

Department of Defense Quarterly Suicide Report Calendar Year 2015 4th Quarter Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO)

Keita Franklin, Ph.D.
Director, DSPO

The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately \$13,000 in Fiscal Years 2015 - 2016. This includes \$7,440 in expenses and \$5,310 in DoD labor.
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**DEFENSE SUICIDE
PREVENTION OFFICE**

Department of Defense Quarterly Suicide Report Calendar Year 2015 Fourth Quarter

Introduction

Timely and accurate suicide data reporting allows leaders at all levels to have near concurrent information that facilitates decision-making related to suicide prevention. Relevance in reporting Department of Defense (DoD) statistics on suicide mortality is a core issue affecting the focus of DoD suicide prevention efforts. One of the principal goals of this Quarterly Suicide Report (QSR) is to improve the relevance and availability of data to bolster suicide prevention efforts. Additionally, stakeholders external to DoD can access the information included in the QSR to obtain information on deaths by suicide within the DoD.

The QSR summarizes death by suicide counts for the Active and Reserve Components. The 2015 fourth quarter DoD QSR shows all deaths by suicide for each of the military Services during calendar year 2015.

Limitation of this Document

The QSR does not account for changes in population size or for natural variation in rare-event statistics. Thus, caution should be employed when interpreting changes in counts over time.

Data Sources for Deaths by Suicide

Suicide¹ mortality data in this report are provided by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) with inputs from the suicide prevention programs of the individual military Services. For Service members in a non-duty status (e.g., traditional National Guard or Reserve Service members when not in uniform), the suicide data originate from civilian authorities and are made available through the military Services to AFMES.

This report presents the number of deaths by suicide segregated by component and Service (see Attachment A).

The Active Component includes Cadets and Midshipmen at military academies.

The Reserve Component² number includes all reported deaths regardless of duty status at the time of death.

¹ The term *suicide* is defined as "Death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with an intent to die as a result of the behavior" (Reference: CDC--
<http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/suicide/definitions.html>)

² Reserve Component personnel included in this report are members of the Selected Reserves (SELRES). SELRES are drilling and training members of the National Guard and Reserves, Individual Mobilization Augmentees, and full-time support Active Guard and Reservists. This excludes those members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and Inactive National Guard (ING)

Military retirees and members in Temporary or Permanent Disability Retired Lists (TDRL, PDRL) are not included in this report as those data may overlap with Department of Veterans Affairs data.

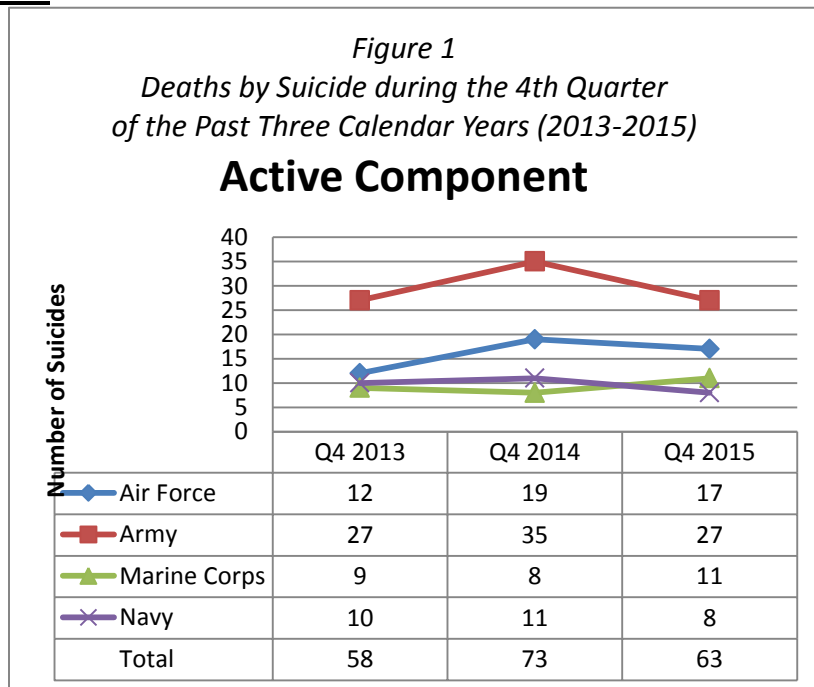
Results and Discussion

During the fourth quarter of 2015, the military Services reported that there were 63 Active Component deaths by suicide and 44 Reserve Component deaths by suicide (of which, 17 were in the Reserves and 27 were in the National Guard). For a detailed breakdown of the number of deaths by suicide within each Service and component through the fourth quarter of 2015 see Attachment A.

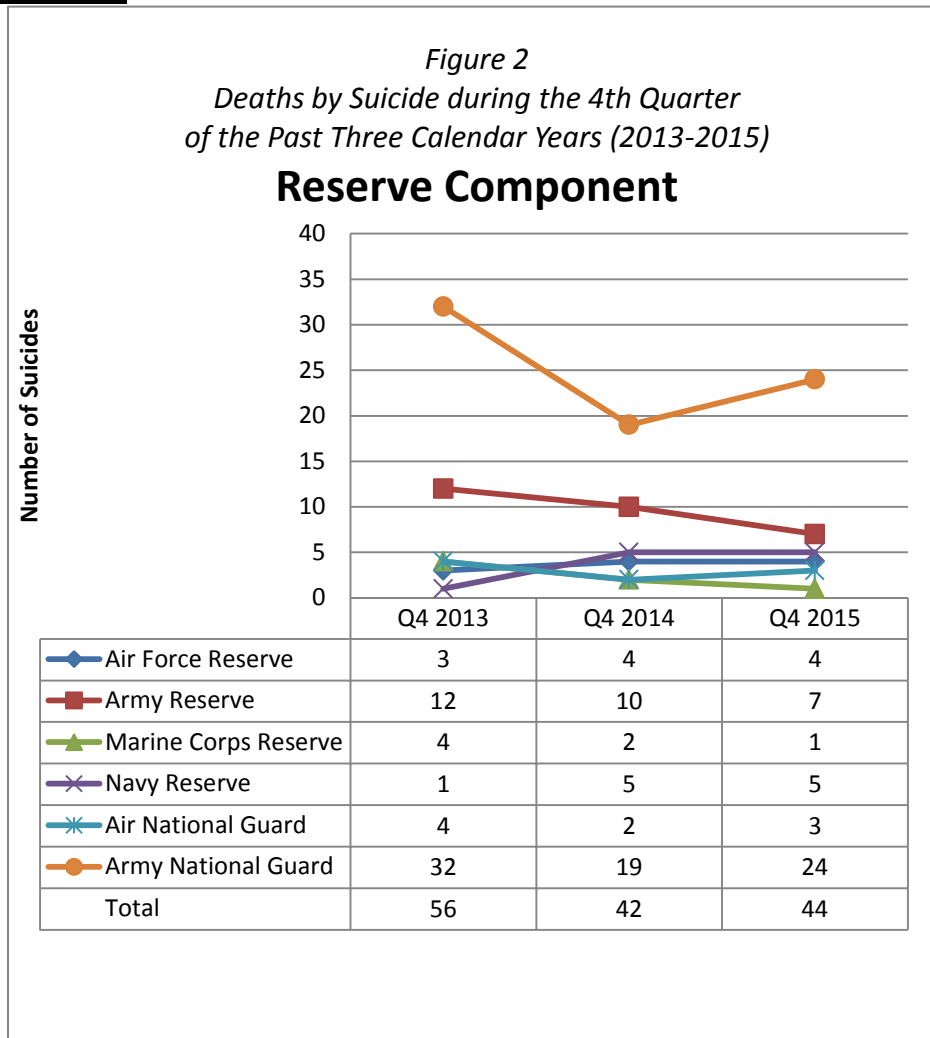
The counts of deaths by suicide are presented by Service. This helps policy and program stakeholders more readily identify population or demographic variance in the number of deaths by suicide and to adjust their risk mitigation efforts, accordingly.

The number of deaths by suicide are shown across the same quarter each year to account for time of year effects. This provides a snapshot of changes from year to year within the context of time of year and the number of deaths by suicide to account for the potential influence of seasonal variations. Past research has shown that the relationship of time of year and the number of deaths by suicide is both significant and complex. Variables related to connectedness and community involvement can be protective factors towards the end of the year, whereas both social and environmental variables can negatively influence risk factors during other times of the year.

Active Component



Reserve Component



Conclusion

While there has been a decrease in the number of deaths by suicide from fourth quarter 2014 to fourth quarter 2015 in the Active Component and a slight increase in the number of deaths by suicide in the Reserve Component, further analysis considering the size of the force is necessary to assess whether this represents a statistically significant change.

Any questions related to this report should be forwarded to: osd.pentagon.ousd-p-r.mbx.defense-suicide-prevention-office@mail.mil

Table 1. Deaths by Suicide by Component and Service

DoD Service and Component	2013					2014					2015				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total 2013	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total 2014	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total 2015
Active Component	67	60	69	58	254	73	70	57	73	273	60*	71	72	63	266
Air Force	7	14	15	12	48	19	11	13	19	62	14	17	16	17	64
Army	33	28*	33	27	121*	27	31	31	35	124	33*	28	32	27	120
Marine Corps	11	12	13	9	45	11	9	6	8	34	3	12	13	11	39
Navy	16	7	8	10	41	16	19	7	11	53	10	14	11	8	43
Reserve Component	55	56	53	56	220	46	34	48	42	170	42	51*	72*	44	209
Reserve	27	16	23	20	86	24	14	20	21	79	13	21	37*	17	88
Air Force Reserve	1	2	5	3	11	2	1	3	4	10	1	1	3	4	9
Army Reserve	21	11	15	12	59	13	4	15	10	42	9	17	21*	7	54
Marine Corps Reserve	4	1	2	4	11	4	5	1	2	12	1	1	8	1	11
Navy Reserve	1	2	1	1	5	5	4	1	5	15	2	2	5	5	14
National Guard	28	40	30	36	134	22	20	28	21	91	29	30*	35*	27	121
Air National Guard	2	2	6	4	14	6	2	4	2	14	8	5	5	3	21
Army National Guard	26	38	24	32	120	16	18	24	19	77	21	25*	30*	24	100

Note: All figures above may be subject to change in future publications as updated information becomes available. Suicide counts are current as of February 1, 2016.

*Indicates a change from the previous QSR based on updated information