



COMMANDING GENERAL'S POLICY STATEMENT ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

Our goal at MCIPAC-MCBB is to not lose one single Marine, sailor, DoD civilian, host nation employee, or family member to the tragedy of suicide. Accomplishing this will take the concerted effort, personal involvement, availability, and approachability of every individual in our command. Each of us must work to establish an environment in which every individual - without hesitation - can approach their leaders with an expectation that there will be an eagerness to help solve problems without judgment or retribution.

Preventing suicide will require us to be active (not passive), have empathy (not sympathy), be proactive (not reactive), and take a personal interest in improving the lives of others, balanced with a sense of responsibility and accountability for all we survey. This will require a hyper vigilant approach in which we are ready to ask the difficult questions to help identify at-risk individuals, and then to provide immediate intervention, if required, to prevent losing an irreplaceable member of our team. If you see, hear, or think anything implying someone has lost hope, swift action is necessary; never assume you are over-reacting. Do not minimize the matter and never promise you will keep it a secret. Get help immediately. Use your chain of command to inform them of the situation. Find someone. Never leave a person alone who is even remotely contemplating suicide: let them know that you care and want to help, and stay with them until they are in safe hands.

Make no mistake: preventing suicide is a challenge that will require a serious intellectual, individual, organizational, and leadership commitment. Do not hesitate to help someone who is in a downward spiral. Get involved - a mad friend is better than a dead friend. If you are the one experiencing depression or thoughts of suicide - do not hesitate to seek support. It shows strength of character to ask for help, and all members of MCIPAC-MCBB will respect that strength. There are many resources, both within and outside the chain of command, which are available. Suicide is never a solution to life's problems. Every person is valuable, and it must be emphasized to anyone, regardless of rank or job, that they will receive help if they ask.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Bowers". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

WILLIAM J. BOWERS
BRIGADIER GENERAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING GENERAL, MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS PACIFIC-MARINE
CORPS BASE CAMP BUTLER

24 HOUR RESOURCES:

DSTRESS LINE: 098-970-7734 (DSN: 645-7734)

DUTY CHAPLAIN: 090-6861-4730