



SUICIDE AWARENESS ***Commanding Officer's Policy Statement***

Suicide can be a hidden killer within the ranks of a unit. It can strike suddenly, without warning, with friends and family oftentimes not aware that a military member was experiencing difficulty or depression. Marines, Sailors, and Civilian Marines of MATSG-21 must take care of one another. Knowing the people you work with and their families can make the difference in picking up the signals that someone may be contemplating suicide. We will foster an atmosphere where Marines, Sailors, and Civilian Marines feel that they are an integral part of the team, that they are cared about, and that they can quickly get the help they need to address thoughts of suicide.

How does this impact your ability to complete your mission?

Suicide remains the second leading cause of death for Marines and Sailors across the Service. It is a tragic and often preventable loss, causing untold grief to loved ones, friends, and unit members. It also impacts unit morale and the ability to accomplish the mission.

What do I want you to do?

1. Know the Marines, Sailors, and Civilian Marines that you work with and the potential indications of suicide. Engage with them on a personal and professional level. Early recognition and intervention to assist at-risk individuals is critical to preventing suicide.
2. Do not hesitate to help someone you think might be contemplating suicide. Get involved- almost every person who attempts suicide has given some sort of prior indication.
3. If you are experiencing depression or thoughts of suicide- do not hesitate to talk to someone. There are a variety of resources and people that will immediately assist you in getting care. The MATSG-21 Chaplain is always available.

Reference: MCO 1720.2, Marine Corps Suicide Prevention Program

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MATSG-21 Chaplain can be reached at (850) 452-9460 x3008
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