



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
330 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD
LATHAM, NY 12110-3514

MNHF

28 October 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Suicide Investigation Policy Updates

1. References:

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 15-6, Procedures for Investigating Officers and Boards of Officers, 10 February 2006.
- b. AR 600-8-4, Line of Duty Policy Procedures and Investigations, para 2-3 c (3), 4 September 2008.
- c. AR 600-63, Army Health Promotion, 7 September 2010
- d. Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-24, Health Promotion, Risk Reduction, and Suicide Prevention, 7 September 2010.
- e. Memorandum, NGB-SFSS, 5 May 2009, Subject: Suicide Investigation Policy (enclosure).
- f. Memorandum, NGB-HRF, 1 October 2010, Subject: Suicide Investigation Policy Amendment (enclosure).
- g. NYARNG Circular Number 629, Suicide Prevention Program, 1 August 2010.

2. Suicide Awareness and Prevention continues to be a priority in the ARNG. The investigation of each suicide is critical in understanding why Soldiers are taking their own lives. As we evaluate the investigation process, policies and procedures are modified in an effort to prevent future suicides.

3. The timeframe for AR 15-6 investigations remains the same IAW the referenced DARNG Suicide Investigation Policy Memorandum dated 5 May 2009. In order to better standardize the AR 15-6 investigation process as it relates to suicide, the following procedural changes and documents will comprise a completed AR 15-6 investigation sent to the Suicide Prevention Program Manager (SPPM).

- a. The appointing authority for all AR 15-6 investigations for suspected and confirmed suicides is The Adjutant General. This authority will not be delegated. The letter of appointment should be included in the final packet.

- b. All statements taken from military personnel will be captured on Department of the Army (DA) Form 2823 (Sworn Statement). If a witness is suspected of a criminal offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, other federal law, or state law, the investigating officer (IO) will

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advise the witness of their rights against self-incrimination. In such cases, a DA Form 3881 (Rights Warning Procedure/Waiver Certificate) will be completed.

c. A completed DA Form 1574 (Report of Proceedings by Investigating Officer/Board of Officers) will serve as the base product of the investigation. The Adjutant General will concur/non-concur with the findings and recommendations of the IO in Section VIII. The SPPM will then forward the completed AR 15-6 investigation to ARNG-HRF.

4. All suicides are listed as "pending" until a civilian or military coroner issues a death certificate. It is imperative the Suicide Prevention Program Manager receives the final adjudicated death certificate as soon as it is issued. State SPPM's are responsible for forwarding this information to ARNG-HRF. Final determination on whether a case is considered a suicide is based on the coroner's ruling.

5. Concurrent with the VCSA report and AR 15-6 investigation processes, units will conduct formal line of duty (LOD) investigations when a Soldier is suspected or is confirmed to have died by suicide. These LOD investigations are mandatory for any Soldier who's in a Title-10 or Title-32 status.

6. In cases where a suicide occurs when a Soldier is in a non-duty status and there are contributing factors caused by deployment (e.g. post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or depression), a LOD investigation should also be initiated. The LOD investigation does not replace the existing requirement to conduct the AR 15-6 investigation.

7. For investigation procedures, refer to AR 15-6, NYARNG Circular 629, and the Suicide Investigation Policy Amendment memorandum published by NGB-HRF on 1 October 2010.

8. Point of contact for this memorandum is WO1 Scott Walker, NYARNG Suicide Prevention Program Manager, at scott.edward.walker@us.army.mil.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:



CURTIS B. WILLIAMSON
COL, LG, NYARNG

Director, Federal Human Resource Office

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