

Dear Chaplain Smith,

In conjunction with Chaplain (Lt Col) Sarah Shirley in the Office of the Command Chaplains, U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), and Dr. Marjan Holloway, Associate Professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), we are seeking to enhance the suicide prevention knowledge, skills, and abilities of religious support team (RST) members serving Special Operations Forces (SOF) and their families. As such, we are in the process of developing a *SOF Suicide Prevention Workbook* for chaplaincy as well as an accompanying training curriculum.

In order to inform this effort, we are conducting confidential, 60-minute interviews to better understand the needs and challenges of chaplains, chaplain assistants, and religious program specialists working with SOF service members and their families with regard to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. We are seeking to interview chaplains of all services who have current or prior experience working with SOF members and who have experience managing suicide-related events (e.g., suicide ideations, attempts, deaths, evacuations, etc.) within SOF. Interviews will be confidential and names will not be used.

My colleague, Dr. Jessica LaCroix and I will be in attendance during the Military Chaplains Association Annual Meeting in Newport News VA from October 23-26. Chaplain Shirley informed us that you would be willing to help us locate individuals interested in talking with us. Again, we're looking for chaplains, chaplain assistants, or religious program specialists who have had experiences managing suicide-related events within the SOF community. Ideally, we would like private rooms in which to conduct face-to-face interviews. Presently there will be two of us, so two private rooms would be ideal if there are enough people interested in talking with us. We can also conduct interviews over the phone if necessary. Our schedules are completely open for the duration of the meeting. If you know of anyone who may be willing to talk with us, please forward my contact information to them.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance. Thank you and blessings for the important work you do every day for our servicemen and women.

Very Respectfully,  
Carol Stewart

--

**Carol K. Stewart, MSW, Pastoral Counselor**  
Chaplaincy Fellow, Henry Jackson Foundation  
Suicide Care, Prevention & Research (CPR) Initiative  
Department of Medical & Clinical Psychology  
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences  
4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bldg. 53, Room 101  
Bethesda, MD 20814-4799  
Cell : [\(703\) 927-9249](tel:(703)927-9249)  
Office: [\(301\) 295-9268](tel:(301)295-9268)  
Email: [carol.stewart.ctr@usuhs.edu](mailto:carol.stewart.ctr@usuhs.edu)