

Our Enduring Duty to America's Service Members and Their Families

MAKING LIFE EASIER AT REMOTE AND ISOLATED INSTALLATIONS

SEPT. 13, 2024

INITIATIVE: This initiative advances efforts to understand capabilities and needs regarding well-being support resources, creation and maintenance of healthy climates, and prevention of harmful behaviors at remote and isolated installations.

- **WHAT IS IT?** The Defense Department will review three remote and isolated installations via its On-Site Installation Evaluation, or OSIE, process and methodology. Directed by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III on Feb. 26, 2021, OSIE focuses on an installation's prevention capabilities and ability to effectively address risk for a myriad of harmful behaviors so leaders can take corrective actions and enhance prevention capabilities. OSIE also provides the department an understanding of the "ground truths" of both data-informed issues/concerns and data-informed positive indicators at these locations.
- **WHAT DOES IT DO?** At each site, OSIE teams assess the installation's capabilities to prevent harmful behaviors that include suicide, harassment, sexual assault, substance abuse, domestic abuse, and child abuse and neglect. The OSIE site visits are akin to staff assistance visits, and the teams work collaboratively with leadership at the local and service levels to address identified gaps and share best practices. Specifically, OSIE teams use validated, standardized metrics to look at the site's capability to create healthy climates, support well-being, implement integrated prevention and incorporate service member, DOD civilian employee, family member and other stakeholder voices and needs in prevention efforts.
- **WHAT INSTALLATIONS WILL BE VISITED?** The 2025 slate of OSIE sites will be selected in fall 2024. Three remote and isolated installations will be selected using installation-based quality of life indicators and the department's multipronged resilience index, which assesses risk and protective factors at the individual, leadership, workplace, installation and community levels. Two remote/isolated sites that are low in resilience and quality of life and one site high in resilience and quality of life will be prioritized for site visits.
- **WHEN WILL THE VISITS TAKE PLACE?** Sites selected for 2025 OSIE will be identified in fall 2024, with site visits taking place between March and October 2025. A report containing findings, best practices, lessons learned and solutions will be prepared and submitted to leadership.
- **HAVE OSIES TAKEN PLACE AT REMOTE AND ISOLATED INSTALLATIONS IN THE PAST?** Since 2021, OSIE teams have visited a variety of small, geographically isolated reserve component and OCONUS locations to ensure a comprehensive understanding of prevention capabilities and needs. Examples include: (1) an Army recruiting company in Dearborn, Michigan; (2) Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson; (3) an Army Reserve unit in Ashley, Pennsylvania; and (4) Naval Station Rota. Summaries of the reports are available at <https://www.prevention.mil/Resources/Reports/>.