



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, DC

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MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM/FOA/DRU/CC
AF/RE

FROM: HQ USAF/CC
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670


SUBJECT: Policy for Investigative Interviews

Thirty-three percent of active duty Air Force suicides are members who are under some type of investigation. I want to reaffirm the Air Force's "hand-off" policy and the critical responsibilities of investigative agencies and commanders following member interviews. I also want to remind commanders to use the Limited Privilege Suicide Prevention (LPSP) program designed for airmen under investigation for Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) offenses who may be at risk for suicide.

Often the most stressful stage in an investigation comes when a subject is interviewed. Investigators must ensure squadron commanders, First Sergeants, and/or supervisors have direct, person-to-person contact with the interviewee immediately after the interview takes place. This direct contact includes a personal "hand-off" of the individual to his/her commander, First Sergeant, supervisor, or their designee.

Airmen under investigation can easily feel isolated from their family, friends, and other support systems when they need them most. The LPSP program is designed to provide a measure of confidentiality for active duty Air Force members who, because of the stress of impending disciplinary action under the UCMJ, are at increased risk of suicide.

The attached talking paper explains how and when to apply the policy and the specific obligations of investigative agencies and commanders. The underlying principle is clear: each of us must ensure our people get the help they need, and it can come from chaplains, medical professionals, family support, the legal community, fellow airmen, friends, or others. In short, we must continue to "take care of our own," especially when our people are under the stress of an investigation.


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