



Command Policy on Suicide Prevention
Marine Air Group 13
August 2015



As Marines, we serve our people – those of this nation, our fellow Marines, and our families. As *Team 13*, we serve and take care of each other. Each and every member is vital to our mission and is a precious asset to our Corps. The challenges we face as Marines are significant, but through leadership, camaraderie, and esprit de corps, we will overcome all obstacles. When personal and/or professional challenges weigh us down, our fellow Marines and professionals, like the Chaplain, Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLC), MCCS Family Services and medical personnel are there to lift us up and help us overcome difficult times.

Leaders at every level are always available to help any of you when seemingly insurmountable personal or professional problems stack up in front of you. As your Commanding Officer, I will always work to make you successful and to see you through a safe and rewarding tour. If you ever get to the point where you start contemplating suicide – or if anyone you know is contemplating hurting themselves, please let your chain of command know. If you see someone in a desperate situation, intervene and get help. If you feel your situation is hopeless – it isn't. We will help. You just need to let someone know about it. Suicide is a selfish act.

One of the core traits I always talk about is courage, having the intestinal fortitude to take action when others will not. We all need to act anytime we sense “this doesn't seem right,” or “that Marine just isn't himself or herself.” Listen to that sense. Most importantly, act – by speaking up, stopping the action, and getting help. As for help, I am always available to you for guidance or for requesting support from outside your squadron. Do not sit idle wishing someone knew about the problem – let me or let any of your squadron's leadership know. All leaders across *Team 13* must take every effort to take care of our Marines.

Marcus B. Annibale
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