



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS DETACHMENT
NAVAL SCHOOL EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL
8840 RANGE ROAD
NICEVILLE, FLORIDA 32578-9810

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MARDET
28 Jul 21

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Detachment, Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal
To: All hands

Subj: SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY LETTER



Suicide is the second-leading cause of non-combat related deaths in the Marine Corps. Suicide prevention must be one of our considerations as we train, go on liberty, and deploy with our fellow Marines and sailors.

Statistics show that Marines and sailors are more vulnerable to suicide during their first term of enlistment, during holiday seasons and deployments. If you hear anything that implies someone is contemplating suicide, you must never assume that they are kidding or joking. Do not minimize the matter and never decide that you will keep it a secret. Get help immediately. Use the chain of command so they can be informed on the situation and get help. Your mentor is always available. Find someone to assist but most importantly never leave a person alone who is even remotely contemplating suicide. Talk to the Marine or sailor and let them know that you care, that you want to help.

Suicide is a permanent solution to what is very likely a temporary problem. Every Marine and sailor has deep roots and it must be emphasized that there are people who care. There are people who will be left behind if an individual decides to take one's own life. Those left behind will be forced to handle the associated guilt and doubt as to what they missed or did wrong. We must discard our misconceptions regarding those who talk about suicide in jest and the assumption that those who threaten suicide will not act.

Suicide is a wide spread problem. Do not hesitate to help a Marine or sailor that is showing signs of suicide. Get involved. If you are the one experiencing depression or thoughts of suicide do not hesitate to talk to someone. Do not keep a problem that is eating away at you to yourself. We must continue to cover our buddies; in combat, in peacetime, on duty and on liberty. That is what we as Marines and sailors do.

Every one of us must continue to work together to prevent suicide. Resources are available through Eglin AFB Service Center 850-882-9060, the Military One Source 24 hour hotline 1-800-342-9647, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255 and the MARDET Eglin Suicide Prevention Coordinator, HMI O'Sullivan at 850-882-6476.

Semper Fidelis,


D. E. PILCHER