



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC 20330

APR 5 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM-FOA-DRU/CC

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

SUBJECT: Air Force Leader's Post-Suicide Checklist and Response Guide

Last year's increased suicide rate demands our leaders adopt a sense of urgency in implementing strategic actions to reverse this trend. Leaders at all levels should continuously reinforce that it is every Airman's responsibility to seek help when necessary and to reach out to fellow Airmen in distress using the ACE—Ask, Care and Escort—model.

One of the most difficult situations a commander will ever face is the tragic death of an Airman. When an Airman commits suicide, family, Wingmen, and the mission suffer. Following a suicide, there is a statistically higher risk of additional suicides in the community. Research indicates that providing a timely and appropriate post-suicide response not only helps restore the unit/family and community, it can reduce the risk of further suicide events.

The guide posted at [https://kx.afms.mil/kxweb/dotmil/file/web/ctb\\_150694.pdf](https://kx.afms.mil/kxweb/dotmil/file/web/ctb_150694.pdf) and the attached checklist provide guidance for commanders and first sergeants to assist in their response to suicides and suicide attempts. The checklist and guide are intended to augment local policies. They incorporate "lessons learned" from leaders who have experienced suicides in their unit, and they are intended to support a leader's judgment and experience. I expect widest dissemination and encouraged use of this helpful tool.

My point of contact on this issue is Major Michael McCarthy, Air Force Suicide Prevention Program Manager, AFMSA/SG3OQ, (703) 588-6200 (DSN 425) or [michael.mccarthy@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:michael.mccarthy@pentagon.af.mil).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip M. Breedlove".

PHILIP M. BREEDLOVE  
General, USAF  
Vice Chief of Staff

Attachment:  
Air Force Leader's Post-Suicide Checklist