



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY FIRES CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AND FORT SILL
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FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503

ATZR-C

OCT 13 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: CG Policy Memorandum #4, Value of Life and Suicide Prevention

1. References.

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 600-63, Army Health Promotion, 14 April 2015
- b. Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-24, Health Promotion, Risk Reduction, and Suicide Prevention, 14 April 2015
- c. AR 165-1, Army Chaplain Corps Activities, 23 June 2015
- d. Army Directive 2018-23, Improving the Effectiveness of Essential and Important Army Programs, 8 November 2018
- e. Value of Life Operations Order, September 2020

2. The Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill (USAFCoEFS) takes a proactive approach with team members toward the prevention of suicide. We are committed to building cohesive teams that are positively intrusive and that connect each member of Team Sill to the resources and programs that are available. We will use a multi-faceted approach that reinforces values across USAFCoEFS through community, resilience and fitness, along with "The Golden Triangle" and "This is My Squad" initiatives. Our goal is the complete elimination of suicide or self-destructive acts.

3. This policy is irrespective of rank. A leader can be at any level, to include the individual.

4. I expect the environment within the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill to be one where Service Members and Civilians care so much about Trust, Teamwork and Cohesion, that they are able to immediately identify high-risk teammates or reach out for help, long before a self-destructive act has occurred.

5. Life is worth living. And no matter how bad a situation may seem, there is always a positive way up and out. We expect leaders to know their teammates. This is in part through initial and regular follow-on counseling that I expect to be conducted with each Service Member here at Fort Sill. Address morale, stress, and mental health in a

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positive and trust-building manner. This will allow teammates to feel that they have a leader that cares, and that they have someone that they can turn to when they face adversity. Adversity will come to all of us, whether seemingly random or self-inflicted. We should know our teammates so well that we instinctually know who their support network is who loves and cares for them, along with who their friends and family members are. We further expect leaders to build their teams, not just regarding building tactical proficiency, but also building up team members as individuals and valued members. Remember, leadership is a contact sport; it requires daily interaction.

6. If you see a potential problem, act. We expect all personnel at the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill to have the courage to step in and get involved. My hope is that this will be done long before high-risk indicators are present. Bottom line: no teammate at the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill should ever feel left out, isolated or alone this is a leadership responsibility.

7. IT IS ABSOLUTELY OK TO GET HELP! We cannot stress this point enough. If you are experiencing adversity, take a quick timeout and reach out for help. Your teammates care about you no Service Member or Civilian at the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill will ever be looked down on or in any way minimized or ridiculed for seeking out help. Stress and mental health are like a sprained ankle or broken bone don't be afraid to slow down for a minute, ask for a hand, then take the time and steps to heal up. It's ok!! We are proud to serve with you on the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill team!!

8. The point of contact for this policy is the Army Substance Abuse Program, Suicide Prevention Program Manager at (580) 442-1618 / 2016.



WINSTON P. BROOKS
Major General, USA
Commanding

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