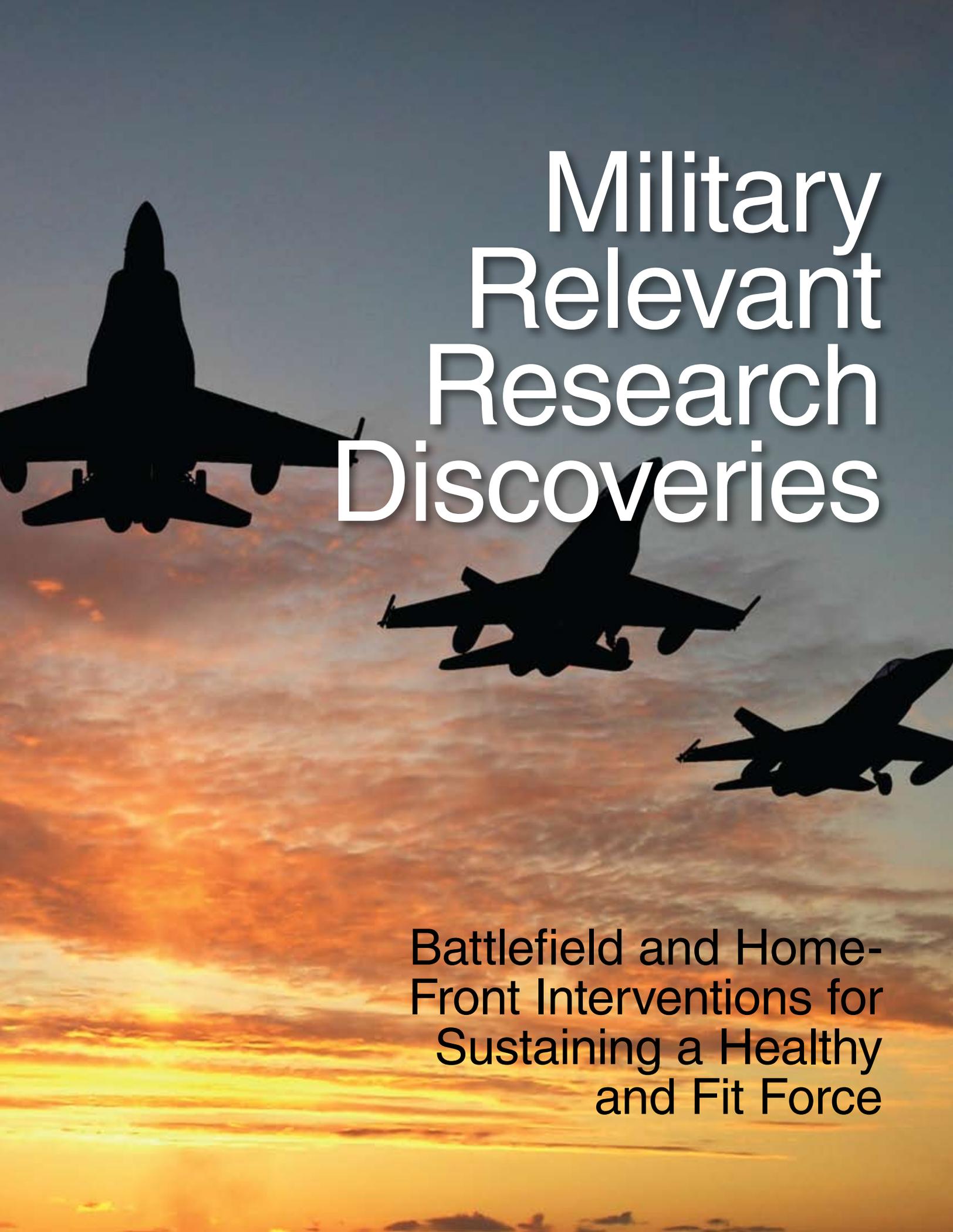




XII. Deployment Related Medical Research Program



The background of the entire page is a sunset sky with warm orange and yellow tones. Three fighter jets are silhouetted against this sky, flying from left to right. The largest jet is in the upper left, and two smaller jets are positioned lower and further to the right.

Military Relevant Research Discoveries

Battlefield and Home-
Front Interventions for
Sustaining a Healthy
and Fit Force



Vision

To improve the health and/or mitigate injury of deployed military personnel and their family members by finding new solutions to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of deployment-related injuries and psychological challenges.

Program Background

The Department of Defense (DOD) Deployment Related Medical Research Program (DRMRP) was assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) in fiscal year 2008 (FY08) in response to the supplemental appropriations bill, Public Law 110-252. This program was established to address the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and mitigation of deployment-related injuries and psychological health concerns of deployed military personnel. The DRMRP anticipates that approximately \$92 million (M) of the full \$273.8M appropriation will be available to support DRMRP research. As dictated by the appropriation language, funds will be directed toward the specific research topic areas, bulleted below:

Deployment-Related Medical Research Topic Areas

- ❖ Blood safety and blood products
- ❖ Final development of medical devices for use in theater (including portable suction machines and EKGs for theater hospitals)
- ❖ Trauma treatment and rehabilitation (including facial, visual/ocular and nerve damage, dental, and auditory systems)
- ❖ Traumatic brain injury and psychological health (including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder)
- ❖ Injury prevention
- ❖ Wound infection and healing
- ❖ Wound infection vaccines

Integrative Partnerships

The DRMRP recognizes the importance of assembling interdisciplinary teams that understand deployment-health-related research to achieve the vision of the program. The combined efforts of these individuals will greatly contribute to the protection, support, and advancement of the health and welfare of deployed military personnel.

Consumer Advocates

Consumer advocates for the DRMRP will represent the voice and vision of our deployed military personnel. Consumer advocates for the program will be individuals or family members of individuals who have experienced or are experiencing trauma and/or injuries related to deployment. Consumer advocates for the DRMRP will be active participants in practically all aspects of program execution. They will work collaboratively with leading scientists and clinicians in recommending proposals for funding. Additional details about consumer advocate participation can be found in Section I, Overview.

Peer Review

Peer review for the DRMRP will involve two phases. Phase one will include a scientific peer review of proposals based on established criteria for determining scientific merit and military relevance. Phase two will involve a gap alignment review of proposals against established criteria for ensuring optimal alignment of funding priority recommendations with the deployment-related research gaps. The first phase of review for this program is scheduled for November 2008. The second phase of review is scheduled for January 2008. Additional information about peer review can be found in Section I, Overview.

Joint Senior Leadership Integration Panel (Programmatic Review)

Representatives of the DRMRP Joint Senior Leadership Integration Panel will be visionary scientists, clinicians, and consumer advocates who are committed to serving the interest of the program. Individual panel members will compare submissions to the program and recommend proposals for funding based on scientific merit, military relevance, and overall goals of the program to the Commanding General, USAMRMC. Further details about programmatic review can be found in Section I, Overview.

Scientific Community

Investigators supported by this program will be the driving forces who will advance the delivery of emerging new approaches, technologies, and agents to the military through basic science, translational, and/or clinical research.

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The Program Today

FY08 Summary

The vision of the FY08 DRMRP is to find and fund the best medical research to protect, support, and advance the health and welfare of deployed military personnel. Based on this vision, proposals were sought across three award mechanisms:

Hypothesis Development

Awards: Provide support for initial exploration of innovative, untested, potentially groundbreaking concepts that may lead to promising new products, pharmacologic agents (drugs or biologics), behavioral interventions, devices, clinical guidance, and/or emerging approaches and technologies for deployment-related health care issues.

Advanced Technology/ Therapeutic Development

Awards: Support the assessment of scientific and/or military field deployment feasibility for promising new products, pharmacologic agents (drugs or biologics), behavioral interventions, devices, clinical guidance, and/or emerging approaches and technologies. These awards are expected to yield potential deployment-related health products, approaches, or technologies positioned for human testing.

Clinical Trial Awards: Support rapid implementation of clinical trials with the potential to have a significant impact on a disease or condition addressed in one of the FY08 DRMRP topic areas. All proposed clinical trials must be responsive to the health care needs of deployed members of the Armed Forces and may address prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and/or quality of life.

The DRMRP investment strategy is shown in Figure XIII-1. Approximately 50 awards are anticipated. All DRMRP awards will be negotiated by September 30, 2009.

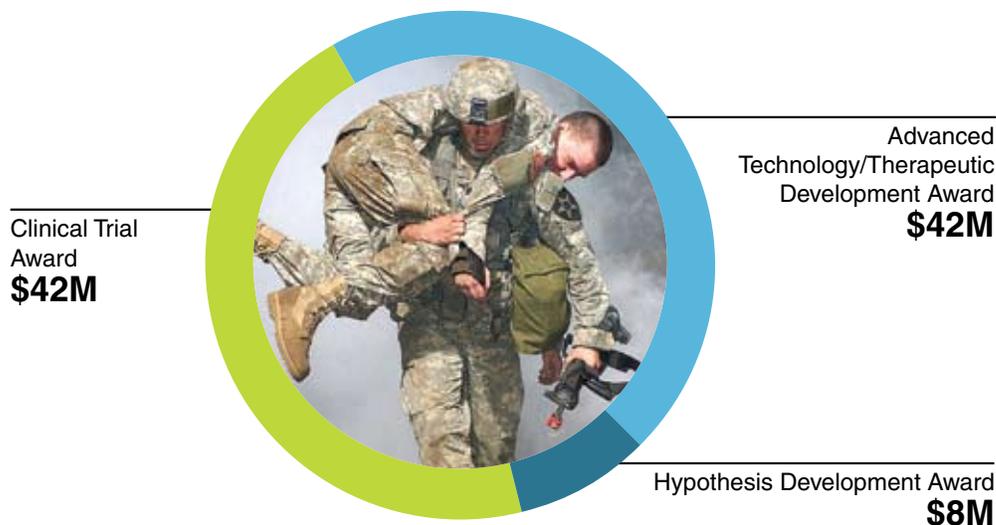


Figure XIII-1. FY08 DRMRP Investment Strategy