

DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
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ARLINGTON, VA 22204-1382

NGB-ARH

2 April 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR The Adjutants General of all States, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Commanding General of the District of Columbia

SUBJECT: Army National Guard Suicide Prevention Campaign Plan and Policy

1. References:

a. Memorandum, NGB-ARM, 12 December 2005, subject: Army National Guard Suicide Prevention Program Guidance Memorandum (enclosure).

b. Army Regulation 165-1, Chaplain Activities in the United States Army, 25 March 2004.

c. Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-24, Suicide Prevention and Psychological Autopsy, 30 September 1988.

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

a. Staffing. Preventing suicide in the ARNG requires a full-time staff member to administer the program at the State JFHQ level. As stated in AR 165-1, paragraph 4-3e1, commanders will not assign chaplains to manage suicide prevention programs. The ARNG State Suicide Prevention Program Managers (SPPM) will have the maturity and sensitivity necessary to administer this program. They will develop suicide prevention briefings; conduct suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention training and awareness activities; track the number of suicides and attempted suicides; and coordinate with commanders, surgeons, chaplains, personnel officers, mental health staff, and health promotion staff throughout the State. The SPPM is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the Serious Incident Reports (SIRs). All States will provide SPPM contact information to the ARNG Suicide Prevention Program Manager using the enclosed worksheet NLT 1 April 2007.

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b. Training. All ARNG State SPPMs must receive Suicide Intervention Training.

(1) In addition, each unit commander will appoint one officer or NCO per company-sized unit to receive this training. The commander will appoint individuals who are mature, approachable, and with whom others feel comfortable speaking. These individuals will be available to identify problems and refer personnel in crisis to an appropriate source of help in accordance with DA PAM 600-24, paragraph 3-1b.

(2) Leaders will implement referral procedures in suicide prevention briefings so that all Soldiers will know how to refer others at risk of suicide to personnel trained in intervention. All unit personnel will receive suicide prevention training annually.

c. Reporting. The ARNG State SPPM will provide copies of all SIRs to the ARNG Suicide Prevention Program Manager and provide updates as required.

d. Responsibilities. Unit commanders are responsible for integrating and synchronizing unit and community suicide prevention programs and awareness activities. Seeking help is a strength, not a weakness. Units should post listings of available local and national resources and outreach programs on bulletin boards.

(1) A list of resources is available on the ARNG Suicide Prevention Web site at <http://www.virtualarmory.com/WellBeing/suicide.aspx> and on GKO at <https://gkoportal.ngb.army.mil/C15/C5/Suicide%20Prevention%20Program/default.aspx>.

(2) The commander must initiate proactive measures to prevent suicide within his/her unit and reduce the affect on survivors. As stated in the DA PAM 600-24, community awareness includes:

(a) The publication of existing military and civilian crisis hotline numbers in the local media.

(b) The publication of articles on stress, depression, family violence and abuse, and substance abuse, as well as identifying agencies that can help.


(c) An increased focus on suicide prevention during periods or events that are likely to produce a higher-than-normal incidence of suicide.

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3. The point of contact is Colonel William Stoppel, Chief, Personnel Policy and Readiness Division, at DSN 327-5904, 703-607-5904, or [william.stoppel@us.army.mil](mailto:william.stoppel@us.army.mil).

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Each State IG  
Each State Chaplain  
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