

# Memo

**CATASTROPHIC PROBLEM:** An estimated 22 veterans kill themselves every day, according to a 2012 Department of Veterans Affairs study.

**TRIED AND PROVEN SOLUTION:** Rabbi Chaplain Captain Raziel Amar, United States Army

**BACKGROUND:** Rabbi Chaplain Captain Raziel Amar of the United States Army and endorsee of Yeshiva Pirchei Shoshanim, was recently awarded the United States Army Commendation Medal for saving the lives of seven suicidal soldiers, in addition to a Letter of Appreciation from United States Senator from New Jersey, Cory Booker.

Chaplain Amar, while assigned to HHC, 1ST Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, 2d Brigade Combat Team, used his extraordinary skills, which played a vital role in the effort to save the lives of Seven Suicidal Soldiers. In recognition, Chaplain Amar was presented the Army Commendation Medal by his previous Commander, Colonel Thomas Dorame, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, the outgoing commander at Fort Bliss, Texas, where Rabbi Amar is currently stationed. COL Charles Masaracchia is the new Commander, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division at Ft. Bliss.

Last year, **The Guardian** reported that the U.S. military was in the throes of what the publication called a "suicide epidemic," citing data showing 349 service members killed themselves in 2012, compared to 295 who died in combat.

With 182 suicides, the Army led the pack, followed by the Navy (60), Air Force (59) and Marines (48).

Also in 2012, according to The Guardian, 6,500 former military personnel committed suicide, a rate equal to about one death every 80 minutes.

Rabbi Yosef Todd, of Yeshiva Pirchei Shoshanim, an endorser of Chaplains to the United States Military, added, "Each suicide costs the Government literally hundreds of thousands of dollars, let alone the fallout that occurs in their immediate circle of family and friends."

Rabbi Amar received his Semicha (ordination) from Yeshiva Pirchei Shoshanim has made it his mission along with many other Chaplains and Lay Leaders and the thousands of members of Yeshiva Pirchei Shoshanim to assist the United States Military and Veterans Association to address this horrendous disease called Suicide which is taking more lives behind the lines than on the battlefield. In addition we are woefully failing our Veterans who on an average take their own lives at the incredible number of 22 per day. Rabbi Amar left a very successful Accounting practice and life home with his family to join the Military ranks as a Chaplain so he could support the country in what perhaps is a bigger war than the one we are fighting abroad. We are privileged that he is serving our Country and those that seek to protect it.

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We are seeking support for our foundation to help provide the enormous resources to address the problems the Military alone cannot solve except with the help of the Civilian component.

"We are expecting to hear a lot more from this Chaplain as he coaches others in dealing with this very delicate area.", said Major General Douglas Lanier Carver, the former Chief of Chaplains of the United States Army with Rabbi Chaplain Captain Raziel Amar just prior to a presentation is pictured below:



**RECOMMENDATIONS:** We seek the help of the major foundations across the country to help support this undertaking

Rabbi Yosef Weitz  
Foundation Coordinator  
Los Angeles, Calif  
732-370-3344

Rabbi David Becker

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Director of Chaplaincy Programs

Thank you for your time and consideration.