

AFM

ARMED FORCES MISSION

First Responder Suicide Intervention





Youth Suicide Rate Increased 56% in Decade ~ Wall Street Journal **8% of First Responders Consider Suicide ~ ABC NEWS**

Headlines nationwide are sounding alarms about the increased rate of suicide. Sadly, the epidemic of suicide takes a disproportional number of First Responder lives each year, with more losses from suicide than line of duty deaths.

AFM 911 is the First Responder Division of Armed Forces Mission. The two-fold objective of AFM 911 is first, to reduce suicide in the First Responder community and secondly, train Responders in the skills of suicide intervention for the communities they serve. We are fulfilling our mission to turn the tide on suicide through the Intervene Challenge.

More than 16,000 individuals have taken AFM's Intervene Challenge gaining skills that save lives. Clients served include Homeland Security, US ARMY, US AIR FORCE, hospitals, schools, universities and more than 5,000 First Responders.

Listen Learn Lead® (L3) is the primary curriculum in AFM's Intervene Challenge. AFM911 delivers the L3 model and the Intervene Challenge in a format to meet the unique needs of First Responders. Taught in a classroom setting, L3 is five hours of intensive instruction and simulation exercises enabling participants to gain additional skills and confidence to render aid to individuals at risk of suicide.

Along with a substantial increase in personal awareness, Learning Objectives of L3 training include:

- Evaluate myths that impede caregivers
- Roleplay and simulation exercises
- Identification of Community Resources
- Overcome fear of helping
- Develop life sustaining rapport
- Recognize cues in transition to safety

To learn more visit
AFM911.org

**To schedule a training event for your agency call us today
at 678-283-4293 or email us at 911@AFMfamily.com.**

We look forward to working with you to turn the tide on suicide in your community

A Different Kind of World Class Curriculum



I would recommend L3 for those who are undergoing Emergency Fire Department Chaplaincy Training as well as EMT's and other first responders.

Dr. Thomas Peavy, LPC

World class suicide intervention models have been in existence for decades. Yet suicide rates continues to increase. The Intervene Challenge is not a model of intervention - It's a Movement. Think of models as parts of a vehicle. One model might be the radiator, another the engine block, another the alternator, all essential parts to take us from where we are to the place we long to be. But without fuel there is no movement.

Models educate, and even transform the mind, but movements transform the heart fueling an incredible synergy to take the knowledge we gain and use it in building cultures that save lives.

The Intervene Challenge is not another part in the parts department to repair a broken jalopy. It's the fuel, inspiring thousands to be a point of light, a beacon of hope, "a bridge over troubled waters." Suicide is a global epidemic that will take a movement of individuals fueled with an unstoppable passion to be the agents of change, the titanium fiber in a net that is working in ways that mere models can never do.

In a world with more than one million suicides annually the eradication of suicide may seem an overly optimistic and even naïve idea. But for some it is calling. Whether it's the mother who has lost a son, the team that has lost a coach, the soldier who has lost a battle buddy, or a police department that has lost a lieutenant; thousands are rising to the Challenge...

Not in my world, not on my watch!





"AFM 911 has ignited a culture of health that literally saved my life."

Fireman with 10 years of service

30% of the participants AFM trains come from the First Responder Community. These are the individuals that will have contact with Veterans and others at risk that we will never know about. AFM 911 offers Fire and POST approved CE credit for First Responders that increases the resilience of those who serve those who are hurting and at risk.

Extraordinary...already planning the next event!

MAJ Connie Gonzales, Suicide Prevention Officer US ARMY RESERVE



Armed Forces Mission is a great community partner to the Peachtree City Police Department. We have been able to send several officers to the Intervene Challenge training events where they have gained the skills needed to assist people in crisis within our community. Because of AFM 911 our officers are fully equipped to recognize and respond to someone that is considering suicide.

Chief Janet Moon

Peachtree City Police Department

Learn more at AFM911.org

First Responder Training In Suicide Intervention

**L3 is the best training I have attended in
my 30-year career in law enforcement.**

Michael Reynolds, Assistant Chief of Police, Riverdale, GA

**As a mental health therapist, I must say that I am more effectively
equipped to prevent suicide after the L3 Suicide Intervention Training.
My toolbox is now complete!** Stephanie Headen, LPC



**The Air Forces tells us we have
to do something about suicide.
AFM shows us how.**

Col. Akashai Gandhi
Commander
169th Fighter Wing
McIntire Joint National Guard Base

Meet Your Facilitator



Dr. Lou Koon is an author, speaker, and Intervention Advocate. He serves as the Special Projects Liaison for Behavioral Health Link and the Georgia Crisis and Access Line. He was honored in 2016 as the Atlanta Trinity Awards Emergency Responder of the Year and inducted into the University of North Georgia Alumni Hall of Fame in 2018 for his work in conducting more than 1,100 suicide intervention in both military and civilian communities. He is

the author of Listen Learn Lead, the primary text in the Intervene Challenge and the CIT Chaplain for the Peachtree City Police Department. He is a member of the Georgia Chiefs of Police Association, National Alliance on Mental Illness, International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, IACP, and ILEETA.

During his tenure in an ARMY Reserve unit with Soldiers in ten states he led the team that sustained 8 years of ZERO suicides at a time when suicide rates within the military are 20% higher than civilian communities. Lou continues to serve the USAR as a Chaplain (LTC) in a Signal Brigade. He is called upon by LEOs, Faith Groups, and individual community members to provide rapid response suicide intervention for hundreds of individuals in crisis each year.

“Chaplain Lou Koon is leading the charge on the home front. Follow the leader!”

Brigadier General Peter Madsen

“Pike County Public Schools and our entire community are grateful for the partnership with Lou and Armed Forces Mission. Since inception of the Intervene Challenge in 2014 Pike County Schools has sustained a ZERO Suicide rate.” Dr. Mike Duncan Superintendent

AFM 911

Standing with Those that Stand on the Thin Blue Line



Celebrating Seven Years of Continuous Growth

Since 2012 AFM has seen annual participation growth of 15% to 100% in the Intervene Challenge, with nearly 4,000 trained in 2019. Expansion continues throughout the Southeast with a strong presence in Georgia and South Carolina.

Motorola Solutions Foundation Grant Opens Doors Nationwide

The Motorola Solutions Foundation has awarded AFM a grant for 2020 to conduct the Intervene Challenge Suicide Intervention Training for the First Responder community in the following markets.

Chicagoland, IL

Dallas, TX

Plantation, FL

Westminster, CO

Salt Lake City, UT

Temecula, CA

The Motorola Solutions Foundation Grant exponentially impacts AFM's ability to train the First Responder Community. First Responders deal with suicide risk every day in the communities they serve and are not exempt from their own risk within their agencies. However, we know from experience that trained people save people. Through this grant we will build a culture of health to effectively address the rising suicide rate for First Responders and those they serve.

"We are pleased to support the work of Armed Forces Mission," said Monica Mueller, Executive Director of the Motorola Solutions Foundation. "We believe in organizations that foster innovation and drive change, and we're proud to be part of the positive impact AFM is making in the community."

Training Officers Contact Us Today

Call Lou at 678-283-4293 or email at 911@AFMfamily.com

Learn more at AFM911.org



Get to AFM's Intervene Challenge and gain the skills to help others get through all the other challenges of life.

Sgt Kevin Briggs

Guardian of the Golden Gate

AFM

ARMED FORCES MISSION

At AFM we are working toward the dream of a day when a boy will ask his Father, “Dad what was suicide?”

