

2012: Military suicides outnumber combat deaths - economy and leadership to blame

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By ROBERT LAURIE - There's a good chance that this is the most depressing statistic you'll see all year

According to a new Army report, as of November, 303 active-duty, Reserve and National Guard soldiers had committed suicide in 2012. During the same period, 212 men and women in uniform were lost due to combat fatalities in Afghanistan.

Back in June, the number of suicides stood at 154 - roughly half of the current total.

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta acknowledged the problem and blamed society at large. "We're dealing with broader societal issues," he said. "Substance abuse, financial distress and relationship problems -the risk factors for suicide also reflect problems that will endure beyond war." [To continue reading click here.](#)