

**VOLUME XIII**  
**SENIOR REVIEW GROUP (SRG)**  
**THEMES/TRENDS and/or LESSONS LEARNED**  
**April – June 2011 SRG**

**1. Theme: High Risk Soldier Meters**

- Don't let the Soldier catch you by surprise – stay a step ahead; identify high risk behavior.
- A lack of high risk indicator(s) does not mean a Soldier is not at risk; leaders be prepared to “spot” this behavior.
- Identify the risk(s) as they pertain to drugs and alcohol.
- Leaders have an incomplete picture; not all indicators identify the problem.
- Keep the Soldiers updated on suicide/substance abuse programs; mitigate the potential risk of use as well as keeping the Soldier informed.
- Leaders at every level, be aware of potential risk in your Soldier's life.

**2. Theme: Enhance Communication Platform**

- Chain of command is responsible to improve Soldiers' lines of communication.
- Maintain open communication at all times.
- It may be hard to understand and/or recognize what is inside your Soldier's head, especially the Soldiers that are quiet ... find a way to communicate.
  - Commanders stay engaged; Soldiers have to know you're there for them.
  - Important for Soldiers to keep communication open, between themselves and Chain of Command...make this a part of your daily routine.

**3. Theme: The Responsibility of a Battle Buddy**

- It's not “snitching” if it saves your Soldier's life.
- Battle buddies check in on each other; especially when the Soldier's pattern is away from the norm.

- Battle buddies have a duty to take comments seriously; covering for a Soldier is not always acceptable – depends on the situation.
- Battle buddies are assigned for specific reasons – keep your battle “close”; know where they are at all times.
- Assign the appropriate battle for the Soldier’s situation ... make sure a Soldier’s battle is a “fit”; not just because there is a need.

#### **4. Theme: Behavioral Health (BH) / ASAP Short Circuits**

- Leadership and chain of command be aware of the Soldier’s BH history.
- Enforce policy: once cleared by the BH Specialist, allow your Soldier to PCS.
- BH accessibility...align your BH Specialist based on the military population.
- Develop a system to identify/track ASAP and behavioral health issues during in-processing...ensure Soldiers make follow-up appointments.
- First line supervisors are obligated to take a role in identifying Soldier’s extreme behaviors; consult BH professions, without infringing on the Soldier’s privacy rights.

#### **5. Theme: Potential Transitional Outcomes**

- A Soldier’s transition can be a risky process.
- Vigilance is needed; especially during transitions and highly stressful times; particularly during handover to rear detachment.
- Keep Commanders and Soldiers smart on how to access services at new location.
- Soldiers returning from deployments may create transitional issues; chain of command be aware and prepared.

#### **6. Theme: A Training Success = Resilience**

- Don’t punish your Soldier if additional training is a better option.
- Increase command suicide training, frequency/venues; emphasize strong bond.
- Authorize suicide prevention training to family members through the unit’s FRG; an important availability; helps family members to keep a “trained” eye on the Soldier.
- Prepare/teach/guide and educate; training toward a positive is a success!

## **7. Theme: Weapons accountability**

- Access to off-post weapons must never be a surprise to a Soldier's chain of command ... keep your leaders informed.
- Review policies that pertain to weapons; update and inform as necessary.
- Soldiers should understand Army policy and feel comfortable when registering a newly purchased weapon.

## **8. Theme: Know your Soldier**

- As leaders we have to get a better idea of our Soldiers; know your Soldiers.
- Know "where" your Soldier came from; family background knowledge can be essential and important to help build the relationship between you and your Soldier.
- Acquire and expand on that "first hand" knowledge, that will benefit your Soldier.