



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON FORT HUNTER LIGGETT
BUILDING 238 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, CA 93928-7000

IMHL-HRS

18 DEC 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR US Army Garrison Fort Hunter Liggett (USAG FHL) Soldiers,
Civilians, and Tenant Organizations

SUBJECT: FHL Policy #35, Suicide Prevention

1. REFERENCES.

- a. AR 600-63, Army Health Promotion, 7 May 2007 (RAR 07 September 2010).
- b. AR 350-1, Army Training and Leader Development, 18 December 2009.
- c. Annex D, Army Campaign Plan for Health Promotion and Risk Reduction FY11, 08 November 2010.
- d. DA PAM 600-24, Health Promotion, Risk Reduction, and Suicide Prevention, December 2009 (RAR, 07 September 2010).
- e. Army G-1 Suicide Prevention Program Training Resources
<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide/>
- f. ALARACT 079/12, Army Suicide Prevention Program (Annual Guidance on Suicide Prevention Training), 27 March 2012.

2. PURPOSE. To provide guidance to Soldiers, civilians and tenant organizations on suicide prevention.

3. APPLICABILITY. This policy applies to all USAG FHL and Parks Reserve Forces Training Area (PRFTA) Soldiers, civilians, and tenant organizations assigned to and or under the operational control of USAG FHL.

4. POLICY. Each suicide that occurs within the US military is a tragic event; even one is too many. The military services have vigorous suicide prevention programs designed to protect our service members and their families. All leaders must remove the stigma attached to seeking help and strongly promote and reward these positive behaviors in their Soldiers. Suicide is an irreversible decision that tragically affects the individual's family, friends, associates, and unit. This tragic and traumatic loss disrupts unit cohesion and weakens unit morale. It is everyone's responsibility to recognize and respond to suicidal behavior.

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5. PROCEDURES.

a. IAW AR 600-63, Para 4-4J, annual suicide prevention training is mandatory for all Soldiers, leaders, and DA civilians. The training is optional but highly encouraged for family members. The training increases awareness of suicide risk factors and warning signs and teaches intervention skills to respond promptly, effectively and deal with at-risk individuals. Personnel completing the Ask, Care, Escort - Suicide Intervention (ACE-SI) or the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) workshop for gatekeepers will receive credit for the annual mandatory suicide prevention training as directed in AR 350-1.

b. ACE training is the Army-approved suicide prevention and awareness training model for all Soldiers, leaders, DA civilians, and family members. In addition to suicide prevention and awareness training, ACE also has a suicide intervention training module that is targeted to junior leaders and first-line supervisors. Training should be conducted at the lowest level possible to enhance squad, crew, team, and section level interaction and discussion. It also serves as a mechanism to strengthen the battle buddy system.

c. ACE-SI is required training for junior leaders and first-line supervisors (optional for Soldiers and DA civilians who are not junior leaders or first line supervisors). The ACE-SI 4-hour training is army-developed, approved, and required training program for junior leaders and first-line supervisors. Junior leader (DA civilian or military) is defined as a supervisor or line manager whose primary focus is with a department, section, team, squad, platoon, or small group of people. First-line supervisor (focus on junior leaders) is defined as supervisors who direct and guide others in the performance of their tasks and ensure work completed is aligned with the organization's aim, objectives, and values. The goal of the ACE-SI program is to bring awareness to and confidence that leaders can take necessary steps to prevent suicides.

d. ASIST training is for gatekeepers who, in the performance of their assigned duties and responsibilities, provide specific counseling to Soldiers and civilians in need such as Chaplains, Chaplain Assistants, Family Advocacy Program workers, Army Emergency Relief Counselors and Military Police. Gatekeepers will receive training in recognizing and helping individuals with suicide-related symptoms or issues. ASIST training is the only Army-approved and required training program for all gatekeepers. It is a two-day course developed by Living Works Education. The key learning objective is awareness of person-at-risk concerns, caregiver tasks, and development of intervention skills using an internationally known suicide intervention model.

e. Suicide prevention and awareness training for DA civilians is an annual mandatory training requirement. Army civilian employees may be excused from the Army suicide prevention training if they believe the training is emotionally or psychologically stressful to

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them. Commanders/supervisors who excuse DA civilians from scheduled training will offer those employees alternative/facilitated training opportunities (e.g., shoulder to shoulder video series).

f. Commanders will ensure that suicide prevention training is available to army family members. The training is not mandatory for family members; however, commanders should encourage family member participation during appropriate venues (e.g., family readiness group meetings, spouse meetings, pre and post deployment briefings, etc.) to maximize their level of awareness of risk factors, warning signs, and resources.

6. PROPONENT. The proponent for this policy is the Army Substance Abuse Program manager at (831) 386-2727.


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Commanding