



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

111 SOUTH GEORGE MASON DRIVE
ARLINGTON VA 22204-1382

ARNG-HRS

JUL 11 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR The Adjutants General of all States, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Guam, and the District of Columbia

SUBJECT: Army National Guard Suicide Prevention Efforts

1. Reference memorandum, ARNG-ARZ, 23 Nov 10, subject: Army National Guard (ARNG) Resilience, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention (R3SP) Campaign Plan (enclosure 1).

2. Discussion:

a. Suicide prevention is a daunting challenge for leadership, regardless of component. It is especially challenging for reserve forces. Due to the part-time nature of the ARNG mission and the potential for higher rates of suicide in the summer months, we must remain extra vigilant in taking care of our Soldiers and Families. In calendar year 2012, the number of ARNG suicides is on track to exceed that of calendar year 2011.

b. Many of our States, Territories, and the District of Columbia have demonstrated great initiative in developing resilience, risk reduction, and suicide prevention programs. Additional best practices can be found in our communities:

(1) Give an Hour (GAH) provides behavioral health services to troops and Families affected by the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The GAH program offers free counseling to individuals, couples, Families, children, and adolescents.

(2) Not Alone offers programs, resources, and services in a confidential and anonymous manner to warriors and Families impacted by combat stress and PTSD.

(3) Hiring our Heroes is a nationwide initiative, operated by the US Chamber of Commerce, to help veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment.

(4) Operation Homefront provides emergency financial and other assistance to the Families of our military service members and wounded warriors.

(5) The Vets4Warriors peer support line provides all National Guard and reserve component service members with direct access to supportive, non-attributational conversations with well-trained veteran peers who share similar experiences.

ARNG-HRS

SUBJECT: Army National Guard Suicide Prevention Efforts

Representing all branches of the military, this team of veteran peers has immediate access to behavioral health clinicians who can respond to issues as they emerge. Both the veteran peers and the clinicians can also refer Soldiers to local community services, military veteran centers, and military healthcare providers, depending upon the need.

3. The ARNG Soldier and Family Support Division is committed to helping the States, Territories, and the District of Columbia develop, resource, and execute effective Resilience, Risk Reduction, and Suicide Prevention efforts. We are continuously adding to our list of best practices (enclosure 2) from our State Suicide Prevention, Behavioral Health, Sexual Assault Prevention, and Family programs. Nationwide, we also have State Psychological Health directors, Behavioral Health officers, and a robust Strong Bonds program. I encourage you to continue sharing best practices and lessons learned so that we never leave a Soldier or Family member behind.

4. The point of contact is Mr. William Hardy, Deputy Chief, Soldier and Family Support Division, at DSN 327-9758, 703-607-9758, or william.hardy@us.army.mil.

2 Encls
1-2. as


WILLIAM E. INGRAM, JR.
Lieutenant General, USA
Director, Army National Guard