



NEWS RELEASE

EUROPE REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND

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Suicide prevention awareness

Mental health professionals stand by to assist Army-wide effort

Heidelberg, Germany – Europe Regional Medical Command health professionals are poised to provide assistance and advice as Army units stand down for suicide prevention awareness training between now and March 15.

The number of suicides in the Army has risen for the fourth year in a row, and the problem is being addressed with an Army-wide “stand-down.” A chain-teaching program will follow the stand down between March and July 15.

The Army experienced 128 confirmed suicides in 2008, up from 115 in 2007, said Army leaders during a media roundtable Jan. 29. An additional 15 deaths are being investigated as suspected suicides, though Army experts say experience has shown that as many as 90 percent of suspected suicides are eventually classified as confirmed.

“Our providers are ready to support unit and community suicide awareness and prevention training in Europe.” said Maj. David Cabrera, acting director for the Europe Regional Medical Command’s soldier and family support services office. “We’re proud to be part of the U.S. Army Europe and community team working to reduce the number of suicides in the Army.”

There are fourteen mental health treatment facilities placed throughout Europe. A table of those locations and their phone numbers follows:

LOCATION	Military Phone	Civilian Phone
Ansbach/Katterbach Behavioral Health Clinic	468-7853	0981-183-853
Illesheim Behavioral Health Clinic	467-4993	098141-83-4993
Bamberg Health Clinic	469-8795	0951-300-8795
Baumholder Health Clinic	485-7411	06783-6-7411
Grafenwöhr/Vilseck Behavioral Health Clinic	476-2995	09662-83-2995
Hohenfels Social Work Service	466-4625/4284	09472-83-4625/4284
Heidelberg Behavioral Health Service	371-2680/2534	06221-17-2680/2534
Landstuhl Behavioral Health Division	486-7276/8366	06371-86-7276/8366

Mannheim Social Work Service	385-3118	0621-730-3118
Schweinfurt Behavioral Health Clinic	354-6231	09721-96-6231
SHAPE Social Work Service	423-5801	065-44-5801
Stuttgart Mental Health Clinic	431-2751	07031-15-2751
Vicenza Behavioral Health Clinic	634-7604	0444-71-7404
Wiesbaden Psychological Health Clinic	337-1750	0611-705-1750

Seeking help at those locations will give someone access to the shared installation, unit and community services and resources that support suicide prevention, Cabrera said.

Army chaplains will partner with the behavioral health community to emphasize the importance of peer support – “battle buddies” – in recognizing and intervening in advance of a Soldier’s decision to view suicide as an option, he added.

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(Editor’s Note: Maj. Dave Cabrera and Dr. Maria Crane will appear on an AFN Open Line show on suicide prevention as part of a panel that includes representatives from the USAREUR and IMCOM Europe at 10 a.m., Feb. 23. A web link is available at:

<http://www.afneurope.net/DynamicMenu/Radio/AFNOpenline/tabid/701/Default.aspx>)