



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND  
PSC BOX 20116  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NC 28542-0116

MARSOCO 1700.2  
SURG  
18 Jun 07

U. S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND ORDER 1700.2

From: Commander  
To: Distribution List

Subj: SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

Ref: (a) MCO P1700.24B  
(b) MCO P1700.27A  
(c) MCO P3040.4E

Encl: (1) Suicide Awareness and Prevention Resources

1. Situation. Suicides and suicidal events destroy families; negatively affect morale; rob our force of valuable personnel; and adversely impact upon mission readiness and war fighting capability.

2. Mission. To provide policy, procedures, and assign responsibilities for the U. S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command (MARSOC) Suicide Prevention Program. The MARSOC Suicide Prevention Program will focus on training and education to identify potential high risk behaviors associated with suicide, implement means to track suicide and suicidal behavior within MARSOC, and comply with required reporting of suicidal events per reference (a).

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. To establish a vigorous community approach to prevent suicides within MARSOC, and integrate multidisciplinary capabilities to assist commanders in implementing local programs that reflect best practices in suicide prevention. These include, awareness education, health promotion, life skills training, leadership training, crisis intervention and risk management, treatment, prevention services, and casualty reporting and trend analysis.

(2) Concept of Operations. MARSOC shall establish a Suicide Prevention Team to meet on a quarterly basis, chaired by the MARSOC Chaplain. The team shall consist of representatives from all MARSOC components dealing regularly with suicide prevention and training programs, reporting and tracking of suicides and suicidal events, and

providing mental health and pastoral care. The team will review suicidal events, analyze any trends, make recommendations for preventative action, and ensure that the suicide awareness programs are instituted throughout MARSOC. This team will maintain and provide relevant data for inclusion in required reports and briefs.

b. Tasks

(1) Major Subordinate Commands

(a) Assign a Command Suicide Awareness Program Coordinator (CSAPC) to establish and oversee the command suicide awareness and prevention program with appropriate emphasis on awareness and prevention training per references (b) and (c). The Suicide Awareness Program Coordinator shall track referrals and follow-up care of individual Marines and Sailors.

(b) Comply with required reporting of suicides and suicidal behavioral events per reference (a) and provide a copy to MARSOC Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator.

(c) Suicide Awareness Program Coordinators will work directly with the Command Surgeon to facilitate continuity of care and to identify specific needs of their respective commands.

(d) Ensure medical and religious services personnel work in close coordination to provide services and track counseling and follow on care. Close coordination between these two agencies will enable accurate and complete tracking of suicide or behavioral events. Religious Ministry Teams (RMT) will collect suicide related counseling statistics quarterly as directed by the MARSOC Chaplain and forward them to the MARSOC Surgeon.

(2) Assistant Chief of Staff G-1

(a) Provide a representative to serve on the MARSOC Suicide Prevention Team.

(b) Supervise the reporting of Special Patient (SpecPat) personnel casualty reports on attempted suicide and suicide gestures verified by medical authority per reference (c).

(3) Chaplain

(a) Serve as the MARSOC Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator.

(b) Chair the MARSOC Suicide Prevention Team.

(c) Consolidate reports on suicide events, training, and counseling from the MARSOC Suicide Prevention Team for inclusion in required reports and briefs.

(d) Appoint additional representatives to serve on the MARSOC Suicide Prevention Team as necessary.

(e) Ensure all religious services personnel are well versed in suicide awareness and prevention training and prepared to assist in providing this training to units on an as needed basis.

(f) Provide the MARSOC Suicide Prevention Team a quarterly update of Religious Ministry Team counseling statistics specifically dealing with suicide issues and suicidal ideations to assist in identifying MARSOC-wide trends.

(4) Surgeon

(a) Designate a MARSOC Medical Department Officer as a member of MARSOC Suicide Prevention Team.

(b) Ensure all medical and psychological services personnel are well versed in suicide awareness and prevention training and prepared to assist in providing this training to units on an as needed basis.

(c) Provide liaison between the Naval Hospital and the Suicide Prevention Team to facilitate coordination between the various medical specialties to ensure access to care and accurate tracking and reporting of suicide events.

(d) Provide the MARSOC Suicide Prevention Team a quarterly update of Medical Department encounters/referral statistics specifically dealing with suicide issues and suicidal ideations to assist in identifying MARSOC-wide trends.

(5) MARSOC/Marine Special Operations Support Group  
Psychological/Mental Health Section

(a) Provide a representative to serve on the MARSOC Suicide Prevention Team.

(b) Work in conjunction with the MARSOC Surgeon to ensure accurate tracking of personnel requiring initial and follow on medical treatment and provide the MARSOC Suicide Prevention Council a quarterly update of the number of personnel treated for all suicide events.

(c) Assist MARSOC units in coordination with supporting Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) and Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO) for Suicide Awareness/Prevention Training per reference (b). Formalized suicide awareness and prevention training will be provided to all units within MARSOC annually or as requested.

4. Administration and Logistics. This Order provides guidance in the development of Command Suicide Awareness Programs, supplementing DOD, Navy, and Marine Corps directives, instructions, and applicable Force Orders.

5. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is applicable to all MARSOC units as well as those assigned under the operational control of MARSOC during contingency operations.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.

  
C. E. KIRKLEY  
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION: A

SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION RESOURCES

1. Operational Stress Control and Readiness (OSCAR). OSCAR is the integration of behavioral health specialists and specially trained SNCO's into the active Marine Divisions to provide early intervention and reduce the effects of combat stress. HQMC POC: CMC (HS), DSN: 224-4477.

2. MCCS/Military One Source. Provides 24-7 information and referral services or counseling with Masters Degree-Level consultants via phone, e-mail, or internet. "One Source" also provides face-to-face counseling services as needed. This program is a key information and referral service for our Marines, Sailors and their families. Information is available on topics including, Coping With Deployments, Combat and Operational Stress, Depression, Finances, etc. "One Source" can be particularly useful for Reserve personnel who may not have access to services on base. HQMC POC: CMC (MRZ), DSN: 278-0295. "One Source" services can be reached at:

(a) 1-800-869-0278 in the United States

(b) 1-800-8690-2788 outside the United States

(c) Collect from outside the United States: 1-484-530-5908,  
TTY/TDD at 1-800-346-9188, or

(d) Online at [HTTPS://WWW.MCCSONESOURCE.COM](https://www.mccsonesource.com). The user ID is MARINES, password is "Semper Fi".

3. Spiritual Fitness Center (CREDO) Personal Growth Retreat. The Personal Growth Retreat (PGR) is the cornerstone of the Spiritual Fitness Center program. It is one of the many events/retreats provided by CREDO and provides individuals an opportunity to invest time in themselves while reflecting on their goals and future. The PGR serves as a catalyst in helping individuals focus on accepting reality, taking personal responsibility for their own lives and developing new perspectives in relationships with God, family, friends, the Military and the broader world in which they live. A PGR is not a Religious Retreat. Participants have the opportunity to relate to people in similar circumstances while experiencing unconditional acceptance. The PGR is a place to gain new found strength or explore issues that are important to you. For information about PGR and other Spiritual Fitness Center (CREDO) Retreats, see your unit Chaplain or call local Marine Corps Base Chaplains Office.

4. Mental Health Professionals. This includes doctors and corpsmen specifically trained as mental health professionals.

5. Chaplains and Religious Program Specialists.