

# MENTAL READINESS

Mental readiness is an individual's or team's ability to think, feel, and act in a manner that optimizes performance. Mental readiness includes the ability to integrate cognitive, emotional, and interpersonal capabilities.

# BOOST YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

### **COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

Developing and maintaining good relationships requires effective nonverbal and verbal communication. Effective communication prevents isolation and helps manage daily stressors.

#### **S** LIFE BALANCE

Taking time for leisure, creativity, and hobbies can restore energy levels. Striking a healthy balance of work, play, healthy social relationships, and sleep can optimize performance.

#### **GOAL SETTING**

Goal setting provides a roadmap for success that can increase motivation and commitment towards achieving an objective.

#### **BREATHING**

Awareness of brain and body connection helps Soldiers better control their emotions and actions. Regular practice of intentional, controlled breathing is a useful technique to optimize performance.

## SHEALTHY HABITS

Learning, acquiring, and developing healthy life habits can mitigate stress, encourage predictability, promote healthy behaviors, and optimize performance.

#### **MINDFULNESS**

Mindfulness is paying attention, on purpose and without judgment, to the present moment. Practicing mindfulness can ease chronic pain, decrease high blood pressure, calm stress hormones, and inflammatory processes.

#### STRESS MANAGEMENT

Stress is the body's and brain's response to a challenge. Stress can be a useful tool but if a Soldier's stress increases beyond capacity, he or she can become overwhelmed and performance can degrade.

# SLEEP HYGIENE

Most Soldiers need 7 to 9 hours of sleep a day to optimize health, decision making capabilities and performance.









