



VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

VOICE

Veterans Outreach In Crisis Events

Sheriff Bill Ayub
Deputy Allison Wallace
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- Since 2010, more than 65,000 veterans have died by suicide
- Calls to the Veteran's Affairs Crisis hotline jumped 100% in the weeks and months after the Afghanistan withdrawal
- We estimate receiving up to 15 calls per month of a Vet in mental health crisis

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- Our program has 40 volunteer deputies so far, all of whom are military veterans themselves.
- They received 4 hours of training from representatives of the VA, County office of Veteran Services, and Gold Coast Veterans Foundation. Additional training will be provided quarterly.
- After we get our program on good, solid ground, we will offer it to allied LE agencies in the county.



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- The goal of the program is for our VOICE deputies to get on scene quickly and become the primary contact with a veteran in mental health crisis to:
 - Through shared experiences and common language
 - Build rapport quickly
 - De-escalate the crisis



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- Our program is unique in that it involves a follow-up component
 - Deputies will outreach in the days, weeks and up to three months after a non-criminal contact to ensure that the veteran is getting the help they need through governmental or NGOs.
 - The goal of the follow-up is to help remove barriers that are often the cause of frustration that leads to or is a part of the mental health crisis



THANK YOU!