



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

January 7, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM
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INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
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DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE
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ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC
AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DoD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Directive-type Memorandum (DTM) 16-001, "Policy for Reporting Suicides and Attempts of Service Members and Suicides of Service Members' Dependents"

References: DoD Directive 5124.02, "Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R))," June 23, 2008
DoD Directive 6490.14, "Defense Suicide Prevention Program," June 18, 2013
DoD Manual 8910.01, Volume 2, "DoD Information Collections Manual: Procedures for DoD Public Information Collections," June 30, 2014
Public Law 113-291, Section 567, "Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015," December 19, 2014

Purpose. In accordance with the authority in DoD Directives 5124.02 and 6490.14 and the provisions of Section 567 of Public Law 113-291 (also known as the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (referred to in this DTM as "the Act")), this DTM:

- Supplements existing policy for reporting suicides and suicide attempts of Service members, including members of the Selected Reserves (SELRES), in DoD Directive 6490.14, and establishes policy for reporting suicides of Service members' dependents (referred to in this DTM as "dependents").

- This DTM is effective January 7, 2016; it will be incorporated into a new DoD instruction. This DTM will expire effective January 7, 2017.

Applicability. This DTM applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD (referred to collectively in this DTM as the “DoD Components”).

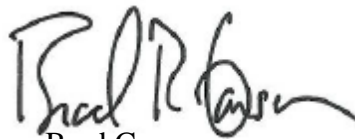
Policy. It is DoD policy that:

- The DoD Components will track suicide surveillance data using consistent collection, reporting, and analysis of suicides and suicide attempts.
- In accordance with the Act, suicide surveillance must include:
 - SELRES personnel suicides and suicide attempts.
 - Suicides by Service members’ dependents.

Responsibilities. See Attachment.

Information Collection Requirements. The Department of Defense Form 2996, “Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSER),” referred to in this DTM is an exempt internal collection and does not require licensing with a report control symbol in accordance with paragraph 1.b.(13) of Enclosure 3 of Volume 1 of DoD Manual 8910.01. DoDSER has been assigned Office of Management and Budget control number 0720-0058 in accordance with the procedures in Volume 2 of DoD Manual 8910.01. The expiration date of this control number is listed at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAsearch>.

Releasability. **Cleared for public release.** This DTM is available on the Internet from the DoD Issuances Website at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>.



Brad Carson
Acting Under Secretary of Defense for
Personnel and Readiness

Attachment:
As stated

ATTACHMENT
RESPONSIBILITIES

1. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS (USD(P&R)). The USD(P&R):

a. Establishes policy and prescribes implementation guidance for suicide surveillance and reporting within the DoD.

b. Serves as the DoD point of contact, through the Executive Director, Force Resiliency, for all reports to Congress concerning Service member and dependent suicide events.

2. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS. The Secretaries of the Military Departments:

a. Report all identified suicides and all identified suicide attempts for the previous quarter and year-to-date of Service members, including SELRES members, to the DoDSER system, consistent with procedures established under DoD Directive 6490.14.

b. Develop and implement any Military Service-level policies, procedures, and processes required in this DTM in relation to reporting of suicides by dependents, in coordination with the Department of Defense Human Resources Activity (DoDHRA), by 180 days after this DTM becomes effective.

3. DIRECTOR, DoDHRA. Under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P&R), the Director, DoDHRA, ensures effective action within 180 days of the effective date of this DTM through:

a. The Defense Suicide Prevention Office to implement the policy of this DTM.

b. The Director, Defense Manpower Data Center, in the administration of the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System to compile and assess information sources and available data on suicides by dependents and provide quarterly statistical reports to the Defense Suicide Prevention Office.

GLOSSARY

PART I. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

DoDHRA	Department of Defense Human Resources Activity
DoDSER	DoD Suicide Event Report
DTM	Directive-type Memorandum
SELRES	Selected Reserves
USD(P&R)	Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

PART II. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise indicated, these terms and their definitions are for the purpose of this DTM.

dependent. Defined in Section 567(c) of the Act. The definition includes a parent or parent-in-law who resides in the household of a Service member.

suicide. Death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with any intent to die as a result of the behavior.

suicide attempt. A non-fatal self-directed potentially injurious behavior with any intent to die as a result of the behavior. While a suicide attempt may or may not result in injury, for purposes of this policy, all suicide behaviors that result in hospitalization or evacuation will be reported.