



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

1700  
CO  
19 May 17

POLICY LETTER 03-17

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Distribution List

Subj: SUICIDE PREVENTION

Ref: (a) MCO 1700.24B W/CH1

1. Protecting Marines is one of our top priorities as leaders. The loss of a Marine to suicide is senseless, painful, and avoidable. Prevention starts with understanding the warning signs and having a willingness to take immediate action.
2. If you ever hear someone talk about suicide - always assume they are 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 may even remotely be 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.
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 the solution to your 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.
4. Those Marines to your left and right are your brothers and sisters and are willing to help. Resources available to you include the CDO, 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.

J. S. DIDDAMS

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