



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

SUBJECT: National Domestic Violence Awareness Month – October 2016

Domestic violence is a serious national problem, with considerable costs and consequences for individuals, children, families, employers, and communities.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month events and observances are an annual call to action, providing military communities an opportunity to focus and stand together for safe and respectful relationships and shine a spotlight on military and civilian resources available to provide help and support.

Domestic abuse and intimate partner violence are contrary to core military values, negatively impact readiness, and cannot be tolerated in the Department of Defense. The Department directs significant resources toward preventing abuse, safeguarding victims, and rehabilitating offenders whenever possible and appropriate.

Military leaders at every level help end abuse when they model core military values, recognize warning signs, confront disrespectful behavior, connect subordinates with appropriate care, and support recommended intervention plans.

In the Department of Defense and the Military Services, the Family Advocacy Program serves as the commander's and leader's primary resource for prevention and training, reporting, victim services, and treatment for those involved in, or affected by, abuse.

If confronted with a domestic violence situation, commanders and leaders should be advised to contact their installation Family Advocacy Program or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or www.TheHotline.org.

Additional information is available through Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647 or www.militaryonesource.mil.

Please join me in being part of the solution: Take a stand against domestic violence and help keep everyone in our community safe.

Peter Levine
Acting