



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY STUDENT DETACHMENT
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FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29207

ATMT-LTB-SD

25 October 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR All personnel permanently assigned and/or attached to the United States Army Student Detachment (USASD)

SUBJECT: Policy Memorandum #5 – **Army Suicide Prevention Program (ASPP)**

1. References:

- a. AR 600-20, Army Command Policy
- b. AR 600-63, Army Health Promotion
- c. Army G-1, Suicide Prevention Program web page, (<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide/default.asp>).
- d. Special Troops Battalion Policy Memorandum #7

2. Soldiers are the heartbeat of our Army. Suicide is a tragic event that affects the soul of our families, friends, and the unit. I am absolutely committed to protecting the emotional health and mental fitness of each of our Soldiers, Family members, DA Civilians, Students and Leaders.

3. With the complexity and geographical dispersion of the USASD population, it is paramount that we encourage open and honest communication, ensure that our fellow leaders are educated on the mental health resources available to them, and take a vested interest in the mental health and wellbeing of our team. There are several methods that we will use to ensure that we collectively meet this intent.

a. **Training.** In accordance with AR 600-63 annual ASPP Training is mandatory for all Soldiers, Students, Leaders and DA Civilians regardless of location. The training is optional, but highly encouraged for Family members. The training increases awareness of suicide risk factors and warning signs, and teaches intervention skills to respond promptly, effectively and deal with at-risk individuals. Training and certification is a mandatory requirement during the semi-annual personnel asset inventory (PAI). Soldiers, Students, Leaders and DA Civilians will complete annual suicide prevention training in accordance with the USASD training schedule. Suicide training prevention requirements can be found at the Army G-1, Suicide Prevention Program web page at <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide/training.asp>.

b. **Leader checks.** Leaders must get ahead of the power curve—we need to take the steps to identify our high-risk Soldiers and provide them assistance before they enter a suicidal state. Take the time to get to know your peers, leaders, and subordinates. Don't be afraid to talk to each other, ask the challenging questions, and nurture your relationships. Developing an environment of trust and open communication is the first line of defense against suicide.

c. **Outreach.** I encourage each of our Student Leaders to pursue different methods of outreach. Ensure that you make connections with other Soldiers and leaders in your area. Continue to communicate with your mentors. Most importantly, take a moment to periodically contact the leadership and staff within the USASD. We want to know how you are doing. Your wellbeing is our mission.

d. **Immediate action.** If a Soldier, Student, Leader or DA Civilians within the organization demonstrates suicidal behavior, it is imperative that you contact either me or the 1SG immediately. It is urgent that we get them to a chaplain, emergency room, or mental health services swiftly.

4. I implore each of you to become actively engaged in preventing suicide. Our collective actions will only serve to strengthen our team and demonstrate our dedication to the USASD team.

5. The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned at (803) 751-5305.

ALEJANDRA D. PEACH
CPT, AG
Commanding