Army Health Promotion and Risk Reduction Campaign

DoD Suicide Prevention Task Force

Mr. Walter Morales – Army Suicide Prevention Program Manager
Mr. Bruce Shahbaz - Army Suicide Prevention Task Force

1 October 2009
Army Health Promotion and Risk Reduction Campaign

Changing Our Perspective

“The Army’s charter is more about improving the physical, mental, and spiritual health of our soldiers and their families than it is about suicide prevention. If we do the first, we are convinced that the second will happen.

“Unfortunately, in a growing segment of the Army's population, we have seen increased stress and anxiety manifest itself through high-risk behavior, including acts of violence, excessive use of alcohol, drug abuse, and reckless driving.”

GEN Peter W. Chiarelli, VCSA
### Calendar Year

Active Duty Confirmed and Pending Suicides (CY99 – CY09)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CY99</th>
<th>CY00</th>
<th>CY01</th>
<th>CY02</th>
<th>CY03</th>
<th>CY04</th>
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Cadet is inclusive of Active Army

Source:
- DCIPS and AFME
- Not on Active Duty - ARNG Directorate and US Army Reserve Command

As of 28 Sep 09  Updated weekly
Army Health Promotion and Risk Reduction Campaign

Calendar Year
Active Duty Suicides Comparison 01 Jan- 28 Sep 09 (CY99 – CY09)

- Data include Active Duty: Active Army (includes Cadets), USAR, ARNG
- Source: DCIPS and AFME
- Note: Year-to-Date “Pending” Data not available for CY01 - CY03

As of 28 Sep 09  Updated weekly
### Calendar Year

#### Not On Active Duty Confirmed and Pending Suicides (CY03 – CY09)

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Source: ARNG Directorate and US Army Reserve Command

As of 28 Sep 09  Updated weekly
## Army Health Promotion and Risk Reduction Campaign

### Calendar Year

**Not On Active Duty Suicides Comparison 01 Jan – 28 Sept 09 (CY01-CY09)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Year</th>
<th>Confirmed</th>
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Source: ARNG Directorate and US Army Reserve Command

As of 28 Sep 09  Updated weekly

**Note:**
- ARNG Year-to-Date “Pending” Data not available for CY01 - CY08
- ARNG “Confirmed” Data not available for CY01
- USAR Year-to-Date “Pending" Data not available for CY01 - CY08
- USAR “Confirmed” Data not available for CY01 - CY04
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- Army suicide rate has been historically lower than the US population rate
- From 2001 to 2006, the “adjusted” US population suicide rate was steady at 19.5:100K while the Army rate doubled from 10:100K to 20.2:100K

* Data as of 31 Aug 09
Army Health Promotion and Risk Reduction Campaign

Confirmed: 71
Pending: 39

* Data as of 31 Aug 09
Not on Active Duty Confirmed Suicides by MOS / Branch
CY09 (as of: 31 August 2009)

Confirmed: 20
Pending: 34

Source: AFME, HRC, DCIPS
Active Duty Includes Active Army, USAR and ARNG on Active Duty

* Data as of 31 Aug 09
Mission

Army Health Promotion, Risk Reduction Campaign (ACHP) is the means by which HQDA will direct actions necessary to implement immediate and enduring policy solutions to improve and immediately affect Army health promotion, risk reduction and suicide prevention programs.

**Intent:**
- Meet SA and CSA guidance to reduce Army suicide rate
- Analyze existing systems and processes for validity and redundancy
- Decrease stigma, change Army culture and create a rapid shift to socialize positive attitudes toward effectively addressing behavioral health issues
- Ensure care systems are holistic and integrated

**Actions:**
- Established Army Suicide Prevention Task Force – 23 Mar 09
- Published ACPHP Campaign Plan - 16 Apr 09
Methods (Key Tasks)

- Synchronize Army Health Promotion, Risk Reduction, and Suicide Prevention-related policy, programs, and resources
- Transition integral policy, programs, and processes to appropriate Army proponents and coordinating staffs
- Adapt current policies to the transformed Army
- Optimize existing programs
- Develop needed policies as appropriate
- Align behavioral health providers
- Review impact of ARFORGEN and Generating Force personnel resourcing
- Collaborate with and support the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
### Current Sync Matrix Task Status

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<td><strong>170</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
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</table>

170 of 240 Tasks Complete 28 Sep 09
213 of 240 Tasks Complete 15 Oct 09
226 of 240 Tasks Complete 01 Nov 09
233 of 240 Tasks Complete 01 Dec 09
240 of 240 Tasks Complete 01 Apr 10

\[71\% \quad 89\% \quad 94\% \quad 97\% \quad 100\%\]
Army is taking an immediate 2-prong approach to Soldier and Family Health Transformation

Comprehensive Soldier Fitness

Increasing the Resilience of Soldiers and Families by training specific mental and physical resilience techniques, and increasing their physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and family strengths

Army Health Promotion, Risk Reduction Campaign

Implementing immediate and enduring Policy - DOTMLPF- Resource solutions necessary to improve and, where necessary, immediately affect Army health promotion, risk reduction, and other prevention / treatment-related programs

* Data as of 31 Aug 09
Way Ahead

• Expand the Task Force focus to include examination and assessment of the full scope of programs that attend to the overall mental health and well-being of the force
  – Identify / categorize / assess plans and programs that address Army “stressors”

• NIMH: Collaborative study to identify rapidly and scientifically “modifiable” risk and protective factors and moderators of suicidal behavior, to help inform the Army’s ongoing efforts to prevent suicide and improve Soldier’s overall psychological health and functioning

• Development of metrics and standards to measure program success

• Resourced identified requirements
  – FY09-10 / $90M
  – FY11-15 / $545M in the Army POM
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End State

• All programs optimized
• Health promotion and risk reduction programs coordinated / integrated
• Stigma associated with seeking behavioral health care is reduced
• Barriers to traditional and nontraditional behavioral health care are removed
• Leaders informed and empowered to guide Soldiers to appropriate care
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Request for Support

• Adjust DoDSER / ASER reporting requirements:
  • Add “Pending” category for suicide deaths
  • Expand suicide attempts to include outpatient / Emergency Department treatment
  • Initiate report sooner (within 30 days)

• Increase visibility of DoD research efforts
  • Maximize resources
  • Increase collaboration
  • Accelerate “best practices”
Questions / Discussion