# Firearm Leadership to Reduce the Risk of Suicide and Harm

## ACTIONS FOR FIREARM LEADERSHIP

- **Discuss Personal Firearm Storage**
  - Encourage your people to store personally owned firearms unloaded and locked in a case or gun safe when not in use.

- **Be Present and Support Your Personnel**
  - Reach out to service members who are experiencing stress.
  - Follow-up regularly

- **Discourage Alcohol Use When Using Firearms**
  - Practice zero tolerance mixing alcohol with handling weapons.

## PROMOTE FAMILY SAFETY

- For some, family safety means keeping a gun loaded and unlocked.
- Emphasize how a loaded and unlocked gun can greatly increase the risk of an accidental or an impulsive shooting death.
- Remind your people to keep firearms out of the reach of children.
- Teach children “guns are not toys” and should only be handled when supervised by trained adults.

## ALTERNATIVES TO FIREARMS FOR SELF AND FAMILY PROTECTION

- Remind personnel of options for personal and home safety that are safer than unlocked weapons. These include:
  - Guard Dogs
  - Alarm Systems
  - Pepper Spray
  - Stun Guns and Tasers
  - Pocket and Tactical Knives

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**EDUCATIONAL TOOL**

[https://www.cstsonline.org/suicide-prevention-program/](https://www.cstsonline.org/suicide-prevention-program/)