

DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
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NGB-ARM

12 December 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR The Chiefs of Joint Staff of all States

SUBJECT: Army National Guard Suicide Prevention Program Guidance Memorandum

1. References.

a. DA PAM 600-70, Guide to the Prevention of Suicide and Self-Destructive Behavior, 1 November 1985.

b. DA PAM 600-24, Suicide Prevention and Psychological Autopsy, 30 September 1988.

c. AR 600-63, Health Promotion Program, 28 April 1996.

d. AR 165-1, Chaplain Activities in the United States Army, 25 March 2004.

e. AR 190-40, Serious Incident Report, 15 June 2005.


2. Purpose. To provide responsibilities, training guidance, and reporting requirements for the Army National Guard Suicide Prevention Program (enclosure).

3. Background. In accordance with AR 600-63, Chapter 2, para 2-8a, "Suicide prevention is the concern of every leader, commander, supervisor, Soldier, and Army civilian." This program supports the Army's goal to reduce the suicide risk for Soldiers, employees and family members. The establishment of a coordinated program for suicide prevention at every installation is required in accordance with Chapter 5.

4. Applicability. This guidance applies to Soldiers, family members, and employees affiliated with the ARNG effective immediately.

5. Point of contact is Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Languirand, Chief, Well-Being Branch at DSN 327-4107 or 703-607-4107.

E-Signed by murphym
VERIFY authenticity with ApproveIt



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Army National Guard Suicide Prevention Program Guidance

1. Responsibilities/Training Guidance.

a. Chief of Staff. Responsible for oversight of the State ARNG Suicide Prevention Program.

b. MILPO.

(1) Responsible for the State ARNG Suicide Prevention Program.

(2) Responsible for program coordination, execution, and monitoring.

(3) Reporting of Suicides to be forwarded to the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

c. G-3. Ensure units incorporate annual Suicide Prevention Training on their training schedules.

d. Chaplain.

(1) Coordinate implementation of Suicide Prevention Training with the State MILPO and Surgeon.

(2) Advise leadership on moral and ethical issues and other stress factors that may result in an increased number of people at risk.

(3) Assure all chaplains within the command are trained to identify individuals who may be at risk of suicide and make appropriate referrals.

(4) Provide training expertise to assist the command in the education awareness training process.

e. Surgeon.

(1) Aid in the technical aspects of suicide prevention training.

(2) Coordinate training activities with the chaplains in support of unit commanders and State programs, as needed.

(3) Assess and advise leadership on stress factors that may result in an increased number of personnel at risk, as needed.

f. Family Program Director.

(1) Implement an education awareness program for family members.

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(2) Continue operation of outreach programs dealing in areas of stress and family violence.

(3) Emphasize support agencies and mechanisms during family member orientations and other appropriate briefings.

(4) Coordinate with civilian support agencies.

g. Law Enforcement (Provost Marshall, Security Specialist).

(1) Ensure that appropriate law enforcement agencies are notified of potential suicide situations.

(2) Provide feedback information to the commander, as appropriate, on any suicide related events that may have occurred.

(3) Establish liaison with local civilian police agencies, as appropriate, to coordinate community suicide prevention programs and procedures.

h. The Alcohol and Drug Control Officer. Advise the commander as to the impact of alcohol and drug abuse on suicide risk.

i. Unit Commander.

(1) Ensure unit training schedule reflects the requirement to conduct annual Suicide Prevention Training.

(2) Coordinate and conduct awareness training for subordinate leaders.

(3) Assure that subordinates are aware of assistance agencies.

(4) Refer individuals identified as having personal or emotional problems to an appropriate source of help.

2. Reporting. Suicides and suspected suicides of Soldiers, family members and ARNG employees will be reported immediately to the State Emergency Operation Center for preparation of a Serious Incident Report IAW AR 190-40; and the State EOC to reports this information to the National Guard Bureau EOC.