

Biography – Joshua C. Morganstein, M.D.

Dr. Joshua C. Morganstein is Associate Professor and Vice Chair in the Department of Psychiatry and Deputy Director at the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress (CSTS) in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and a Captain in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. He is Chair of the Committee on the Psychiatric Dimensions of Disaster and Distinguished Fellow at the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Morganstein received his medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He completed a combined residency in Psychiatry and Family Medicine in the National Capital Consortium in Washington, DC. Dr. Morganstein leads the Disaster Mental Health and Public Health education and consultation services at CSTS. In this capacity he provides consultation and subject-matter guidance to local, state, national and international partners during dozens of disasters on actions to foster mental health and enhance sustainment for individuals, communities, and organizations. Dr. Morganstein also leads the development and dissemination of action-oriented, just-in-time resources tailored to affected stakeholder communities, including patients and families, responders and emergency workers, healthcare personnel, military servicemembers, and community leaders.

Over the past two years Dr. Morganstein has been invited by numerous state healthcare organizations, medical professional organizations, interagency teams, and global partners to inform healthcare system leaders and personnel on critical public mental health principles and the adaptation of practices and procedures from high-stress occupations to help promote well-being and operational sustainment during the global pandemic. Dr. Morganstein was sought out to assist the New York City public health and first responder systems to develop the HERO-NY workforce resilience program. He has conducted research with the U.S. National Guard that provided actionable recommendations and knowledge products for leaders to protect health and sustain military readiness during COVID-19 and other operations. Dr. Morganstein is frequently sought out by NATO medical leadership to present on disaster mental health and crisis leadership as well as the development of global military doctrine to enhance force protection. He is a member of the 5Eyes Mental Health Research International Collaboration, senior medical leaders within the Defense and Veterans Affairs agencies across partner nations advising on policy, sharing research findings and best practices, and publishing scholarly works on global mental health and readiness for military servicemembers and their families.

Dr. Morganstein has studied the effects of stress and trauma in organizational settings, including the military drone intelligence community as well as personnel impacted by the 2013 mass shootings at the Washington Navy Yard. He provided mental health subject-matter expertise to the United Nations' development of the 2015 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, co-authored the only Curriculum Recommendations for Disaster Behavioral Health Professionals as well as the Mental Health and Well-Being chapter for a landmark Presidential report on the Impact of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States. Dr. Morganstein authored numerous articles, chapters, technical reports, and other scholarly work on the mental health impact of disasters, including climate-related disasters, mass violence, terrorism, nuclear exposure, and pandemics. He is Assistant Editor for the second edition of the Textbook of Disaster Psychiatry and Editor for the forthcoming textbook, PTSD.

Dr. Morganstein was commissioned as a U.S. Air Force officer from 1997-2013. He served as the Medical Director for community and outpatient mental health at Misawa Air Base in Japan and deployed to Afghanistan as the senior Air Force Psychiatrist in theatre where he oversaw delivery of psychiatric care for 90,000 service members during Operation Enduring Freedom. Dr. Morganstein served as the sole behavioral health advisor to the Commander, Joint Task Force National Capital Region-Medical overseeing the transition of mental health, substance use and traumatic brain injury services during the largest Base Realignment and Closure in the history of the Department of Defense. In 2013, Dr. Morganstein completed an inter-service transfer from the U.S. Air Force to the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service in pursuit of his interest in public health and disaster mental health.

Dr. Morganstein was selected by the American Psychiatric Association to receive the 2020 Bruno Lima award for exceptional contributions in support of communities effected by disasters. He received the Uniformed Services University 2020 Dean's Impact award for national and global work in support of the Department of Defense and the nation in responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Morganstein has also received the U.S. Air Force Major Command Clinical Excellence Field Grade Officer of the Year award and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine's Resident Teacher of the Year award. Dr. Morganstein's uniformed service awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Presidential Unit Citation, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the National Defense Service Medal.