



COMMANDING OFFICER 1ST SUPPLY BATTALION  
STATEMENT ON

## Suicide Prevention



Marines and Sailors,

There is nothing more important than the health and well-being of our Marines and Sailors. Unfortunately, suicide is a real concern and the frequency of Marines and Sailors committing suicide is growing. We must work to eliminate suicide and assist Marines and Sailors at risk in order to prevent unnecessary tragedies.

All Marines and Sailors are serving during a challenging time and there are many difficult issues to deal with. The stressed placed on Marines and Sailors today is the highest it has ever been. Fortunately, there are many resources available to help personnel cope and thrive. These resources are available with no prejudices and Marines and Sailors can participate in treatment programs without shame or embarrassment. If you are physically injured, you would seek medical treatment. The same concept applies for suicide prevention and seeking resiliency resources.

Our biggest challenge is Marines and Sailors not asking for help and the failure to recognize if a person is in need of help. If you need help, we stand ready to assist and will do everything possible to get you the necessary treatment. Simultaneously, everyone in the Command must understand the signs of suicide to enhance risk identification and early intervention. This will require proactive leadership to know our Marines and Sailors, understand them, and be an available presence in their lives. We must create a command environment that fosters interaction, togetherness, and the willingness to intervene when an individual is exhibiting at risk behavior.

As Marines and Sailors, we must pride ourselves on "taking care of our own". In order to maintain this proud tradition, we must embrace our leadership responsibilities. Our valuable asset is the individual marine and Sailor, and we must ensure their health and well-being. If you are at risk and need help, tell someone. You can tell anyone in your chain of command or you can reach out to a friend. Do not be embarrassed or too proud to ask for assistance. Asking for help is the best thing you can do and with no questions asked, we will get the help you need.

The Suicide Prevention Officer is:

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joshua Oakes at (760) 454-5253 or at [joshua.oakes@usmc.mil](mailto:joshua.oakes@usmc.mil).

Additional resources:

- National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255 and 988 after 16 July 2022.
- 22 Area Branch Medical Clinic- Front desk- 760-725-3785
  - Corpsman Office: 760-725-4143
  - Provider (MO/IDC) Office: 760-725-5163
- Supply BN OSCAR- 760-689-5675
- Supply BN Chaplain (completely confidential, nothing goes into medical record): 334-707-2343
- Military and Family Life Counseling (MFLC - best for family-based issues, therapy provided by a civilian, nothing goes into medical record): 760-573-3222
- Community Counseling Center (CCC): 760-763-3222

Reference: MCO 1720.2A

Semper Fidelis,

T. M. MENKE

Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

Commanding Officer, 1st Supply Battalion