



# DoD Domestic Abuse Prevention & Victim Intervention Programs

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# DoD Today

- High personnel & operational tempos
  - Total Force (Active & Reserve Components)
  - Two wars (8 years, 6 years)
  - Repeated lengthy deployments
- Risk factors for domestic abuse include effects of repeated deployments
  - Stress for both the service member and non-deployed family members
  - Increased risk of anxiety disorders & PTSD
  - “Self-medication” by returning veterans



# DoD Definition of Domestic Abuse

- Domestic violence
  - An offense under the U.S. Code, the UCMJ, or state law involving the use, attempted use, or threatened use of force or violence against a person,
  - Or the violation of a lawful order issued for the protection of a person, or
- A pattern of behavior resulting in emotional/psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty

When the victim is a person is of the opposite sex who is:

- A current or former spouse;
  - A person with whom the abuser shares a child in common;
- or
- A current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile.



# FAP Domestic Abuse in Incidents Meeting FAP Criteria

- Incidents reported to FAP have declined 18% since FY 2000
- Incidents meeting criteria /1,000 couples have declined 43% (16.5 to 9.4 )
- Abusive servicemembers/1,000 service members have declined 36% (7.6 to 4.9)

## Alleged abusive spouses

- 67% male, 37% female
- 63% Active component
  - Of these, 91% male
- 37% civilian spouses
  - Of these, 72% female

## Victim spouses

- 67% female, 37% male
- 49% Active component
  - Of these, 39% females
- 51% civilian spouses
  - Of these, 94% females



# Addressing Domestic Abuse in Active Component



- Public awareness & prevention/risk factor reduction
- Victim advocacy
  - Restricted reporting policy
  - Downloadable manual (Battered Women Justice Project with DoD assistance)
- Training
- Coordination with civilian authorities
  - Memoranda of Agreement/Understanding
  - Coordinated Community Response projects
- Commander authority to take protective and/or disciplinary action for active duty personnel
  - On-line commander's training
- Family Advocacy Program assessment & treatment services

**DoD Instruction 6400.06**



# Public Awareness & Prevention/Risk Reduction

- Public awareness campaigns
  - Teen dating violence
  - Domestic abuse
- Education/training classes & information dissemination
  - Relationships
  - Stress & conflict resolution/management
- Counseling for individuals & couples
- Collaboration/coordination with other prevention and family support activities



# Public Awareness Initiatives



<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil>

- National Domestic Violence Hotline
  - Posters, brochures, wallet cards mailed to FAPs
  - Materials downloadable
- Family Violence Prevention Fund
  - Campaign targeting males
  - Poster & brochures mailed to FAPs
  - Materials downloadable
- AFRTS Public Service Announcements
- Ad Council & FVPF – in progress
  - Toolkits for FAP
  - Toolkits for Reserve Component Family Readiness Counselors
  - Materials will be downloadable



# Military OneSource



<http://www.militaryonesource.com>

1-800-342-9647

OCONUS Access

- Referrals for non-medical counseling
- “Warm handoffs” to:
  - National Domestic Violence Hotline
  - Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center
  - Domestic violence shelters/programs
  - DoD Victim Advocates
- Information
  - Articles on Web site
  - Publications for shipment



## Interpersonal Abuse Home

- The Family Advocacy Program
- ▶ Domestic Abuse
- ▶ Child Abuse
- Resource Materials
- CO Domestic Violence Training

## New MilitaryHOMEFRONT Toolbox



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**MILITARY ONESOURCE**  
1-800-342-9647  
Available 24/7

**Military INSTALLATIONS**  
Locate services and installations

**Plan My Move**  
Take control of your PCS move

**eNewsletters**  
Subscribe now and stay informed

**HOMEFRONT Toolbox**  
Download enhanced tools

**QOL Resources**  
Casualty Assistance  
Glossaries  
Heroes to Hometowns  
Legislation, Policies & Guidance  
Link To Us  
HOMEFRONTConnections  
MilitaryHOMEFRONT Toolbox  
MySTATE  
eNewsletter Archives  
Personnel Locators

## Family Advocacy Program Resource Materials

If you are in an abusive relationship or if something about your relationship with your partner scares you and you need someone to talk to, you can contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or visit their website at <http://www.ndvh.org/>.

## Domestic Abuse Resources:

Family Violence Prevention Fund Domestic Violence Public Awareness Campaign Materials

- [Brochure](#)
- [Poster](#)
- [Resource Card](#)
- [Sticker](#)
- [Improving the Health Care Response to Domestic Violence Resources Manual and Trainers Manual](#)
- [National Consensus Guidelines on Identifying and Responding to Domestic Violence Victimization in Health Care Settings](#)

National Domestic Violence Hotline Public Awareness Resources

- [Domestic Violence Brochure](#)
- [Restricted Reporting Brochure](#)
- [Guidebook](#)
- [Poster](#)



# Non-Medical Counseling



- **Focused Telephonic Consultation**
  - Up to 12 scheduled sessions with short-term solution-focused trained mental health professionals
  - Issues: Adjustment to situational stressors, decision-making, stress management, communication, parenting skills
- **Face-to-face counseling referrals**
  - Up to 12 consultations with licensed counselors in the community (99% of installation and Guard/Reserve locations)
  - Issues: Family or couples concerns, adjusting to deployment or reunion, grief counseling, stress management
- **Military Family Life consultants**
  - Face-to-face consultations with licensed counselors on/off the installation



# Domestic Abuse Restricted Report



- By active duty (not Reserve Component) or family member victim who chooses restricted reporting
- Made only to DoD domestic abuse victim advocate or health care provider (includes FAP clinical staff)
  - Victim advocate assigned
  - Medical exam
- No disclosure to law enforcement or command



# Disclosure of Restricted Report

- None to law enforcement or command unless one or more of following exceptions:
  - Written authorization by victim
  - Necessary to prevent/lessen **serious AND imminent** threat to health or safety of victim or another
  - Victim discloses child abuse
  - Needed for supervision of the victim advocate or health care provider
  - Disclosure ordered by judge to a military or civilian court
  - **Required by law** or international agreement to another authority (e.g., state reporting requirements for health care providers)
  - Active duty victim (not civilian victim)
    - Adverse impact on duty assignment per HIPR, with protection for specific details of the abuse
    - Fitness for duty disability retirement determination



# Assistance to Domestic Abuse Victims



- Who make restricted reports:
  - safety assessment
  - safety planning
  - coordination with health care providers
  - information & referral

- Who make unrestricted reports
  - safety assessment
  - safety planning
  - coordination with health care providers
  - information & referral
  - law enforcement & command involvement
  - Obtain & enforce protective orders
  - Obtain DoD financial assistance when victim qualifies



# FAP Intervention Procedures



- Ensure victim receives medical assessment/treatment and safety assessment
- Ensure law enforcement and Service member's unit commander are notified **in unrestricted reports**
- Assess psycho-socially all family members and prepare treatment recommendations
- Manage multidisciplinary Case Review Committee determination
- Prepare treatment recommendations for commander
- Provide social services treatment to victim, and to abuser, as permitted/ordered by commander



# Financial Assistance to Victims



- Funds for transportation to safety, if necessary
- Shipment of personal property, if divided
- If the service member is separated from active duty for abuse, or is convicted of abuse and forfeits all pay & allowances, up to 3 years of:
  - Transitional Compensation (based on service member's pay)
  - Medical and dental benefits
  - Commissary & Exchange benefits
  - Secretaries of the Military Departments have waiver authority