



Chaplain's Corner

June 2024

Resiliency Resources

TMD Counseling 512-782-5069

One Source 800-342-9647

Suicide Lifeline 988

TXMF Sexual Assault Support
512-565-4410

DoD Safe Helpline 877-955-5247

Substance Abuse 512-782-6091

EO/EEO 512-782-5118

Soldier Family Readiness Specialist
512-782-1472

Financial Assistance 800-252-8032

Financial Planning 512-595-9138

YOUR UNIT CHAPLAIN

TXMF Chaplain 512-782-5522

36 ID DIV Chaplain 903-714-5519

Veterans Retreats

Project Sanctuary

veteransfamiliesunited.org

vettix.org

Upcoming Building Strong and Ready Teams Events
512-426-9288

TBD

Other Training/Classes

Speed of Trust: TBD

Financial Resiliency: TBD

ASIST: TBD

“There are three truths I hope you always remember when going through tough times. You’re loved ... You’re never alone ... You have a home.”

CH(LTC) Pat Maae – 36 ID DIV CH



INITIATIVE

Initiative: The ability to use judgement; make decisions; and take action in absence of direct instructions. Initiative can be difficult --- especially for a society/organization simply trained for compliance.

I used to work in a drug/alcohol treatment center. The residents struggling with addiction would wake up most mornings worrying about what “not” to do. Many approached the day walking on eggshells focused on not drinking; not using; not getting in trouble. We challenged them to evaluate their thoughts/beliefs in order to help them focus on what they “can” do to enjoy the benefits and opportunities available when clean/sober. Although following program rules was important, the intent was not to manufacture compliant addicts with a bag full of skills to avoid getting drunk/high. The intent was to produce changed lives who craved the blessings of sobriety.

Initiative requires a grasp of the bigger picture. Embracing the purposeful vision or intent instilled by a higher authority provides motivation to pursue an ideal despite periods of uncertainty. In the Army, understanding the Commander’s intent enables every Soldier to carry on the fight and be a decisive instrument in winning the battle. In other areas of our lives, realizing there is One who has ultimate authority and provides clear intent regarding our value and purpose, helps guide through times of doubt when dealing with personal battles.

Militaries of other countries or regimes who don’t share information; who don’t answer to a higher authority; or who operate in threats, coercion, compliance, or secretive agendas create a culture of doubt where the worry of stepping out of line develops a mindset of avoiding defeat rather than pursuing victory. There is a certain level of autonomy needed to nurture initiative. This is a foreign concept to many of the adversaries we may face. The freedom to evaluate conditions and engage in actions that may result in personal sacrifice is a key component. Societies based on freedom value the importance of initiative and produce citizens who understand the bigger picture --- and freely choose to sacrifice.

I’m reminded of this distinction when I recall first responders running into the Towers on 9/11 while others were running out or standing around. And, I’m reminded of it every IDT weekend and AT event when I see young Soldiers who signed up during a time of conflict and who remain vigilant for the next fight.

We are certainly blessed to be in one Nation under God where we can take the initiative to seek a relationship with Him; fulfill the responsibility to our neighbor; and be significant contributors in missions that really matter.

CH Maae

Prayer requests may be emailed to your unit Chaplain at: patrick.v.maae.mil@army.mil

