND THOUGHTS [From SHELLDRAKE] 18 March 2022

Personal Note: The Policy paper on American Nuclear modernization approved by President Obama (January 2012) can be found

at https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/policy/dod/defense_guidance-201201.pdf

EXTRACT: Maintain a Safe, Secure, and Effective Nuclear Deterrent. As long as nuclear weapons remain in existence, the United States will maintain a safe, secure, and effective arsenal. We will field nuclear forces that can under any circumstances confront an adversary with the prospect of unacceptable damage, both to deter potential adversaries and to assure U.S. allies and other security partners that they can count on America's security commitments. It is possible that our deterrence goals can be achieved with a smaller nuclear force, which would reduce the number of nuclear weapons in our inventory as well as their role in U.S. national security strategy.

MARCH 17, 2022

NATO is Not a Defensive Alliance (extracted from COUNTERPUNCH <https://www.counterpunch.org/2022/03/17/nato-is-not-a-defensive-alliance/>)

Reading US reports on the deadly Russian rocket attack on the so-called International Peacekeeping and Security Center in western Ukraine, one could be excused for thinking that the Russians might have been destroying some UN peacekeeping base.

In fact, the deceptively named target, as a few US news reports on the attack did note, is actually a joint NATO/Ukrainian military base near the border of NATO member Poland that has specifically long been where US and NATO military trainers have worked with Ukrainian troops, teaching them the finer points of handling the lethal equipment being supplied to them

by the US and some NATO nations like France, Germany, Britain, and Turkey. (400 Florida National Guard troops were doing just that before being hustled back to Florida as Russia began threatening an invasion into Ukraine a few weeks ago.)

A day before the rocket attack, and just after the Biden administration announced the approval of another tranche of \$200 million worth of weapons for Ukraine, Russia warned that any arms shipments coming into Ukraine would (of course!) be considered fair targets for attack. This warning was typically described by the jingoistic corporate-owned media in the US as increasing the risk of a wider war, though the actual supplying of more lethal weapons to Ukraine by the US and its NATO allies was not so labeled.

NATO meanwhile is typically described as a defensive treaty organization of countries that have a mutual assistance pact to come to each other's aid with military force if any member is attacked.

But NATO is hardly a "defensive organization."

Indeed, from its founding NATO has been an aggressive alliance designed to hem in the then Soviet Union, and to threaten it with destruction by US nuclear weapons which were and still are stored in member countries, sometimes actually mounted on missiles and available for rapid loading onto US and NATO bombers parked on air bases all over Europe. That hemming-in process today, following decades of further expansion of NATO following the Soviet Union's collapse, includes adding members located right up on the Russian border in countries like Poland, Estonia and Latvia (where US rockets and nuclear-capable planes are minutes away from critical Russian targets like army and air bases, as well as major navy ports.

NATO was founded in early April 1949 when the Soviet Union didn't even have a single nuclear weapon and was not expected by US scientists and security people to get one for another 5-10 years. Yet the organization was also founded at a time that the US, which was working round the clock to industrialize production of its new, initially hand-made atomic bombs, had already assembled and stockpiled over 200 of these city-destroying weapons. That is a pretty awesome arsenal for a country that at that time had no rival in destructive capability.

Add to that reality the fact that the US was also already well on the way to producing a vastly more powerful hydrogen bomb (a project that Los Alamos scientists began almost immediately working on right after the August 1945 surrender of Japan). Significantly, in the late 1940s the Pentagon, on President Truman's orders, had re-activated the assembly-line for producing B-29 bombers — the only plane at the time able to deliver its atomic weapons — while also developing more powerful heavy bombers like the B-36 and B-52. Why the rush? Because there were plans to launch a preemptive nuclear blitz on the Soviet Union. These plans, updated as the US arsenal of atom bombs expanded towards the 300-400 number that Pentagon strategists advised Truman would be needed to destroy the USSR as an industrial society. The succession of operational plans for that attack had such cringe-inducing names as Operation Sizzler, Scorch, Broiler, and Dropshot. (The only reason such a genocidal first-strike on the Soviet Union never happened in the early '50s when the US stockpile finally reached that attack goal of over 300 bombs, was that on Aug. 29, 1949, the USSR successfully exploded its first atom bomb, shocking the US war department and leading to cancellation of any Washington plans for an early attack.)

Three years later, on Nov. 1, 1952, the US successfully exploded its first thermonuclear bomb, a weapon a thousand times more powerful than the atom bomb dropped on Nagasaki.

NATO's creation has to be viewed in the historical context of America's astonishing power at that time. Knowing it had the only atom bombs in the world, making it unopposable, the treaty with western European nations was clearly set up to allow the US to keep troops in Europe indefinitely and more important, to stockpile and prepare to launch nuclear weapons against the Soviet Union from locations a short distance from the Soviet capital and industrial heartland.

Any American political figure who claims NATO is or ever was a "defensive" alliance and: "not an offensive threat" to Russia is either ignorant or a liar. And calling the military base that was just hit with Russian missiles, killing 34 and injuring another 135 people, a "peacekeeping" center is as laughable as naming the incredibly deadly MX missile with its ten 300-kiloton independently targetable nuclear warheads, the "Peacekeeper," as that professional huckster President Reagan did.

Dave Lindorff is a founding member of [ThisCantBeHappening!](#), an online newspaper collective.

Thank you Randy

N THE MEDIA

[Canadian military trainers deal with mixed emotions as Ukrainians defend from Russia](#)

[Conflict in Ukraine spurs British Columbians to join military organizations](#)

[Défense de l'Arctique: l'OTAN envoie 30 000 soldats pour un exercice, le Canada fournit... 10 militaires](#)

[More Canadian military aid bound for Ukraine from 8 Wing Trenton](#)

[How training by Canada made Ukrainian army flexible — and effective](#)

[Trudeau tours NATO base, announces renewal of Canadian mission in Latvia](#)

[Ottawa prolonge la présence militaire canadienne en Lettonie](#)

[Off-road training near Batchelor keeps soldiers ready for service, military says](#)

[Last defence: Farmlands turn into trenches as western Ukraine braces for Russian onslaught](#)

[Un appel à l'aide pour défendre l'Arctique](#)

Psychiatric Impairment

CONTENTS

- [Introduction](#)
- [Rating Tables](#)

- [Loss of Function – Thought and Cognition](#)
- [Loss of Function – Emotion, Behaviour and Coping \(Adaptability\)](#)
- [Loss of Function – Activities of Daily Living](#)
- [Other Impairment – Treatment Needs](#)
- [Definition of Terms](#)
- Tables
 - [Table 21.1](#) Loss of Function – Thought and Cognition
 - [Table 21.2](#) Loss of Function – Emotion, Behaviour and Coping (Adaptability)
 - [Table 21.3](#) Loss of Function – Activities of Daily Living
 - [Table 21.4](#) Other Impairment – Treatment Needs
- Steps
 - [Steps To Determine Psychiatric Impairment Assessment](#)

Introduction

This chapter provides criteria for assessing permanent impairment from entitled psychiatric conditions.

For VAC disability assessment purposes, this chapter is only used to assess chronic psychiatric conditions where the diagnosis has been established according to the “Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders” (DSM).

The criteria in this chapter are used to assess the following psychiatric conditions:

- adjustment disorders
- anxiety disorders
- bipolar and related disorders
- depressive disorders
- dissociative disorders
- feeding and eating disorders
- mood disorders
- obsessive-compulsive and related disorders
- *pain disorders / chronic pain syndrome
Note: only applies to DSM-IV-TR Axis I diagnosis
- personality disorders
- schizophrenia (spectrum) and other psychotic disorders
- **somatic symptom disorder with predominant pain
- substance-related (and addictive) disorders
- trauma-and stressor-related disorders

*DSM-IV-TR somatoform disorders (excluding pain disorders) are rated on individual merits.

**DSM-5 somatic symptom and related disorders (excluding somatic symptom disorder with predominant pain) are rated on individual merits.

There is considerable overlap in the presenting signs, symptoms and effect on function (medical impairment) of psychiatric conditions. It is difficult to determine the extent to which each psychiatric condition contributes to the medical impairment. For this reason, the disability assessment of an entitled psychiatric condition(s) includes the medical impairment resulting from both entitled and non-entitled psychiatric conditions.

If a non-entitled psychiatric condition(s) contributes to the psychiatric disability assessment, the Partially Contributing Table (PCT) is not applied.

For example, in the presence of entitled Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and non-entitled Substance Use Disorder, the disability assessment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder will include the signs and symptoms of both psychiatric conditions.

If conditions which are not assessed in chapter 21 (e.g., dementia, postconcussion syndrome, fibromyalgia syndrome) contribute to the medical impairment, the PCT must be applied.

If more than one condition is to be rated from this chapter, the conditions are bracketed for assessment purposes.

The emphasis in this chapter is on rating psychiatric conditions, as seen by the effect of the condition(s) on emotion, behaviour, thought, cognition, coping (adaptability), the basic activities of daily living, and treatment needs. The effects of the psychiatric condition on personal relationships, social functioning, and activities of independent living (meal preparation, shopping, home care, etc.) are rated in [Chapter 2](#), Quality of Life.

Under [Tables 21.1 – 21.4](#), no signs or symptoms may be rated twice. Emotional and behavioural features or symptoms associated with physical disorders that do not meet DSM criteria are assessed as part of the physical condition and should not be rated within this chapter.

Assessing psychiatric impairment requires a thorough review of the history of the psychiatric disorder and the individual's signs and symptoms over time. Symptoms from a psychiatric disability can fluctuate in severity. It is important to obtain and evaluate Member/Veteran/Client information over at least a 6-month to 1-year period (with attention given to his or her worst and/or best period of functioning).

Impairment from neurological conditions which affect cognition (e.g., dementia, post concussion syndrome) is rated within Chapter 20, Neurological Impairment.

When entitled psychiatric conditions result in permanent impairment of other organ systems, a consequential entitlement decision is required. If awarded, the resulting impairment of that organ system(s) will be rated using the applicable body system specific table(s).

STAY IN TOUCH WITH THESE CF NEWSPAPERS

Base/Wing — Newspaper

14 Wing Greenwood — [The Aurora](#)

22 Wing North Bay — [The Shield](#)

4 Wing Cold Lake — [The Courier](#)

CFB Esquimalt — [The Lookout](#)

17 Wing Winnipeg — [The Voxair](#)

CFB Halifax — [The Trident](#)

CFB Edmonton — [The Western Sentinel](#)

CFB Valcartier — [The Adsum](#)

CFSU Ottawa — [The Guard](#)

CFB Shilo — [The Shilo Stag](#)

19 Wing Comox — [The Totem Times](#)

8 Wing Trenton — [The Contact](#)

CFB Petawawa — [The Petawawa Post](#)

Base Gagetown — [Gagetown Gazette](#)

CFB Kingston — [Garrison News](#)

CFB St Jean — [The Servir](#)

3 Wing Bagotville — [The Vortex](#)

CFB Borden — [The Citizen](#)