

MARINE AIR CONTROL GROUP 18

COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY STATEMENT ON SUICIDE PREVENTION



One of the key Marine Corps Leadership Principles is to "Know your Marines and look out for their welfare." Suicide is the second leading cause of death in the Marine Corps. Even one death by suicide is too many. It is a tragic and preventable loss, causing untold grief to loved ones and units.

No Marine would leave a wounded Marine in battle - so we must adopt this mindset for our troubled Marines. Many Marines worry that seeking help will make them appear "weak" to their peers or leaders. Each of us is responsible for encouraging those Marines experiencing challenges to seek help for their problems. The small-unit leader may be the first to identify the "signals" of a potential suicide risk Marine. The keys to prevention are to provide aid to persons at suspected risk and follow the acronym **AID LIFE**.

A-Ask -- Are you thinking about killing yourself
I-Intervene immediately
D-Don't keep it a secret -- Let someone know

L-Locate help
I-Inform the Chain of Command of the situation
F-Find someone to stay with the person-- Do not leave them alone
E-Expedite -- Get help now!

Assistance is always available through our Chaplains, your chain of command, duty standers, and the Naval Hospital. Chaplains are particularly well trained to discuss these matters with you in a caring and personal manner. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can be reached via the following contact information:

MACG-18 Chaplain - 090-6861-4634 or 636-3156
1st MAW Duty Chaplain - 090-6861-4730

The MACG-18 family is committed to taking care of our own. Have the courage to step up and seek help if you are struggling with depression or thoughts of suicide. If you know someone who needs help, get involved and seek assistance for them. **ALWAYS DO THE RIGHT THING!**

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P.D. Patterson Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

P. D. PATTERSON, JR
COLONEL, U. S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING OFFICER
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