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DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

NEWS RELEASE



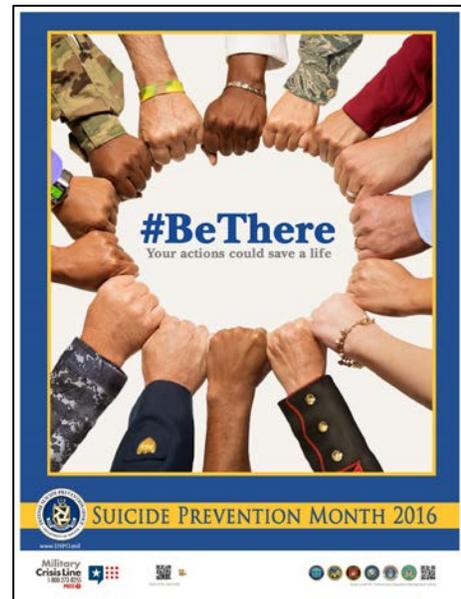
DEOMI RELEASES 2016 SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH POSTER

Aug. 23, 2016

PATRICK AFB, Fla. -- Working in conjunction with The Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute has created an original poster in recognition of Suicide Awareness Month which is celebrated in September.

Established in 2011, DSPO is part of the Department of Defense's "Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness."

DSPO provides advocacy, program oversight, and policy for Department of Defense suicide prevention, intervention and postvention efforts to reduce suicidal behaviors in Service members, their families, and DoD civilians.



Dr. Keita M. Franklin, who has directed DSPO since Feb 9, 2015, arrived with 14 years of experience working with service members and their families.

Prior to this appointment, Dr. Franklin was Behavioral Health Branch Head at Headquarters Marine Corps, charged with leading five behavioral health programs, including suicide prevention.

"Every suicide is a tragic loss to our nation and those impacted. The family and friends left behind who must deal with the aftermath of the event and put those events in perspective, may in some cases never know why the Service member or Veteran took their life," Dr. Franklin.

"Suicide is the culmination of complex interactions between biological, social, economic, cultural and psychological factors operating at the individual, community and societal levels.

"We are committed to fostering collaboration and cooperation to develop suicide prevention efforts among all stakeholders including the Military Services; Federal agencies; public, private, international entities, and institutions of higher education," she said.

The idea of the poster was explained by Ms. Dawn Smith, a member of DEOMI's Monthly Observance Team.

"We wanted to come up with a design that spoke to the theme: *Be There*. We chose a circle to represent safety, connection, and unity. As individuals we can *Be There* as a mentor, a friend, as a co-worker, and for themselves," she said.

"As a group, we can provide a strong safety net to ensure that everyone knows that they are never alone and that a helping hand is there for them, Ms. Smith added."

Editor's note: For more information, please go to www.dspo.mil

**DEOMI PUBLIC AFFAIRS · MR. CHRISTOPHER CALKINS 494-6208 · WWW.DEOMI.ORG
366 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DRIVE · PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 32925
READINESS...IS DEOMI'S GUIDING PRINCIPLE
BECOME A FRIEND OF DEOMI ON FACEBOOK AT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DEOMI.DOD
Christopher.calkins.1@us.af.mil
Joshua.brandenburg@us.af.mil**