

## **DCoE Director Bids Farewell to Staff**

On June 21, Brig. Gen. Loree Sutton said farewell to the staff of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE). Sutton has served as the director of DCoE since its inception in 2007. "Three years later, the passionate devotion of so many individuals, civilian and military, is evident on numerous fronts – and yet, much more work remains," Sutton wrote in a farewell letter to the staff.

Sutton and the DCoE staff faced and overcame many challenges in creating a new organization that tackled complex issues. Last week, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs decided that a change in leadership was necessary to continue moving the organization forward.

DCoE was established in November 2007 to assess, validate, oversee and facilitate prevention, resilience, identification, treatment, outreach, rehabilitation, and reintegration programs for psychological health (PH) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). It partners with the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs and a national network of military and civilian agencies, community leaders, advocacy groups, clinical experts, and academic institutions to establish best practices and quality standards for the treatment of service members.

Sutton recognized the commitment of the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs in her farewell and challenged the staff to renew its commitment to our service members and their families. "Answering the call, our Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Veterans Affairs continue to lead by example, setting an aspirational standard for all to emulate. On Capitol Hill, leaders from both sides of the aisle continue to provide generous support to honor the service and sacrifice of our wounded, ill, injured and fallen," Sutton wrote.

Col. Robert W. Saum will serve as the director of DCoE. His biography is available on the DCoE website.