



Key Message

Interpersonal violence is a pattern of harmful behavior in which one person uses various forms of abuse to assert power and control over another. States can further protect victims of interpersonal violence by enhancing statutes that increase accessibility to civilian protection orders for victims and mandating reciprocal information sharing between military and civilian law enforcement authorities.

Discussion Points

1. Interpersonal violence is a pattern of harmful behavior used to establish power and control over another person. It can take several forms – including physical, emotional, sexual, economic, verbal and psychological abuse.
2. The military is committed to a timely response regarding reports of interpersonal violence to include domestic violence and sexual assault and harassment. Often, both civilian and military authorities are involved in the initial law enforcement response to these cases.
3. The impact of interpersonal violence extends beyond the individual victim. It undermines the mission readiness of military units and compromises national security. The well-being of the victim's family can also be critically impacted, impairing their ability to remain mission ready.
4. By educating state officials on the expanded options available to help support victims of interpersonal violence, we help build a strong network of support for service members and their families during a time of critical need.
5. States have implemented the following policies that specifically address the issue of interpersonal violence:
 - Expressly state in law or policy the admittance of military protective orders as evidence when applying for civilian orders of temporary protection from abuse is permitted.
 - Enhance information sharing between civilian and military law enforcement by requiring law enforcement officers to notify military authorities that a military member may have violated a military protective order.



The military has an obligation to support service members and their families as they navigate hardship both on and off duty. Through the implementation of interpersonal violence policies at the state level, we empower victims, deter offenders and create an environment that is conducive to readiness.