



2012 DoD/VA Suicide Prevention Conference

AAS / USMC Psychological Autopsy Study

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Agenda

- Marine Corps Suicide Prevention Mission
- Autopsy Study Origin
- Current Surveillance Effort

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Suicide Prevention in the Corps

Vision

A strong and ready Corps in which *no Marine is left behind*.

Mission

Suicide is prevented through *leadership*. Leaders foster *total Marine fitness* in mind, body, and spirit, and leaders create a command climate in which Marines will *engage helping services early*, when problems are most manageable.

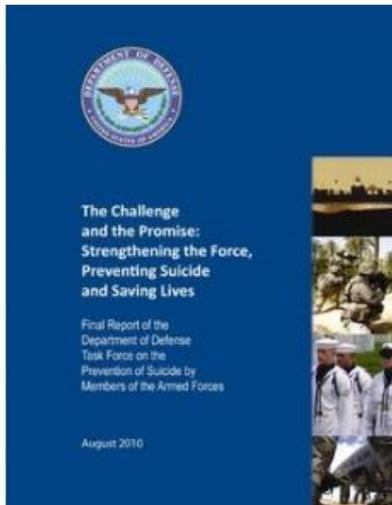
Strategy

Promote understanding and prevention of the factors, signs, climate, and processes leading up to suicide ideation, attempt, and death; while simultaneously identifying and enhancing preventive factors. *Develop* in all Marines the *skills* needed to *recognize* suicide warning signs, *ask* about suicide, *care* through listening and support, and *escort* to help Marines who show risk for suicide.

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Study Origin



- 2010 DoD Task Force Report on the Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces
 - ✓ Recommended the DoD Suicide Event Report be continually improved
 - ✓ Recommended **psychological autopsy** approach to understanding suicides
- Psychological Autopsy impractical for every suicide; lack of return
- Focused study of 2010 and 2011 suicides

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Current Surveillance Effort

- Personnel Casualty Reports (Military Personnel Services [Casualty])
- Death Brief and Command Investigation (owned by unit)
- Eight-Day Brief (owned by Safety Division)
- DoD Suicide Event Report (OSD Telehealth and Technology)
 - Suicide attempt report (Military Treatment Facility or unit medical staff)
 - Suicide report (completed by unit)
- DoD Medical Examiner Report (Armed Forces Medical Examiner System)
- Local coroner, medical examiner reports; death certificates (via Marine Forces Reserve)
- NCIS Report

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



*“We will keep faith with our Marines,
our Sailors, and our families.”*

General J. F. Amos

35th Commandant of the Marine Corps

Marine and Family Programs Division

