

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Suicide Prevention and Resiliency INITIATIVES

- ➔ A director of psychological health at every wing.
- ➔ Stand-downs for suicide and accident prevention training. An Air Guard stand-down is imminent.
- ➔ Mandatory annual suicide prevention training.
- ➔ Use of the ACE program, developed by the Army, at every wing. ACE stands for Ask, Care, Escort.
- ➔ Use of Ramstein Air Base's new Air Force-specific deployment transition center to target high-risk deployers, such as those in the security forces, explosive ordnance disposal, intelligence and civil engineering fields.
- ➔ Uniform investigation of all suicides to gather data, better understand causes and improve prevention strategies.

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- ➔ Encourage states and territories to share best practices.
- ➔ A national, Guard-wide health promotion and prevention workshop that last month included a focus on resiliency and suicide prevention.
- ➔ Partnerships with national and community organizations, such as the American Red Cross, behavioral health specialists and clergy.
- ➔ Use of the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program.
- ➔ Use of master resiliency training to increase assets available to commanders to improve Soldier resiliency.
- ➔ Use of social media to reach at-risk individuals. "This has been hugely effective in identifying and rectifying problems," said Army Lt. Col. Ashleah Bechtel, Army National Guard Soldier and family support operations officer.
- ➔ A suicide prevention program manager in every state and territory and the District of Columbia at the joint force headquarters level.

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