



**DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD  
HOUSTON BARRACKS, P.O. BOX 41502  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37204-1502**

JFHQ-TN-AG

2 September 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE TENNESSEE ARMY

SUBJECT: TN NG Policy Letter on Health Promotion, Risk, Reduction, and Suicide Prevention

1. References:

- a. DA Pam 600-24
- b. ALARACT 320 / 2009
- c. All States Log P08-0009

2. The readiness of our National Guard is paramount in our ability to respond to state emergencies and fight and win on the battlefield. Sustaining the health and well being of our soldiers, family members, and DA civilians is a preeminent responsibility of Tennessee National Guard Senior Leaders and personnel at all levels. The National Guard's strategic approach to mitigating suicide and high-risk behavior helps build cohesive units. Promoting healthy lifestyles, reducing risk-seeking behavior and preventing suicide are priorities in this Command.

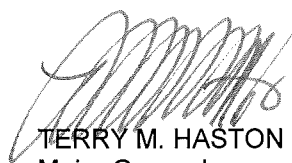
3. All Commanders, leaders, supervisors, Soldiers, and DA civilians are responsible for creating an environment that reduces the stigma of seeking help for behavioral health issues. On a daily basis, it is incumbent that all of us be aware of and recognize when someone may be at risk, and to be empowered to take appropriate action to save lives. Each of us are responsible for eliminating policies, procedures, and actions that inadvertently discriminate, punish, or discourage soldiers or employees from seeking professional counseling

4. To this end, ensure that no Soldier is belittled for requesting assistance from behavioral health professionals and social workers. Leaders will utilize an extraordinary degree of discretion when identifying and sharing information regarding Soldiers seeking help.

5. Each life lost to suicide is one life too many. Suicide prevention spans the gamut of effort from prevention to intervention to post-intervention. Each of us has a personal role to play in preventing suicide. Task forces (such as the Community Health Promotion Council) and teams identify trends. Annual training and refresher training provide information for intervention. Response teams assist the commander in the event of a suicide.

6. There are numerous resources available for those in need of help. See enclosure one. From a fundamental perspective, the Army's "ACE" – Ace, Care, Escort – initiate reflects this command's perspective on caring for the Army's most vital resource, our Soldiers.

7. The JFHQ Suicide Prevention Program Manager for the Tennessee National Guard is CPT Beth Nielsen. CPT Beth Nielsen can be reached at 615-313-0736 or elizabeth.nielsen@us.army.mil.

  
TERRY M. HASTON  
Major General  
The Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

A