



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 increasing accessibility to civilian protection orders for victims and mandating reciprocal information sharing between military and civilian law enforcement authorities.

Discussion Points

1. Interpersonal violence can take several forms – including physical, emotional, sexual, economic, verbal and psychological abuse.
2. The War Department is committed to a timely response with regard to 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 that the admittance of military protective orders as evidence is permitted when applying for civilian orders of temporary protection from abuse.
 - Enhance information sharing between civilian and military law enforcement by requiring law enforcement officers to notify military authorities when a military member may have violated a military protective order.



The War Department 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.