“When civilian advocates don’t understand the military, it just strengthens the power and control that make it so hard for victims to get help. In my case, a knowledgeable advocate, working in partnership with a military advocate, would have made all the difference. Please, please, use this handbook, and become part of the solution, for the sake of so many others like me who are still out there...”

C.M., Survivor

“Wherever you work as a civilian advocate, you are bound to meet military victims of domestic violence who need your help. Use this handbook to expand your toolbox of options for supporting their journey to safety, justice and healing.”

William Riley, Administration on Children and Families
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

“Our ability to end domestic violence depends, above all, on building a coordinated community response to the needs of every survivor. By using this handbook effectively, civilian advocates can build the strong, informed partnerships that are essential to ending domestic violence in military families. I urge you to do so.”

Diane Stuart, Director, Office on Violence Against Women
U. S. Department of Justice

“Domestic violence will not be tolerated in the Department of Defense . . . Commanders at every level have a duty to prevent domestic violence, protect victims, and hold those who commit it accountable.”

Paul D. Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary
U. S. Department of Defense
Mission
The mission of the Battered Women's Justice Project is to promote systemic change within community organizations and government agencies engaged in the civil and criminal justice response to domestic violence that creates true institutional accountability to the goal of ensuring safety for battered women and their families. To this end, BWJP undertakes projects on the local, state, national and international levels.

About the author
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June, 2003
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Introduction

Preface

This handbook is designed for civilian advocates working with military victims of domestic violence – both active duty victims and partners of active duty service members. It will help you respond to the uniquely challenging needs of this population of survivors.

Whether you work or volunteer in a shelter, state coalition, government or law enforcement agency, hospital, faith-based organization or other civilian setting, this handbook presumes that you are familiar with the dynamics of domestic violence, and that you are, already, working with survivors to build lives free from violence and abuse. It also presumes that you are familiar with civilian response systems in your state and community, and that you have already created a toolbox of strategies tailored to meet local needs.

This handbook is designed to enhance your skills – to expand your toolbox. Think of yourself as building an extension to your existing warehouse of information and options. The foundation is already there, grounded in the empowerment principles of the domestic violence movement, and in the knowledge of resources available in your local community. But you’ll need extra building materials to effectively work with military victims. We’ll provide these, and offer general directions and guidance. For the most part, however, you’ll need to fill your toolbox yourself. Depending not only on your community, but on the resources, culture and leadership of your local military installation, your toolbox will be different than others. It will also change, particularly as military response systems continue to change.

In many cases throughout this handbook victims are referred to as “she/her.” The reasons are several. Statistics and research show that the majority of victims of domestic violence are women. At the same time, we acknowledge that some men are abused by women.
Why this Handbook?

The Need . . .

There are approximately 3.3 million active duty service members and their immediate family members stationed in the U.S. and abroad. That's more than the population of many of our states.

Among this population are victims and survivors of domestic violence – women, men and children living with the daily reality of mental, physical, and sexual abuse. The dynamics and impact of domestic violence are no different in the military context. However, certain characteristics of military life and culture can make some military families especially vulnerable – including economic dependence, weapons training and exposure to combat, family stresses related to deployment and reunification, and the constant mobility that isolates many victims from familiar support systems.

Moreover, military life, with its powerful control over the lives of service members, presents unique challenges for victims in need of help. Unlike the civilian world, where clear institutional boundaries exist between one's employer, doctor, judge, social worker and advocate, the military system is, for the most part, seamless. Imagine, in the civilian world, that calling a local shelter or confiding in your doctor automatically caused your batterer's employer to find out about his acts of violence and abuse. The risk of retaliation is obvious, and it is frightening. Of even greater concern to many victims is the fear that by reporting, the batterer will lose his job or otherwise face adverse career consequences, leaving the victim and her children impoverished and without housing or health care.

In fact, military social service and justice systems can be very responsive to the needs of domestic violence victims. However, to civilians, these systems can appear unapproachable. Not only are the institutional practices unfamiliar, they differ among the Services, and even among installations. As with any institution, the protocols that guide the military response on a given installation may vary dramatically depending on the resources and informal relationships that exist on a particular installation, and the extent to which collaborative relationships exist with the surrounding civilian community.

It’s Time to Work Together . . .

In the past, civilian and military response systems have usually operated independently of each other. Each grew out of a different historical context, applied different theoretical frameworks, and operated under different sets of mandates. Most civilian advocates have lacked basic information about the military system, making it a mystery, and fostering skepticism or even distrust.

But this is changing. Public awareness about domestic violence within military families is rising. Increasingly, civilian advocates are called on to assist military victims, and understand the need for information and partnership with their military counterparts. Other factors are at work as well: changing housing policies mean that more military families are living off the installation, making it more likely they will
access civilian resources. And there are significant populations of survivors – especially unmarried partners and victims of same-sex battering – for whom military domestic violence services are generally not available. Others want or need a level of confidentiality that on-installation services cannot provide. For these and other victims, civilian resources are the best or only option.

At the same time, military response systems are rapidly changing. To varying degrees, each of the Services is strengthening its protocols for protecting victims and holding batterers accountable. Military victim advocacy services are being developed and enhanced. These advocates, too, understand the need for information, and for strong partnership with their civilian counterparts. Perhaps most significantly, in response to rising public pressure, and under mandate from Congress, the Department of Defense’s Task Force on Domestic Violence recently made nearly 200 recommendations for improving the military response to domestic violence. Many of these recommendations are currently being implemented. Strong civilian advocacy and expanded civilian/military partnerships are essential to ensuring that the Department of Defense continues to make domestic violence prevention and intervention a priority.

**How Do I Use This Handbook?**

The U.S. military is a large, complex hierarchical institution. While this handbook provides a broad overview, it cannot begin to describe all the differences in policy and practice among the different Services, or among different military installations. The only way to become an effective advocate for military victims is to get to know your local military installation, how it operates, and who the players are. There’s no way around it. So, if you do nothing else, call up your local installation and start getting to know the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) staff and victim advocates (where available). Nothing will be as helpful as building relationships and creating allies within the system - people you can call with questions and concerns.

Beyond that, use this handbook actively. Build your own toolkit for working with military survivors. Here’s how:

- Gain basic familiarity of military response systems (read this handbook). For updates to the handbook and recent changes in military policy, visit [www.bwjp.org](http://www.bwjp.org).

- Learn everything you can about military resources in your community:
  1. Visit the Family Advocacy Program. Ask FAP to do an in-service training for your staff.
  2. Review relevant web sites and printed materials for your local installation and Service.
  3. Find out what relationships and agreements (e.g., Memoranda of Understanding) currently exist between military and civilian response systems in your community.
INTRODUCTION

The Military Response to Victims of Domestic Violence: Tools for Civilian Advocates

To find your local installation and FAP contact information, visit: www.mfrc.calib.com/progDir/index.cfm. Search for the installation’s website on www.defenselink.mil or google.com.

• Build your toolkit by completing the “Advocacy Tips” sections in “Tools for Advocacy” (pg. 19) and using the materials in “Filling Your Toolkit” (pg. 47).

• Continually add your own new tools and materials to this handbook. (That’s why we’ve used a three ring binder!)

• Construct your own set of best practices, through experience and ongoing collaboration.

As an advocate, you are already skilled at working with differing, ever-changing and inconsistent systemic responses within your community. A firm understanding of local practices and strong relationships are the keys to successful systems advocacy. These are the same skills you’ll need as you begin to work with military response systems.

This handbook is available on-line at www.bwjp.org, and will be updated on a regular basis to reflect new military policies implemented as a result of the Task Force’s recommendations. Please visit the web site for recent updates, and give us your feedback. A “Handbook Assessment” form is included in the Appendix, or you can email us at conniebwjp@aol.com. Thank you!

1 Defense Manpower Data Center, 2002.
To start building, you need, first of all, a sense of the terrain. Here’s a snapshot:

**Service Member Data**

- Most active duty military personnel are men (85%).

- 76% of active duty military personnel are ages 17-34 (vs. 33% in the general population).

- 51% of active duty military personnel are married. The vast majority are married to civilian spouses. (6% are married to other service members.)

- 75% of children in military families are between birth and 11 years old.

- Military wives (i.e., wives of active-duty service members) earn less and are less likely to be employed than their civilian counterparts.

- 76% of active duty military personnel are stationed inside the United States.

- 56% of U.S. military personnel and their families live off-installation, in civilian settings.

- On average, military personnel are required to change locations (i.e., move) about once every three (3) years.

**Cultural Issues/Risk Factors for Domestic Violence**

Certain known risk factors for domestic violence are present in the military community. In addition, characteristics of military life – both advantages and stressors – can make some military families especially vulnerable to domestic violence:

- A high percentage of military personnel have prior histories of domestic violence. Among Navy recruits, 54% of women and 40% of men witnessed parental violence prior to enlistment.
• Among active duty military women, 30% report lifetime intimate partner physical or sexual assault, and 22% report intimate partner sexual assault during the time of military service.9

• Among married Army couples, 23% of men and 31% of women admit to perpetrating physical violence against their wife or husband in the previous year.10

• The military population is concentrated in ages of highest risk for interpersonal violence (20-40).11

• It is an expectation of the military that service members will be held responsible for the behavior of their spouses and children. This cultural norm can be used as a rationale to exercise abusive power and control tactics with family members.12

• Constant relocation of military families from place to place, often with unfamiliar cultures and values, isolates victims by cutting them off from family and familiar support systems.13

• Higher than average unemployment/underemployment rates for military spouses leave them economically dependent on service members.14 In addition, the relative job security and highly valued benefits of military employment (including housing assistance, day care, health care and formal support services) increase the economic risks to the spouse and children of leaving an abusive relationship.

• Deployments and reunification create unique stresses on military families.15 Deployments require the partner left at home (usually the wife) to assume new roles. Upon reunification there may be issues related to this role reversal. Long separations can also foster distrust between the couple, and uncertainty about their future.

• Access to weapons has been shown to be a significant risk factor in domestic violence homicides.16

**Prevalence Data**

Efforts to accurately compare victimization rates in military vs. civilian communities are generally problematic and inconclusive. Regardless, domestic violence is recognized as a serious problem by the Department of Defense (DoD).

• In 2001, more than 18,000 incidents of spouse abuse were reported to the Military Services. More than 10,000 of these cases were “substantiated.” (You’ll find out what that means later.) Among cases substantiated by the Services:

  • The abuser was an active duty military member in most (62%) of the cases. However, in 38% of the cases, the abuser was a civilian spouse of an active duty member.

  • Most often, the victim was female (66%). However, 34% of cases substantiated by the Services involved male victims.17
NOTE: DoD statistics reflect who reported domestic violence, and how the Services assessed these cases. They should not be considered reflective of the scope and demographics of victimization within military marriages. Nevertheless, it is important to recognize (perhaps contrary to assumptions) that active duty military women (and men) are sometimes battered by their civilian or military spouses, and that men are sometimes the victims of violence perpetrated by their active duty or civilian wives.

Institutional Barriers
Military victims remain hidden for the same reasons as other victims (shame, isolation, victim blaming, financial concerns, etc.). In addition, two factors make it especially difficult for military victims to reach out for help:

Lack of Confidentiality/Mandatory Reporting
The U.S. military is built on the foundation of the commander’s “need to know” everything about the safety and well-being of military personnel and their family members in order to continually assess the service member’s fitness for duty and any potential impact on “mission readiness.” This plays out in the form of:

a) Lack of Confidentiality
At present, the only military personnel granted confidentiality in their communications are chaplains. (Military attorneys have confidentiality, but only in the context of an attorney/client relationship.) All others – including physicians, social workers, psychotherapists and victim advocates - do not have any privilege of confidentiality in their communications.

Military victim advocates may, in the future, have the right not to disclose certain information obtained through communications with victims of domestic violence. Visit: www.bwjp.org for updates to this and other military policies.

b) Mandatory Reporting
Apart from lacking confidentiality, all military personnel (except chaplains), and civilians employed by the military, are required to report suspected domestic violence to other parts of the system. What this means is that, regardless of how information about suspected domestic violence comes into the system (e.g., emergency room report, routine medical screening, police response or victim disclosure), the command and others will be notified, whether or not the victim wants this to occur.

Fear of Career Consequences
Lack of confidentiality and mandatory reporting have magnified significance in the military context where it is the service member’s boss – his or her com-
mander — who will be among those to automatically learn about an allegation of domestic violence.

Fear of negative career consequences is the primary disincentive to reporting domestic violence in the military. Active duty victims fear they will be perceived as “weak” and unsuitable for career advancement. Civilian victims of active duty offenders fear that the batterer will lose his job, placing the family in economic jeopardy. Moreover, both victims and offenders fear that any involvement by military response systems will blemish the service member’s career, even if the allegations are not substantiated.

5 Id.
7 Defense Manpower Data Center, 2002.
13 Family Advocacy Program, Military Community and Family Policy, Department of Defense, 2002.
14 Family Advocacy Program, Military Community and Family Policy, Department of Defense, 2002.
15 Id.
16 Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from a Multi-Site Case Control Study, J. Campbell et al., NIJ, R01#DA/AA1156, 2002.
17 FY02 Family Advocacy Program Data, Department of Defense, Washington, DC.
No one deserves to be abused. Violence against an intimate partner is always unacceptable, except in self defense.

“Domestic violence will not be tolerated in the Department of Defense . . . Commanders at every level have a duty to prevent domestic violence, protect victims, and hold those who commit it accountable.” Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul D. Wolfowitz, November 19, 2001. (See Appendix.)

Every aspect of the response to domestic violence must be victim-centered, grounded in the victim’s right to safety, autonomy and self-determination.

Perpetrators of domestic violence are fully and solely responsible for their actions. There’s no excuse for domestic violence.

The responsibility for holding perpetrators accountable rests with the system, not the victim.

Domestic violence policies and practices must be continually reviewed and monitored by community members from the diverse cultural and language backgrounds being served.

A consistent, Coordinated Community Response is required to fully support the needs of victims.
The Building Blocks: Overview of Military Response Systems

Structure
The Armed Forces are comprised of four Services – the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force and Navy. (The U.S Coast Guard is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.) Members of the National Guard and the Reserves are not subject to military domestic violence response systems unless they have been called into active duty through a Presidential order.

Although all of the Services report to the Secretary of Defense, who sets overall policy, they are largely distinct from each other.

To learn more about each of the Services, visit:
- ARMY: www.army.mil
- AIR FORCE: www.af.mil
- NAVY: www.navy.mil
- MARINE CORPS: www.usmc.mil

The Department of Defense (DoD) has issued a directive for all branches of the military in regard to the appropriate response to incidents of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse committed by or against active-duty service members or their family members. www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/html/64001.htm Each branch has amplified this directive and created an order or regulation which describes the application of this response in detail for their soldiers, airmen, or sailors.

The Marines, Navy, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard each have their own practices and procedures for responding to, intervening in, and “treating” abuse cases. There are some basic tenets of response which all branches are instructed to follow.
There are significant DIFFERENCES among the Services as they relate to:

- Protocols and operating procedures for responding to domestic violence.
- Provision of services to families and to victims.
- Housing policies and procedures.
- Types of prevention programs.

You can expect COMMONALITY in:

- Benefits entitlements.
- Applicability of federal law, including the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and legal remedies under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).
- Existence of a Family Advocacy Program (FAP) (though services provided will differ).

The options available to a victim of domestic violence will depend, to a significant extent, on which Service of the military is responsible for taking action. While this might be the Service the military member is affiliated with, don’t assume this to be the case. If, for example, an Army post also houses Marine Corps units, the Army will provide social services to both Marine Corps and Army families affiliated with the installation. With regard to disciplinary action, however, it is the individual service member’s commander who will make the decisions.

**NOTE:** As you begin to work with military response systems, you are bound to confront an alphabet soup of acronyms. To help you out, we’ve included a list of the major ones in the Appendix. You’ll need it!

**Military Response Systems**

The military response to domestic violence, like the civilian response, includes both a social service component, and an enforcement/discipline component. However, there are key differences, including:

- **Lack of confidentiality and mandatory reporting** (discussed above).

- The primary role of the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) in preventing, identifying, assessing and treating domestic violence.

- The role of command, which has overriding responsibility for the response to domestic violence. Generally, the installation commander has responsibility for FAP, military law enforcement, housing, etc., while the service member’s commander has responsibility for offender accountability.

- The nature of offender accountability, which includes potential career consequences when the offender is a service member.
In general, the response system involves three phases:

PHASE 1: Report
A report of domestic violence can originate through military or civilian law enforcement, medical personnel housed on military bases, FAP, the victim or offender, command or others such as coworkers, neighbors, friends, etc. Once a report is made, the military response system will generally be activated. All suspected cases of spouse/child abuse, and sexual assault are to be reported to either PMO (military police), the Family Advocacy Program (FAP), or to the command. Whoever receives the report is supposed to forward the report to the other two intervenors. Many installations have reporting agreements with civilian law enforcement. This means that a report of domestic violence that originates off-base may be forwarded to the Provost’s Marshal’s Office (PMO) at the installation.

PHASE 2: Assessment
FAP has a primary role in assessing domestic violence. All reports of domestic violence and child abuse are to be investigated. This may be done by the police, military investigators (CID, NCIS etc.), or command as well as the FAP staff. Currently, the information obtained from the FAP clinical assessment and other investigation information is brought to the Case Review Committee (see pg. 31) which results in recommendations being made from FAP to the commander.

PHASE 3: Response
Depending on the severity of abuse and danger to the victim, this can include:

- **Victim protection:** including Military Protective Orders (MPOs), relocation, etc.
- **Services and treatment:** for both victims and offenders.
- **Offender accountability:** including disciplinary action and prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

Some responses (e.g., issuance of MPOs) may occur prior to the FAP assessment and the CRC process. Others occur afterwards.
**Overlap with Civilian Response Systems**

There is—and needs to be—tremendous overlap between military and civilian response systems as they relate to victims and offenders. Here’s what you need to know:

**Cooperative Relationships and Memoranda of Understanding**

Increasingly, civilian communities located near military installations either have, or are developing, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the installation for responding to domestic violence incidents involving military personnel. These agreements generally cover law enforcement response, prosecution, protective orders, shelter and information sharing. Some communities utilize liaison personnel to facilitate coordination and information sharing. Others have not yet taken these steps.
Jurisdictional Issues

Jurisdictional issues can be confusing. As an advocate, the most important things to remember are:

a) Advocacy and Social Services

Jurisdictional issues never stand in the way of your obligation to provide services. You must provide sheltering, counseling and other services, regardless of perceived jurisdictional issues, or whether the victim is receiving services on the installation. State and federal law prohibit discrimination on the basis of military status. Often, a victim will need services from multiple access points in order to have his or her needs met.

b) Protective Orders

In most cases, if either the victim or abuser lives off the installation, or if at least one incident of abuse occurred off the installation, your local civilian court will have jurisdiction to issue a Civil Protective Order (CPO) which is enforceable on both military and civilian property (see the section “Civil Protection Orders” on page 26). In addition, if the abuser is a military member, the victim may also be able to obtain a Military Protective Order (see section “Military Protection Order” on page 32). Whenever possible, seek both. Don’t let jurisdictional concerns prevent you from accessing all the safety and protective measures at your disposal. If questions arise, seek legal advice.

c) Criminal Enforcement

Questions about criminal jurisdiction are the most complicated. The answer to the question: “Who has jurisdiction?” will be determined by the answers to these questions: “Where did the abuse happen?”, “Who owns the property?”, and “Is the offender a military member?” Some installations are under exclusive federal jurisdiction while others are under both state and federal jurisdiction (concurrent). Also, some installations have areas that are under exclusive federal jurisdiction and other areas that are under concurrent jurisdiction. You may want to find out which type of jurisdiction governs the installation with which you are working.

Depending on jurisdiction issues, service members can potentially be prosecuted in a local, county or state court, in federal court, and/or through the military justice system. Civilians generally cannot be prosecuted through the military criminal justice system. Thankfully, as an advocate, you can generally leave these issues to the prosecutors to figure out.

d) Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act

Under the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act (SSCRA), service members can sometimes avoid responding to criminal charges and civil lawsuits (including divorce and custody actions as well as domestic violence protective order actions) if they are deployed or if the proceeding is not in the state where the installation is located. The SSCRA also makes it easier to obtain a divorce and custody determination outside of the family’s home state. If questions arise, get legal advice.
Your Role as an Advocate

Your role as an advocate is:

• To listen, and to understand the full range of concerns and needs facing the person with whom you are speaking or meeting.

• To offer accurate information and an informed understanding of the options available to the victim.

• To actively support the victim in choosing her/his own path to safety.

• Where appropriate, to clear the path and remove obstacles confronting the victim by advocating on the victim’s behalf with systems and individuals that will impact the quality of response.

• To constantly work to improve systems so that they will be more responsive to future victims.

As a civilian advocate, your role is uniquely important because you are in a position to offer this support and information confidentially. Remember:

• Explain the scope of your confidentiality policies, as well as your role, to the person you are assisting.

• Never take action yourself without the victim’s consent. If the victim requests that you share information with anyone else, be sure to obtain a signed release that clearly states the scope of information you are authorized to share. If your agency does not already have a standard release form, seek legal guidance in crafting one.
If the victim has, or will, access military response systems, your role as a civilian advocate is uniquely challenging. Your ability to directly influence the military response will be limited (e.g., even with the victim’s consent, you are unlikely to have direct access to command or military law enforcement). Your primary interactions are likely to be with FAP personnel and military victim advocates (where available). These individuals are in the best position to advocate internally for the victim. Developing strong internal allies is critical to your success.

Where to Start: Assessing Needs

Use the needs and safety assessment tools adopted by your agency or program. Supplement them with additional questions to find out:

1. If active duty, what is the victim’s rank? What is the rank of his/her partner? Do they live in military housing? How long have they been in the service?

2. What does the victim want (if anything) in terms of a military response?

3. Has the victim reported the abuse to anyone at the installation? What exactly did s/he report? To whom? What happened?

The section entitled “My Toolbox” (see page 47) includes a suggested “NEEDS/SAFETY ASSESSMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS FOR MILITARY VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.” Review this now.

Deciding Whether to Report

Some victims will come to you because they want the violence to stop, but are unsure or concerned about the consequences of reporting to FAP, military law enforcement or the command. Your first and perhaps most important role will be to help them make informed choices about how to proceed. This decision is a central component of safety planning.

Below, we’ve listed some of the major concerns victims are likely to voice. Keep in mind that:

- Determining whether these fears are real or perceived will depend on a wide range of factors, including:

  1. Severity of abuse/violence.
  2. Sensitivity and training of installation personnel.
  3. What the particular commander thinks about issues of domestic violence.
  4. Rank and performance of service member (whether victim or abuser).
• There are clear safety benefits as well as risks to reporting. (See page 24.) The victim must understand both in order to make an informed decision.

• Generalities and “official policy” are of limited value in separating fact from fiction about the implications of reporting. To help a survivor sort this out, you need relationships with installation personnel within FAP — someone to whom you can present a hypothetical scenario, and know that you’ll get the “real deal” on what’s likely to happen.

**REMEMBER:** While your role is to help the victim sort through these issues, there is a seldom a clear answer to be found and no guarantees in how the system will actually respond.

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### Increased Violence/ Retaliation by the Batterer:

“My active duty partner is hurting me. I’m afraid that if I report, his commander will find out, and I’ll be beaten even worse for ratting on him.”

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**What You Need to Know:**

All victims face increased risks when they take action to end the violence. These risks may increase in the military context because of:

- **Mandatory Reporting** The batterer is likely to learn about the victim’s actions, even if the report was initially made to social service or medical personnel.

- **Potential Consequences** The batterer’s career may potentially be put at risk, resulting in economic consequences, loss of on-base housing, etc.

**Exploring This Further:**

- Carefully assess danger, using safety and lethality assessment tools that have been tailored to the military context.

- Talk about safety planning, and options for getting both military and civilian protective orders when the report is made.

- Understand and explain housing and sheltering options.
Active Duty Batterer Will Face Adverse Career Consequences or be Discharged:

“I have young kids and no job. If I report, my spouse will be discharged and we'll have nothing.”

What You Need to Know:

- DoD studies confirm that this fear is the primary deterrent to reporting domestic violence. In fact, this fear is more a perception than a reality for at present, few service members are actually discharged due to domestic violence. The number who face other adverse career consequences (e.g., loss of assignment or promotion) is unknown.

- If a military member is convicted of a domestic violence offense (in either a civilian or military court), a federal law, known as the Lautenberg Amendment, requires that the offender be denied access to firearms. For certain service members, this means s/he will (or should) be discharged, reassigned or otherwise separated from the Service. The Lautenberg Amendment does not apply if the service member's role does not involve the use of firearms (e.g., many Navy personnel, cooks, etc.). Also, the definition of “firearm” under Lautenberg does not include use of other weapons and equipment, e.g., missiles, tanks, etc.¹⁹

Exploring This Further:

- Explore the sources of the victim’s fears. Often, the batterer will maximize this fear to threaten the victim and secure her/his silence.

- Understand and explain how a report of domestic violence will be reflected in the service member’s Service record and/or medical records. This will depend on the particular Service policy. An adverse entry in the Service record could impair career advancement.

- Understand and explain the Lautenberg Amendment. (Be aware, however, that within the military, most domestic violence is handled through disciplinary action that does not invoke Lautenberg.)

- Explain options for financial support if a report is made, e.g., through terms of a CPO. Also, explain transitional compensation (see page 36).
**Batterer Won’t be Held Accountable:**

“If I report, nothing will happen. They only care about their service member, and no one will believe me.”

**What You Need to Know:**

Commanders have broad discretion in whether to take any action against a service member, and to what degree the importance of the service member’s skills and performance (to the military mission, and his/her potential for future service) will factor in the decision.

**Exploring This Further:**

- Explore what the victim knows about the abuser’s overall level of support from his/her supervisor and/or commander. Does s/he have performance problems? Does s/he have unique skills?
- Point out that while it may seem that the service member has support from his/her immediate supervisor, someone higher up the chain of command may take a stronger view on issues of domestic violence.
- Discuss command options that will not necessarily impact the member’s duty obligations – e.g., batterer’s intervention, MPOs. Also, explain that a responsive commander may actually have extra leverage over a highly valued/skilled member, who has much more to lose in terms of his/her career.

**Adverse Career Consequences for Active Duty Victim:**

“I’m active duty, and I’m being beaten at home. If I report, I’ll be perceived as weak and my career will be over.”

**What You Need to Know:**

Active duty victims face unique challenges and many fear for their own military career if they are identified as being a “victim.” Shame and fear of exposure – the primary impediments to any victim seeking help – are exacerbated for active duty
victims who are expected to be “able to handle anything.” If the victim-blaming is coming from the person with greatest influence over your professional advancement, the risks are real.

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### Exploring This Further:

- Explore the relationship/history between the victim and her/his direct supervisor and/or commander. Is s/he likely to have support?

- Explore information about the batterer. Is s/he civilian or military, and, if military, is s/he senior or junior to the victim? Has the batterer had other problems with the command?

- Be sure the victim understands DoD’s and the Service’s official policies on domestic violence which make clear that domestic violence is not to be tolerated, and that commanders are expected to take action.

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### If the Victim Decides to Report

After considering both the risks and benefits, the victim may choose to report domestic violence to military authorities.

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### What You Need to Know:

- The victim can report/disclose abuse to FAP, military law enforcement, medical personnel or command. NOTE: Reporting only to the batterer's direct supervisor, who may not be the commander, may not be sufficient to activate the military response. Although all military members are mandated reporters of domestic violence, some supervisors will assure the victim that he will “handle” the situation with her abuser and/or convince her that it is better not to contact the command, law enforcement, or the commander.

- General allegations will not necessarily activate the military response system. If the victim does not clearly identify specific acts of physical or sexual violence, but uses generalities like “things are not going well/he scares me/last month we had an incident/he has been mean to me,” it may not be interpreted as requiring a mandatory report of abuse.

- Once a report is made, military directives will control the sequence of events. A victim who says “I want him to get help, but I don’t want command to find out” should be advised that the military response will be determined by others.

- Following a report, FAP staff will generally want to interview both parties to obtain information about the “incident,” and about the history of abuse in the relationship. Participation in this assessment process is voluntary for the victim. Once the victim has decided to report the incident, or the incident
has been reported by another agency/party, participation in this process is the only means to present her/his side of the story to the Case Review Committee for determination of abuse. FAP staff (particularly victim advocates) can assist victims with safety planning, information about their rights and benefits due to them as military family members, and facilitate access to confidential civilian advocacy services.

Advocacy Tips:

• In general, the victim is more likely to get a favorable response if s/he makes a timely report of a specific incident of abuse or violence (as opposed to a more generalized report) and there is some type of documentation or corroboration – pictures, witnesses, medical reports, a log, etc.

• If the victim decides to report to command, make sure the report of abuse is reported high enough in the chain-of-command to ensure a response.

• Help clear the path for the victim by providing contact information within FAP that will be most helpful. Advise her/him to remain in contact with a FAP social worker or victim advocate, and to request immediate notification of updates, e.g., issuance of MPO, CRC determination, disciplinary proceedings, etc. This is a critical safety issue.

• ALWAYS engage in careful safety planning when the victim is considering reporting. (Use the “SAFETY CHECKLIST” sheet in the Appendix.)

Other ideas:

Civilian Options/Tools

Your existing toolbox of civilian options is available for you to use, whether or not the victim reports the abuse. These tools include:

Safety Planning

What You Need to Know:

Safety planning will differ, depending on whether the victim plans to leave or stay. It will also differ, depending on whether the victim is military or civilian.
Advocacy Tips:

- ALWAYS do safety planning.
- Use your existing safety planning tools, and supplement them with military-specific information. Pay attention to:
  - Fears/concerns related to deployments/assignments. (“When are you most afraid?”)
  - Providing key contact information, both on and off-installation.
  - Additional key documents, including passports and military ID cards.
  - Military and Civilian Protective Orders.

The section “My Toolbox” (see page 47) includes supplemental questions to include in your “NEEDS/SAFETY ASSESSMENT” and “SAFETY CHECKLIST” forms. Review these now.

Civilian Protective Orders (CPO)

What You Need to Know:

- If either the victim or offender lives off-installation, or if an incident of abuse took place off-installation, the local civilian court should have jurisdiction to issue a protective order.
- A CPO is subject to the Full Faith and Credit provisions of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and is enforceable in any state in the country.
- Under a new law known as the “Armed Forces Domestic Security Act,” CPOs are also enforceable on military property.

Advocacy Tips:

- If the victim obtains a CPO, consider if, how, and when the military installation will be notified, and engage in appropriate safety planning.
- If the victim obtains both a CPO and an MPO, try to ensure that the provisions are consistent with each other (e.g., if children are protected by the MPO, they should also be protected by the CPO).
- If the victim is moving, ensure that s/he brings the CPO with her/him.

Other ideas:
Divorce and Child Custody

**What You Need to Know:**

- Divorce and child custody are private civil matters, governed by state law in the filer’s state of permanent residence. Given the mobility of military families, jurisdictional issues can present a challenge. However, the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act (SSCRA) makes it easier for military members to engage in legal proceedings outside of their home states.

- Military lawyers (Judge Advocates General or “JAGs”) may be available for limited consultation (but not representation) on divorce and custody matters. Whether this assistance is available will depend on the Service and installation. If such assistance is available, counsel will only consult with the first party to seek assistance.

- Generally, upon separation or divorce, civilian family members will be required to vacate military housing within 30 days. If the military member vacates housing sooner (i.e., relocates to barracks), the home must generally be vacated within 30 days of the service member’s relocation. Generally, the Service will not pay for the move, but you should check with FAP.

- The Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA) determined that military retirement, pay and benefits can be considered marital property. The USFSPA Establishes a ceiling relative to the distribution of military retirement pay and benefits; distribution system; and eligibility for commissary, ID cards, health care benefits, etc.

- Upon divorce, a non-military spouse may lose military IDs and health care benefits, depending on years of service during the marriage. Children may be able to keep health benefits, even if they remain in the custody of the civilian spouse.

**Advocacy Tips:**

- Identify a domestic violence attorney who is familiar with laws of your state, and familiar with military related family law, including the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, the USFSPA, the Transitional Compensation Program, etc.

- Gather resources about divorce and custody from the JAG office, FAP and civilian sources, e.g., Miles Foundation.

**Other ideas:**
Military Options

Involving military response systems has numerous advantages—added leverage on the offender if s/he is a service member, and the availability of services. It also has risks, as discussed earlier. Above all, victims need to know what is likely to happen if military response systems are activated. (Of course, as in the civilian world, there is no guarantee that things will always happen as they are supposed to happen.)

Remember, your role will consist primarily of:

• Providing information to the victim about military options.

• Supporting the victim's self-advocacy with military personnel.

• Working with FAP personnel, as requested and authorized by the victim, to ensure they have the necessary information to achieve the results desired by the victim.

Confidential Resources

What You Need to Know:

• Military chaplains are protected in their communications and, as such, are not mandatory reporters of domestic violence. Depending on their level of understanding about domestic violence, they may be a source of information and support to victims.

• Victim advocates may, in the future, be granted a certain level of confidentiality in their communications with domestic violence victims. Check www.bwjp.org for the status of this key recommendation of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence.

• Sometimes, FAP personnel will be able to offer information and options to a victim before the victim discloses domestic violence—e.g., through discussion of a “hypothetical” situation.

Advocacy Tips:

• Learn about the installation’s chaplaincy services. (Don’t assume the chaplain’s knowledge of domestic violence issues, or understanding of confidentiality issues. Check this out before making referrals.)

• Find out about the availability of victim advocates on the installation and the current status of the program.
Discuss with FAP personnel if there is an option for the victim to consult with them without making a report. If not, find out if there are ways for you to present hypothetical scenarios to a contact on the installation in order to help a victim decide whether to access installation services.

Other ideas:

Military Law Enforcement

What You Need to Know:

- If an incident occurs on the installation, military law enforcement personnel will respond. Military law enforcement may also respond if the incident occurs in military housing located in a civilian community.

- Military law enforcement may not have domestic violence training, and may not be versed in predominant aggressor issues, or in evidenced-based domestic violence prosecutions (photographs, excited utterances, defensive vs. offensive wounds, etc.).

- In many communities, there will at least be an information-sharing relationship between the military Security Office or Provost Marshal’s Office (which oversees security issues for the installation) and the local civilian police department.

- The Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) does not classify crimes as misdemeanors or felonies. Assaults, which would be similar in seriousness to gross misdemeanors or felonies in the civilian system (sexual assault, use of weapons, broken bones, etc.), will be further investigated by military investigators.

Advocacy Tips:

- If a military law enforcement response/investigation has not adequately brought forward facts and circumstances of a domestic violence incident, work with the victim to ensure that this information is included at other points in the process (e.g., through FAP at CRC).

Other ideas:
Family Advocacy/Military Social Service Programs

What You Need to Know:

- The Family Advocacy Program (FAP) has a major role in addressing the abuse of spouses in military families. The role of FAP is to prevent abuse, work with command to protect victims quickly when abuse occurs, and treat abusers and support victims. Each installation with command-sponsored families has a FAP to provide services in the areas of prevention (e.g., public awareness campaigns), identification, assessment and treatment/supportive services.

- FAP reports to command. FAP communications are not confidential. Allegations of domestic violence, and the FAP response, may be reflected in the service member’s FAP case records.

- FAP provides services to active duty members, and to family members who hold military ID cards. FAP services are available to active duty victims and perpetrators, whether or not they are married to their partners. An unmarried civilian partner of an active duty abuser cannot generally access FAP services (but may be able to obtain protection under a military protective order).

- FAP services vary among the Services and among installations. They can include outreach, victim advocacy, parenting classes, new parent support programs, military spouse orientation, couples counseling, stress and anger management classes, support groups, batterer’s intervention, etc. Other social services exist outside of FAP (e.g., through a Family Service Center). Any service member or military family member can access these services.

- In addition, military communities have nonprofit charitable relief organizations (e.g., Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Army Emergency Relief, etc.) that provide food, financial support and other services to military families.

To find information on each Service’s FAP, visit: www.mfrc.calib.com/domestic_violence and click “Links”

Advocacy Tips:

- Learn everything you can about all social services on the installation with which you’ll be working, including:

  - Domestic violence services provided by FAP (for both victims and abusers).
• Other social services that may be useful and helpful to someone who does not report domestic violence, e.g., new spouse programs, financial planning programs, etc.

• The response to reports of domestic abuse.

• The availability of victim advocates.

Other ideas:

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The Case Review Committee (CRC)

What You Need to Know:

• A Case Review Committee (CRC) is a multidisciplinary group convened by FAP to decide whether to “substantiate” an allegation of domestic violence, and, if so, to recommend supportive services for the adult victim and children, and treatment options for the offender.

• FAP will present a case to the CRC after notification of a domestic violence incident by the victim, offender, military or civilian law enforcement, command, or a medical provider. Prior to a CRC, a FAP social worker (case manager) will generally gather relevant law enforcement, medical and other reports, and conduct a clinical spouse abuse assessment of both the victim and offender.

• The CRC generally includes the FAP social worker, the service member’s commander (or representative), and other relevant law enforcement, legal and medical representatives. If the installation has victim advocates, the advocate may be present as well, although s/he may not have the right to vote. The alleged victim and offender are not present, though they may be permitted to submit a prepared statement.

• The CRC votes on whether to “substantiate” an allegation of domestic violence (i.e., determine that it occurred) after the FAP social worker has presented a report and other participants have offered their input. If the case is not substantiated, it is closed (though services may still be offered). If it is substantiated, most CRCs will then classify the abuse as “mild,” “moderate” or “severe” in accordance with Service guidelines. In some cases, the CRC will find “mutual abuse.” CRC substantiation determinations are NOT legal findings. However, substantiation may be reflected in the service member’s FAP records.
• If the case is substantiated, the CRC will recommend intervention (or “treatment”) for each family member as appropriate, and forward this to the service member’s commander. The intervention plan is likely to include counseling, batterers’ intervention, support groups for the victim and services for children exposed to domestic violence. It may also include some form of anger management or communication skills program.

• Generally, the CRC does not recommend disciplinary or prosecutorial enforcement action. A commander is free to take such action at any time—before, during or after the CRC. However, even in severe cases, commanders may wait until after the CRC to decide on disciplinary or other action.

Advocacy Tips:

• The CRC process can have a profound impact on whether a batterer is held accountable. If the case is going to CRC, work with the victim to ensure that FAP personnel have all the necessary information (including, e.g., information about civilian protective orders and prior history of abuse). If possible, ensure that the victim is represented by a military victim advocate at the CRC. (The FAP social worker’s role is to present the results of his/her evaluation, not advocate for the victim.)

• If authorized by the victim, work with FAP personnel and the victim advocate to craft a meaningful and practical intervention plan that includes protection and services for the victim and children, and mandated intervention for the batterer. Beware of “couples counseling” or joint offender/victim programs.

• When requested by the victim, advocate for discipline/enforcement action.

Other ideas:

Military Protective Orders (MPO)

What You Need to Know:

• A military protective order (MPO) is similar to a Temporary Restraining Order issued by a civilian court. It can be a powerful deterrent for some abusers because violation of an MPO is “disobeying a direct order.” It is issued by the commanding officer of the suspected service member abuser. It is not subject to requirements of due process (notice, hearing, etc.) and as such does not meet the Full Faith and Credit enforcement. MPOs are generally of a short duration (not more than 10 days), but may be extended, in which case the commander may give the suspected abuser an opportunity to be heard. MPOs should be recorded on the blotter (the military police log).
• MPOs generally include provisions to stay away from the victim, vacate military housing (if appropriate), and/or stay away from certain designated areas. They may include other provisions as well. An MPO may or may not be in writing.

• MPOs can only be issued against military members. If the abuser is a civilian spouse, the installation commander or his representative can issue an order barring the individual from the base. (NOTE: This may get complicated if the civilian spouse works on the installation.)

• MPOs are enforceable by, and at the discretion of, the command. They are NOT enforceable by a civilian court. An MPO is not transferable (i.e. if the service member is transferred to another command, the MPO is no longer binding).

Advocacy Tips:

• If the victim seeks an MPO, be sure it covers all relevant issues (stay away, removal to barracks, etc.) and that it is very specific so there is no room for confusion. Try to get it in writing, so that the victim can have a copy on hand at all times.

• MPOs are not a substitute for civilian protective orders that are judicially enforceable. Ideally, the victim should have both, and they should contain consistent provisions.

Other ideas:

Options for Batterer Accountability and Intervention

What You Need to Know:

The command is responsible for disciplinary or punitive action against an active duty member, and has complete discretion as to what action, if any, will be pursued. Some commanders will await the outcome of the CRC before pursuing action, but they do not need to do so. The options include:

• MPOs  Violations of an MPO are punishable by the command (described above).

• Treatment  Whether by recommendation of the CRC or as part of a disciplinary action, the batterer may be ordered to attend one or more FAP or civilian treatment programs. These include programs such as anger management training and batterers’ intervention programs. If attendance interferes
with the service member’s duty obligations, the commander will decide which obligation takes priority.

- **Non-judicial punishment (NJP)** An NJP is an administrative action that may involve demotion in rank, loss of pay, or extra work assignments. An “Article 15” is a specific form of NJP that results in a written reprimand that becomes part of the service member’s service record. NJPs do not, in themselves, lead to separation from the Service, and do not constitute “convictions” for purposes of the Lautenberg Amendment. Most domestic violence misdemeanor cases are handled through NJPs.

- **Prosecution under the UCMJ** Currently, only the most severe cases of domestic violence are prosecuted under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. UCMJ actions differ in important ways from civilian prosecutions, with the command having control over the entire proceeding, and Judge Advocates General (JAGs) serving as both prosecutors and defense counsel. The outcome may include a general or special court-martial, with punishments that range from incarceration or forfeiture of pay to dismissal or discharge.

**Advocacy Tips:**

- Whenever treatment options are being considered, work with the victim to ensure that s/he understands the potential risks and dangers of anger management and any form of “couples counseling” or mixed victim/offender groups recommended by FAP.

- Safety planning is critical whenever disciplinary or enforcement action is being pursued.

- If UCMJ action is pursued, have the victim consult with the JAG office about her/his rights. Find out if a Victim/Witness Assistance Program advocate is able to meet with and support the victim. (NOTE: Victim/Witness Assistance Program advocates are associated with the JAG office to provide support to victims through the UCMJ process. Their role is limited to this, and therefore, different than the role of domestic violence victim advocates.)

- If the service member may be administratively discharged or court-martialed, ensure that the papers state “dependent abuse” as a basis so that the victim can qualify for transitional compensation.

**Other ideas:**
Military Housing/Shelter

What You Need to Know:

• Military housing is a privilege, conferred on the service member. If the service member is discharged or ordered to barracks, or if the couple legally separates, a civilian spouse and family members will generally be required to move out of military housing within 30 days.

• Instructions for each of the Services make clear that, following a domestic violence incident in military housing, when separation is warranted, removal of the primary offender is generally the appropriate course of action, regardless of whether this individual is active duty or civilian. In other words, if the offender is the service member, h/she should be ordered to the barracks. If the offender is nonmilitary, h/she should be ordered off the installation. Children should not be left in the care of a suspected offender.

• If sheltering is required for the safety of the victim and the victim’s children, some commands will place the victim in billeting (guest quarters) for a limited period of time. Only two installations have shelters and both of those are outside the continental U.S.

Advocacy Tips:

• Engage in careful safety planning regarding any separation. If confidential sheltering is required and the civilian shelter is not available or appropriate, advocate for safe billeting on the installation. (The Appendix includes a “SAFETY CHECKLIST.”)

• If the victim needs more than 30 days to move out of military housing, seek an extension. You may get some flexibility, particularly if there are safety concerns.

Other ideas:

Relocation Assistance

For some civilian victims and their children, moving away from the service member will be the best course of action. However, the expense of moving, especially from overseas locations, can present a formidable barrier.
What You Need to Know:

- For families living in the U.S., relocation entitlements (personal travel expenses and shipment of household goods) are available only in conjunction with the service member’s permanent change of station (PCS), separation, retirement, or subsequent to a court martial. Currently, the Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR) does not permit relocation assistance to domestic violence victims, except in these circumstances. This may change in the future.

- Family members residing overseas are considered “sponsored” by the command and the service member. JFTR regulations permit relocation assistance for the Early Return of Dependents (ERD) for unspecified reasons, but this entitlement must generally be requested by the service member.

Advocacy Tips:

- If the victim is seeking a CPO, request payment of relocation costs.

- Consider other sources of financial assistance for relocation, including state Victim Compensation Programs and charitable relief funds (e.g., Army Emergency Relief or the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society).

- If possible, seek prior agreement on division of household goods before relocation. Otherwise, the victim may have to leave certain items behind.

- Create a safety plan regarding any plan for separation or relocation.

Other ideas:

Transitional Compensation (TC)

What You Need to Know:

The Transitional Compensation Program provides financial and other support to victims of domestic violence (including sexual violence against family members) and their dependents. Benefits levels are set by law and are updated every year. For FY 2003, benefits are $950/month for a spouse, and $240/month for each dependent child in the care of the spouse. Children who live separately from the spouse (e.g., with a foster parent or legal guardian) are currently eligible for approximately $400/month. In addition to cash payments, eligible spouses and dependents are entitled to continuation of their medical and dental benefits (“TRICARE”), as well as commissary (groceries) and exchange (other goods and products) privileges.
In order to qualify for transitional compensation, the victim must demonstrate that:

- the service member is administratively discharged, and the documented basis for discharge includes dependent abuse; OR the service member is separated after court-martial, or sentenced to forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and the basis for discharge includes dependant abuse.
- the victim was married to and residing in the home of the now separated service member when the offense occurred.
- the service member has served at least 30 days on active duty.

Transitional compensation is available for a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 36 months. Benefits entitlement begins on the date the administrative separation is initiated, or the court-martial sentence is approved.

Entitlement to transitional compensation is forfeited if the spouse receiving payments remarries, begins living with the abusive service member again, or if the domestic violence conviction is reduced to a lower punishment or the administrative separation is revoked.

Dependent children, not living with the service member or spouse, may be eligible for transitional compensation even if the spouse is not initially eligible, or later becomes ineligible.

Advocacy Tips:

- **Always** discuss the potential availability of transitional compensation. Be sure the victim understands the limitations on eligibility.

- When eligibility for transitional compensation is a possibility, work with FAP to ensure that the service member’s discharge papers or court martial clearly states “dependent abuse” as at least one of the reasons for adverse action. Without this documentation the victim will not be entitled to benefits, even if domestic violence was among the factors for administrative discharge or court-martial.

- Be aware that if a court-martial is underway, it can take months for the sentence to be approved. Explore other options for support in the short-term.
CHAPTER 4 Tools for Advocacy

Other Financial Issues

What You Need to Know:

- Military ID cards provide access to discounted food and clothing (commissary and exchange privileges), and to health care (“TRICARE”). Both the spouse and children are entitled to military ID cards, which must be periodically updated.

- Children may be entitled to keep military health care benefits even if the service member does not have custody. They must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment System (DEERS).

- If the military member destroys or removes a victim’s military ID card, the military member may be punished, and the card can be replaced. FAP can assist with replacement.

- Military Service regulations require service members to provide “adequate support” to their family members. The amount varies, depending on whether there is a court order or agreement between the parties, and on guidance provided by the particular Service, which is generally available through the installation’s legal office.

Advocacy Tips:

- If the victim is being financially abused, work with FAP personnel to enforce her/his military rights.

- Use all civilian tools at your disposal, such as orders under a CPO, food stamps, WIC, Victim Compensation Programs, food lockers, military and civilian charitable relief societies, etc.

Other ideas:
Special Circumstances

Immigration Issues

What You Need to Know:

• A significant number of U.S. service members marry non-U.S. citizens. Foreign-born spouses are dependent on the U.S. service member to file a petition on the spouse’s behalf before relocating to the U.S. In an abusive relationship, the batterer can use this power as a threat, both before and after relocating to the U.S.

• Under VAWA, battered immigrant women may “self-petition” to gain lawful permanent residence in the U.S. if they meet VAWA guidelines. This information is not widely known by immigrant victims or by the military community.

Advocacy Tips:

• Immigration issues require special attention. Find an attorney who can provide specialized help for these issues, e.g., the Immigrant Women Project (NOWLDEF), and the National Immigration Project (National Lawyer’s Guild). (See “Civilian Options/Tools” section on page 25.)

• Don’t assume that military personnel (FAP, JAGs, commanders, etc.) understand VAWA as it relates to battered immigrant women. You may need to educate them.

Other ideas:

Victims Stationed Overseas

What You Need to Know:

• Domestic violence victims may become more vulnerable when the family moves overseas. Apart from issues of isolation, there are likely to be fewer services available both on and off-installation.

• If the family will live off the installation, the victim may or may not be protected under the laws of the host country (and the country may or may not take prosecution of batterers seriously). The applicability of foreign laws...
to U.S. military members and families is governed by complex international agreements called Status of Forces Agreements (SOFAs).

- Civilians who accompany the military overseas and commit a felony can be prosecuted in federal court if the host nation declines to prosecute. Service members can be prosecuted under the UCMJ, whether the incident occurred on or off the installation.

- Military family members are neither entitled nor required to relocate overseas with service members. This a privilege, granted by the command. Families with histories of domestic violence may be screened out for overseas relocation because of increased vulnerability and reduced access to services.

For information about domestic violence service providers overseas, visit: www.mfrc.caliber.com domestic_violence and click “resources”

Advocacy Tips:

- If a victim faces the prospect of relocation overseas, discuss options for remaining in the U.S. (or if the victim is active duty, for leaving the spouse in the U.S.).

- If the victim will be moving overseas, investigate civilian service/sheltering options in the host country. Understand and explain options/limitations for Early Return of Dependents (ERD) if this becomes necessary (See “Military Housing/Shelter” on page 35.)

Other ideas:

Keeping Coordinated

The best way to support military victims in your community to is build a Coordinated Community Response by bringing together the many players who have a role in the response system. Ideas include:

- Cross-train advocacy staff. Offer to provide training to FAP, and invite FAP staff to train your staff.

- Ensure that your community domestic violence Coordinating Council or Task Force includes military representation.

- Work toward the creation of MOUs between installation personnel and your program, civilian law enforcement and prosecutors’ offices. For example, an
MOU between the installation and a nonprofit domestic violence sheltering/services organization might include:

1. General statement of purpose.
2. Outline of procedures for cross-referrals.
3. Understandings and commitments regarding confidentiality of client information.
4. Commitments to cross-training and joint outreach efforts.
5. Provisions for compensation/support to the shelter from the installation for services provided to military victims.

- Convene a monthly roundtable of military domestic violence responders – military and civilian police, shelter and FAP staff, medical providers, civilian prosecutors and JAGs, and command staff. This can either be the starting point for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or the means of ensuring that it remains a living document. Rotate meeting places, and include a short training by the host organization.

- Create collaborative outreach materials for victims.

- Coordinate Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities. Show visible support for each other’s efforts on behalf of victims.

**Advocacy Tips:**

- Differences are bound to arise. Keep conversations respectful, grounded in the goal of providing the best possible response to victims, and recognize differences in roles.

- **Never** breach victim confidentiality.

**Other ideas:**

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19 For more information on Lautenberg, see DTFDV, Initial Report, pp. 41-42.
20 P.L. 107-311 (enacted 12/02/02).
Each victim, and each set of responses, offers lessons for systems improvement. It is your role to continually work to improve these systems for the benefit of future victims.

**Proactive Role**

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. We cannot stress enough the importance of building open, trusting relationships with personnel on the installation, and of pursuing all of the “Keeping Coordinated” suggestions discussed above.

**Responsive Role**

The U.S. military is a hierarchical system. Your effectiveness in supporting victims will be enhanced by developing strong, supportive relationships on the installation. Solving or addressing all issues related to active-duty service members will require going through the chain-of-command.

**What You Need to Know:**

- **Respect is highly valued in this system.** Military members expect to be addressed formally, using their rank.
- The actions of command and FAP staff are governed by their institutional practices and written policies—being aware of these is critical to your success.

**Advocacy Tips:**

- Ask the rank of the person with whom you are speaking, and use it. Don’t call Major Bob Thomas “Bob” unless he tells you to do so. Instead, address him as “Major Thomas.”
- As an advocate, start your communications with the FAP victim advocate, the FAP case manager, the FAP Manager (FAPM), or FAP Officer (FAPO). You can
reach these people by calling the installation and asking to be directed to the Family Advocacy Program. These staff can assist you with communication to the command. Be polite, direct, and succinct.

• If you do not understand why a particular action is being taken, request a copy of the policy or seek other guidance from FAP. (For example, if an active duty victim is directed to move out of military housing, request a copy and review the Service policies that strongly advise against such action.)

• You may need to contend with many levels of command. To do so, you’ll want to know the name of the direct supervisor of the person with whom you are speaking. Be sure to ask for this information at the end of every conversation, so you know where to go next if you do not get the desired result or information that you’ve requested.

• Just as you wouldn’t go straight to the mayor if a police dispatcher acted inappropriately, don’t try to “leapfrog” the military chain of command. It is not advised that you start with the base commander or chief-of-staff unless you run into a brick wall at the lower levels. When you have exhausted your other options, it is time to call the general, admiral, commander, or his/her staff. They may have an attorney call you back. You need to be able to explain what you have done already: what assistance you are seeking and with whom you’ve already spoken.


• If you continue to face obstacles within a particular installation, it may be appropriate to direct your concerns to Service Family Advocacy Program, i.e.:

**US Army FAP:** 703-681-7396/93
**US Navy FAP:** 901-874-4355
**US Air Force FAP:** 210-536-2031/32
**US Marine Corps:** 703-784-9546

You may also contact:

**DoD FAP:** 703-602-4990
**Inspector General:** (within each Service)
• For assistance and support with systems advocacy, we suggest contacting:

  Battered Women's Justice Project: 800-903-0111, ext. 1
  The Miles Foundation: 203-270-7861
  National Center on Domestic And Sexual Violence: 512-407-9020

Complete contact information is in “Additional Civilian Resources” on page 55.

Other ideas:
Filling Your Toolbox:  Resources and Contact Information

My Toolbox

Now you’ve got the building materials - it’s time to get to work! Below, we’ve included three tools:

1. Installation Contact Sheet
3. Safety Checklist for Emergency Exit (Supplemental Form)

In the Appendix, you’ll find:

4. Resource and Contact Information
5. Military Acronyms
6. Model MOU (included in the Appendix)

After meeting with Family Advocacy staff on the installation, add the following:

7. Brochures and Outreach Materials Produced by the Installation
8. The “Memorandum Of Understanding” (MOU) if one exists

Now, consider creating new tools, including:

10. Joint Military/Civilian Outreach Materials
11. Cross-Training Materials

Other ideas:

12. ________________________________
13. ________________________________
14. ________________________________
15. ________________________________

As you gather these tools, remember that building is an integrative process. Your efforts will be strengthened by joining in true partnership with builders of military response systems. It is only together that we will fully meet the needs of military survivors of domestic violence.  Good luck!
## Installation Contact Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military Installation:</th>
<th>Tel:</th>
<th>Email:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Command:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenant Commands:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation Website:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Website(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contacts:

- **Commanding Officer:** Name: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________
- **FAP Manager:** Name: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________
- **Victim Advocate:** Name: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________
- **Military Law Enforcement:** Contact: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________
- **Housing:** Contact: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________
- **Chaplain:** Contact: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________
- **Benefits:** Contact: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________
- **Medical Treatment Facility:** Contact: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________
- **Legal office:** Contact: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________
- **Immigration:** Contact: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________

### Installation Resources/Programs:

1. ____________ Contact: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________
2. ____________ Contact: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________
3. ____________ Contact: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________
4. ____________ Contact: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________
5. ____________ Contact: ____________ Tel: ____________ E-mail: ____________

### Other tools:

1. __________________________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________________________
3. __________________________________________________________________________
4. __________________________________________________________________________

(From “*The Military Response to Victims of Domestic Violence: Tools for Civilian Advocates,*” The Battered Women’s Justice Project)
NOTE: Use your existing needs/safety assessment tools. This form should be used for supplemental purposes, and not to replace existing tools.

CLIENT NAME: _________________________________  SAFE CONTACT INFO: ____________________________
ADVCATE: ___________________________________  MIL INSTALLATION: _____________________________
DATE: ______________________________________

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
A. Victim Information

1. Are you active duty or civilian?

2. If active duty:
   Service __________________________________________
   Rank __________________________________________
   Position __________________________________________
   CO (name and contact info) __________________________________________
   Expected tour of duty __________________________________________
   Any orders to PCS? __________________________________________
   Expected deployments over next six months __________________________________________

3. If civilian, are you employed? __________________________________________
   Employer __________________________________________

4. Drivers license/access to car: __________________________________________

5. Do you have an updated military ID card? __________________________________________

6. Are you receiving financial support from the abuser? __________________________________________
   Describe __________________________________________

7. If not a U.S. citizen, what is your immigration status? __________________________________________

(From “The Military Response to Victims of Domestic Violence: Tools for Civilian Advocates,” The Battered Women’s Justice Project)
B. Abuser Information

1. Is your partner active duty or civilian? 

2. If active duty:
   - Service 
   - Rank 
   - Position 
   - CO 
   - Expected tour of duty 
   - Any orders to PCS? 
   - Expected deployments over next six months 

3. If civilian, is the abuser employed? 
   - Employer: 

C. Housing

1. Are you living on or off the installation? 

2. If living off the installation, are you in military or civilian housing? 

3. Address: 

D. Children

1. Ages of children 

2. Do the children have updated military ID cards? 

3. Are the children enrolled in DEERS (Defense Enrollment Eligibility System)? 

4. Where are the children in school/daycare?
# RESPONSE TO DATE

## A. Civilian Response

1. Have civilian police been called to respond?  
   When?  
   What happened?  
   Did police notify anyone at the installation?  
   Who? What happened?  

2. Do you have a civilian restraining/protective order?  

3. Are you receiving any other civilian services?  
   What services?  
   Contact info  

4. Pending legal proceedings:  
   Criminal:  
   Civil (divorce, CPO)  

## B. Military Response

1. Have military police been called to respond?  
   When?  
   What happened?  

2. Have you reported domestic violence to anyone on the installation?  
   If so, to whom?  
   When?  
   What happened?  

3. Are you accessing services on base?  
   If yes, what services?  
   Name of FAP social worker or other contact  

4. Have you obtained a Military Protective Order?  

5. Pending disciplinary or UCMJ actions?
SAFETY ASSESSMENT/NEEDS

A. Safety Assessment

1. What is the batterer’s access to weapons? _________________________________________________

2. What is the batterer’s relationship with his/her supervisor and/or CO? What do you know about them?
   _____________________________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________

3. Do you see a relationship between the partner’s use of violence and his/her work assignments or deployments? When is he/she most violent? __________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________

B. Needs/Goals

Short-term (immediate) needs/goals:

1. _____________________________________________________________________________
2. _____________________________________________________________________________
3. _____________________________________________________________________________

Medium-term goals:

1. _____________________________________________________________________________
2. _____________________________________________________________________________
3. _____________________________________________________________________________

Long-term goals:

1. _____________________________________________________________________________
2. _____________________________________________________________________________
3. _____________________________________________________________________________
SAFETY CHECKLIST FOR EMERGENCY EXIT
SUPPLEMENTAL FORM FOR MILITARY VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

NOTE: Use your existing checklist for documents the victim will need for an emergency exit. This form should be used for supplemental purposes, and not to replace existing tools. As with all safety plans, remind the victim that this plan is only a guideline, she should always follow her best instincts in a dangerous situation. Most documents can be replaced, lives cannot.

CONTACT INFORMATION

CIVILIAN CONTACTS

Civilian Victim Advocate (confidential)
Name: ______________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

Civilian Police
Contact: __________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

Hotline (confidential)
Tel: ______________________________

Shelter (confidential)
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

School
Contact: __________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

Day Care
Contact: __________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

Legal
Contact: __________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

Friend
Name: ______________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

Other
Contact: __________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

MILITARY CONTACTS

Family Advocacy Program
Contact: __________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

Military Victim Advocate
Contact: __________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

Military Police
Contact: __________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

CO/ Command representative
Name: __________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

Chaplain (confidential)
Name: __________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

Medical Treatment Facility
Contact: __________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

Legal
Contact: __________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

Other
Contact: __________________________
Tel: ______________________________
e-mail: ___________________________

DOCUMENTS

___ Military ID cards (yours and children)
___ Copy of Leave and Earnings Statement (LES)
___ Social Security cards (yours and children)
___ Health cards (yours and children)
___ Health records (yours and children)
___ Birth certificates/marriage license
___ Drivers license/keys
___ Passports
___ Green card/work permit
___ Military Protective Orders
___ Civilian Protective Orders
___ Other

(From “The Military Response to Victims of Domestic Violence: Tools for Civilian Advocates,” The Battered Women’s Justice Project)
ADDITIONAL MILITARY RESOURCES

Contacts:

Department of Defense
Family Advocacy Program
1745 Jefferson Davis Highway
Crystal Square 4, Suite 302
Arlington, VA 22202
703-602-4990

Military Family Resource Center
4040 Fairfax Dr., Rm 420
Arlington, VA 22203-1635
703-696-9053

US Army Family Advocacy Program
HQ DA, CFSC-FP
Department of the Army
4700 King St., 4th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22302-4418
703-681-7396/93

US Navy Family Advocacy Program
Navy Personnel Command P661
Department of the Navy
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6610
901-874-4355

US Air Force Family Advocacy Program
AFMOA/SGZF
2664 Flight Nurse, Building 801
Brooks AFB, TX 78235-5135
210-536-2031/32

US Marine Corps
HQMC M&RA (MRO)
3280 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-5009
703-784-9546

Links/Publications:


• Military Family Resource Center, www.mfrc.calib.com (includes data reports)

• Military Domestic Violence information, www.mfrc.calib.com/domestic_violence (includes links to installation and service Family Advocacy Programs)
ADDITIONAL CIVILIAN RESOURCES

Contacts:

Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence
450 Sutter Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94108
415-954-9988
email: apidvinst@apiahf.org

Battered Women’s Justice Project
2104 4th Ave. So., Suite B
Minneapolis, MN 55404
www.bwjp.org

Domestic Violence/Criminal Justice & Military Issues
800-903-0111 Ext. 1

Domestic Violence/Civil Justice Issues
800-903-0111 Ext. 2

Defense of Battered Women Issues
800-903-0111 Ext. 3

Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence
2400 North 45th St., Suite 10
Seattle, WA 98103
206-634-1903
www.cpsdv.org

Family Violence Prevention Fund
383 Rhode Island Street, Suite 304
San Francisco, CA 94103-5133
415-252-8900

Domestic Immigrant Women Project
NOWLDEF
1522 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
202-326-0040
iwp@nowldef.org

Institute on Violence in the African American Community
University of Minnesota
School of Social Work
290 Peters Hall
1404 Gortner Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108-6142
612-624-9201
www.dvinstitute.org

Domestic Violence Resource Network

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
PCADV
6400 Flank Drive, Suite 1300
Harrisburg, PA 17112
800-537-2238
www.nrcdv.org

Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence
FVPF
383 Rhode Island St., Suite 304
San Francisco, CA 94103-5133
800-313-1310
www.endabuse.org/health

Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody
Family Violence Department
NCJFCJ
PO Box 8970
Reno, NV 89507
800-527-3223
www.nationalcouncilfvd.org

Native Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women
Cangleska, Inc/Sacred Circle
722 Saint Joseph St.
Rapid City, SD  57701
877-733-7623
e-mail: scircle@sacred-circle.com
CHAPTER 6  Filling Your Toolbox: Resources and Contact Information

The Miles Foundation
P.O. Box 423
Newtown, CT 06470-0423
203-270-7861
milesfdn@aol.com/milesfd@yahoo.com

National Battered Women’s Law Project
275 7th Ave., Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001
212-741-9480

National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence
7800 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 120-N
Austin, TX 78757
512-407-9020
www.ncdsv.org

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
PO Box 18749
Denver, CO 80218
www.ncadv.org

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life
WCADV
307 South Paterson St., Suite 1
Madison, WI 53703-3041
608-255-0539

National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women
125 South 9th St., Suite 302
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-351-0010

National Clearinghouse on Marital and Date Rape
2325 Oak Street
Berkeley, CA 94708
510-524-1582

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-7233
1-800-787-3244 (TTY)

National Sexual Assault Hotline
1-800-656-4673

National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
14 Beacon Street, Suite 602
Boston, MA 02108
617-227-9727
nip@nig.org

National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence
PO Box 322086
Ft. Washington Station
New York, NY 10032
1-800-342-9908
www.dvalianza.org

National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women
C/o Family Violence Prevention Fund
383 Rhode Island Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94108
415-252-8900
email: leni@endabuse.org

Links/ Publications:


Appendix

Definitions of Military Acronyms

This list of acronyms refers to those you will find in this document. The meaning of other military acronyms can be found at these websites: www.dtic.mil, or www.lib.iupui.edu/subjectareas/gov/military.html

CO Commanding Officer
An officer who lawfully exercises authority over subordinates by virtue of rank or assignment.

CPO Civil Protection Order
A civil remedy providing various forms of relief for victims of abuse.

CRC Case Review Committee
A multi-disciplinary group of military practitioners that meet to hear information about incidents of domestic violence and child abuse, make a determination about substantiation of abuse, and provide recommendations for treatment for the abuser and support services for the family. These recommendations are given to the command.

DEERS Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System
www.tricare.osd.mil/factsheets index.cfm?fxt=showfs&file_name=DEERS.htm
A computerized database of military sponsors, families and others worldwide who are entitled under the law to TRICARE (health) benefits.

DoD Department of Defense
The mission of the Department of Defense is to provide the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country. The department's headquarters is at the Pentagon.

DTFDV Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence
www.dtic.mil/domesticviolence/
A group of military and civilian representatives assigned to assess the DoD response to domestic violence and to make recommendations for improvements.
ERD Early Return of Dependents
Early return of Dependents is authorized transportation of a service member’s dependents and shipment of household goods shipment at government expense... because of official or personal situations which justify such authorization.

FAP Family Advocacy Program
www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/pubs/fedresources/ag-01.html
Military support and services program to assist family members who are experiencing abuse.

FAPO Family Advocacy Program Officer
An officer assigned to work on issues of family abuse, may be assigned to the FAP program.

JAG Judge Advocate General
Military attorney

JFTR Joint Federal Travel Regulation
www.gsa.gov/Portal/home.jsp
Regulations that govern conditions and allowances for all government travel, including relocation of service members and their families.

LES Leave and Earnings Statement
www.76brigade.com/Family/LES.htm
A monthly statement for service members, documenting how much they earned for basic pay and pay for special assignments; what allowances they received for food, housing, and clothing; as well as what deductions were taken out of their pay for allotments, child support, insurance, and taxes.

MP Military Police
Service members who are trained as law enforcement officers

MPO Military Protective Order
www.mfrc.calib.com/domestic_violence/pdfs/orders.PDF
A direct order from a commander to a service member providing relief similar to a civilian protective order, but only enforceable on the military installation.

NJP Non-Judicial Punishment
Disciplinary action initiated by command, not a trial, no lawyers involved. May result in reprimand, loss of pay, restriction, confinement to quarters, etc.

PCS Permanent Change of Station
A transfer to a new duty station at least 50 miles from your current assignment.

PMO Provost Marshal’s Office
The office that oversees the military police department.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SECDEF</td>
<td>Secretary of Defense</td>
<td>The principal defense policy advisor to the President of the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA</td>
<td>Status of Forces Agreement</td>
<td><a href="www.fm/jcn/compact/sofa.html">www.fm/jcn/compact/sofa.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Governs jurisdictional issues regarding US forces in other countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSCRA</td>
<td>Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act</td>
<td><a href="www.defenselink.mil/specials/Relief_Act_Revision/">www.defenselink.mil/specials/Relief_Act_Revision/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This act can delay all civil court actions for service members, such as divorce proceedings, foreclosures and bankruptcy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC</td>
<td>Transitional Compensation</td>
<td><a href="www.1id.army.mil/jag/TransComp.htm">www.1id.army.mil/jag/TransComp.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Provides financial support to abused family members to reduce victim disincentives to reporting abuse and to remove the threat of financial retribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Congressional Code of Military Criminal Law applicable to all military members worldwide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Recognizes the right of State Courts to distribute military retired benefits to a spouse under certain circumstances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>An Act creating and combining federal laws with assistance to states to fight violence against women.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Handbook Assessment/Feedback Form

NAME: ______________________________________

ORGANIZATION: ______________________________

TELEPHONE: __________________________________

EMAIL: ______________________________________

DATE: ______________________________________

1. How are you using the Handbook?

2. What is most helpful about the Handbook?

3. What did you find unhelpful or problematic? (Please be as specific as possible.)

4. Suggestions for future changes:

5. Information/strategies/materials you would like to share with other advocates (please attach or enclose):

6. Other feedback/suggestions:

7. Are you interested in receiving training?

Please return this form to:
Battered Women’s Justice Project
2104 4th Avenue South, Suite B
Minneapolis, MN 55404
800-903-0111, ext. 1
conniebwjp@aol.com
MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence will not be tolerated in the Department of Defense (DoD). In Fiscal Year 2000, more than 10,500 physical and/or sexual assaults of a spouse were substantiated in the DoD Family Advocacy Program, with more than 5,200 active duty personnel identified as the alleged perpetrators.

Domestic violence is an offense against the institutional values of the Military Services of the United States of America. Commanders at every level have a duty to take appropriate steps to prevent domestic violence, protect victims, and hold those who commit it accountable.

Therefore, I call upon the leaders at all levels in the Department of Defense to make every effort to:

- provide timely information to new personnel and family members, to include lists of locally available military and civilian resources to prevent domestic violence, procedures for responses to reports of domestic violence, and information about the DoD Transitional Compensation Program;
- improve coordination between military and civilian community agencies that provide the first response to domestic violence issues and incidents, especially through negotiated agreements;
- increase protection to victims through coordinated enforcement of civilian orders of protection affecting military personnel on DoD installations and military protective orders issued by commanding officers; and
- update and standardize education and training programs on domestic violence for commanding officers, senior noncommissioned officers, and personnel with law enforcement, health care, and legal responsibilities, to ensure those programs contain information on how to prevent domestic violence, how to recognize when it has occurred, and how to take action to protect victims and to hold offenders accountable as appropriate.