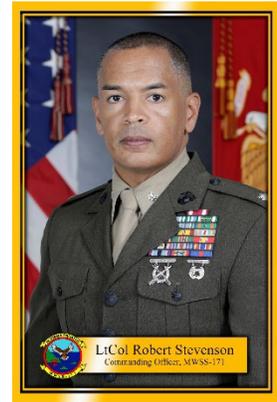




MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 171

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12

1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING



## Policy on Suicide Prevention

*“Suicidal behaviors are a barrier to readiness that have lasting effects on Marines and Service Members attached to Marine Commands, Families, and the Marine Corps. Effective suicide prevention requires coordinated efforts within a prevention framework dedicated to promoting mental, physical, spiritual, and social fitness; strengthening healthy stress responses; mitigating stressors that interfere with mission readiness; identifying Marines at high risk or in crisis; caring for Marines with suicidal behaviors and ensuring the Marine receives proper treatment; and fully reintegrating Marines who are found fit to return to duty.” –MCO 1720.2A*

I am committed to preventing Marines, Sailors, and their families from experiencing the trauma associated with the act of suicide or the attempted act of suicide. No person is immune to suicide, and its occurrence affects the entire team, rightfully making prevention a team effort. The Squadron’s Suicide Prevention Program exists to ensure that individuals who are at risk of suicide receive the necessary support and resources. The program has been designed to educate the force on how to identify signs of suicide, prevention training opportunities, and making resources available to those in need. I encourage Marines and Sailors’ to participate in program activities, such as annual Suicide Prevention Awareness training and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Effectiveness in this program is a matter of life and death. We must continue to ensure we reinforce the program’s objectives to maintain our most precious assets, our people.

The Marine Corps depends on us, the entire Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Team, to be oriented on mission accomplishment in both garrison and abroad. We need to have all hands on deck in good physical and mental health to do this. Preventing suicide from occurring in our ranks is an essential element of readiness. I urge all Sentinels to take care of those to your left and right and use your chain of command to help yourself or your fellow Marines or Sailors receive the assistance and support necessary to get back in the fight. There is no shame in self-referring or reaching out to others if struggling with thoughts of suicide. On the contrary, it is courageous to take steps to address those feelings.

We will do anything and everything we can to support each other through life’s trials and stresses. Sentinels take care of each other. Anything less is unacceptable. Let’s bring everyone home.

### Point of Contact

- 1stLt Rebekah P. Ryan, MWSS-171 Suicide Prevention Program Officer, rebekah.ryan@usmc.mil / DSN 315-253-5677.
- LT Grant Eubanks, Command Chaplain, MWSS-171

### Additional Resources

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255

In Omnia Paratus

R. L. STEVENSON III  
Lieutenant Colonel, USMC  
Commanding Officer, MWSS-171