

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC

22 February 2012

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

SUBJECT: Army Releases January 2012 Suicide Data

The Army released suicide data today for the month of January. During January, among active-duty Soldiers, there were 16 potential suicides: five have been confirmed as suicide and 11 remain under investigation. For December, the Army reported 11 potential suicides among active-duty Soldiers. Since the release of that report, eight have been confirmed as a suicide and three remain under investigation.

During January, among reserve component Soldiers who were not on active duty, there were six potential suicides (five Army National Guard and one Army Reserve): none have been confirmed as suicide and six remain under investigation. For December, among that same group, the Army reported five potential suicides. Since the release of that report, one case has been added for a total of six cases (four Army National Guard and two Army Reserve). Six were confirmed as suicides and none remain under investigation.

"With our Army in significant transition, our leadership at all levels is engaged to synchronize our efforts to improve the health and discipline of the Force and the well-being of our Army Families," said Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, Army DCS, G-1. "I am encouraged by the CY 2011 Army suicide data that reflects a slight decrease in suicides from the record year experienced in 2010 and a halting of the dramatic increases experienced between 2006 and 2009; however, many challenges lie ahead, which we must tackle together." Bostick urges leaders and Soldiers to read, digest and apply the principles and lessons learned reflected in the 'Gold Book' as it continues and expands the dialogue on Health Promotion and Risk Reduction. "The 'Gold Book' will help leaders at all levels continue the face to face conversations that are focused on reducing the stigma associated with help-seeking behavior. Our Army Family deserves our very best effort and that is what they will receive!"

Soldiers and families in need of crisis assistance can contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Trained consultants are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and can be contacted by dialing 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and pressing "1" for Military members and Veterans or by visiting their website at www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

The Army's comprehensive list of Suicide Prevention Program information is located at <http://www.preventsuicide.army.mil>

Army leaders can access current health promotion guidance in newly revised Army Regulation 600-63 (Health Promotion) at: http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/pdf/r600_63.pdf and

Army Pamphlet 600-24 (Health Promotion, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention) at http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/pdf/p600_24.pdf.

Suicide prevention training resources for Soldiers, leaders, Department of the Army Civilians, and Family members can be accessed at: http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide/training_sub.asp?sub_cat=20 (requires Army Knowledge Online access to download materials).

Information about Military OneSource is located at **www.militaryonesource.com** or by dialing the toll-free number 1-800-342-9647 for those residing in the continental U.S. Overseas personnel should refer to the Military OneSource Web site for dialing instructions for their specific location.

Information about the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program is located at <http://www.army.mil/csf/>.

The Defense Center for Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) Outreach Center can be contacted at 1-866-966-1020, via electronic mail at Resources@DCoEOutreach.org and at www.dcoe.health.mil.

The website for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is <http://www.afsp.org/>, and the Suicide Prevention Resource Council site is found at <http://www.sprc.org/index.asp>.

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