



## COMMANDING OFFICER, MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII STATEMENT ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

**"AS WARRIORS WE FACE ALL CHALLENGES TOGETHER. TOGETHER WE SAVE EACH OTHER FROM SUICIDE."**

Deaths by suicide often occur in association with external stressors such as relationship, work, pending disciplinary action, and illnesses such as depression. Leadership is important for the early identification and intervention of stressors that detract from personal and unit readiness. Data collection and analysis is also essential to suicide prevention. We must continually inform, evaluate, and refine command-wide prevention efforts. Improvements can then be implemented to ensure the Marine Corps maintains optimum unit effectiveness and mission readiness through the establishment of a robust, community-based approach to reducing suicide-related events.

The Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Suicide Prevention program will increase personnel readiness and resilience through cooperative relationships offered by the Marine Corps Community Services behavioral health team, Naval Health Clinic Hawaii Mental health team and Spiritual health provided by the tenant commands and base chaplains. Psychological, spiritual, physical, and social fitness should be linked with personal and mission readiness and should not be viewed as a single activity or training.

Marines and Sailors should be shown that getting help for fellow Marines and Sailors in distress is a duty, not an option, and is consistent with Marine Corps ethos and values.

Peer-to-peer leadership should be encouraged. Whenever a Marine or Sailor is in distress, whether due to a relationship stressor, stress injury, financial crisis, or combat experience, it is the responsibility of everyone to get that Marine or Sailor help. The command suicide prevention program will consist of:

- Awareness education and health promotion in the form of annual suicide awareness and prevention training to promote healthy lifestyle.
- Leadership training providing leaders at all levels with information and skills to enhance risk identification and early intervention with at-risk personnel.
- Crisis intervention and risk management procedures for the referral and evaluation of Marines and Sailors requiring emergency behavioral healthcare and/or Marines and Sailors who have problems that increase risk for suicide such as depression and/or alcohol abuse.
- Postvention services providing support to families and units affected by the suicide of a member.
- Casualty reporting to higher authority to assist in improving institutional knowledge about suicide through research into risk and protective factors. The purpose of such research is to improve future prevention efforts.
- Reintegration of Marines and Sailors who were evaluated or treated for stress injury and were found fit for return to duty. Thoughtful reintegration can reduce future suicide risk and encourage other Marines and Sailors to engage helping services when needed.



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