

ROUTINE

DTG:0905111956Z

SUBJECT: THE ARMY CAMPAIGN PLAN FOR HEALTH PROMOTION, RISK REDUCTION AND SUICIDE PREVENTION , ANNEX D, COMMAND POLICY AND ROLE OF G-1

UNCLASSIFIED//

SENT ON BEHALF OF DA WASHINGTON DC//DACS-SPTF//

REFERENCE: ACPHP, 16 APRIL 09, AND ANNEX D OF SAME

1. SITUATION: IN APRIL 2009, THE VCSA SIGNED THE ACPHP. ANNEX D OF THE ACPHP GUIDES COMMANDERS ON KEY PRINCIPLES TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF HEALTH PROMOTION, RISK REDUCTION, AND SUICIDE PREVENTION. SOME OF THOSE PRINCIPLES ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND DESERVE EXPLANATION AND EMPHASIS.
2. DURING THE VCSA'S RECENT INSTALLATION VISITS, IT WAS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT SOLDIERS FACE AN UNACCEPTABLE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH SEEKING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE.
3. AR 600-20 (ARMY COMMAND POLICY) AUTHORIZES COMMANDERS TO PUBLISH COMMAND POLICY LETTERS WHICH ADDRESS THE WELL-BEING OF THE FORCE. ALSO, FM 6-22 REQUIRES THAT LEADERS ENSURE SOLDIERS WITH SERIOUS COMBAT STRESS ISSUES HAVE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, IF NECESSARY, AND STRESS THAT IT IS ACCEPTABLE, NOT SHAMEFUL, TO SEEK APPROPRIATE PSYCHOLOGICAL HELP.
4. THE VCSA STRONGLY ENCOURAGES COMMANDERS TO ESTABLISH A SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY INCORPORATING PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN ANNEX D. IN PARTICULAR, TO COMBAT STIGMA, HE ENCOURAGES CDRS TO INCLUDE IN THE POLICY (A) A PROHIBITION ON SOLDIERS FROM BELITTLING OTHER SOLDIERS FOR SEEKING HELP FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS; AND (B) A REQUIREMENT THAT LEADERS UTILIZE HIGH LEVELS OF DISCRETION WHEN IDENTIFYING SOLDIERS SEEKING HELP WHEN IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHER SOLDIERS WHO DO NOT HAVE A NEED TO KNOW.
5. NOTE: THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-1, IS THE ARMY STAFF PROPONENT FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION, TO INCLUDE COORDINATION AND MONITORING OF THE ARMY SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM (ASPP). SEE AR 600-63.
6. PLEASE CONTACT THE ARMY SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE FOR ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE AND CLARIFICATION, 703-571-5575 OR VCSASITFOPS@CONUS.ARMY.MIL.

EXPIRATION DATE IS 22 MARCH 2010