

Media Release



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Fort to stand down for suicide prevention Sept. 27

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – On Sept. 27, Fort Leonard Wood will conduct a suicide prevention stand down to improve the health and discipline of the force; reduce stigma; and increase resilience.

The Army-wide stand down was ordered by Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III following the release of July suicide figures, which confirmed two suicides and another 36 potential suicides presently under investigation. To date, 120 active-duty Soldiers across the Army are confirmed to have taken their lives while another 67 deaths are under investigation.

A unique session of Fort Leonard Wood's stand down provides training adapted from the Military Police Special Victims Unit for senior leaders. In this session, participants will address how life-changing situations, such as being a victim or an assailant of sexual assault could lead to more risky behaviors and possible thoughts of suicide.

(more)

“The training will be an informative review about the impact of sexual assault and how leaders may either aggravate or mitigate this impact by their response,” Russell Strand, a retired U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division special agent and the current chief of the Family Advocacy Law Enforcement Training Division at the U.S. Army Military Police School, said.

The session is scheduled for 8:30-9:30 a.m. Sept. 27 at the Main Post Chapel.

The theme for the 2012 stand down is “Shoulder to Shoulder, We Stand Up for Life.”

Other sessions throughout the day include: an introduction to representatives from various organizations that assist with suicide prevention, intervention and response; Expanded Ask, Care, Escort training; and Master Resiliency Training.

James Flores, Army Community Service mobilization and deployment specialist, who is scheduled to speak during the stand down, said one of his areas of emphasis during his sessions is to help reduce the stigma in reaching out for help.

“The tools we will speak to during the stand down basically help Soldiers, their families, and civilians get a better look at their own personal self-awareness, self-regulation, optimism, mental agility, strength of character and connections,” Flores said. “We want to reaffirm that they are okay and it’s okay to reach out for help and that strong connections in one's life are very important.”

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Crisis intervention and other resources:

- Emergency - **911**
- Military Crisis Line - **1-800-273-TALK (8255)** - Press 1
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**
- Military One Source - **1-800-342-9647**
- The Defense Center of Excellence (DCoE) - **1-866-966-1020**

- Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline - **1-800-984-8523**
- CONUS DSN: **421-3700**
- OCONUS DSN: **312-421-3700**
- The Real Warriors Campaign <http://www.realwarriors.net/>