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Leaders from The NFL and the U.S. Department of Defense Join National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention's Executive Committee

*Vincent and Williams bring expertise, influence and vision
to national suicide prevention efforts*

Washington, DC – The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (Action Alliance), today, announced four Executive Committee members have joined its leadership team. The new members – Troy Vincent, National Football League and Rosemary Freitas Williams, U.S. Department of Defense – each bring expertise and a passion to strengthen the Action Alliance's impact and support its vision of a nation free from the tragic experience of suicide.

"These new Executive Committee members will work to further strengthen the Action Alliance's ongoing progress in championing suicide prevention as a national priority," said Action Alliance Private Sector Co-Chair, Robert W. Turner of Union Pacific Corporation. "They will aid in transforming health systems for safer suicide care, advancing awareness through sports, as well as working to change how Americans communicate about suicide."

"The health and safety of an athlete is tantamount to a successful sports program -- whether it's physical health or maintaining mental wellness. As a member of the Action Alliance's Executive Committee, I will continue my ongoing efforts to educate and encourage our NFL players as well as athletes' nationwide about mental wellness and the assistance that is available to them," said Vincent, Executive Vice President of Football Operations, National Football League.

"The best care for our military members, their families and survivors will always come from an integrated approach," said Williams, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, U.S. Department of Defense. "A coordinated community response will deliver the best overall health services whether it be physical or behavioral health support or a combination thereof. I am honored to be the Department of Defense Liaison to the Action Alliance's Executive Committee and will work to best represent the needs of our military members and their families, especially in advocating for suicide prevention awareness and education."

Introducing the new Action Alliance Executive Committee Members:

Troy Vincent, Executive Vice President of Football Operations, National Football League --

Vincent was named NFL executive vice president of football operations by Commissioner Roger Goodell on March 19, 2014. He has been the head of NFL Player Engagement since 2010 and oversees all aspects of football operations in the league office with a focus on quality and innovation. His responsibilities include officiating, integrity of the game, on-field discipline, game operations, and college relations. Vincent also serves as a non-voting member of the Competition Committee and supervises development programs for players, coaches, and football executives. Vincent was a first-round draft choice of the [Miami Dolphins](#) in 1992 and played 15 years in the NFL for the [Dolphins](#), [Eagles](#), [Bills](#), and [Redskins](#). He served as president of the NFL Players Association from 2004-2008.

Rosemary Freitas Williams, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, U.S. Department of Defense -- Williams is responsible for policy, advocacy, and oversight of all community support to service members and their families; quality of life issues; child development and youth programs; family violence prevention and intervention; confidential help or non-medical counseling, military spouse employment programs; morale, welfare, and recreation; commissaries and exchanges; and Military OneSource, the 24/7/365 website and call-in family assistance services for non-medical counseling. Her oversight also includes casualty and mortuary affairs, and military funeral honors. Williams' public sector career includes service as the Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications to the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. She also served as the Department of Veterans Affairs representative to the White House Council on Military Families.

More information on each leader can be found at actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org/leadership.

The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (www.ActionAllianceforSuicidePrevention.org) is the public-private partnership working to advance the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention* and make suicide prevention a national priority. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, through the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) operates the Secretariat for the Action Alliance, which was launched in 2010 by former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates with the goal of saving 20,000 lives in five years. Contact: Eileen Sexton, Director of Communications, 202-572-5383, esexton@edc.org.

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