

DSPO Services & Support

- Chairs the Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction Committee (SPARRC), which facilitates communication and best practice dissemination among the Services
- Represents the DoD on the Federal Partners for Suicide Prevention information exchange
- Participates on the National Action Alliance in creating a National Strategy for Suicide Prevention
- Oversees the development of the Defense/Veterans Affairs Suicide Data Repository for surveillance and research
- Acts on the Military Suicide Research Consortium Board
- Assists Defense components and other entities with training and education
- Establishes DoD-wide policy for the Defense Suicide Prevention Program
- Upholds the Secretary of Defense Memorandum on Suicide Prevention for Department of Defense Personnel (OSD002290-12)
- Supports the Joint Chiefs of Staff Total Force Fitness framework
- Promotes program evaluation for planning, programming, executing and budgeting efficiently and effectively

Military Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

For additional information contact us at:

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Brochure
ID#1001



Office of the Under Secretary of Defense
Personnel & Readiness



Defense Suicide Prevention Office





DSPO: Dedicated to creating a resilient and mission-ready force

Our Mission

Established in November 2011, the Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) is part of the Department of Defense's Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. DSPO oversees the development of policies, procedures and messages to prevent suicide across the U.S. Armed Forces.



To reduce the impact of suicide on Service members and their families, we use a range of approaches related to policy, research, communications, law and behavioral health.

We work with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and National Guard Bureau to support our Service members and strengthen a resilient and ready force.

We strive to help foster a climate that encourages Service members to seek help for their behavioral health issues.

DSPO oversees all strategic development, implementation, centralization, standardization, communication and evaluation of DoD suicide and risk reduction programs, policies and surveillance activities.

Our Goals

DSPO has five strategic goals:

Goal 1: Provide policy guidance that fosters a command climate which emphasizes and encourages help-seeking behavior, reduces stigma and builds resiliency.

Goal 2: Promote Total Force Fitness elements by identifying effective suicide prevention training strategies.

Goal 3: Facilitate access to quality care and supportive services to strengthen resilience and readiness and assist survivors and families.

Goal 4: Establish, monitor and analyze the results of research and surveillance activities to identify risk factors and inform effective programs and policies.

Goal 5: Foster cooperation to develop suicide prevention information and resources among stakeholders from federal agencies; public, private, and international entities; and institutions of higher education.



Guidance & Authority

The Defense Task Force on the *Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces* offered a range of recommendations for DoD that DSPO is working with its partners to meet.

In 2012, Congress mandated a Suicide Prevention Program as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

National Defense Authorization Act

SEC. 533. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM.

(a) Program Enhancement.--The Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions to enhance the suicide prevention program of the Department of Defense through the provision of suicide prevention information and resources to members of the Armed Forces from their initial enlistment or appointment through their final retirement or separation.

(b) Cooperative Effort.--The Secretary of Defense shall develop suicide prevention information and resources in consultation with--

(1) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(2) to the extent appropriate, institutions of higher education and other public and private entities, including international entities, with expertise regarding suicide prevention.

(c) Preseparation Counseling Regarding Suicide Prevention Resources.--Section 1142(b)(8) of title 10, *United States Code*, is amended by inserting before the period the following: 'and the availability to the member and dependents of suicide prevention resources following separation from the armed forces'.



Visit us on the web at:

www.suicideoutreach.org