



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE DETACHMENT
6th ARMOR CAVALRY ROAD, BUILDING 8545
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE
FORT MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5540

IN REPLY REFER TO
1700
CO
09 June 15

POLICY LETTER 04-12

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: SUICIDE PREVENTION

Ref: (a) MCO 1700.24B W/CH1

1. Suicide prevention is one of our top priorities as leaders, whether in the training environment or on liberty. Prevention starts with an understanding of the warning signs and a belief that warriors take care of each other. Suicide has devastating effects on everyone involved and one suicide is always one to many.

2. Marines are more vulnerable to commit suicide during their first term because they are away from their families for the first time and are under constant stress. If you ever hear someone is contemplating suicide -- always assume they serious. Never ignore the call for help and never keep it a secret. Get help immediately by informing someone that is in the position to provide assistance. Never leave a person alone who is even remotely contemplating suicide. Talk to the Marine and let them know that you care and you want to help. It is your responsibility to ensure the chain of command is notified, so always inform the platoon sergeant and senior enlisted advisor.

3. If you are experiencing emotional stress, you will not be judged or thought of as weak by this command. We will take care of you. Do not hesitate to talk to someone. Suicide is never a solution to temporary problems. Remember that no Marine is a one-man fighting hole -- have the courage to ask for help. Do not keep a problem to yourself that is eating away at you.

4. Those Marines to your left and right are your brothers and sisters and are willing to help. Resources available to you include the DNCO, your chain-of-command, the Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator, Military Family Life Counselors, the DINFOS Chaplain, Ft. Meade Chaplain and Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center. Marines can also call 24 hours, 7 days a week the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-Talk or Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647.

E.T. VICKERS

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