OSCAR TEAM TRAINING



Pre-Reading (pages 4-11) Lesson 1

Expectations

Lesson 2

Stress reactions

Lesson 3

Supporting stressed
 Marines

Lesson 4

Planning your OSCAR
 Team implementation

COMMAND EXPECTATIONS



- It's our personal goal to keep Marines in the fight
- To fulfill your OSCAR
 Team duties, you will:
 - Build relationships
 - Plan how you'll implement OSCAR activities
 - Implement OSCAR in your unit

COURSE INTRODUCTION

- How many of you have been exposed to overwhelming stress in your
 personal life or
 within your time in
 the Marine Corps?
- You will use your experience and knowledge to create a help-seeking and peer-supporting culture.



EXERCISE 1A: TAKING ACTION

- Marines spring to action every day and in critical times.
- We'll break into five groups.
- Each group will have a case to discuss.
- Turn to Exercise 1A in your OSCAR Job Aid.



COURSE STRATEGY



Four lessons:

- Outlining foundations and expectations
- 2. Building resiliency and managing stress
- Supporting stressed Marines and getting them required help
- 4. Planning for yourOSCAR Team actions

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

- Keep an open mind
- Actively participate in group discussions and individual exercises
- Use your Job Aid to take notes
- Think about what solutions might work in your unit



STRESS CONTROL MISSION

- Lead by example and discuss openly with Marines what you've learned today
- Know the full range of stress reactions; take action early to mitigate the effects
- Reduce any stigma associated with seeking behavioral health assistance

MHPs

Extenders

Medical staff, chaplains, corpsmen, and religious program specialists, who provide advanced support in Yellow and Orange Zones

Mental Health Professionals (within the unit in garrison and in theater) provide support in the Yellow and Orange Zones and coordinate diagnosis and treatment in the Red Zone

> OSCAR Team

Team Members

Marines trained to identify stress, apply mitigation strategies in the Yellow Zone, refer distressed Marines in the Orange & Red Zones to higher levels of support, and follow up to ensure Marines received needed help

EXERCISE 1B: POSITIVE INFLUENCERS

Positive influencers: Leaders who model and promote healthy behaviors

1. What are qualities of positive influencers?

2. What do you look for in a mentor?

3. What are two things you like best about being a Marine?

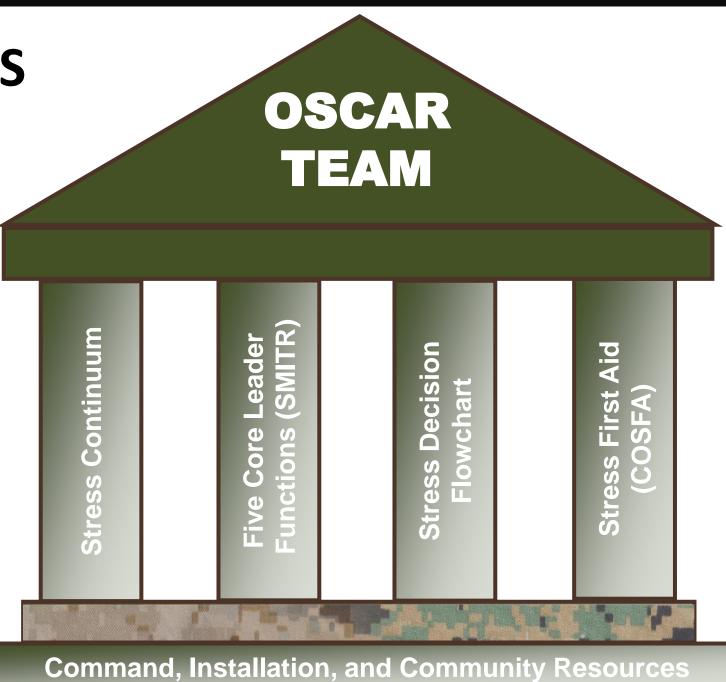
4. What does a bias for action mean to you?

BIAS FOR	
ACTION	MO
KEY OSCAR	MOI
TEAM	CON
CONCEPTS	ED
LEADERSHIP	0
SUPPORT	

MODEL KEY DSCAR TEAM CONCEPTS & EDUCATE OTHERS ENTIRE MARINE CORPS USES OSCAR PRINCIPLES

KEY TEAM CONCEPTS

- The Stress Continuum (Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red)
- 2. The Five Core Leader Functions (SMITR)
- The Stress Decision
 Flowchart
- 4. Stress First Aid (COSFA)
- You will find these explained in more detail in your OSCAR Job Aid.



EXERCISE 1C: WHAT YOU BRING

- Let's "Think &
 Ink, Pair Share" to
 unpack what you
 bring to the
 OSCAR Team.
- Turn to Exercise
 1C in your Stress
 Control Job Aid.
- Write answers

 and turn to your
 neighbor to
 share.



- What is your most valuable attribute as a small unit leader?
- What one experience taught you that you can handle challenges?
- What is one issue you face while leading Marines?
- What is the most challenging issue Marines face?

YOU'RE NOT IN THIS ALONE

- S/M Semper Fit & Marine
 Corps Family Team Building
- S/M/I/R New Parent
 Support Program
- M/I/T Military and Family
 Life Counselors
- M/I/T/R Community
 Counseling Program,
 Family Advocacy Program,
 Substance Abuse
 Counseling Center



LOCAL RESOURCES

Points of contact:

- Chaplain & RPs: Name, Phone, Location
- Medical Staff: Name, Phone, Location
- MHP: Name, Phone, Location
- Substance Abuse Counseling Center, SACC: Name, Phone, Location
- **Community Counseling Program:** Name, Phone, Location
- Family Advocacy Program: Name, Phone, Location
- New Parent Support Program: Name, Phone, Location
- Military Family Life Counselor, MFLC: Name, Phone, Location
- **COSC Representative:** Name, Phone, Location
- **EPBHC:** Name, Phone, Location
- **Deployment Readiness Coordinator: Name, Phone, Location**

BREAK 10



LESSON 2

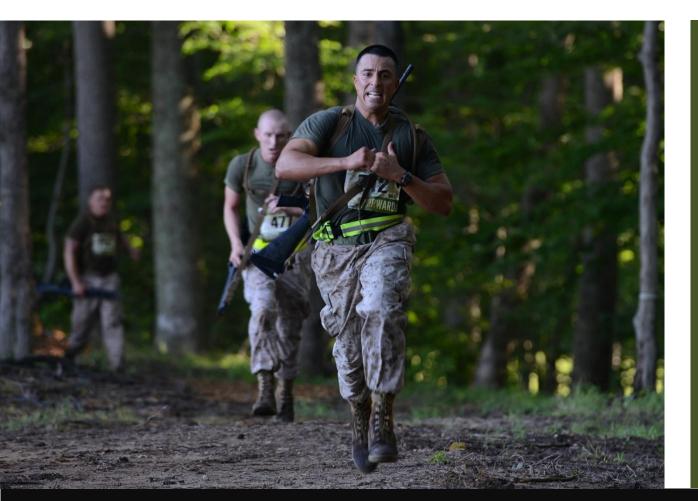


We will learn about stress, our natural reactions to it, and the proactive, continuous activities we'll execute for building unit and Marine resiliency. We'll dig into:

- Stress Zones: Green (ready) & Yellow (reacting)
- Core Leader Function: Strengthen

STRESS: WHAT IS IT?

Stress is a reaction to a situation where a person feels threatened or anxious. Stress can be positive (planning for a wedding) or negative (dealing with the death of a friend). Learning healthy ways to manage stress and getting the right care and support is crucial.



 <u>Combat and operational stress</u>:
 Changes in physical or mental functioning or behavior resulting from the experience of combat, its aftermath, or from stress that may impact us at home, in garrison, and during non-combat military operations.

EXERCISE 2A: PULSE CHECK

- Turn to Exercise 2A in your Stress Control Job Aid.
- A video will play
- Record the positive and negative stressors you see in the appropriate columns



BASELINE + ANOMALY = DECISION

For all Marines:

(Know their baseline) + (Continually monitor for anomalies)

= Choose their stress zone and take action

Watch for (observe):

- Deployment or training stressors
- Uncharacteristic and intense negative emotions
- Changes in job performance, self-care, or relationships
 <u>Listen for (ask about):</u>
- Personal or home stressors
- Troubling thoughts including guilt/shame
- Physical symptoms including sleep problems or loss of self-control













BASELINE (GREEN ZONE)

Green (Ready) Zone

Good to go

IDENTIFY

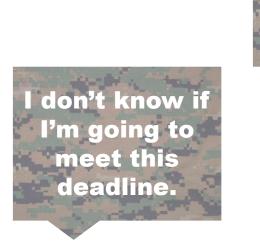
- Well-trained
- Calm and steady
- Prepared
- Fit and tough
- Eating well
- Sleeping enough
- Sense of humor
- Good decisions

- Keep wellness a priority and work to stay in the "Green Zone"
- Grow your problem-solving and conflict management skills
- Continuously monitor yourself and others (check in often) for signs of distress or loss of function

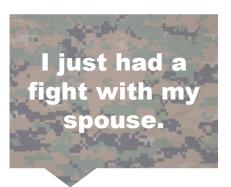
IDENTIFY ANOMALY (YELLOW ZONE)

REACTING

- Distress or impairment
- Mild, transient
- Anxious or irritable
- Behaviorchange









My household goods shipment is missing some boxes.

- Difficulty relaxing and sleeping
- Loss of interest in social or recreational activities
- Any change from normal personality
- Hyperactive startle responses to noises
- Unusual and excessive fear/worry/anger
- Recurrent nightmares or troubling memories

RESILIENCE

Withstand adversity

without becoming

significantly affected

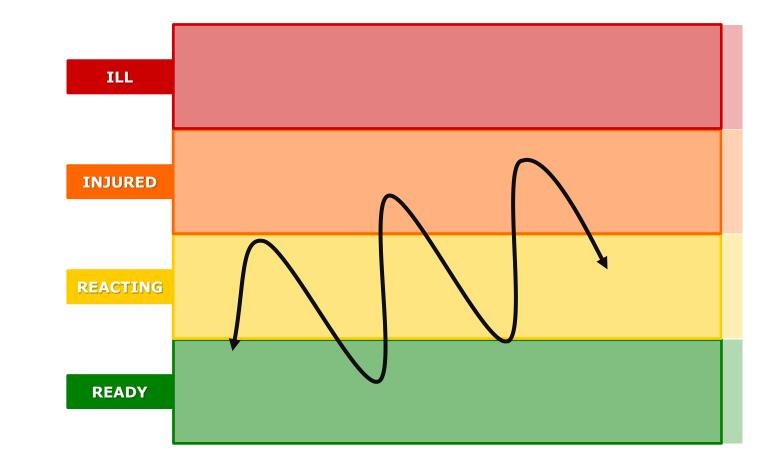
 Recover quickly and fully from stress-induced

distress or impairment



BUILDING RESILIENCY

- Repeated and controlled exposure to stress + recovery time = expansion of a Marine's Green and Yellow Zone
- Decreases risk of
 Orange and Red Zone
 injuries and illnesses



BREAK 10



STRENGTHEN: TOTAL FITNESS

BODY

- Meets or exceeds PFT/CFT standards
- Meets body composition standards
- Receives medical and dental clearance for full duty
- Makes lifestyle decisions that support health, fitness, and readiness

MIND

- Feels self-confident
- Possesses strong decision-making skills
- Perseveres
- Stays focused on mission
- Exhibits hopefulness and positive outlook
- Maintains mental agility
- Assists others in need

SPIRIT

- Engages in life's meaning and purpose
- Feels hopeful about life and future
- Makes sound moral decisions
- Connects with family, friends, and community
- Forgives self and others
- Respects self and others
- Stays true to core values and beliefs

SOCIAL

- Enjoys strong family and support system
- Exhibits social confidence
- Possesses strong decision-making skills
- Feels a sense of community
- Maintains interest in fitness and community activities
- Respects self and others
- Builds and sustains healthy relationships

EXERCISE 2B: TOTAL FITNESS

- (Self-care) What do you currently do to strengthen yourself in each area?
 What are three new things you will add to strengthen yourself?
- (Peer support) What will you recommend to others?

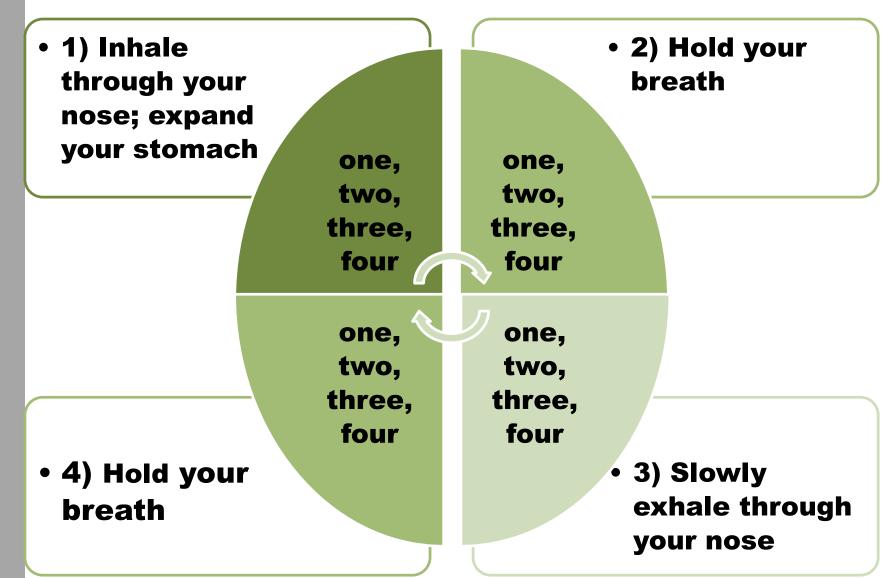
BODY

 Meets or exceeds PFT/CFT standards 	 Self-confidence 	
 Meets body composition standards 	 Strong coping/decision-making skills 	
 Medically and dentally cleared 	 Perseverance and hopefulness 	
for full duty	 Mission focus 	
 Lifestyle decisions support health, 	 Healthy relationships 	
fitness, and readiness	 Assists others in need 	
SPIRIT	SOCIAL	
 Engaged in life's meaning and purpose 	 Strong family and support system 	
	 Socially confident 	
 Hopeful about life and future 	 Socially confident 	
Hopeful about life and futureMakes sound moral decisions	 Socially confident Strong coping and decision-making skills 	
·	•	
 Makes sound moral decisions 	 Strong coping and decision-making skills 	
Makes sound moral decisionsFully engaged with family, friends, and	 Strong coping and decision-making skills Sense of community 	

MIND

EXERCISE 2C: STRENGTHEN (1ST TECHNIQUE)

- Together we'll practice Box
 Breathing
- Did you physically feel anything change while box breathing?
- How could you see yourself using this technique with Marines?



EXERCISE 2C: STRENGTHEN (2ND & 3RD TECHNIQUES)

- Break into groups of four participants
- Bring your Stress Control Job Aid.
- Two in each group will read the second technique: Progressive Muscle Relaxation
- Two in each group will read the third technique: Grounding
- In the groups, you will brief the techniques to each other and practice







LESSON 3



Our efforts must be focused on mitigating stress before it progresses. We do this by knowing:

- Stress Zones: Orange (injured) & Red (ill)
- Core Leader
 Function: Mitigate & Identify

THE FOUR As OF DEALING WITH STRESS



- Avoid the stressor
- Alter the stressor
- Adapt to the stressor
- Accept the stressor

EXERCISE 3A: MANAGING STRESSORS

- Turn to Exercise 3A in your Job Aid, and list all the stress management techniques you can imagine (easy ones and harder to resource ones).
- They can be silly. Write down anything that comes to mind. Start writing; you have 3 minutes.
- Take 1 additional minute to answer the two exercise questions.



MITIGATE & MENTAL AGILITY: TURN & TALK

- Mental agility exercises can improve your ability to mitigate stress by:
 - Controlling the things you can control
 - Lessening the impact of things you can't control
 - Understanding the difference



EXERCISE 3B: CONTROL WHAT YOU CAN

- Turn to Exercise 3B in your Job Aid, and you'll find this exercise.
- Write down stressors you can control in the first column and how you can mitigate those stressors in the second column.
- Write down the stressors you can't control in the third column and how you can mitigate those in the fourth column.

STRESSORS I <u>CAN</u> CONTROL	HOW CAN I MITIGATE THEM?	STRESSORS I <u>CAN'T</u> CONTROL	HOW CAN I MITIGATE THEM?
Weight gain	Cut out junk food; exercise more; get adequate sleep	I'm getting older	Talk to Semper Fit about ways to keep fit
Boredom	Take part in Single Marine Program activities; volunteer with a community group	Stuck in a 5-mile backup on the interstate while driving home from work	Call a friend or relative you haven't talked to in a while; download a podcast or audio book; listen to your favorite radio station

EXERCISE 3C: SLEEP TEST

- Sleep is the time for the body to repair itself
- You need it for physical and mental health
- Lack of sleep hurts performance, concentration, mood, and the ability to solve problems
- Turn to page 27 in your Job Aid.



EXERCISE 3D: INJURED & ILL DIFFERENCES

What are the differences between the Yellow & Orange Zones?

2. Why is this distinction important?

3. What actions of ours are different between the Yellow & Orange Zones?







DEFEATING THE STIGMA OF SEEKING HELP

Marines might hesitate to seek help because:

- They perceive it to be a sign of weakness
- They think they don't have time
- They don't recognize they have a problem
- They worry it will affect their career



WILL SEEKING HELP HURT MY CLEARANCE?

EO 12968:

"...No negative inference concerning the standards in this section may be raised solely on the basis of mental health counseling. Such counseling can be a positive factor in eligibility determinations. However, mental health counseling, where relevant to the adjudication of access to classified information, may justify further inquiry to determine whether the standards of subsection (b) (casts doubt on individuals judgement, reliability, or trustworthiness) of this section are satisfied, and mental health may be considered where it directly relates to those standards."

Standard Form 86 Revised December 2010 U.S. Office of Personnel Management 5 CFR Parts 731, 732, and 736

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY POSITIONS Form approved: OMB No. 3206 0005

Section 21 - Psychological and Emotional Health

Mental health counseling in and of itself is not a reason to revoke or deny eligibility for access to classified information or for a sensitive position, suitability or fitness to obtain or retain Federal employment, fitness to obtain or retain contract employment, or eligibility for physical or logical access to federally controlled facilities or information systems.

21.1 In the last seven (7) years, have you consulted with a health care professional regarding an emotional or mental health condition or were you hospitalized for such a condition? Answer 'No' if the counseling was for any of the following reasons and was not court-ordered:

	Y	ES
12.2.2.4		

NO (If NO, proceed to Section 22)

- strictly marital, family, grief not related to violence by you; or

- strictly related to adjustments from service in a military combat environment

Please respond to this question with the following additional instruction: Victims of sexual assault who have consulted with the health care professional regarding an emotional or mental health condition during this period strictly in relation to the sexual assault are instructed to answer No.

DISCUSSION: BEING A MARINE IS THE EASY PART

"My spouse had a difficult childhood. We got married, and I knew what I was signing up for, but it's harder than I expected. We've been married two years and nothing ever seems to be good enough. We take lavish vacations and on social media appear to be the 'perfect' family. In reality, my spouse unleashes such hurtful comments that I wonder if it's emotional abuse. I'm not sure how much more I can take before I lose my cool. And being a Marine? Um, yeah, work is my reprieve. It's where I feel most comfortable right now-but I can tell my Marines are worried about me. Is it showing in my work performance? I hope not, but I don't know. I hate going home. "

IDENTIFY: WATCH FOR CRITICAL STRESSORS



Life threat is any time a person might get killed. It's an immediate threat to your life. Wear and tear is prolonged stress. It could be work-ups or long stretches of repeated missions in theater with little down time. Loss is the death of someone close to you, the loss of a relationship or a job, or something else important to you. Inner conflict is anything that causes guilt or doesn't sit right with your beliefs.

Identify these four types of stressors. When your Marines experience one or more of these stressors, be aware of the increased risk of Orange or Red Zone.

IDENTIFY ANOMALY (ORANGE ZONE)

I keep having the same nightmare.

INJURED

 More severe or persistent distress or impairment

May leave
 lasting
 evidence
 (personality
 change)

Inability to fall asleep or stay asleep

might lose it

and hurt

somebody.

- Withdrawal from social or recreational activities
- Uncharacteristic outbursts of rage or panic
- Nightmares or memories that increase heart rate
- Inability to control emotions
- Loss of usual concern for moral values
- Serious suicidal or homicidal thoughts



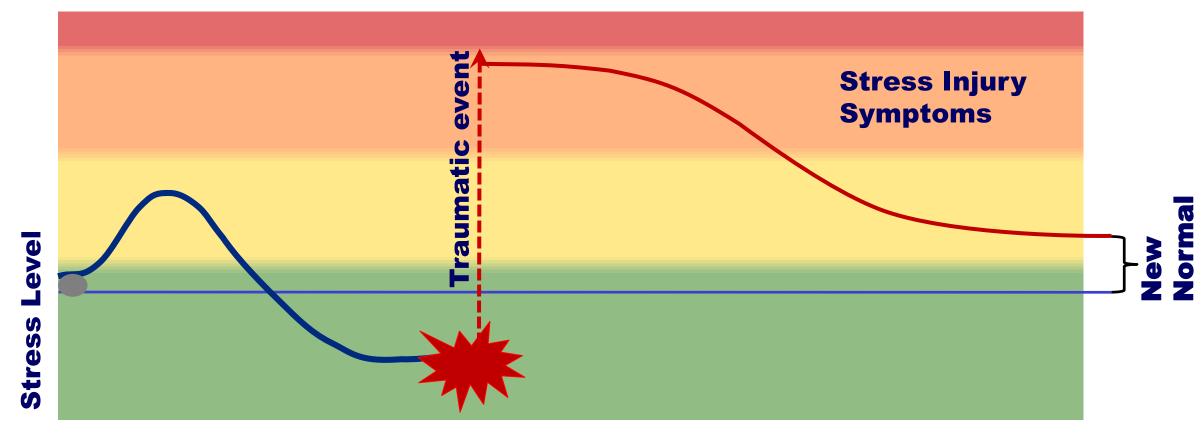




DISCUSSION: HELPLESS

"I'm wearing my Marines out. And it seems like there is nothing I can do. I am truly trying to be a good leader. I send them home when the work is done, but just when we think we're going to get a breather, another call comes in. Last Friday, I sent my Marines home and told them to enjoy the weekend, but at 2200 received a call I would need two of them to be drivers for a special pop-up run at 0200. This isn't war. They should be able to relax and spend time with their friends and family. But I have my leadership calling me, and I have no choice but to task out my Marines. I know they're exhausted. I've lost one to suicide in the last year, and two others have expressed suicidal ideations. It's the wear and tear. I feel helpless in advocating for them."

RECAP: INVOLUNTARY STRESS RESPONSES



Time →

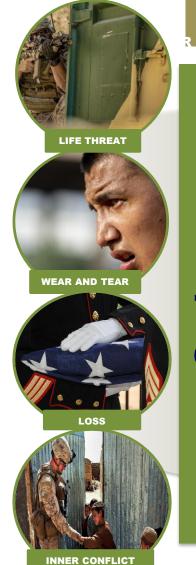
GARRISON LIFE

Stress Combo

Life Experiences

Common Stressors

Deployment or Operational Experiences



Garrison Factors

- Repetitiveness or monotony
- Too much or too little money
- Strained relationships
- Loss of identity
- Isolation
- Availability of alcohol
- Time to think

Potential Outcomes

Job Performance

Relationship Breakdown

Misconduct

Mental Health Issues

EXERCISE 3E: THINGS WENT SIDEWAYS

"My unit goes from being so bored to too busy, all the time. Just three days ago, a couple Marines and I were real bored, so we went to a party. We were trying to have fun, but that went sideways. I drank too much, I'm underage, and I needed medical attention. My buddy called an ambulance, and I woke up in the emergency room with my SNCO. I've never been in trouble before, and my SNCO took care of it. But word got all the way around my unit, and Sergeant Major wants to see my leadership immediately. I know things are bad, and I don't want my mentors catching heat for my actions. I was in a good relationship for years and had someone who listened to my issues, but we broke up recently: I don't know who I can talk to now."



- Stress injuries that don't get better over time
- Stress injuries that get worse over time

dependence

>> Increased risk

misconduct

other

on substances

for aggression,

- Stress injuries that get better and then come back worse
- Post-deployment stress injury symptoms lasting for more than several

weeks should be evaluated for Red Zone

RED ZONE: ILLNESS

ONLY A QUALIFIED MEDICAL OFFICER CAN DIAGNOSE DISORDERS

- If you think a Marine is in the Red Zone, refer the Marine to medical right away
- Follow up and ensure Marine has received proper treatment
- Mentor Marine back to full duty if possible and reintegrate into unit

BREAK 5



LESSON 4



PREVIEW

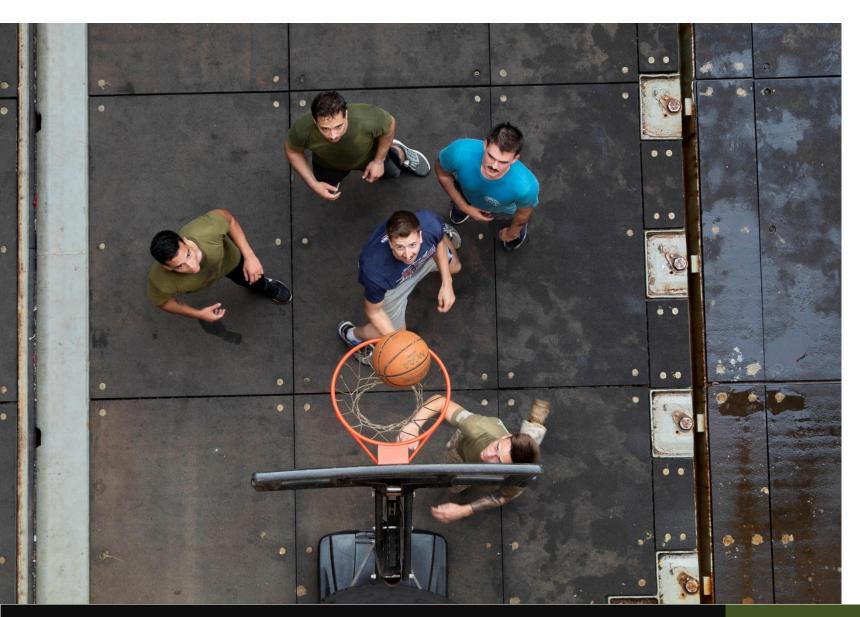
- Core Leader
 Functions: Treat & Reintegrate
- Stress First Aid
 Practical Applications
- OSCAR Activities
 Planning

TREAT: INTERVENTION

- All actions to promote recovery from Yellow,
 Orange, and Red Zone stressors
- Regardless of where or by whom those "treat" actions are taken



TREAT: CONNECT WITH MARINES



- How do you approach your Marines to get them to talk?
- What do you do if a Marine is resisting your advice?
- How important is it to gauge how a Marine is feeling?
- How good are you at reading how a Marine is feeling?

EXERCISE 4A: WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH MARINES

- Turn to Exercise 4A in your Job Aid.
- Read the scenario, and then partner with your neighbor to use one of the engagement techniques to start a conversation with the Marine.
- You'll have 6 minutes for this exercise.



EXERCISE PREP: PRIMARY AID (COSFA)



CHECK. Assess, watch, and listen for unusual stressors, severe distress, and changes in behavior.

COORDINATE. Get help. Inform chain of command (at least one level up), refer Marine to OSCAR Extender, and follow up.

COVER. Get this person to safety. Recognize danger posed by or to a stressed person. Neutralize the danger. Keep person safe until he or she recovers.

CALM. Help the person relax; slow down. Use box breathing; muscle relaxation; grounding. Refocus the Marine's thinking.

EXERCISE 4B: MORE THAN A BITE & BEER

- Turn to Exercise 4B

 in your Job Aid.
 Remember your
 stress control skills,
 including Stress First
 Aid--COSFA.
- After we read the scenario, you will have 2 minutes
 to answer the questions.

It's Friday night after a long week of field training, and you and your buddies can't wait to hit the local bar. A group meets at a popular local spot, orders several appetizers, and enjoys a round of beers. You suddenly notice an escalation between Smith and Jones. They are shouting, and you hear something about football. They both move into the lobby. Before everyone realizes what is happening, punches are thrown. You and others separate them and know it's time to leave. You separate into two groups. Some go with Jones, and you and a few others go with Smith. You begin to walk down the street, and Smith still seems a little escalated.

EXERCISE PREP: SECONDARY AID (COSFA)



CONNECT. Spend time with Marine; encourage peer support.

COMPETENCE. Encourage and mentor Marine back to full function. Restore effectiveness; retrain if necessary.

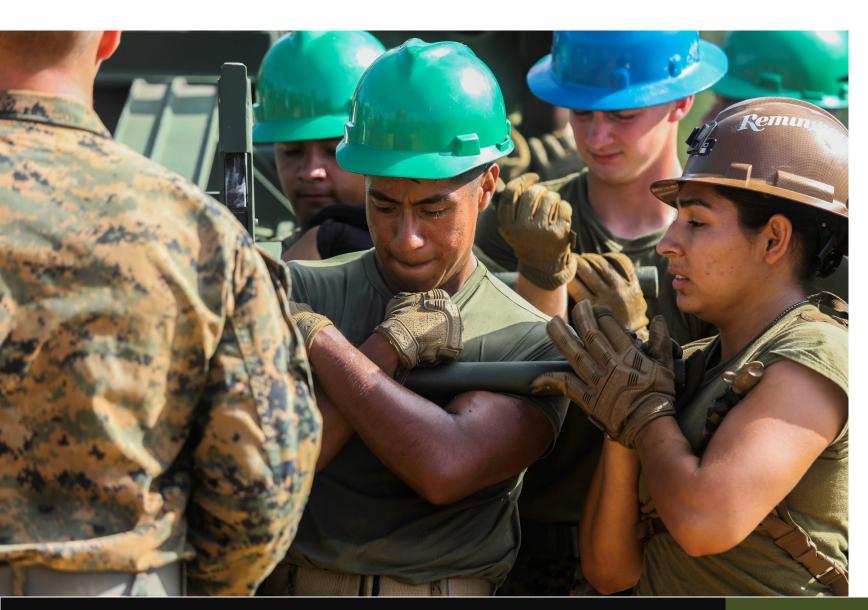
CONFIDENCE. Be positive reinforcement as Marine reintegrates with unit. Restore self-esteem. Give the Marine increasing responsibility.

EXERCISE 4C: NO TIME

- Turn to Exercise 4C
 in your Job Aid.
 Remember your
 stress control skills,
 including Stress First
 Aid—COSFA.
- After we read the scenario, you will have 2 minutes to answer the questions.

"I came into work smelling like alcohol. So, I've been enrolled in the Substance Abuse Program. I'm not happy about it, but at least the staff are nice, and I am actually learning a lot. The classes got me thinking that I want to attend anger management as well. They meet once a week for a couple hours, but I'm already out of the office for my substance abuse classes, so my leadership thinks I'm just trying to get out of work. I enrolled in anger management but had to drop the course after leadership said they can't afford to have me out of the office any more than what I already am. My spouse is busy with our child most of the time, but there seems to be a huge disconnect there as well. The op tempo is unbelievable. I understand why they need me at work as much as possible, but, damn, I want to get to the bottom of my problems and why I started drinking in the first place. I want to be a Marine, but I want to get myself straight, too. I can't be the best Marine, parent and spouse if I don't get some of this mess resolved."

REINTEGRATION



Successful reintegration after seeking help means a Marine returns to the unit, or returns to his or her specific job, grows from challenging experiences, and rebuilds competence and confidence with help from command and peers.

REINTEGRATION GOALS

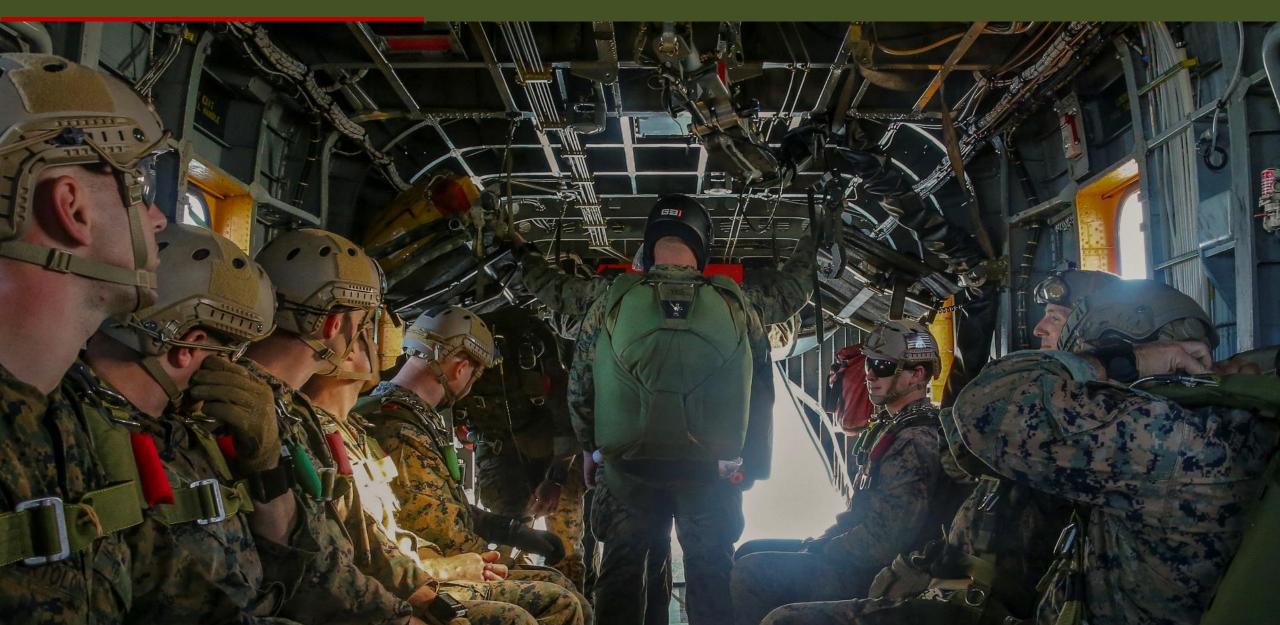
- Communicate an attitude of respect and trust.
- Help the Marine refocus on the mission and rebuild confidence.
- Ensure others don't undermine any Marine's reputation.
- Recognize that Marines who are in treatment or have recently completed treatment are still at risk and need continued support.

EXERCISE 4D: CHANGE

- Turn to Exercise 4D in your Job Aid.
- Read the scenario, and then partner with your neighbor to use one of the engagement techniques to start a conversation with the Marine.
- You'll have 6 minutes for this exercise.

Is a Marine THINKING different? (rational, logic, data may appeal to this person) Is a Marine ACTING Is a Marine FEELING different? different? (doing, movement, results may (gut feeling, instinct, emotion appeal to this person) may appeal to this person)

BREAK 10



YOUR OSCAR TEAM'S NETWORK

- Identify specific events that have recently heightened awareness of the issues within your community/installation
- Identify key sources of data about the problem
- Develop a list of individuals and organizations/groups in the community/installation who are affected by the main issues
- Are there regular meetings of groups you can attend to avoid any duplication of efforts?



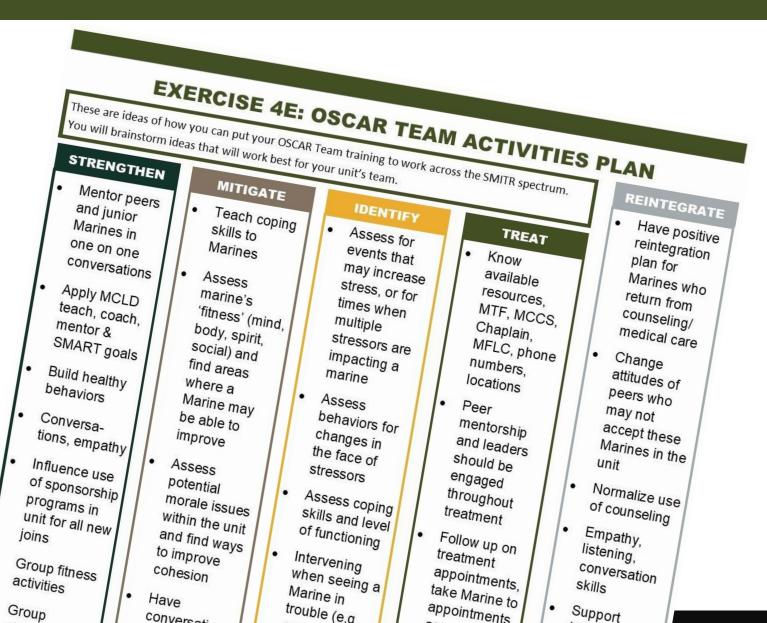
OSCAR BEST PRACTICES

APPROACHES TO

STRESS CONTROL

EXERCISE 4E: YOUR OSCAR ACTIVITIES PLAN

- Turn to Exercise 4E in your Job Aid.
- Brainstorm activities across SMITR, use these ideas to get started.



EXERCISE 4F: LEADERS DRIVE STRESS CONTROL

- Turn to Exercise 4F in your Job Aid.
- List three ideas for your growth in both categories.

LEADERSHIP

- Establish intent
- Generate buy-in
- Set the example/inspire
- Know available resources
- Instill fitness of body, mind, spirit, social
- Supervise
- Foster healthy relationships
- Know your Marines and look out for their welfare

INDIVIDUAL

- Know yourself, seek selfimprovement
- Take personal responsibility
- Intervene on fellow Marine's behalf
- Know available resources
- Embody fitness of body, mind, spirit, social

CALL TO ACTION

- Use your leadership skills to inspire Marines to get help when they need it.
- Share your OSCAR Activities Plan with your chain of command, COSC Representative, and your OSCAR Team Network.

