

## NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION



SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY  
ORGANIZATION



### LECTURE SERIES HFM-284

## on “Moral Decisions and Military Mental Health” sur “Décisions engageant la morale et santé mentale dans l’armée”

organized by the

**Human Factors and Medicine Panel**

to be held in

**Ottawa, November 28-29 2017**

**Royal Ottawa Hospital**

**Associates in Psychiatry Auditorium**

**1145 Carling Avenue**

This Lecture Series is open to citizens from NATO, Partnership-for-Peace (PfP), Mediterranean Dialogue (MD), Nations, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.

### Latest Enrolment Date

NATO Nations **14 November 2017**

Non-NATO Nations **7 November 2017**

Enrol on-line at

<https://events.sto.nato.int/index.php/upcoming-events/event-list/event/0/19-lecture-series>

(\* you will have to create an account first if not done so already)

**All presentations and discussions will be held in English.**

### Background

The mission of STO is to conduct and promote co-operative research and information exchange. STO consists of a three level organization: the Science and Technology Board (STB), the Panels and the Technical Teams. The Applied Vehicle Technology (AVT) Panel is one of the seven Panels under the STB.

The mission of the Human Factors and Medicine Panel is to provide the science and technology base for optimising safety, health, well-being and performance of the human in operational environments with consideration of affordability. This involves understanding and ensuring the physical, physiological, psychological and cognitive compatibility among military personnel, technological systems, missions, and environments. This is accomplished by exchange of information, collaborative experiments and shared field trials.

### Theme

Moral decisions are among the most difficult that soldiers will face, and they exist throughout the full-spectrum of military operations. A single bad decision can erode local, national, international and host nation support thereby derailing the strategic mission and putting troops at risk. Evidence exists linking moral decisions, attitudes and behaviors to military mental health and well-being. This is a crucial component of leaders' responsibility for their soldiers. Recommendations are made including education and training, after action reviews, counseling, reintegration programs that seek to mitigate the threat to the mission and soldier well-being.

### Topics to be covered:

This Series of lectures present the empirical evidence concerning potential links between moral challenges and mental health outcomes for deployed military personnel; present operational ethics and mental health training programs of contributing NATO countries; we will translate findings concerning issues related to the potential links between moral decision making and the psychological well-being of military personnel in modern military operations.

The lectures will also recommend good practices in coping with moral dilemmas and develop awareness of tragic dilemmas; advise on the development, and the creation and implementation of operational ethics training/education to promote better moral decision making, attitudes and behavior during deployments and to prevent and limit mental health problems, and formulate recommendations for pre, during and post-deployment care- and education programs.

### Thème

Les décisions engageant la morale comptent parmi les plus difficiles auxquelles les soldats sont confrontés et elles se présentent dans tout le spectre des opérations militaires. Une seule mauvaise décision peut éroder le soutien local, national, international et du pays d'accueil, ce qui fait échouer la mission au plan stratégique et met les troupes en danger. Il existe un lien démontré entre les décisions engageant la morale, les attitudes et les comportements d'une part, et la santé mentale et le bien-être des militaires d'autre part. Il s'agit d'une composante cruciale de la responsabilité des chefs envers leurs soldats. Des recommandations sont faites au sujet de la formation théorique et pratique, des comptes rendus après action, des conseils, du bien-être des soldats et des programmes de réinsertion qui visent à atténuer la menace pour la mission.

### Sujets traités:

La série de conférences (i) présentera les preuves empiriques concernant les liens potentiels entre les défis moraux et les conséquences sur la santé mentale du personnel militaire déployé, (ii) présentera l'éthique opérationnelle et les programmes de formation à la santé mentale des pays contributeurs de l'OTAN et (iii) traduira les découvertes sur les questions relatives aux liens potentiels entre la prise de décisions engageant la morale et le bien-être psychologique du personnel militaire dans les opérations militaires modernes.

Les conférences recommanderont de bonnes pratiques pour faire face aux dilemmes moraux et développer la reconnaissance des dilemmes tragiques. Elles offriront des conseils sur l'élaboration, la création et la mise en œuvre de formations théoriques / pratiques à l'éthique opérationnelle pour améliorer la prise de décision moralement responsable, les attitudes et le comportement pendant les déploiements et prévenir et limiter les problèmes de santé mentale. Les conférences formuleront également des recommandations à propos des programmes d'éducation et de soin avant, pendant et après le déploiement.

## Lecture Series Director

### COL (Prof Dr.) Eric VERMETTEN (NLD)

Military Mental Health – Dutch Department of Defense,  
Utrecht

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## Lecturers

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### COL (Prof Dr) Eric VERMETTEN (NDL)

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## Local Coordinator

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## Lecture Series Programme

### DAY ONE

08:30 Registration

09:00 Opening Ceremony & STO Overview, welcome from  
cosponsor CIMVHR (Vermetten, Belanger)

09:15 Introduction and Overview (Vermetten/Jetly)

09:45 Context in which moral decisions are made in military  
operations (Thompson)

10:30 Break

11:00 Moral dilemmas associated with following military orders  
(Jetly)

12:00 Lunch Break

13:30 Moral decisions in military operations and its relevance for  
mental health practice and outcomes (Thompson)

14:30 Relationship between unethical battlefield conduct and  
mental health (McGurk)

15:30 Break

16:00 A new coalition for a challenging battlefield: military and  
veteran health research (Greenberg)

17:00 End of day 1

### DAY TWO

09:00 Emotional reactions and moral judgment (Vermetten)

09:45 Battlefield ethics training: integrating ethical scenarios in  
high-intensity military field exercises (Thompson)

10:30 Break

11:00 Is there a link between ethical behavior and mental health  
conditions? (Warner)

11:45 Leadership, cohesion, morale, and the mental health of UK  
Armed Forces in Afghanistan (Greenberg)

12:30 Lunch Break

14:00 Status update on moral injury: clinical outlook (Vermetten,  
Jetly)

15:00 Afternoon Break

15:30 Combat exposure and attitudes toward ethical conduct:  
Implications for leaders (McGurk/Warner)

16:30 Concluding remarks (Jetly, Vermetten)

17:15 End of Day 2

## APPLICATION TO ENROL LECTURE SERIES HFM-284

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### STO Events Website:

<https://events.sto.nato.int/index.php/event-summary>

**Note:** the NATO CSO is currently using a new enrolment system. Each participant has to create an account prior to enrolling.

General Information Package with information on travel, accommodation and local arrangements will be placed on the enrolment site. Participants are to make their own travel arrangements.

If you are unable to enrol via the internet, please contact the CSO enrolment coordinator:

[lectureseries@cs0.nato.int](mailto:lectureseries@cs0.nato.int)

Please respect the following dates for enrolment:

### Latest Enrolment Dates

NATO Nations **14 November 2017**

Non NATO Nations **7 November 2017**

### Contact/Enrolment Coordinator

### NATO Collaboration Support Office (CSO)

+33 (0)1 55 61 22 67 (phone)

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