

RESOURCES

Legal Assistance Office 580-442-5058
BLDG 4700, Suite 400

Reynolds Army Health Clinic 580-558-2800
BLDG 4301 Wilson St.

Behavioral Health 580-442-4833
BLDG 2442 Crane Ave.

Imbedded Behavioral Health 580-442-2836/8748
BLDG 3161 Hoskins Rd.

Army Substance Abuse Program 580-442-4205
BLDG 3415 Miner Rd.

Army Community Service 580-442-4916
BLDG 4700 Mow-Way Rd.

Chaplains 580-442-3302
BLDG 6043 Cache Creek Chapel

Red Cross 580-558-2132
BLDG 1651 Randolph Rd.

Military Family Life Consultant
(MFLC) 580-574-7362/7363/7364

Military OneSource
www.militaryonesource.com

Family Readiness Groups
<http://www.armyfrg.org>

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
www.taps.org

National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center
www.safteeyouth.org

Defense Centers of Excellence
www.dcoe.health.mil

National Suicide Prevention lifeline
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

INTERVENTIONS

Certain rapid interventions are essential to minimizing the risk of a suicide in Soldiers who are being disciplined or experiencing legal problems. Here are some things to consider when confronted with a person at risk for suicide:

Do let them know you care and take threats seriously.

Do listen carefully and keep them talking.

Do ensure Soldier is escorted to get help.

Do watch for signs of hopelessness, helplessness and feelings of worthlessness.

Do check and limit Soldier access to guns, prescription drugs, or other items that can be used for self-harm.

Do support and reinforce the need for immediate behavioral health intervention.

Do try to establish rapport.

Do identify and explore any desire, need, or ability.

Do check for support systems.

Do stay positive and highlight any possible positive steps forward for the disciplined soldier to take.

2016 UCMJ Update:

In recent changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice is a reminder for military officials that suicide attempts are not a crime. The change is an addition to the discussion appendices that accompanies the Manual for Courts-Martial. It now states “bona fide suicide attempts should not be charged as criminal offenses” and said officials reviewing such cases need to consider “health conditions, personal stressors, and DoD policy related to suicide prevention” before filing charges.

The new suicide language stems from courts-martial guidance issued in 2012, prompted by the case of a Marine who was jailed for 180 days and given a bad-conduct discharge for attempting suicide to avoid deployment. Suicide prosecutions were rare, even before the 2012 review.

Legal Issues and Suicide



**The Fort Sill
Suicide Prevention Program**

**BLDG 3415 MINER RD.
442-4205/1618**

**For Suicidal Behaviors
Call:
1-800-273-TALK (8255)**



The **Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)** is the foundation of military law in the United States.

Jurisdictions include:

- ◇ Courts-Martial
- ◇ Personal jurisdiction applies to all members of Uniformed Services
- ◇ Non-Judicial Punishment-Article 15
- ◇ Complaints of Wrongs



Facing disciplinary actions can produce the “Perfect Storm” causing Soldiers to spiral downward towards suicide

◇ A Soldier may be experiencing legal or disciplinary issues that may have been brought on by financial issues, which may be related to gambling, made worse by alcohol, and further complicated by relationship issues.

Most of the times Soldiers can weather one or two of these challenges, however, when the Soldier is overwhelmed with multiple problems, facing a disciplinary action could be the last straw.

This should not prevent commanders from administering disciplinary action when necessary, however, leaders should be aware of the signs of a potential suicide.

Most suicides and attempts are reactions to feelings of:

- ◇ Loneliness
- ◇ Worthlessness
- ◇ Hopelessness
- ◇ Helplessness
- ◇ Guilt

Depression is one of the greatest predictors of suicide.



When a Soldier is presented with any combination of the following, the buddy or chain of command should be more vigilant.

- ◇ Talk of suicide or killing someone else
- ◇ Giving away property or disregard for what happens to one’s property
- ◇ Withdrawal from friends and activities
- ◇ Relationship problems
- ◇ Acting bizarre or unusual (based on you knowledge of the Soldier)
- ◇ Misconduct
- ◇ Desire to die
- ◇ Made a plan
- ◇ Obsession with death (music, poetry, artwork)
- ◇ Finalizing personal affairs



How To Support Soldiers Facing Legal Problems

- ◇ Be aware of the services that Legal Office and Defense Counsel have to offer.
- ◇ If a Soldier is incarcerated, relay any concerns you may have to the confinement facility officials regarding risk of self-harm.
- ◇ When a Soldier is released from incarceration on bond pending trail, monitor distress and risk of suicide.
- ◇ If there are concerns refer Soldier to behavioral health or a chaplain for support, especially during the initial notification of the investigation, interview, and release.
- ◇ If practical, ensure Soldier is not cut off from family members, friends and other support systems.
- ◇ Use the Battle Buddy system for the Soldier.
- ◇ On the day prior to Courts-Martial or Non Military Trails consider the need to put on suicide watch if there is a history of behavioral health issues.

