



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

27 August 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM-FOA-DRU

SUBJECT: Call to Prayer, 13-15 September 2019

Chaplain Corps Colleagues

I ask you, Chaplain Corps members, in the Air National Guard, Reserve, and on Active Duty to join me in a time of prayer due to a nearly fifty percent increase in the number of Total Force suicides among Airmen this year. The goal of this collective, global, focused prayer is to defeat the spiritual dimensions of hopelessness in our Airmen and replace it with hopefulness.

I ask all faith groups to pray according to their traditions for hope, belonging, and purpose, on the weekend of 13-15 September. You are welcome to pray throughout the month of September, on drill weekends, and through expanded prayer events at your locations. A list of suggested ideas and themes to support your prayer efforts are attached.

My prayer is that every Airman knows their life is precious. That he or she is surrounded by wingmen and loved ones who authentically care for them. That every Airman knows that feeling overwhelmed and helpless are feelings that all of us experience. That every Airman commits to persevere in hope that their overcoming will encourage someone else to overcome in the future. That every Airman knows without a doubt that they matter!

Thank you for praying and *Caring for Airmen more than anyone thinks possible.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Schaick", is written over a horizontal line.

STEVEN A. SCHAICK
Chaplain, Major General, USAF
Chief of Chaplains

Attachment:

Optional Prayer Ideas and Themes, 27 Aug 19

Optional Prayer Ideas and Themes

Ideas for Enhancing Prayer Events

- Prayer vigils
- 24-hour prayer (around the clock)
- Make prayer cards to receive requests
- Pray for your specific units
- Prayer along with fasting (if approved by medical provider/appropriate for your diet)
- Posting about prayer vigils on chapel Facebook sites

Issues Where Airmen Need Prayer

The following prayers are to battle areas that are identified as causes of suicidal thoughts and actions in Airmen

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| - Relationships with family | Pray for stronger families |
| - Relationships with co-workers | Pray for better work relationships |
| - Loneliness in absence of close friends/family | Pray for close friends/family |
| - Shame | Pray for hope beyond shame |
| - No hope beyond circumstances | Pray for hope beyond circumstances |
| - Sense of no meaning or purpose | Pray for purpose and meaning in life |
| - Evil desires to destroy Airmen and families | Pray for God to overcome evil |
| - Guilt | Pray for forgiveness |
| - Disappointment in life | Pray for renewed purpose |
| - Disappointment in Air Force | Pray for direction and renewed value |
| - Separating from the Air Force | Pray for life beyond Air Force |
| - Leadership not caring | Pray for leaders to show compassion |
| - Chapel teams need help | Pray for God to empower/strengthen |
| - Depression | Pray for recovery to outward focus |