

# SAFETY ALERT



AFZF-GA

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
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18 November 2003

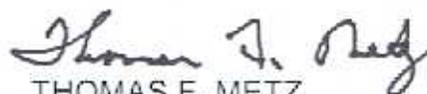
MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Suicide Prevention - Safety Alert 04-01

1. The tragic death of a young soldier from the 4ID in theater marked the 12th suicide of the calendar year for III Corps. This is an alarming number of suicides for the Corps and requires renewed efforts to address the issue. All III Corps leaders are responsible for ensuring suicide prevention education is provided to every Soldier in the Command. Be sure your program is current and functioning. Provide the time and effort to maximize your program's efforts. Use every available tool to get the message to your Soldiers.
2. The attached article entitled, "The ABCs of Suicide Prevention," is reprinted from the August and September 2003 issues of the *Army Ground Risk-Management Information - Countermeasure* magazine. LTC Jerry Swanner, Department of the Army Suicide Prevention Officer, has authored a useful condensation of information regarding suicide prevention measures. Take the time to read it and make it available to all leaders and subordinates.
3. The article discusses the Army Suicide Prevention Program (ASPP) and lists some refinements to the program, which the offices of the Army G1, Army Surgeon General, and the Chief of Chaplains recommended and instituted in 2001. The result of these refinements in the program produced the Army's lowest suicide record in 26 years. However, since the events of 11 September 2001 the suicide prevention program has been challenged. Suicide rates are climbing and it has become more important than ever to use every tool available to combat the rise in suicides.
4. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of educating your Soldiers in suicide prevention. Increasing awareness has shown to be instrumental in lowering suicide rates. Ensure the program is a part of your units' training and make its message visible to your Soldiers at all times.

**ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS**

Encl  
as

  
THOMAS F. METZ  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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