

# Department of Defense (DoD) Quarterly Suicide Report (QSR) 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, CY 2017

**George Parisi, Acting Director  
Defense Suicide Prevention Office  
(DSPO)**

The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately \$6,770 for the 2017 Fiscal Year. This includes \$3,940 in expenses and \$2,830 in DoD labor.  
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**DEFENSE SUICIDE  
PREVENTION OFFICE**

# Introduction

The Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) routinely collects and reports surveillance data on suicide deaths among members of the Armed Forces. Suicide data on Active, National Guard, and Reserve Service members are obtained as a result of a collaborative effort between DSPO, the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES), and the Suicide Prevention Program Offices of the Military Services (i.e., Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy). AFMES is the official Department of Defense (DoD) entity responsible for verifying and reporting deaths by suicide for the military. The information collected by AFMES is reconciled with the Military Services to ensure the most accurate information is captured.

The most up-to-date numbers of suicide deaths in the Department of Defense (DoD) are reported in a Quarterly Suicide Report (QSR). Quarters are based upon the calendar year and are defined as follows:

- Quarter 1 (Q1)- January 1st - March 31st
- Quarter 2 (Q2)- April 1st – June 30th
- Quarter 3 (Q3)- July 1st – September 30th
- Quarter 4 (Q4)- October 1st – December 31st

The current report presents data from the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of Calendar Year (CY) 2017. Data include all suicides, confirmed or pending, as of December 31, 2017, and include both the Active and Reserve Components.<sup>1,2</sup> The numbers represented in this report are preliminary and subject to change in future quarterly reports, as deaths by suicide are confirmed or previously unknown cases are reported.

## QSR Data

Attachment A provides a detailed breakdown of the number of deaths by suicide, within each Service and Component. For the fourth quarter of 2017, the Military Services reported the following:

- 83 suicide deaths in the Active Component
- 16 suicide deaths in the Reserves
- 19 suicide deaths in the National Guard
- The number of Active Component suicide deaths is higher, by 4, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2017, compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2016 (83 versus 79 deaths)
  - Army deaths are down by 3

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<sup>1</sup> Active Component: Full-time members of the U.S. Armed Forces and Cadets/Midshipmen at the designated military academies.

<sup>2</sup> Reserve Component: Reserve Component personnel 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, regardless of duty status at time of death. The report excludes the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and Inactive National Guard (ING), military retirees and members in Temporary or Permanent Disability Retired Lists (TDRL, PDRL), to avoid double-counting Department of Veterans Affairs data.

- Navy deaths are up by 7
- Marine Corps deaths are up by 5
- Air Force deaths are down by 5
- The number of Reserve suicide deaths is lower, by 4, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2017, compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2016 (16 versus 20 deaths)
  - Army Reserve deaths are up by 3
  - Navy Reserve deaths are down by 1
  - Marine Corps Reserve deaths are down by 4
  - Air Force Reserve deaths are down by 2
- The number of National Guard suicide deaths is lower, by 11, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2017, compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2016 (19 versus 30)
  - Army Guard deaths are down 11
  - Air Guard deaths did not change

# Attachment A

DoD Service and Component	CY2012	CY 2013					CY 2014					CY 2015				
	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total 2013	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total 2014	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total 2015
<b>Active Component</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>266</b>
Air Force	50	7	14	15	12	48	19	11	13	19	62	14	17	16	17	64
Army	165	33	28	33	27	121	26	33	32	35	126	33	28	32	27	120
Marine Corps	48	11	12	14	9	46	11	9	6	8	34	3	12	13	11	39
Navy	58	16	7	8	10	41	16	19	8	11	54	10	14	11	8	43
<b>Reserve Component</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>214</b>
Reserve	72	27	16	23	20	86	24	14	20	21	79	13	21	37	18	89
Air Force Reserve	3	1	2	5	3	11	2	1	3	4	10	1	1	3	4	9
Army Reserve	50	21	11	15	12	59	13	4	15	10	42	9	17	21	8	55
Marine Corps Reserve	11	4	1	2	4	11	4	5	1	2	12	1	1	8	1	11
Navy Reserve	8	1	2	1	1	5	5	4	1	5	15	2	2	5	5	14
<b>National Guard</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>125</b>
Air National Guard	22	2	2	6	4	14	6	2	4	2	14	8	5	5	3	21
Army National Guard	110	26	38	24	32	120	16	18	24	19	77	21	28	30	25	104

DoD Service and Component	CY2016					CY2017				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total 2016	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total 2017
<b>Active Component</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>285</b>
Air Force	10	15	14	22	61	19	12	14	17	62
Army	31	20	42	37	130	32	23	27	34	116
Marine Corps	12	11	8	6	37	7	9	15	11	42
Navy	9	10	19	14	52	16	13	15	21	65
<b>Reserve Component</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>219</b>
Reserve	18	24	18	20	80	21	29	27	16	93
Air Force Reserve	5	2	1	2	10	2	4	5	0	11
Army Reserve	6	13	11	11	41	12	20	17	14	63
Marine Corps Reserve	4	6	5	4	19	5	3	2	0	10
Navy Reserve	3	3	1	3	10	2	2	3	2	9
<b>National Guard</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>126</b>
Air National Guard	5	5	1	3	14	2	4	3	3	12
Army National Guard	33	22	26	27	108	30	33	35	16	114

**Note:** All figures above may be subject to change in future publications as updated information becomes available. Suicide counts are current as of 31 December 2017.

- Highlighted for comparison
- Indicates a change from the previous QSR based on updated information.