



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, O.C. 20301-4000

SEP 16 2014

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 2014

October is Domestic Awareness Month across the country and throughout the Department of Defense (DoD). Domestic violence is unacceptable in the culture of dignity and respect fostered by the adherence to the professional values of the Armed Forces.

Commanders and leaders support Service members and military families by modeling and promoting healthy, respectful family relationships, and advocating for the early use of the wide range of available counseling resources. Unfortunately, almost 9,000 cases of the more than 18,000 incidents reported to the Family Advocacy Program in 2013 met DoD criteria for domestic abuse or intimate partner violence. When domestic violence is reported, commanders and leaders play a key role in safeguarding victims and holding military offenders accountable by coordinating with military and civilian authorities. Victims may request restricted reporting, allowing access to confidential medical, advocacy and counseling services, without command or law enforcement involvement.

The military community cares. Courageous Service members, military spouses, and DoD civilians look out for each other and act to promote the safety and well-being of all. Risk factors for domestic violence include; family discord, extreme jealousy, economic stress, and behavioral health concerns. Early identification and intervention may help a Service member preserve their family, health, and career.

During October, installations host events to celebrate healthy relationships, educate the community, and connect families with available support resources. Please support these outreach events and help me raise awareness for this important issue.


Jessica L. Wright

cc:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (READINESS AND
FORCE MANAGEMENT)
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITY