



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

MNAG-TAG

04 SEP 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Suicide Prevention Month - September 2012

1. The New York Army National Guard (NYARNG) is committed to the health and well being of our Soldiers and their Families. Our Resilience, Risk Reduction, and Suicide Prevention (R3SP) Program combined with our Comprehensive Soldier Fitness (CSF) and Family Readiness Program are designed to educate leaders, Soldiers, and Families regarding the robust network of support and professional counselors available. The Army has extended National Suicide Prevention Week to the entire month of September 2012. In observance of Suicide Prevention Month, a Suicide Prevention Stand Down will be conducted for all three Army components on 27 September 2012, with the National Guard conducting the Stand Down during the first scheduled drill assembly after 27 September 2012. This gives us an opportunity to place additional emphasis on the need to recognize the warning signs associated with suicidal behaviors and offer assistance through the A.C.E. (ask, care, escort) methodology.

2. As an organization we will continue to engage in Suicide Awareness and Prevention training as part of the overall R3SP Program. It is incumbent that all leaders talk with their Soldiers regarding the need to remain vigilant and proactive to identify at-risk behaviors and utilize A.C.E. once they are identified. Soldier and Family care will be a top priority throughout the force. Don't ignore the warning signs, if one of your Soldiers appears at risk of suicide or is displaying risky behavior, get them help immediately. Units will ensure that Soldiers are issued the A.C.E. card (GTA 12-01-003) and they carry it with them.

3. Our efforts for Suicide Prevention Month and beyond are to provide the education, resources, awareness, and training programs necessary to deal with Soldiers and their Families with suicidal issues and to remove the stigmas of seeking assistance. Appropriate referrals must be encouraged and supported by leaders at all levels. There is an extensive network of agencies and organizations available to provide leaders with the knowledge and resources necessary to support our Soldiers and Family Members. The website listed below will provide resources for all Commanders, Leaders, Soldiers, and Family Members:

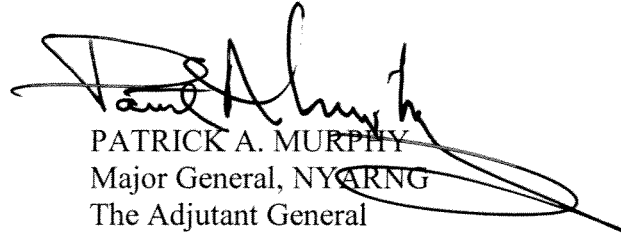
<http://dmna.state.ny.us/suicideprevention/sprevent.php>

4. Commanders at all levels must ensure Suicide Awareness and Prevention training is conducted yearly in accordance with guidance in NYARNG Circular 629, recorded in DTMS and certified by each Commander to MNFP and MNOT NLT 31 October annually. It is imperative that a Suicide Intervention Officer (SIO) be appointed for every unit – company and above. SIOs are required to attend a 2-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) workshop, organized by the NYARNG's certified ASIST Trainers.

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5. For more information regarding suicide prevention, please contact the State Suicide Prevention Manager, 1LT Karen Marotz at karen.marotz@us.army.mil or 518-786-4455, or our Director of Psychological Health, Jolene Kent-Stanly at 518-786-4956 or Chaplain, COL Eric Olsen at eric.w.olsen2@us.army.mil or 518-461-2527. Any Soldier or Family member in distress or requiring immediate suicide prevention assistance may call the Veterans Administration (VA) hotline at 1-800-273-TALK. The VA Hotline is available 24 hours a day.



PATRICK A. MURPHY
Major General, NYARNG
The Adjutant General

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