



**2D COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION**  
**COMMANDING OFFICER'S**  
**SUICIDE PREVENTION**  
**POLICY STATEMENT**



Human life is precious, and every human life has inherent dignity and value. No human life is worthless, and no human life should be recklessly taken or thrown away. Suicide is a tragic event that irrevocably ruins and changes the lives of those who are left behind. While life events, or old wounds, can make us feel overwhelmed to the point that suicide seems like the only option, this is a lie. Each and every person struggling with suicidal thoughts or ideations is a valuable human being; by seeking help and working through your challenges you will be a stronger person and you will be able to provide invaluable help to others struggling in a dark place. Suicide is a *perceived* temporary fix to a *perceived* permanent problem.

It is incumbent on all leaders to promote and develop a climate of trust, belonging, and inclusiveness. This is the first line of defense in suicide prevention. Leaders must know their subordinates, be engaged in their lives, and step in to help when their Marines or Sailors are struggling with more of life's weight than they are prepared to carry. Strong, firm, caring, approachable, and engaged leadership will prevent a multitude of problems, suicide included.

Suicide prevention is a team activity. Leaders own the responsibility to set a climate, know their subordinates, and leverage resources on behalf of their personnel; but every Marine and Sailor, down to the lowest rank, plays a critical role in keeping an eye on their teammates and offering an encouraging word, a helping hand, and a listening ear when a friend or coworker is struggling. The importance of junior Marines and Sailors in observing, helping, and reporting cannot be overstated.

There is an abundance of resources available to assist us in the prevention effort. If you or someone you know needs help, here are just a few places you can turn: your supervisor and the chain of command, the Chaplain, the Military and Family Life Counselor (MFLC), our Force Preservation Specialist, the Deployment Readiness Coordinator, and the Marine Corps D-Stress Hotline at [www.dstressline.com](http://www.dstressline.com). In cases of emergency, just dial 911.

We must watch each other's back—we take care of our own. By identifying the warning signs of suicide and acting to prevent it, you can save a valuable life.

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