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WILLIAM BURKS
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NGNV-AG

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MEMORANDUM FOR NVNG Leadership

SUBJECT: Resiliency Task Force

I have established a Resiliency Task Force to examine matters related to multiple deployments and other stressors possibly leading to a range of mental health issues, substance abuse and/or possible suicides. The Task Force will be led by the Senior Enlisted Leader and supported by the Director of the Joint Staff and the J1. One of our biggest prevention tools we have is our leadership, the battle buddy and the wingmen programs but right now it may also be our biggest weakness.

Effective immediately leadership will implement the following actions

1. Leaders will not deter or prevent any service member from seeking mental health or medical care. Leaders will encourage this action.
2. Leaders will brief your leadership teams and all service members that it is okay to get help. We as leaders must lead from the front and by example.
3. Leaders will brief and educate their service members and families about the programs and services we have in place.
4. Leaders will take no actions against service members that do seek help.
5. There is zero tolerance for leaders that do take action against service members seeking help and will be dealt with accordingly.
6. More guidance and information will be sent out to your organizations within the next couple of weeks.

We need to change the culture so not only it is acceptable, but it is encouraged, and expected to seek help when we are faced with life's challenges.

We are dedicated and committed to the welfare and well being of our service men, women and families. We will do everything within our power to help in the prevention of suicides and addiction issues. It is imperative we have the will and commitment our profession requires to ensure success.

WILLIAM R. BURKS, Brig Gen, USAF
The Adjutant General, NVMD