



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

**NOV 21 2002**

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM - FOA - DRU

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

SUBJECT: The Tragedy of Suicide

It is difficult to imagine anything more tragic than someone contemplating taking his or her own life, especially during this special season of sharing and giving. Yet the private despair that haunts many people increases during holiday periods when loneliness creates feelings of being denied the joy shared by others.

We are rapidly approaching the holiday season when many look forward to gathering with family and friends. Some of our people, especially our younger Airmen will find themselves separated from their loved ones, often for the first time. Don't let them be alone during this season of celebration. In the true spirit of the holidays, reach out to those whose only family is the Air Force. Let us be that family and all resolve that no Airman should be alone this season. If we can do that, our Air Force family will be one that we can be proud of and despair will never get the opportunity to control our actions.

Remember who you are. You serve in the greatest Air Force on the planet and we are the greatest Air Force because of you. Take pride in one another, take care of one another. Your country needs you, your skill, your dedication and your commitment in the days ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Jumper".

JOHN P. JUMPER  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff