

Great Lakes Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

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DON Insider Threat Awareness Month 2023

Insider Threat



September kicks off National Insider Threat Awareness Month (NITAM). The Department of the Navy (DON) is working with the Department of Defense (DoD), the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) and other agencies to ensure every member of the Marine Corps and Navy are educated on insider risk indicators, bystander engagement and how to report concerns. NITAM strengthens insider threat programs by drawing attention to the threats faced by all members of the DON workforce. "The Department of the Navy is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our people and our Nation, said Victor Minella, Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy for Intelligence and Security. "It's not always easy to see insider threat warning signs; but

knowing them, and when necessary, acting on them, allows us to mitigate risk."

The DON is using NITAM as an opportunity to educate and create awareness for Sailors, Marines, civilians and contractors.

"Knowing insider risk indicators and talking about them at all levels of our commands and organizations is crucial in the prevention of classified information leaks or workplace violence," said Franco Neto, Department of the Navy Insider Threat Program Director.

These risk indicators include actions such as verbal or non-verbal threats of harm, disparaging remarks against the United States, security and information technology violations, and possibly changes in a person's previously observed performance due to self-destructive behaviors, such as excessive



Command and Staff

Commanding Officer

Capt. Jason Williamson

Public Affairs Officer

John Sheppard

Editor

MC1 Brigitte Johnston

Contact us!

Phone

847-688-2430 ext. 359

Email

nsgl-pao@us.navy.mil

Website

Facebook

Twitter

Instagram

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alcohol use and unstable or emotional responses in the workplace.

“In every insider threat case, the threats to our organization were all members of our trusted workforce, Neto said. “Ensuring every member of our team knows what to look for, stays vigilant, and takes action when something isn’t right is incredibly important.”

Being educated in what to look for is only half of the equation in the detection and deterrence of insider threats. “Being an engaged bystander is essential to safeguarding those around us and our National Security, Neto said. “When someone does something inappropriate or threatening, we individually must have the courage to say or do something about it.”

Neto added, by taking action and reporting risk indicators or concerning behaviors, it allows the facilitation of early intervention and increases positive outcomes for at-risk individuals and the organization.

“Our National Security depends on each member of our team, Minella said. “When you see a potential risk, you must be bold and act.”

There are multiple ways to report. An individual can go to their security manager or they can report through email to the Navy or Marine Corps Insider Threat Hubs. These reports can be made anonymously.

Navy Insider Threat Hub: insidethreat.fct@navy.mil

Marine Corps Insider Threat Hub: insidethreat@usmc.mil

Hicks Underscores DOD’s Commitment to Suicide Prevention

Story by Joseph Clark, DOD News

The Defense Department remains relentlessly committed to the health and welfare of the total force, Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks said today as she recognized the people behind DOD’s suicide prevention efforts.

Providing supportive and protective environments is a top priority at the highest reaches of the Pentagon, Hicks said as she underscored the dedication of those who have worked tirelessly to “spread hope, address stigma and other barriers to care, and drive a healthier culture.”

“It takes devoted teams to tackle the difficult subject of suicide prevention,” she said. “Over the years, we’ve understood that we cannot go about this work with a one-size-fits-all approach. Suicide has no single root cause or solution. That’s why the department is taking a public health approach — because this problem requires a range of prevention methods and treatment options to get after it.”

Hicks joined several top officials — including Gilbert Cisneros, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness; Elizabeth B. Foster, executive director of the Office of Force Resiliency; Jeffrey R. Register, director of Defense Human Resources Activity; and Liz Clark, director of the Defense Suicide Prevention Office — in recognizing several units that demonstrated innovation and excellence in suicide prevention during fiscal 2021-2022.

“Today’s recipients have been working tirelessly to implement that approach,” Hicks said. “They’ve taken major steps to promote connectedness, belonging and community ... to find creative ways to promote new and available health care options.”

Those units receiving the recognition include U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz in Kaiserlautern, Germany; Guam Army National Guard in Barrigada, Guam; Marine Aircraft Group 12 in Iwakuni, Japan; Naval Special Warfare U.S. Special Operations Command in San Diego; and Air Force Air Combat Command jointly with Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton and Newport News, Virginia.

“Our honorees’ work on suicide prevention has been more than conceptual,” Hicks said. “They’ve launched campaigns to get the word out on life-changing information. They’ve organized outreach events to increase awareness. They’ve helped match people to the community support systems that best suit their needs. And they’ve nurtured connectedness at every level — from individuals to the squadron, command, and battalion levels — to help save lives.

“These programs, and the people who implement and manage them, have made the fight against suicide a top priority,” she said. In recognition of September as National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month, DOD has launched its 2023-2024 annual campaign, titled “Connect to Protect: Support is within Reach.” In his remarks during the recognition ceremony, Cisneros emphasized the importance of establishing healthy connections and relationships in suicide prevention.

“There is often a sense among the military community and among service members that they need to be strong and fully capable at all times,” he said. “They believe strength is enduring their lowest moments, and darkest thoughts alone. But nothing could be further from the truth.

“We recognize that asking for help is challenging, but we are making it easier to get help in the military community by creating connections through local programing,” he said. “We help by saying we are here for you. We help by creating supportive and protective environments. That is our goal and one which we must

continue to strive towards.”

While stationed in the 48 contiguous states, service members, veterans and family members in crisis can seek help through the veterans/military crisis line by:

- Calling 988 and accessing option 1.
- Texting to 838255.
- Chatting at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.

Those stationed outside of the U.S. can access the crisis line by:

- Calling 00800 1273 8255 or DSN 118 in Europe.
- Calling 080-855-5118 or DSN 118 in Japan and Korea.
- Dialing 1-800 273-8255 or DSN 111 in Afghanistan.

To access noncrisis support, service members and their immediate family members can connect with Military OneSource for free access to confidential counseling.

Mental health and counseling services are also available through Tricare.

DOD civilian employees can access resources, information and confidential help by calling 1-866-580-9046.

DoD tests joint motorcycle mentorship program

Riders from the Navy, Marine Corps, Army and Air Force recently traveled to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, to work together toward one common, critical goal: making their motorcycle riders safer.

Hosted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps Safety Division (CMC SD) on Quantico, nearly 30 active-duty and civilian motorcycle riders participated in the Department of Defense (DoD) Motorcycle Mentorship Program beta test Aug. 14-18, which was facilitated by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF).

Unlike other riding courses, which focus primarily on learning and mastering the technical skills required to operate a motorcycle, the mentorship program is focused more on decision-making and relationship-building rather than skill-building, said Dale Wisnieski, traffic safety manager for the Commandant of the Marine Corps Safety Division and beta test event facilitator.

“Within the military services, we all have issues with certain behaviors and poor decision-making when it comes to riding our motorcycles,” Wisnieski said.

As of Aug. 23 this fiscal year, the Navy and Marine Corps have lost a total of 25 service members, with the Navy losing 19 Sailors – the highest number of motorcycle fatalities for the service in six years, according to Naval Safety Command data. Many of these fatalities were caused by poor decision-making such as excessive speed and improper maneuvers.

“While other training courses focus on skills, the mentorship program covers all aspects of riding and provides valuable information to riders to help them make the best decisions possible while out on a ride,” Wisnieski added.

The beta test mentorship program also differs from other courses in the way information is presented – and who presents the information. Instead of instructors providing lessons and administering and grading tests on skill-based knowledge, this program encourages trained, volunteer mentors to meet with one to three junior riders on a recurring basis in a more relaxed environment. Here, the mentor can evaluate the junior riders’ skill and knowledge levels while addressing different aspects of



riding during each session.

Although mentorship programs have been around – and been required in one form or another by all services for roughly a decade, the lack of standardized, consistent training material or guidelines for motorcycle mentors within DoD is an ongoing challenge.

“The Marine Corps has had the requirement to meet on a quarterly basis, and riders have conducted group rides, but they’re not coordinated to evaluate the skills of newer riders,” Wisnieski said. “And that’s what this training may provide – it can give mentors the direction and skills they need to evaluate new riders and determine how they can help correct and guide them. It’s not meant to be a skills test; it really is meant to be mentoring.”

The mentoring material provided during the beta test offered suggested topics, quizzes and motorcycle exercises mentors could use to gauge the knowledge and skill levels of their junior riders – and that’s exactly what the test volunteers did.

The first group, 16 trainer rider-mentors, began in the classroom Aug. 14 to learn not only how to prepare to teach other riders how to become rider-mentors, but also to become familiar with more than 50 topics that will be available to the new mentors to use in discussions with their junior rider mentees.

“The information is there – MSF developed 52 topics that will provide riders the education they need in all aspects of riding,” Wisnieski said, “And the goal is to decrease poor decision-making

through better education and guidance.”

Monday afternoon, the trainers-in-training headed to the motorcycle range to run the exercises they would be conducting with the incoming rider-mentors later in the week. For the next two days, the volunteers honed their skills as trainers, alternating between the classroom and the motorcycle range at Camp Upshur while working together to determine the best way to present the information to new rider-mentors.

Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Matthew Sharp, an instructor at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit Oceana, Virginia, and one of the trainer rider-mentors, said although he thinks the mentorship program will help, Sailors, specifically junior riders, also have to be receptive to the program. “We can do everything in our power to help them hone their skills and make smarter choices, but really, when they leave, it’s going to be up to them to use that information,” Sharp said. “I think that’s the biggest issue we’re having – losing service members over poor judgement.”

The 10 rider-mentors began class Aug. 17, which was now being taught solely by the trainer rider-mentors, with the MSF staff observing and suggesting course corrections as needed. Later that afternoon, the trainers headed back to the range, only this time running exercises with their rider-mentors in training.

U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. David Cook, an intelligence analyst at Marine Forces Command, Virginia and one of the rider-mentors in training, said although he was looking at the mentoring program through a more critical lens, it was because he wants the program to be as good as it possibly can – especially for young Marines.

“For being a beta test, I think it’s going well, but there is room to grow,” Cook said. “I hope they take all the things we critique and make it better, but I’m excited to see where that goes.”

Cook added that he’s happy the DoD is looking to enhance motorcycle programs, which sends a clear message to all services

and their motorcycle riders.

“There are individuals at the top that continue to want to make these programs better because that hammers it home for a lot of young [riders] that you’re not just a number; you’re a person with a family, and your service – Marines, Navy, Air Force, Army – they want you to get home safe, and they’re giving you the tools to do so.”

The last day of training for both groups included a morning on the range, and just before one final trip to the classroom, Matt Gentile, one of the two MSF staff members leading the beta test, gave some feedback on how he thought the test was going and how the program could improve.

“I think it’s going fantastic,” he said. “We’re finding areas we can improve the content and its delivery. Based on what we have seen here, we will add more information to our mentor trainer guide so the trainers can facilitate an even better process to the rider-mentors.”

Feedback from test participants and service-specific safety representatives who observed the test program will determine updates to the program and whether another beta test is needed before completion.

Once the program is completed and released, Wisnieski said the Joint Safety Council and Defense Safety Oversight Council will assess the way ahead for the DoD motorcycle mentorship program.

“Leadership support is critical in moving forward,” Wisnieski said. “As a collective service, our goal is to roll this out as a joint initiative, and leadership support is critical in implementing a program that can reduce the number of motorcycle mishaps and potentially save the lives of our service members and civilians.” References to non-federal entities do not constitute or imply Department of the Navy endorsement of any company or organization.

Sergeant Major Ruiz Appointed as 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

Sergeant Maj. Troy E. Black relinquished his post as 19th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps to Sgt. Maj. Carlos A. Ruiz during a relief and appointment ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Aug. 10.

Sergeant Maj. Ruiz, a native of Agua Prieta, Mexico, joined the Marine Corps out of Phoenix, Arizona, Nov. 2, 1993. He began his career as a supply warehouse clerk in Okinawa, Japan, and his most recent assignment was serving as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve and U.S. Marine Corps Forces South.

During his 30-year career, Sgt. Maj. Ruiz served in a variety of billets and completed multiple special duty assignments, to include time as a Marine Corps recruiter and a drill instructor. He completed several overseas deployments including combat operations in Iraq in 2003 and two combat deployments to Afghanistan with 1st Marine Division infantry battalions.

“Sergeant Major Ruiz’s accomplishments and successes as a leader make him the perfect Marine to serve as the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps,” said Sgt. Maj. Black. “I am absolutely certain he will be a relentless advocate for our warfighters and their families, and my wife, Stacie, and I wish his family the very best as they embark on this special and noble

journey.”

Sergeant Maj. Black, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, served as the Marine Corps’ top enlisted Marine from July 26, 2019 to Aug. 10, 2023. His 35 years of military service will continue as he assumes the duties of Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Nov. 3, 2023. He will succeed SEAC Ramón “CZ” Colón-López in this role and will be the second Marine to serve as the most senior ranking enlisted service member in the U.S. Department of Defense.



OPENLANDS LAKESHORE PRESERVE ACQUISITION

On June 14, 2023, the Lake County Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to acquire the 71.55-acre Openlands Lakeshore Preserve. The preserve is currently owned by Openlands, a Chicago-based conservation organization and land trust. If the project proceeds, it will be an addition to Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve and includes:

- 3 beautifully restored ravines and blufftops.
- 1 mile of shoreline.
- Accessible trails, overlooks and art installations.
- A permanent endowment totaling approximately \$1.29 million, which will be held by the Preservation Foundation, the charitable partner of the Lake County Forest Preserves. The endowment will be invested for long-term return, and all proceeds will be used solely for management of the natural resources on the 71.55-acre site.

Project Update, August 15

After approving the agreement with Openlands, the Forest Preserves entered a 60-day period of due diligence. During this time, staff have been working to secure a title commitment, completed survey, and an environmental assessment.

As we neared the 60-day mark, the District's exercised its right to extend the due diligence period for another 30 days. Staff has the draft survey in hand, but it is detailed and complex, and additional time is required to review the document. An issue was also discovered during the environmental assessment, which is likely to be resolved fairly quickly.

Despite extending the due diligence period, the District anticipates closing on the property within the next few weeks and intends to open it to the public on or near Labor Day.

Public Information Session

A virtual public information session took place July 10, 2023 to provide an update and answer the public's questions about the potential acquisition of the Openlands Lakeshore Preserve. A recording of the information session is available below, or by clicking [here](#). Below is a summary of questions and answers that resulted from the meeting. If you have additional questions, please enter a public comment entry below. You can also contact the panelists:

Executive Director Alex Ty Kovach: akovach@LCFPD.org

Director of Community Engagement & Partnerships Rebekah Snyder: rsnyder@LCFPD.org

Land Preservation Manager Ken Jones: kjones@LCFPD.org



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Navy meets Army history as Sailors pay visit to Fort McCoy's Commemorative Area

Story by Scott Sturkol, Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office

More than 150 Sailors who were supporting the 2023 Global Exercise at Fort McCoy made a special afternoon visit Aug. 24 to the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area.

Despite outside temperatures hovering about 90 degrees Fahrenheit, more than 150 Sailors visited the Commemorative Area for some post-exercise recreation fun.

The 900 block of Fort McCoy and the 11-acre area surrounding it are the hub of the fort's history-preservation efforts that make up the Commemorative Area.

The area consists of five World War II-era buildings set aside to help tell Fort McCoy's unique story, said Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Tonya Townsell, who hosted the visit for the Sailors. These facilities are representative of the types found in the cantonment area when it was constructed in 1942.

Three of the buildings — an administrative facility, a dining facility, and a barracks — are set up to depict Soldier life during the 1940s. Display items include a World War II chapel, bunk beds, footlockers, mannequins, and potbelly stoves. Another building highlights four different modern military training venues, and a separate facility shows various training aids.

The Commemorative Area also includes the Fort McCoy History Center. Since 1999, the Fort McCoy History Center has been a go-to stop for learning about not only Fort McCoy's storied past but also that of the U.S. Army, the U.S. Army Reserve, and even

the Army National Guard.

For more than a century, Fort McCoy, which was previously Camp McCoy, and before that Camp Robinson and Camp Emory-Upton, has had a stake on things that have affected the world stage to include World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, the Global War on Terrorism and Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and more recently Operation Allies Welcome.

Through every major operation, and everything else supported, that history is remembered in the Fort McCoy History Center. In 2015, former Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Linda Fournier described how the History Center was improved after several months of work to renovate the interior and exterior of the facility. Fournier said then those interior renovations provided for expanded exhibit floor space, improved lighting, and installation of energy efficient heating and air-conditioning systems. Exterior improvements included new steps and a ramp to improve access for visitors.

During its reopening in 2015 on Sept. 11, visitors experienced the results of those improvements firsthand, especially the increased floor space, which allowed for the display of more of the installation's historical collection.

The History Center features exhibits as well as displays of artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia that tell the story of Fort

McCoy since its founding in 1909. The center first was opened in 1999 in building 902 when Fort McCoy observed its 90th anniversary.

Whether it's Maj. Gen. Robert B. McCoy's World War I gas mask, horseshoes from the early

camp stables, World War II-era uniforms, or items from the 1980 Cuban Refugee Resettlement mission, the History Center offers exhibits spanning from Fort McCoy's earliest beginnings to the installation's involvement in the war on terrorism.

In 2022, the center also received two new additions as well. In July 2022, Alan McCoy, grandson of Maj. Gen. Robert Bruce McCoy for whom Fort McCoy is named after had visited the installation with his family members, and with him he brought a century-old artifact he'd received in the form of a wood crate that included the words stamped on it: "CAMP EMERY UPTON" and "CAMP ROBINSON."

Sailors visiting the area also toured Equipment Park, Townsell said. The Equipment Park is an outdoor display of historic and present-day equipment representative of the types used on the installation. The design of the park allows for display of 70 pieces of equipment, ranging from helicopters and howitzers to trucks and trailers.

The visitors also checked out Veterans Memorial Plaza. Construction on Veterans Memorial Plaza began in 2006, as did the work to create the five Soldier statues on the memorial representative of each of the major conflicts that Fort McCoy had been involved with to that point in time: i.e., World War I,

World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the war on terrorism, Fournier also said in a past news article.

Since then, this area has grown into a 10-acre site that now includes an Equipment Park, Veterans Memorial Plaza, and the History Center. With the expansion, the site was re-designated as the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area since it serves to tell the entire history of Fort McCoy from its founding in 1909 to the present day.

The formal dedication of Veterans Memorial Plaza was June 13, 2009 — the date of Fort McCoy's 100th anniversary. Several descendants of the installation's founder, Maj. Gen. Robert B. McCoy, attended this dedication. The dedication was the key event in a series of activities held during Fort McCoy's yearlong centennial observance.

Ever since its dedication, the Veterans Memorial Plaza has been the center of more than a dozen annual Armed Forces Day Open House events, dozens of official events, dozens of tours, and met by thousands of people throughout the years.

Townsell said she was glad to see so many Sailors visit the Fort McCoy Commemorative Area to see and learn about Fort McCoy's history and the Army's history. It was, to that day outside of the Armed Forces Day Open House, the largest tour of the area in 2023.

"It was a wonderful visit," Townsell said. "It was also great to talk with many of them and see how interested they were in everything."

Austin, Milley Remember Those Lost on 9/11

Story by Joseph Clark, DOD News

The defense community will never forget those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III said today.

Austin was joined by Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in marking the 22nd anniversary of the terrorist attack at a ceremony honoring the 184 lives lost at the Pentagon.

"I know that being here today is hard," Austin said as he extended his condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. "I know that it aches to remember this milestone year after year. And I know that nothing can make it right.

"And, as the years go by, it may feel that the world is moving on or even forgetting what happened here on Sept. 11, 2001," he said. "But please know this: The men and women of the Department of Defense will always remember."

Austin and Milley highlighted the outpouring of service and selflessness by the defense community and ordinary Americans in the immediate aftermath of the attacks and the years to follow. The response by Americans at the Pentagon, the World Trade Center and aboard United Airlines flight 93, which crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, offered proof that "terror would never destroy us," Milley said.

"Those terrorists hated America," he said. "They hated our Constitution and the values that bind us together as a nation.

"Those terrorists wanted to destroy our country," he said. "But, on that day and every day since, the United States has demonstrated

that we would never bow to fear and hatred."

Austin noted that in the month following the attack on the Pentagon, more than 2,500 people volunteered to provide assistance to the grieving families of those who died in the attack. Years after the attack, that same courage and compassion continued to shine, he said.

"As the years go by, it may feel that the world is moving on or even forgetting what happened here on Sept. 11, 2001. But please know this: the men and women of the Department of Defense will always remember."

That call to service has echoed throughout the decades, propelling thousands of young people to answer the call to serve in the military, Milley said.

"Sept. 11 reminds us that the American spirit still shines in times of testing," Austin said. "After the attacks, amid the horror and the grief, many Americans felt a deeper sense of duty to their communities and to their country. And all around the country with hearts breaking for the slain and the suffering, Americans looked within themselves and felt called to give back."

Austin vowed to maintain that legacy of service and honor those who lost their lives in the attacks.

"It is our duty to live up to the goodness that they embodied," he said. "And it is our duty to defend the democracy that they loved so much. So, we will always seek to meet that challenge."

"We will always work to keep America safe, and we will always, always remember," he said.