



Civil Air Patrol

Psychological First Aid and Suicide Prevention for Mission Success

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HQ CAP/HS





Webinar Presenters



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Webinar Rules of Engagement

- **Members in the field will be in listen only mode. We have several hundred members signed up, so having everyone with an open microphone is not supportable.**
- **We will try to answer questions throughout the webinar though. Just type your questions, and we will either answer you directly via text or provide a voice answer to your question.**
- **The webinar itself, questions, and chat log are being recorded, so please remain respectful.**



CISM Mission



- Ensure that the workforce is equipped with the skills to be:
 - Resilient to stress (thru pre-event education and post-event intervention);
 - Resistant to suicide (thru suicide prevention and post-suicide intervention);
 - Mentally prepared to fully serve all CAP missions.





State of CISM



- In the last 18 months:
 - Website transition to cap.gov domain;
 - Transition to resiliency skills vs. response;
 - Transition to Psychological First Aid as initial intervention of choice;
 - Position Task Book ensures benchmark of competency.





Strategy



- **Expiration for qualification of 3 years to correspond with position task book.**
- **Suicide prevention training based principally on DoD program.**
- **Task Forcing responses with the Chaplaincy to ensure the right resource is used for the right person.**



Leadership



- **As Senior Leaders in CAP, it is our job to:**
 - 1) Complete the mission;**
 - 2) Ensure that we return our all-Volunteer workforce to the same state they were, prior to the mission.**

A few messages that leaders can use to help...



Mission Stress Resilience



“FOCUS ON THE PRESENT”

- While under stress, focus on the current step you are on. Stress reduces focus.
- If you are on step 1, focus on step 1, with an optimism that you will move onto step 2.





Mission Stress Resilience



“SLEEP WHEN YOU CAN”

- Probably the most important single factor of mood during operations.
- During operations, a 20-30 minute nap is beneficial. Be smart where you nap and use a wake up alarm.

- Ear plugs*
- White noise apps*
- Sleep masks to block light
- Small pillow and blanket for comfort

*Ensure you can hear the fire/CO/evacuation alarms





Mission Stress Resilience



“KEEP A STRAIGHT POSTURE”

- Shows others your mood outwardly.
- A straight posture improves breathing and potentially improves resilience to stress as well as productivity¹.
- Easy to improve with a mirror.
- Research shows improved confidence in yourself with improved body posture².



¹Biofeedback Association for Applied Psychophysiology & Biofeedback. Volume 40, Issue 3, pp. 125–130

²Petty. European Journal of Social Science. October 2009



Mission Stress Resilience



OPTIMISM/HAPPINESS

- Happiness is one of the most infectious qualities of groups¹.
- Smiling and laughing are the “communication” of happy and optimistic people.
- In studies, optimism was infectious at a higher rate than pessimism¹.
- If someone is being pessimistic, pull them aside, ask if they are “ok”, and offer correction.
- If YOU are being pessimistic, excuse yourself from the group until you’re in a better mood.



¹Dynamic Spread of happiness in a large social network. *BMJ* 2008;337:a2338



Mission Stress Resilience



“AUTHENTIC FAKE SMILING” STRATEGY

- Fake smiling may be bad for your health because you may be repressing your emotions.¹
- However, if you can put your negative thoughts (not repress them) on hold for a short time and then smile into a mirror, your mood may improve biologically².
- Now with a improved mood, you can you revisit your negative emotions and come up with a plan of action.



¹B Scott. Academy of Management Journal. February, 2011

²Dynamic Spread of happiness in a large social network. BMJ 2008;337:a2338



Mission Stress Resilience



“LOOK FOR CREATIVE SOLUTIONS”

- At their core, optimists look for creative solutions during adversity.
- Look for opportunities to make solutions.



Optimists	Pessimists
Blames external reasons “that test was tough”	Blame themselves “the test was too difficult for me”
Will be temporary “that was one test in one class”	Will forever be bad “all of these tests are too hard”
Accurate thinking “I will need to study harder”	Catastrophic thinking “my entire life is a mess”



Mission Stress Resilience



“TAKE A DEEP BREATH BEFORE YOU MAKE ANY IMPORTANT DECISIONS”

- Taking a deep breath prior to making an important decision allows you to slow down and process your decision accurately.
- Step 1: breathe in through your nose as you count to 4 and expand your abdominal muscles.
- Step 2: hold your breath for 1 second.
- Step 3: exhale through your mouth and silently count to 8; as you exhale, tighten your abdominal muscles.
- Repeat several times; many people feel a sense of relief and peace. It also may reduce impulsivity.



Mission Stress Resilience



“OPEN DOOR POLICY”

- Ensure that all your members know that you have an open door policy and will seriously listen to them so their concerns can be heard, if the Chain of Command is not addressing their concerns.
- “If your concerns are not being addressed or if you need to talk to someone who cares, contact me.”





TRANSITION TO PFA

The following slides will be delivered by CISM members to CAP members.



Look, Listen, and Link (LLL)

Basic Psychological First-Aid and Suicide Awareness



Concept of Operations

- Basic Psychological first-aid (BPFA) is a method to help first responders respond after crisis and continue their first responder service to their communities.
- The Look, Listen, Link (LLL) model should be taught to CAP members by CAP CISM staff before an incident so an early, brief, and focused helping-hand can be there right away when the need arises...by a fellow team member.
- **This allows CAP to have members in the field or unit who have training in active listening and suicide prevention so we may all best serve our members.**

Who uses Psychological First Aid?

- Department of Defense, including the USAF
- Most major Fire and Police Departments
- Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
- Commercial Airlines
- Civil Air Patrol / U.S. Air Force Auxiliary



Why do we need Basic Psychological First Aid?

- Research has shown that when this is used, there is a reduced rate of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), less severe trauma reactions, and people tend to bounce back more quickly.



When do we need

Basic Psychological First Aid?

- Each CAP member should be ready to provide support to one another when there is a:
 - Death or illness within a CAP family or unit;
 - Emergency Services mission;
 - Suicide or suicide attempt within the CAP family;
 - Squadron Meeting, Encampment, Bivouac, Fly Day, or other type of CAP meeting;





PFA is...

- A humane, supportive response to someone who is suffering and who may need support.
 - provides practical and discreet care/support, which is not intrusive;
 - assesses their needs and concerns;
 - helps people to address basic needs (for example, food and water, information); listening to people, but not pressuring them to talk;
 - comforts people and helping them to feel calm;
 - helps people connect to information, services and social supports;
 - protects people from further harm.



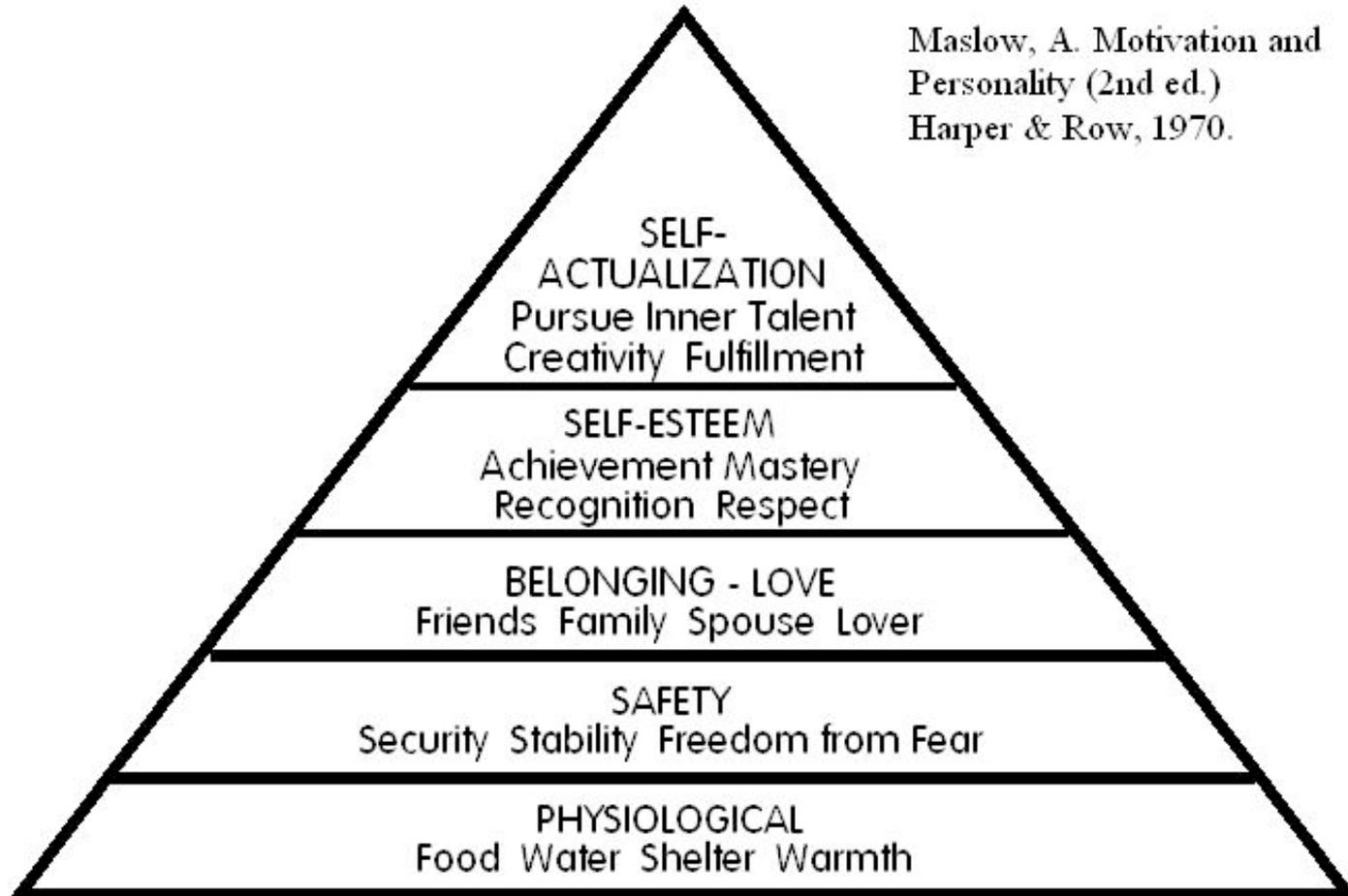
PFA is not...

- **It is not** something that only professionals can do;
- **It is not** professional counseling;
- **It is not** “psychological debriefing” in that PFA does not necessarily involve a detailed discussion of the event that caused the distress;
- **It is not** asking someone to analyze what happened to them or to put time and events in order;
- Although PFA involves being available to listen to people’s stories, **it is not** about pressuring people to tell you their feelings and reactions to an event.

Principles of Basic PFA

ABRAHAM MASLOW HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

Maslow, A. *Motivation and Personality* (2nd ed.)
Harper & Row, 1970.





Principles of Basic PFA

- **Safety**- Decreases further threat exposure; provides “grounding” to increase the feeling of safety.
- **Calming**- Reduces trauma-related anxiety that can interfere with decision making, and performance of life tasks.
- **The belief in Beneficial Self-Change** – By giving practical help, people will have the tools to help themselves.

CAP Leaders should display these traits directly after a trauma to best help their units or team members.



Principles of Basic PFA

- **Connectedness**- Since increased social support is related to better emotional well-being and recovery following trauma.
- **Hope / Optimism**- Because more favorable outcomes occur when persons retain hope for their future, believe in the future, and have a feeling of confidence that life is predictable.

CAP Leaders should display these traits directly after a trauma to best help their units or team members.



Look, Listen, Link (LLL)



Basic PFA Steps

- **Look**

- Look for obvious medical needs; call 911 if needed;
- Is the area safe to enter; are you psychologically prepared to help and listen? If so, **get consent** to help.
- Look for people with **serious distress reactions (next slide)**.



- **Listen**

- Listen to people and help them feel safe and calm;
- Ask if you can help and **what they need right now**;
- Listen for signs of serious distress reactions or suicide.



- **Link**

- **Help people address basic needs** / get information;
- Help people cope with problems-provide practical help;
- **Connect to loved ones, friends, Command, and/or CAP CISM Team (CIST). Make sure YOU speak with someone after.**





Look, Listen, Link



• Look

- Check for Safety;
 - Scan the area and identify if it is safe to enter.
 - Are YOU mentally prepared to assist?
 - Get consent to help them.
- Check for people with obvious medical needs;
 - Call 911 (or the local emergency number) if needed.
- Check for people with serious distress reactions;
 - Some common distress reactions include **appearing to be extremely upset, in a “daze”, or not responding when questioned; some specific examples are on the next slide.** These people will benefit from this.



• **Serious Distress Reactions**

- Uncontrollable shaking, having sleeping difficulties, or having headaches or pains;
- Uncontrollable crying, sadness, grief, fear, being “jumpy” or “on guard”, worried that something bad will happen, or being anxious or fearful;
- Feeling emotionally numb, like they are in a dream, being withdrawn, not speaking, or feeling extreme fatigue;
- Feeling angry, irritable, disoriented (not knowing their name or what happened), or unable to care for yourself.





Look, Listen, Link



• Distress

- Most people will recover well over time, especially if they can restore their basic needs and receive support from those around them or from those trained in PFA.
- However, people with either severe or long-lasting distress reactions may need more support than PFA alone, particularly if they cannot function in their daily life or if they are a danger to themselves or others.
- Make sure that **severely distressed people are not left alone** and try to keep them safe until you can find help from the chain of command, health personnel, local leaders or other community members in the area; **sometimes just being quietly present will help them.**



Look, Listen, Link



• Listen

- Listen properly to people you are helping;
 - **EYES** – Give the person your undivided attention.
 - **EARS** – Truly understand what their concerns are.
 - **HEART** – Be caring and show respect at all times.
 - **PRESENCE** – Sometimes just being present and nearby is enough to help someone through.

CAP members must understand ANYONE can have a distress reaction. They occur from a single event or small doses of stress over time. It is not a sign of weakness, low maturity, or low intelligence. With the right amount of stress all people will have distress reactions.

Look, Listen, Link



• Listen

- Listen to people and help them feel safe and calm.
 - Find a safe, quiet place to talk; **CPPT MUST BE MAINTAINED**
 - Remove them from exposure from the media; TV turned off.
 - Ask if you can provide help.
- Ask about their needs and concerns frequently.
 - Ask “**what do you need?**” Food, water, shelter, blankets, communications, and information are common needs.
- Listen for signs of serious distress reactions or suicide.
 - **Do not pressure someone to talk; stay close in case they want to tell you their story. Be calming.**
 - **If they do talk, acknowledge them, nod, and explain that you are there to support them.**
 - **If they are truly safe, tell them that. If not, make it safe.**



Look, Listen, Link



• Listen

- Don't leave distressed people alone.
- If a person is potentially suicidal:

ACE – Ask, Care, Escort, Self-CARE:

- **Ask** directly if they want to hurt OR kill themselves; be courageous.
- **Care** by calmly controlling the situation; actively listening and removing means of injury, if you can do so safely.
- **Escort** them to directly to the chain of command or call 911.
Be conscious of confidentiality and notify commander directly.
- **Self-CARE** by ensuring all people affected have resources to speak with someone:

- Crisis Text Line-text START to 741-741
- CAP CISM (via CAP NOC): 888-211-1812 x 300

- Suicide Prevention # 800-273-8255
- CAP Chaplain: 877-227-9142 x 418



• Listen: Suicide Signs

Warning – Take Action

- Talking about wanting to die
- Searching for a way to die (Online search, weapon purchase)
- Talking about being hopeless
- Talking about being a burden
- Behaving recklessly
- Withdrawing or isolating
- Displaying mood swings

Risk Factors – Be aware

- Prior suicide attempt
- Relationship stress
- Family history of suicide
- Mental health condition
- Having access to suicide method
- Signs of substance abuse
- Change in behavior
- Hopeless behavior
- Impulsive behavior

Protective Factors

- Skills in problem solving
- Supportive relationships
- Beliefs in self-preservation
- Strong connections with others
- Access to mental health staff
- Spiritual belief system



Look, Listen, Link



- **Listening: Calming Techniques**

- **Calming Presence:** make sure you promote calm by keeping your tone of voice calm and soft and your rate of speech slow and predictable.
- When not sure what to do ask “**what do you need right now?**” or “how may I help you?”. Remember that silence and just being available is important. Do not be intrusive; if no help is needed, stand ready to help.



Look, Listen, Link



- **Listening: Calming Techniques**

- **Deep Breathing:** instruct members with serious distress reactions to breath in through their nose over 4-seconds, hold for 1-second, and exhale through their mouth for 8-seconds. Do this for 2 cycles of breathing every few minutes as needed (don't overdo it). This type of breathing typically will relax their body and reduce impulsivity.



Look, Listen, Link



• **Link:**

- **Help people address basic needs** and get information to help (food, water, shelter, safety, and information).
- **Help people cope with problems** - provide practical help for their most important problems. List them out and assist with an action plan to help them fix their problems.
- **Connect them to loved ones, friends, Command, and/or CAP CISM Team.** Your job is to ensure they are being supported by someone else; family, friends, CAP Command, and / or your local CAP CISM Team (CIST).



CAP Personal Stress Resiliency Plan



- **A plan developed to assist you:**

- When we are stressed our mind becomes cluttered.
- This plan guides you through the process of becoming uncluttered.
- It is best filled out before any times of stress and then taken out and followed during times of stress.
- Found at:
http://www.capmembers.com/emergency_services/critical_incident_stress_management_cism/
- It is your private document.

CAP Personal Stress Resiliency Plan

1



Step 1: Identify/Observe Signs of Stress

When I have stress, I realize that my body and mind are affected. My signs of stress include:

- Muscle tension in my back / neck
- Headaches / neck pain / body pain
- Gastrointestinal issues
- Feeling anxious, depressed, or sad
- Becoming short-tempered
- Becoming emotionally cold or negative
- Eating junk food or eating too much food
- Having trouble focusing
- Becoming rigid / too focused on an idea
- I will actively work to observe the signs of stress in my body and mind; when I realize I am stressed, I will activate this stress resiliency plan**

2



Step 2: Stress Trigger First-Aid Steps

When stressed, I will activate the "PLACE" stress trigger first aid steps:

- P**erspective: think about the MOST LIKELY outcome of the stressor, NOT the worst case scenario
- L**et go of problems that you can't control and focus only on problems you can control
- A**ction Plan Creation – attack the stressor "head on" with a realistic plan
- C**onfidence – have the unwavering belief that you can handle the stress and use the action plan to overcome and succeed
- E**xpress emotions to a trusted loved one or friend so they don't become "bottled up"

3



Step 3: The Power of Physical Exercises.

I know that strong bodies

help people better handle stress. I will do something that makes me work hard for at least 20 minutes a day.

- I will commit to _____ minutes of exercise a day
- If I have trouble focusing, I will try exercising before I need to be attentive to help me concentrate better

I know that a physical workout will help me calm down when I am feeling most worried, stressed, or fearful. The physical exercise I commit to are:

- Aerobic exercise (running/walking/dancing)
- Resistance (plyometric, weights, body weights)
- Stretching (yoga, tai chi, flexibility training)
- _____

4



Step 4: The Power of Mental Exercises.

I will relax and exercise my mind by using:

- Good posture when sitting / walking
- Deep breathing exercises
- Positive self-talk "I can do this"
- Use constructive thinking to consider alternative solutions
- Be a realistic optimist and believe in hope
- Actively search for the "silver lining"
- Taking a warm shower or wash your face with warm water to relax
- Imagine you are someplace peaceful and relaxing. The place I could imagine myself being is _____

5



Step 5: Eating well.

I know that good nutrition makes a difference in my

health and how well I deal with stress. The changes I am ready to make include:

- Eating a healthy breakfast daily
- Skipping fewer meals
- Drinking fewer sodas / sugary drinks
- Limiting caffeinated beverages
- Drinking more water
- Eating smaller portions of food
- Eating less greasy meals / snacks
- Eating more high quality proteins, fruits, vegetables, and whole grain foods
- Stop using tobacco/alcohol or start a plan to stop tobacco/alcohol products
- _____

6



Step 6: Sleeping well.

I know that people who get a

good night's sleep do a better job of dealing with stress. For me to get the sleep I need, I will try to go to bed at _____; _____ and get _____ hours of total sleep.

When too close to bed time, some things can impact the quality of my sleep. I will consider the following plan to help me get the best sleep possible:

- Avoid caffeine at least 6 hours before bed
- Exercise 5-6 hours before bed
- Take some time to relax after work
- Shower or bathe 1 hour before bed
- Dim the lights 60 minutes before bed
- Let go of emotional tension before bed

Keep this Personal Stress Resiliency Plan and activate it when you are becoming stressed.

Sleeping Continued:

I will use my bed only for sleeping. I will use another place to do some of the things I do in bed now. I will:

- Not use a tablet / computer / smartphone 1-2 hours before bed
- Stop reading in bed prior to sleeping.
- Stop doing work in bed.
- Stop watching television in bed.
- Stop talking to my friends or texting / messaging in bed.
- Stop worrying in bed.
- Dock my smartphone in a charger that is not in my bedroom.
- Get out of bed and read if I am unable to fall asleep.

7



Step 7: Take instant vacations.

Everyone needs to be able to mentally escape problems for a while by taking an *instant vacation*. I will:

- Read a relaxing and familiar book.
- Mentally take a mini vacation to a favorite place or favorite past event
- Imagine I am someplace peaceful and relaxing. The place I could imagine myself being is _____
- Watch television/movies
- Listen to calming and familiar music.
- Play video games that are not violent or stressful.
- _____

8



Step 8: Release emotional tension.

I will try to let my worries go, rather than letting them build up inside.

- I will talk to a wisely chosen friend because I know they will give good advice.
- I will talk to _____
- I will pray to gain strength
- I will speak with a religious/spiritual leader
- I will meditate
- I will write out my thoughts in a diary, journal, or blog
- I will allow myself to laugh more
- I will allow myself to cry more
- I will make lists to get organized
- I will express myself through art
- I will express myself through music
- I will express myself through creative writing
- I will express myself through poetry
- I will write my experience down to share
- _____

9



Step 9: Positive Interactions

I know that people who have healthy positive interactions cope better with stress. I plan to:

-Communicate with my Team / Co-Workers

- I agree that I will be respectful to my team.
- I agree that when I am stressed and cannot guarantee that I will be respectful, I will limit my interactions with my team / co-workers

-Communicate with my Loved Ones

- Speak with my trusted loved ones **at least daily** (when possible) and explain to them why I am under stress and how I feel. I will lean on my loved ones and understand someday they will lean on me
- I will speak with my loved ones after exercise (when possible) because I will be at my calmest, clearest and most focused after exercise
- I agree that I will not make any significant changes in my life until I speak with them
- I agree that if I feel like I want to hurt myself, I will call or text the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline or speak to a loved one.



Further Help

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: confidential help 800-273-8266 / text 838255**
- I will consider speaking with a CAP CISM member _____
- If I need a CISM peer supporter and don't know who their contact information, I will email CISM@CAPNHQ.GOV or call 1-888-211-1812 ext. 300 for help.
- I will consider speaking with a religious or spiritual leader _____
- I will consider speaking with a CAP Chaplain or CDI _____
- If I need a CAP Chaplain and don't know their contact information, I will call 1-877-227-9142 ext. 418 for help.

Based on the work of Ginsburg KR, Jablow MM.



CAP Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team

- A confidential CAP team that assists CAP members or their families which assists the our member's resiliency needs in crisis.
- It uses the idea that after a crisis most people will fully recover with education on typical crisis reactions and through helping members meet needs. It uses professional level PFA and other crisis intervention techniques.
- Any squadron, group, activity, or tasked incident commander may request a wing commander to activate a CAP CISM Team. You don't need to tell anyone why you are activating the team.
- CAP commanders should ensure that there is no stigma in requesting a CAP CISM Team, that confidentiality is maintained throughout the request process.



CAP Chaplain Corps

- CAP has a vital interest in the moral and spiritual welfare of its members. The CAP chaplaincy is an organization of clergy who are appointed and endorsed as CAP chaplains. They represent their various denominations and support the pluralistic ministry of the CAP Chaplain Corps.
- Units with Cadets also have Character Development Instructors (CDIs) that may be appropriate to talk to for advice.
- For more information, or to find a Chaplain, please contact Kenya Bogans, Chaplain Corps Administrator
 - Phone: Toll Free 1-877-227-9142, ext 418
 - DSN: 493-7748
 - Email: kbogans@capnhq.gov



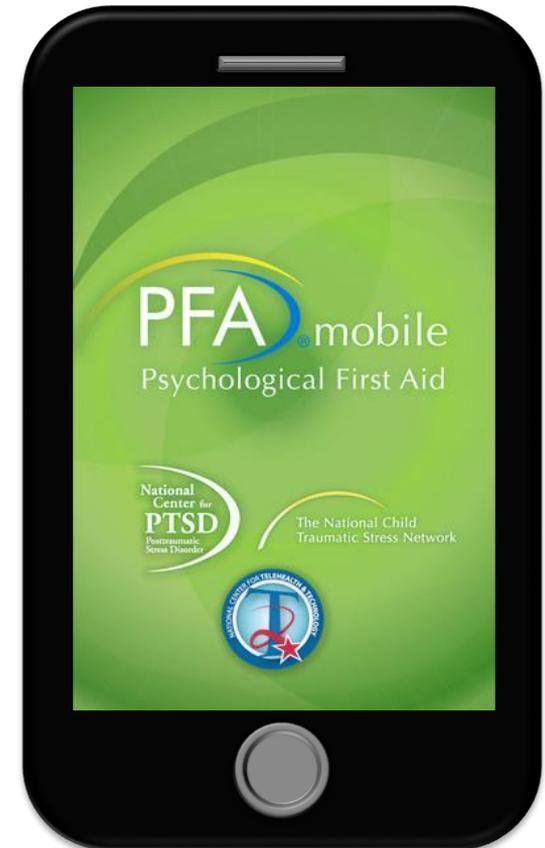
Additional PFA Resources

- Thomas Janisko, Lt Col, CAP
Chief, CAP CISM and Resiliency Program
cism@caphq.gov (goes to CAP CISM HQ group)
(202) 604-7966 (Lt Col Janisko's mobile phone)
- **Need Immediate CISM help: CAP National Operations Center at 1-888-211-1812 Extension 300**

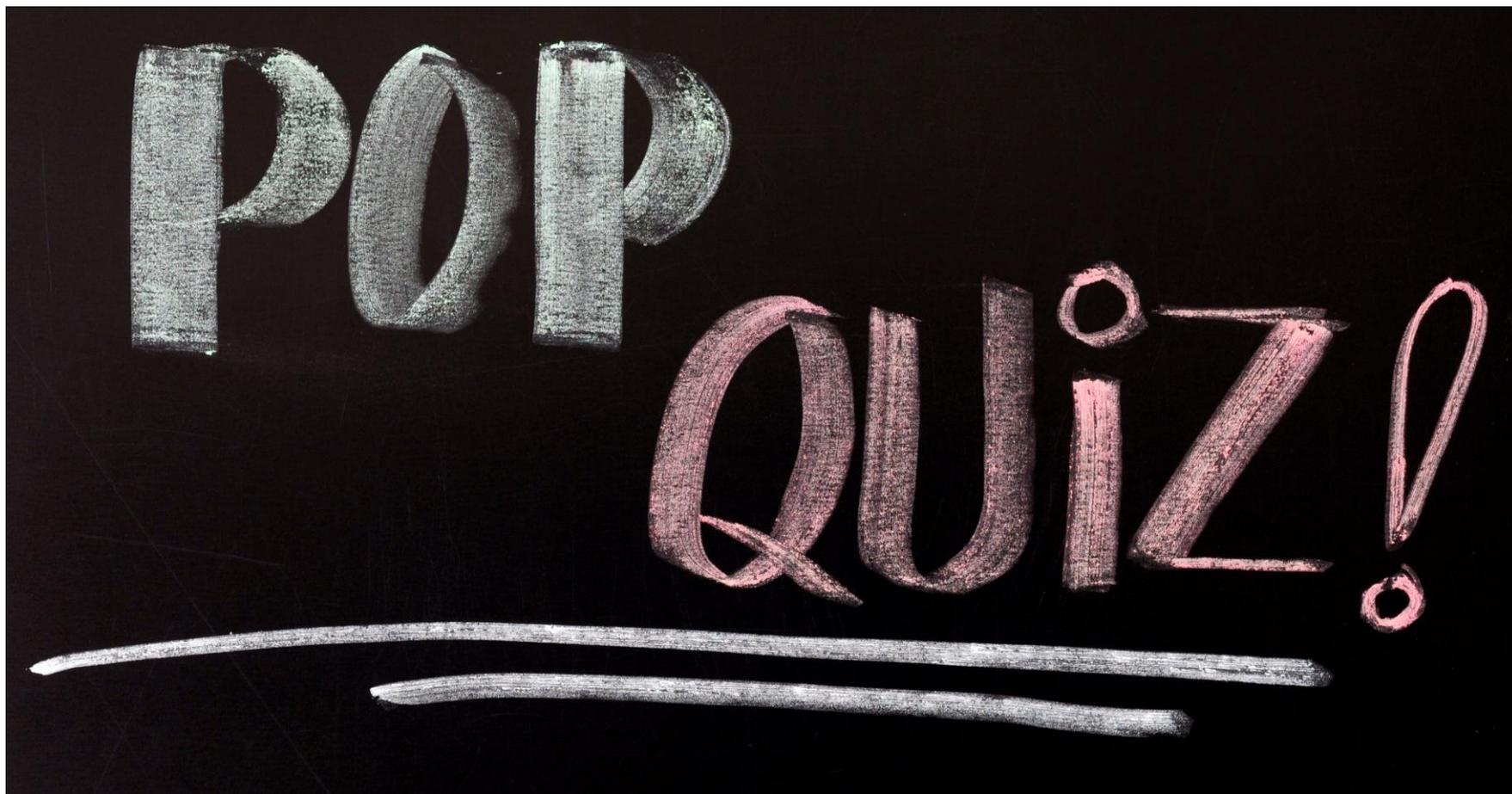
Additional PFA Resources

World Health Organization (WHO) PFA Guidebook is an excellent resource:

- http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241548205_eng.pdf
- The Department of Veterans Affairs developed an Psychological First Aid app, called 'PFA Mobile'
 - Available on Google Play & the iTunes App Stores



Review





Test – Question 1

- What does the acronym LLL stand for?

_____ , _____ , _____

- A) Live, Life, Loud
- B) Look, Listen, Link
- C) Learn, Leave, Link
- D) Look, Learn, Leave



Test – Question 2

- You just returned from a “mission find” after a search and rescue mission. A member of the team seems quiet, withdrawn, and appears emotionally down. What should you do?
 - A) Offer assistance right away using the Look, Listen, Link (LLL) acronym for psychological first aid and then strongly recommend that together you both speak with someone in the chain of command or CAP CISM Team.
 - B) Watch them and then check in with them during your next weekly squadron meeting.
 - C) Immediately notify your chain of command and not speak with the member.

Test – Question 3

- What are the parts of the Look portion of the LLL method?
 - Is area safe to enter; are you **P**_____ prepared to help?
 - Check for people with obvious medical needs; call 911, if needed;
 - Check for people with **S**_____ **D**_____ **R**_____;
- A) Physically / Safe Distress Reasoning
- B) Psychologically / Simple Disaster Relief
- C) Psychologically / Serious Distress Reactions
- D) Psychically / Serious Disaster Recall

Test – Question 4

- A CAP member appears depressed, talks about feeling hopeless, and talked about being a burden. What should you do?

– Follow the ACE acronym which stands for?

- A) Ask, Care, Escort
- B) Ask, Communicate, Extract
- C) Assist, Communicate, Escort
- D) Assist, Care, Endorse



Test – Question 5

- What are the parts of the Link portion of the LLL method?
 - **Help people address basic needs** / get _____ to help;
 - Help people cope with problems - provide practical help;
 - **Connect to loved ones, friends, Command, and the CAP _____ Team.**

- A) Consent / CISM
- B) Information / CISN
- C) Authority / CISU
- D) Information / CISM



Test – Bonus 1

- Who is your wing CISM Officer? _____
- If you don't know, who can you call?



Test – Bonus 2

- Who is your CDI? _____
- If you don't know, who can you call?



Test – Bonus 3

- Who is your Chaplain? _____
- If you don't know, who can you call?



Thank You

- Because you took the time to complete this training, you are now better prepared to help your unit, your wing, and CAP pursue our 3 missions.
- You are a valuable asset to CAP, and we encourage all members to watch out for one another.
- This concludes our basic PFA training.



Awarded to



For successful completion of the Civil Air Patrol

Basic Psychological First Aid Course

In recognition for the attainment of knowledge and proficiency in
Psychological First Aid skills

Date Completed

Thomas Janisko, Lt Col, CAP
Chief, Health Services



Mission Stress Resilience



- **The CAP Basic Psychological First Aid Course** takes 30 minutes to present and can be found at http://www.capmembers.com/emergency_service/critical_incident_stress_management_cism/
- Ensures your team leaders and members are well prepared to act and care for a team after a bad outcome.



CIVIL AIR PATROL

ALWAYS
VIGILANT
FOR AMERICA



75

1941 - 2016

Happy Anniversary Year CAP!!!