



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON RHEINLAND-PFALZ  
UNIT 23152  
APO AE 09054-3152

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

NOV 07 2014

IMRP-ZA

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Policy Letter #18, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

1. Purpose. Establish guidance for the prevention of domestic violence.
2. Applicability. Applies to all military personnel, Department of Defense Army Civilians, and Family members in the Rheinland-Pfalz military community.
3. Policy.
  - a. The Family Advocacy Program (FAP) is a commander's program designed to prevent spouse, intimate partner, and child abuse; to encourage the reporting of all instances of abuse; to ensure the prompt assessment and investigation of abuse cases; to protect victims of abuse, and to treat Soldiers and Family members affected by or involved in abuse.
  - b. Every Soldier and Civilian member of the military community is encouraged to report known or suspected incidents of child or spouse abuse to the installation Reporting Point of Contact (RPOC) which is the Military Police (MP). Abuse allegations will be investigated by appropriate law enforcement authorities. Commanders will be notified when a Soldier is involved in intimate partner/spousal abuse, child abuse or child neglect. In addition to the corrective programs listed below, commanders may take action they deem appropriate in accordance with the uniform code of military justice.
  - c. Child abuse and neglect must be reported within 24 hours of command awareness. To reduce the risk of child abuse, commanders are encouraged to allow fathers the opportunity to participate in new parent support program home visits and educational opportunities.
  - d. Domestic violence and violence against partners adversely impacts morale, welfare, and mission readiness. Because of this impact, commanders are responsible for taking immediate steps to alleviate domestic violence.
    - (1) Leaders at all levels must be alert for evidence of intimate partner/domestic violence and react promptly. Commanders should take appropriate action to protect victims of abuse from further harm. Victim advocacy services are offered by the FAP at Army Community Services (ACS) to address safety measures, provide advocacy assistance and support victims of intimate partner/domestic violence.

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(2) Army Regulation 608-18, subparagraph 3-22, describes measures that a commander may utilize to protect victims from further abuse, such as pretrial restraint, restriction to barracks, pass privilege revocation or assignment of a military escort. The garrison commander has authority to remove entire Families, or members of Families, from government quarters within the Rheinland-Pfalz military community, to include government leased quarters off the installation (see AR 608-18, paragraph 3-22(c)).

(a) If an active duty Soldier is identified as the alleged offender, commanders may order the Soldier into government billeting.

(b) If an Emergency Protective Order (EPO) or Military Protective Order (MPO) is in place, commanders should monitor the Soldier's compliance with the order. The offender should have no contact with the home/quarters or the victim for a minimum of 72 hours.

(c) When the civilian spouse is the offender, commanders should make every effort to ensure the safety of the Soldier. Safety measures include: offering the victim/Soldier temporary living space in the unit's assigned billets or ensuring other suitable arrangements.

(d) If necessary, and on behalf of the garrison commander, the victim advocate may offer the victim/Soldier the choice of residing in a shelter or safe home where the location will be maintained under confidential status, for the safety of the victim. Military no-contact orders are administrative in nature, and are considered a restriction on liberty and must be tailored appropriately after consulting with a staff judge advocate.

(3) Social Work Services (SWS) is responsible for providing treatment to Soldiers and Family members experiencing domestic violence. SWS is responsible for incident assessment, notification to commanders, coordination and supervision of the Family Advocacy Case Review Committee (CRC), establishment of treatment plans on substantiated cases, and provision of progress reports to the command.

(4) Commanders should coordinate with the FAP Manager (FAPM) to obtain FAP training within 45 days of assuming command and ensure all Soldiers receive annual intimate partner/spouse and child abuse prevention training as mandated by the above references. Commanders should ensure that Soldiers are informed of the spouse/intimate partner/domestic violence reporting options: restricted and unrestricted. Department of the Army (DA) policy prefers that personnel report suspected domestic abuse incidents promptly to activate both victim services and accountability actions. However, a requirement that all domestic abuse incidents be reported can represent a

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barrier for victims hoping to gain access to medical and victim advocacy services without command or law enforcement involvement.

(5) Commanders should attend CRC meetings or designate an appropriate commander's level representative to attend, when a subject involving one of their Soldiers or Family members is being presented. The SWS will notify the commander and prospective battalion commander to schedule a CRC date. If the commander is required to respond but fails to attend the CRC or to provide an appropriate representative, a report reflecting non-attendance will be forwarded to the Garrison Commander, and the unit and rear detachment commander should respond in writing to the Garrison Commander explaining the basis for non-attendance/non-compliance.

(6) Commanders should ensure that Soldiers involved in domestic violence attend recommended treatment offered by the Army FAP. The Soldier's place of duty should include scheduled appointments until the treatment is completed.

(7) Commanders are encouraged to contact SWS to receive a monthly update of their Soldiers who are enrolled in the FAP. Soldiers whom have been assessed by SWS as high risk for homicidal/suicidal behavior should not be considered deployable while enrolled in treatment. If the unit mission requires a high risk Soldier to deploy, approval by the first general officer in the chain of command must be obtained. Soldiers enrolled in FAP must receive reunion/reintegration training following redeployment.

(8) Army Regulation 608-18, 1-8, b7 states that commanders must ensure that Soldiers involved in allegations of child and/or spouse abuse, after properly being advised of their rights against self-incrimination, are encouraged to cooperate with FAP personnel to the maximum extent possible from initial report to case closure, to include participation in individual and Family interviews or examinations by appropriate social services, medical, and law enforcement personnel.

(9) Legal Assistance attorneys through the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) office will be available to abused Family members and Soldiers to advise and counsel on their legal rights. These rights include housing and financial support, divorce, legal separation and child custody, transitional compensation, civil actions, and other avenues available to them to enforce their legal rights and to protect themselves from further abuse.

(10) Rheinland-Pfalz military law enforcement personnel, physicians, nurses and other medical personnel will report information about known and suspected unrestricted cases of intimate partner/domestic violence requiring law enforcement assistance or medical treatment of hospitalization (to include out-patient treatment in the medical

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treatment facility Acute Care Area) to the RPOC as soon as the information is received. The reporting of intimate partner/spousal abuse or child abuse by all community members is highly encouraged.

(a) Mandated Reports: All members of the community are, in general, encouraged to report all cases of domestic violence and suspected cases of child abuse. However, certain individuals are considered mandatory reporters in accordance with regulatory guidance. Mandatory reporters include, but are not limited to: commanders on all levels, members of the Family Advocacy staff, Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) employees, all law enforcement, and medical personnel. Mandated reporters should contact the Reporting Point of Contact, the Military Police, within 24 hours of becoming aware of an incident of child or spouse abuse.

(b) Domestic Violence Reporting Options:

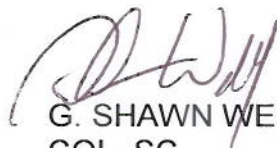
(1) All adult victims of domestic violence who disclose their incident to a credentialed healthcare provider, Victim Advocate or FAPM will be advised of their right to file a restricted/unrestricted report of this incident.

(2) Restricted reporting allows a domestic abuse victim to confidentially disclose the details of abuse to specified individuals and receive medical treatment and counseling, without triggering the official investigative process. The Victim Advocate Hotline number is 0162-296-7320 for the Kaiserslautern area, and 0162-270-8390 for the Baumholder area.

(3) Unrestricted reporting is recommended for victims of domestic abuse who desire medical treatment, counseling and an official investigation of the crime. Additionally, in instances where a report is made to a chaplain performing religious duties, that report may be considered privileged communication.

4. Expiration: This command policy will remain in effect until superseded or rescinded.

5. Point of contact for this memorandum is Melissa M. Reyes, USAG Rheinland-Pfalz Family Advocacy Program Manager at DSN 493-4228.



G. SHAWN WELLS, JR.  
COL, SC  
Commanding