



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

**UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

OCT 8 2015

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 2015

The Department of Defense takes a firm stand against domestic violence and strongly supports national initiatives to end it. Domestic violence negatively impacts readiness and weakens families. It has no place in a military culture based on respect, trust and integrity. Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an annual opportunity to demonstrate our resolve to afford every Service member and family member the opportunity and tools to build and sustain strong, safe and violence-free intimate and family relationships.

The emotional and economic costs of domestic abuse are high. Public awareness, prevention and early intervention are key to reducing these tragic incidents.

The Family Advocacy Program is the commander's resource for prevention and training, reporting, victim support, and treatment of families involved in abuse. Service members and families need to know that to report abuse or reach a Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate, they can contact their installation's Family Advocacy Program or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE or [www.TheHotline.org](http://www.TheHotline.org). For more information, they can also call Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647 or visit [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil).

Leadership at every level is essential to prevent domestic abuse, support victims and ensure a coordinated community response is brought to bear to keep families safe and strong. Together, we must make it clear that domestic abuse will not be tolerated and that everyone has a role in eliminating it.



Brad Carson  
Acting