



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, DC

JUL 2 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

FROM: AF/CVA

SUBJECT: Limited Privilege Suicide Prevention Program

Despite a significant reduction in the Air Force suicide rate over the past three years, suicide remains a major cause of death among active duty Air Force members. Air Force members who are under investigation may feel socially isolated at a time when they need support the most.

Leadership involvement, heightened awareness, and encouragement to seek assistance during times of personal crisis have been critical factors in achieving a decrease in the number of Air Force suicides. Suicide prevention is not simply a program; it is taking the time and effort to offer assistance to those in need of our help. Most importantly, we know that an increased focus on taking care of our own may save lives.

This memorandum reaffirms Air Force policy on the Limited Privilege Suicide Prevention (LPSP) program. The purpose of the LPSP program is to identify and treat those Air Force members who, because of the stress of impending disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), pose a genuine risk of suicide. I strongly encourage you to use this program when it applies. If you have an airman who is under investigation and at possible risk for self-harm, have them evaluated by Mental Health. If they are suicidal they can be entered in to the LPSP program and given confidentiality in the patient-psychotherapist relationship from additional UCMJ action. This provides the distressed airman with some protection and an opportunity to talk about their concerns. Further details are available in AFI 44-109, Mental Health, Confidentiality, and Military Law.

I appreciate your continued support as we continue our work on this critical effort. If we take care of our people, they will take care of the mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LW Lord", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

LANCE W. LORD
Lieutenant General, USAF
Assistant Vice Chief of Staff

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