



MALS-12 COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON SUICIDE PREVENTION



Every Marine and Sailor in this squadron has value to the Marine Corps and more important to their family members and friends. I hold no other responsibility more sacred than ensuring every Marine and Sailor successfully completes their tour of duty and returns safely to their loved ones and friends. Each and every one of us has the responsibility to care and monitor the mental the mental well-being of their fellow Marines and Sailors. We are never too busy to talk to each other and gauge how we are faring in our day-to-day lives.

By now, each of you should have received the Never Leave a Marine Behind suicide prevention training mandated by MARADMIN 658/12 and 294/13. Every Marine and Sailor will continue to receive annual training on this topic. I charge every Marine and Sailor to use the RACE method to prevent any suicides, attempts, gestures, and ideations in our squadron:

Recognize-The signs of distress
Ask – About the signs of distress
Care – About the person and show it
Escort – The person to safety

Starting with me, the chain of command will ensure our Marines and Sailors are aware of the available resources such as the Chaplain, Marine Corps Community Services, Medical and fellow Marines and Sailors. These resources are available with confidentiality and discreetness with no negative impact to one's career. Asking for help is not a weakness, but a form of courage unto its own. We must ensure those in our charge take this to heart.

Our squadron operational tempo is challenging and we have many requirements to satisfy, but we must never place monitoring the well-being of those in our charge low on our priority list. Only through constant communication and a strong mentorship program can we reduce the possibility of one of our own inflicting harm on themselves.

John A. Fallon

John A. Fallon
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12