



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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SEP 22 2017

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

SUBJECT: National Domestic Violence Awareness Month – October 2017

Domestic violence is a serious national public health issue, with considerable costs and consequences for individuals, children, families, employers, and communities. Each October, in observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, military communities actively join together to support activities that promote safe, respectful intimate relationships and highlight available prevention, advocacy, and treatment resources.

Domestic violence is preventable, yet prevalent, with a sobering impact on both civilian and military families. Domestic violence and intimate partner violence are contrary to military core values, negatively impact readiness, and cannot be tolerated in the DoD. The Department directs significant resources toward preventing abuse, safeguarding victims, and rehabilitating offenders whenever possible and appropriate.

In the DoD and the Military Services, the Family Advocacy Program is the primary resource for training, reporting, victim services, and clinical treatment for military families. The program works with commands, medical staff, law enforcement, and other military and civilian agencies for a coordinated community response. An informal support network of informed friends, neighbors, and co-workers can also be invaluable for those in difficult or dangerous relationships.

Support for military victims of family violence is readily available by contacting the installation Family Advocacy Program. Military families may also contact Military OneSource at 800-342-9647 and [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil), or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-SAFE (7233) and [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org) for confidential general information and support.

Prevention is the best strategy. I encourage Commanders and leaders to recognize the early warning signs of domestic abuse and take prompt action to safeguard all victims, especially our children, and support rehabilitative intervention whenever appropriate.

Everyone has the right to be in a safe and healthy relationship. Thank you for joining me in helping prevent and eliminate domestic violence within our military community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. M. Kurta".

A. M. Kurta

Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of  
Defense for Personnel and Readiness