Reviewer's report

**Title:** Low validity of self-report in identifying recent mental health diagnosis among U.S. service members completing Pre-Deployment Health Assessment (PreDHA) and deployed to Afghanistan, 2007: A retrospective cohort study.

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 16 May 2009

**Reviewer:** Martin C Bricknell

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a well designed paper that provides a good analysis of the pre-deployment health assessment instrument. The methods and results section are well laid out. The analysis provides a good interpretation of the results and the conclusion makes valid observations about the importance of linkage of other health information to cross reference with the self-reported pDHA results. I think that this is an important addition to the debate about the suitability, validity and cost-effectiveness of self-administered screening questionnaires to identify military personnel who are suitable for operational deployment.

I have no specific recommendations for revisions to the manuscript.

I think that this paper is relevant to military physicians, occupational physicians public health physicians and psychiatrists.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.