



## COMMANDING OFFICER'S STATEMENT ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

**'For we serve in a Corps with no institutional confusion about our purpose:  
To Fight! To Fight Well!'  
-General James Mattis**



*"To Fight... To Fight Well!"* is not only a call to readiness—it's a mandate to protect and strengthen every Marine, Sailor, Civilian, and family member in our ranks. Combat effectiveness begins with mental wellness. If you're hurting—speak up. If you see someone struggling—step in. Strength is not silence; it is connection, compassion, and courage.

---

### Core Leader Functions (SMITR)

In accordance with DoDI 6490.08, MCO 1720.2A, and NAVMC 1720.1A, all leaders will:

1. Strengthen – Build resilience through engaged leadership, training, and connection.
2. Mitigate – Reduce stressors and access to lethal means (safe storage of privately owned firearms and medications is strongly encouraged for all personnel and families).
3. Identify – Recognize and respond to early warning signs of distress.
4. Treat – Connect individuals to professional help immediately.
5. Reintegrate – Support the return of Marines/Sailors to full duty and purpose after care.

---

### Risk Management for High-Risk Individuals

- Leaders will maintain active, personal engagement with Marines/Sailors identified as high risk.
- Command will ensure coordinated care with Behavioral Health, Chaplains, the Marine Intercept Program (MIP), and family support services.
- No Marine or Sailor will be left alone during a crisis.
- Safe storage of firearms and medications will be discussed directly during crisis interventions.

---

### Self-Initiated Mental Health Referrals – The Brandon Act

- Any Marine or attached Sailor on active duty who specifically requests a Mental Health Evaluation (MHE) from a supervisor (E-6 or above) will be provided an appointment at the local military mental health clinic or nearest Military Treatment Facility without delay, and given the opportunity to attend.
- This process is confidential and distinct from command-directed MHE procedures.

---

### Reporting Requirements

- The Suicide Prevention Program Officer (SPPO) will coordinate all required reports, including:
  - Marine & Family Programs 30-Day Death by Suicide Report and DoD Suicide Event Report (DODSER) within 30 days.
  - Reports of suicidal ideations, attempts, and deaths by suicide in accordance with IGMC standards and records management requirements.
- Leaders will provide the SPPO timely access to relevant service and unit records to meet these deadlines.

---

### Program Roles and Responsibilities

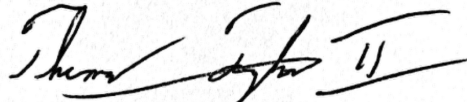
- SPPO: Oversees program execution, coordinates training, ensures reporting compliance.
  - COSC Representative & OSCAR Team: Provide peer-to-peer support, early detection, and improved access to services.
  - All Leaders: Maintain vigilance, foster connectedness, and enforce policy requirements.
-

**COMMANDING OFFICER'S STATEMENT ON  
SUICIDE PREVENTION**

**If You or Someone You Know is in Crisis**

- Military OneSource: 1-800-342-9647 (24/7)
- Military & Veterans Crisis Line: Call 988, then Press 1; or Text 838255 (24/7)
- MCAS New River Community Counseling / MIP: 910-450-6668 (Mon–Fri, 0730–1630)
- Base Chaplain: Available for confidential support
- Emergency: Call 911

Remember—asking for help is a sign of strength. We win battles together—on the battlefield and in life. We never leave a Marine, Sailor, or teammate behind.



T. C. FARRINGTON II  
COLONEL, US MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, NEW RIVER