

20 September 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR All Eighth Army Soldiers and Civilians

SUBJECT: Eighth Army Command Policy Letter #11, Value of Life: Army Health and Wellbeing Promotion, Ready and Resiliency, Integrated Prevention Advisory Group, Risk Reduction, and Suicide Prevention Program

1. References:

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 600-92, Army Suicide Prevention Program, 8 August 2023.
- b. AR 350-53, Comprehensive Soldier Family Fitness, 25 March 2024.
- c. AR 600-63, Army Health Promotion, 14 April 2015.

d. Memorandum, SECARMY, subject: Army Directive 2018-07 (Prioritizing efforts – Readiness and Lethality), 13 April 2018 and Update 7, 25 May 2018; Update 17, 28 November 2018; Update 23, 08 November 2018.

2. Applicability. This policy applies to all Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers, all tenant Units and Department of the Army Civilian employees assigned or attached to Eighth Army (8A).

3. Purpose. To establish and provide guidance for the 8A health and wellbeing, readiness and resiliency, risk reduction, and the prevention of suicide using programs and trainings to bridge capability gaps, build a coalition of community partners, and sustain effective strategies.

4. Background. The strength of the 8A -Team is paramount to our ability to "Fight Tonight" and WIN, and sustaining the health and well-being of our Soldiers, Families, Civilians, and Korean workforce is a fundamental responsibility of all leaders and personnel. Promoting a healthy lifestyle, reducing risky behaviors, and preventing suicide are priorities of 8A leadership. 8A VALUES LIFE and it is paramount that all leaders instill the belief that suicide is preventable and that help is available..."One Team Strength."

5. Responsibilities. Every member of the 8A team is responsible for creating an environment free from the stigma of help seeking or barriers from any issue requiring care. Preventing suicide is complex and no one can do it alone. It is of utmost importance to RECOGNIZE when someone may be at RISK of self-harm, RESPOND

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APPROPRIATELY to save lives, REMOVE STIGMA, and REWARD steward LEADERSHIP. Leaders will exercise an extraordinary degree of discretion when identifying and sharing information regarding personnel seeking help and will treat all with dignity and respect.

6. Implementation. All Commanders, leaders, and civilian supervisors will follow implementation guidance as outlined in all regulations, 8A OPORDs, FRAGOs, and memoranda, pertinent to health and well-being promotion, risk reduction, readiness and resiliency, integrated prevention, alcohol and substance abuse prevention, suicide prevention, and intervention, and/or postvention trainings, and additional suicide awareness related observed national events.

7. Training. Commanders will execute the following Value of Life training. Listed below are trainings that vary utilizing face-to-face training coupled with online components and are tracked the Digital Training Management System (DTMS).

a. <u>Ready and Resilient (R2) Performance Center Engage training.</u> This training focuses on prevention. Engage training develops Soldier's ability and skill to enhance bystander intervention. The Engage skill is designed to teach all Soldiers and DA Civilians to recognize a potentially harmful situation or interaction and the skills to choose to respond in a way that could positively influence the outcome. Engage training is two hours and the suggested battle rhythm is once per tour.

b. <u>Ask, Care, Escort (ACE) training.</u> ACE is an Army-approved, integrated, and modular suicide-prevention and awareness training for Soldiers, leaders, Civilians, and Family members. The objective of ACE is to support the development of knowledge on suicide-related help-seeking behaviors and stigma, protective and risk factors, stressors and warning signs, early crisis intervention and postvention principles.

c. <u>ACE-Suicide Intervention (ACE-SI) training</u>. ACE–SI course is intended for Army leaders E–5 and above, DA Civilian supervisors, Family members, Unit Ministry Teams, Military Police, and USACID agents. ACE–SI is also available for other professional support staff to include Resiliency and Wellness Center Staff, and others as deemed necessary by commanders.

d. <u>Ask, Care, Escort - Family member and DA Civilian training.</u> Commanders will ensure suicide prevention training is available to Family members and DA Civilians in their Command. This training is not mandatory; however, Commanders should encourage participation.

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8. Resources. All leaders are highly encouraged to use all available community resources, hotlines, and national resources:

a. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: A technical package for preventing Suicide Strategies: https://www.cdc.gov; search for Technical Packages for Violence Prevention and select the Preventing Suicide Technical Package.

b. Community Resource Guide (CRG) - https://crg.health.mil/guides/usarpac /Pages/default.aspx.

c. Korea-wide Suicide Crisis Lifeline - 0808-555-118; DSN 118 is a 24/7, toll-free hotline where the Military/Veteran's Crisis Line can be reached by pressing "1" Additional number – 988 or text Got5 to 741741, via chat 988lifeline.org/chat.

d. Military OneSource – 1-800-342-9647, militaryonesource.mil offers a free wide array of call-in services. The phone is answered by an individual who is a professional counselor with master's degree-level qualifications.

e. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (https://www.samhsa.gov) helps leaders locate BH resources in the communities in which Soldiers live. The State locater maps out resources by State and provides contact information.

f. The Veterans Crisis Line/Military Crisis Line (dial 988 then Press 1) offer free, confidential, 24-hour access services, 365 days per year to assist members in crisis or concerned friends and families. For Korea dial 00–808–555–118.

g. The Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline (1–800–984–8523) is hosted by the ARNG and provides support to Soldiers and Families. During hurricanes, floods, and other declared emergencies, services are expanded to become a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week resource.

h. A comprehensive listing of hotlines by State can be found at https://sprc.org/states/ and search for "Suicide Prevention Hotlines".

9. This policy supersedes all previous 8A Suicide Prevention Program Policy Letters.

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10. The proponent for this policy is Eighth Army Ready and Resilient Program Manager at DSN (315) 755-0741.

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