



DEFENSE SUICIDE PREVENTION OFFICE

QUARTERLY CONNECTION



JOINING YOUR FIGHT | CONNECT TO PROTECT

News and Announcements

DSPO Releases New 2024 Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Toolkit and New Resources

This September DSPO has announced its new communications toolkit on [DSPO.mil](https://dspo.mil) to promote united messaging and campaign resources for its annual suicide prevention campaign. The toolkit has many components including sample public service announcements, press releases, blogs, and newsletters. There is also a social media toolkit, images, and graphics. Everyone can use the downloadable resources. Help promote suicide prevention during September and all year long with the many resources available!

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Message to the Force

The Honorable Ashish S. Vazirani, performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, released a [Message to the Force](#) in honor of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The message encourages the Total Force to reach out for help when it is needed. He stated that mental health is just as important as physical health.

Mr. Vazirani also explains that Joining the Fight: Connect to Protect is the new Suicide Prevention Awareness Month campaign and it will be promoted throughout the year. Events and programs will be planned around Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin's Five Lines of Effort which include, Fostering a Supportive Environment, Improving the Delivery of Mental Health Care, Addressing Stigma and Other Barriers to Care, Revising Suicide Prevention Training, and Promoting a Culture of Lethal Means Safety.

Mr. Vazirani acknowledged that suicide is a public health issue, and the community must address prevention through multiple strategies. The Department and its partners must Join the Fight to end suicide.



FALL 2024

Director's Corner



Dr. Liz Clark, Director

Each year, we recognize September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Each life in our Total Force is worth protecting. To that end, we have re-invigorated and created new resources to spread education and awareness for suicide prevention. We encourage you to visit [DSPO.mil](https://dspo.mil) and learn more about what's in this year's communications toolkit.

DSPO will host events at the Pentagon on September 10 and the Mark Center on September 18 to distribute our resources and to talk about suicide prevention. Please stop by and see all our resources and talk with our staff.

Finally, on September 19, DSPO will hold a Suicide Prevention Recognition Ceremony to congratulate and honor the hard work and dedication of the Suicide Prevention Programs recognition recipients. I thank them for all that they do for suicide prevention in our military community and at their specific installations. I look forward to showing my appreciation at the ceremony.





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2024 Suicide Prevention Recognition Ceremony Nominees

DSPO is proud to announce the recipients of the Suicide Prevention Recognition Ceremony. They are:

- Army: Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA
- Army National Guard: Guam Army National Guard, GU
- Army Reserve: Deployment Support Command, AL
- Marine Corps: Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC
- Navy: USS Makin Island, CA
- Navy Reserves: Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Eighteen, CA
- Air Force: MacDill Air Force Base, FL
- Air National Guard: Maryland 175th Air Wing, MD
- Air Force Reserve: Air Force Reserve Command at Joint Base San Antonio, TX
- Space Force: Space Systems Command, CA
- Coast Guard: USCG Base Kodiak, AK

On September 19, 2024, Department leaders, Service leaders, DSPO staff, and family and friends will attend the Suicide Prevention Recognition Ceremony at the Pentagon Hall of Heroes to honor this year’s nominees. Recognition recipients come from across the Services and from all across the Nation and Guam. Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen H. Hicks will speak at the ceremony. To watch the ceremony, bookmark the following link to watch the event live from the Pentagon.

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Happening Soon

September 10, 2024 Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Pentagon Tabling Event	Join us on the second floor, Apex 9/10, at the Pentagon for our Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Tabling Event. There will be resources, staff engagement, and promotional items. Our partner agencies will also be in attendance.
September 18, 2024 Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Mark Center Tabling Event	DSPO and partner agencies will hold a tabling fair on the “main street” in the Mark Center. Please stop by and learn more about resources and plans.

