



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 501ST COMBAT SUPPORT WING (USAF)

20 June 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR 501 CSW PERSONNEL

FROM: 501 CSW/CC

SUBJECT: Suicide Awareness Emphasis Letter

1. Military members are being asked to do more today than ever before. Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a myriad of other contingencies around the world present a daily challenge. It is during tumultuous periods like this that we, as Air Force professionals, must be extra vigilant in looking out for the health and welfare of our people, our families and ourselves. One key area that remains a concern across the Air Force is suicide.
2. Airmen (both military and civilian) and their families remain the most important resource in the 501 CSW. I expect squadron commanders, flight commanders, superintendents, branch chiefs, supervisors and co-workers to work together to protect and preserve the lives of our members and their families. Suicide prevention is everybody's responsibility; therefore our focus is on: knowing our people, keeping communication paths open, seeking education, and making use of referral services such as our Mental Health, Chaplain, and Military & Family Life Consultant teams.
3. We must embody the Wingman culture in all aspects of life and military service; taking care of each other as a family in all situations is our standard. Our people must know that asking for help is never wrong and will not reflect negatively on them. Conversely, we should not be afraid to ask someone if they're unhappy, depressed, anxious, or thinking about hurting themselves. Let's not wait until a person feels a sense of hopelessness or despair before acting – one suicide is too many!
4. Suicide awareness will at all times remain a focus for the 501 CSW. Our people must always know that there are places to go and people who care. We remain one team, one family, mission focused.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "B. T. Kelly".

BRIAN T. KELLY, Colonel, USAF
Commander