



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY ACCESSIONS COMMAND/
DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL FOR INITIAL MILITARY TRAINING
90 INGALLS ROAD, BUILDING 100
FORT MONROE, VIRGINIA 23651-1065

ATJA

10 1 JAN 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR Lieutenant General Michael D. Rochelle, Deputy Chief of Staff G-1, US Army, 300 Army Pentagon ATTN: DAPE-ZA, Room 2E446, Washington, D.C. 20310-0300

SUBJECT: Results of AR 15-6 Investigation -- Command Climate within the Houston Recruiting Battalion

1. On 14 October 2008, I appointed my deputy CG, BG Frank ("Del") Turner, to conduct an AR 15-6 investigation into the command climate in the Houston Recruiting Battalion and the circumstances surrounding the suicides of four Soldiers in that battalion since 2005. I appointed the investigation to examine all four suicides comprehensively and to look for relationships and patterns among them that may not have been visible in individual cases. The investigation was to assess the command climate, and among other things, to make specific findings and recommendations with regard to any systemic solutions that should be implemented by USAREC, USAAC, or at HQDA.

2. I recently received the results of the AR 15-6 investigation and because BG Turner made recommendations that are pertinent to your mission, I am forwarding the relevant recommendations to you for consideration. BG Turner noted the support he received in his investigation from two members of the Army Suicide Prevention Task Force, (b)(6) (b)(6). I am grateful for your willingness to provide these subject matter experts in support of this very important investigation.

a. Take the following actions to improve the screening of prospective candidates for recruiting duty:

- Issue DA-level guidance that reinforces the need to faithfully comply with comprehensive requirements in AR 601-1 for screening and processing applicants for recruiting duty.
- Revise the Battalion Command Team Recruiter Candidate Interview and Evaluation form (DA 5426) to positively identify the completion of a mental evaluation for a prospective recruiter

b. Review policy of allowing redeploying Soldiers to seek waiver of the 90-day stabilization period. *Recommend to waive - review the policy. (BCA)*

c. Review Suicide Prevention Training to ensure the proper balance of training focused on identification of suicide risk factors in others / intervention and training focused on building resiliency by providing each Soldier the skills required to cope with the myriad stressors they may experience. "Coping skills" training aimed at improving Soldiers' resiliency in managing stressors should be developmental throughout a Soldier's career ...

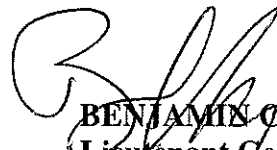
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included in certain professional schools and unit training and focused on the typical personal and professional stressors (medical, financial, relationships, parenting, mental health, job-specific, etc) an individual typically faces.

d. Continue improvements to the Army OneSource program to improve the “social network” capabilities of the web-site, particularly for those Soldiers assigned to communities away from military installations. Soldiers and Families should be able to network with all Army units, agencies, services in a local area and potentially include non-military individuals and agencies that seek to support local Soldiers and Families.

3. BG Turner made these recommendations after his comprehensive investigation and consideration of all evidence. He is intimately familiar with the facts and circumstances surrounding the investigation, and for this reason, I am happy to make him available to assist with any questions or concerns you might have about the factual basis for his recommendations.



BENJAMIN C. FREAKLEY
Lieutenant General, US Army
Commanding