

Ginger Gunnip

It would be much too real to talk about death in the military. Suicide watch begins in basic training. We aren't even in the real army yet. We are safe at home. Take the man's shoelaces and belt (which are parts of his uniform) and assign him a buddy. He is never left alone; 24/7 surveillance, even in the bathroom. Take his word for it: he is thinking about hurting himself and others. Put him in a bright orange road guard vest and allow him to direct traffic for our graduation, but do not allow him to graduate. Keep him in the stressful situation that has led him into pondering taking his own life.

After surviving a year-long deployment, would a soldier come home safely just to kill himself within a few days of their arrival? Yes.

Talk about the men and women who have lost their lives serving their country. Can we hear about them as much as we hear about celebrities like Charlie Sheen, Michael Jackson, and Brittany Spears? No.

Do you recognize the metal bracelet?

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