



***U.S. Army***

***Domestic Violence Affecting  
Servicewomen Brief***



# Domestic Violence Affecting Servicewomen

## How does your service define DV and intimate-partner violence IPV?

- In accordance with AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program, **Domestic Violence (DV)** is an offense under the United States Code, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, or state law that involves the use, attempted use, or threatened use of force or violence against a person or a violation of a lawful order issued for the protection of a person who is:
  - (a) Current or former spouse;
  - (b) A person with whom the abuser shares a child in common; or
  - (c) A current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile
- Spouse/partner maltreatment is defined as an incident or incidents that indicate an emerging pattern or risk of further victimization of the spouse/partner. Indicators may include one or more of the following:
  - (a) A pattern of intentional acts of berating, disparaging or other verbally abusive behavior that adversely affects the psychological well-being of the spouse or partner.
  - (b) Coercive control and/or threatening behavior including terrorizing behavior (for example, threats to children, pets, or property).
  - (c) A pattern of restricting or withholding economic resources for the purpose of controlling the spouse/partner.
  - (d) A pattern of intentional intimidation for the purpose of controlling the spouse/partner.
  - (e) Isolation of a partner from Family, friends, or social support resources.
  - (f) Chronic intentional interference with cultural adaptation.
  - (g) Physical assault(s) or threat(s) of physical violence with or without a weapon.
  - (h) An act which by itself or in conjunction with other conduct constitutes stalking.
  - (i) Sexual assault(s), threat(s) of sexual assault, or coercing a partner to engage in undesired sexual activity with alleged offender or other persons.
  - (j) Obstructing a partner from receiving medical services.
  - (k) Intentional neglect by refusing or obstructing a mentally/physically incapacitated spouse from receiving appropriate social, mental, or medical services.



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**How does your service track DV and IPV incidents, to include and not limited to non-cohabitating intimate partners and previous marital partners?**

- The Army tracks criminal incidents of DV and IPV in the Army Law Enforcement Reporting and Tracking System (ALERTS).
- We also track DV and IPV in the Army Central Registry. The Family Advocacy System of Records (FASOR) is the information system used to input suspected incidents of domestic abuse and maltreatment. The ACR is a component of FASOR.



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**Who collects DV/IPV data? Who maintains this data? Who has access to this data? How is this data transferred between commands? Is this data annotated in a Service member's (i.e., abuser) permanent record?**

- Data collected in ALERTS is submitted by the installation Law Enforcement Officers investigating the incident. ALERTS is maintained by the Army Criminal Investigation Command. Only Army Law Enforcement Officer and Records Administrators have access to this data. This data is only transferred between command if the Subject of the investigation has transferred to a new commander and the case will be adjudicated by the Subjects new commander. This data is annotated in a Service member's permanent record by the commander through HRC.
- Data collected in FASOR for DV and IPV incidents is accessible by FAP personnel who are trained and authorized by FAP leadership to access the data. Researchers may also be given time-limited access to the data after required training is completed. Data is transferred by multiple secure file transfer means, such as password protected flat text files, Excel spreadsheets, or Word documents. FAP does not publish information in a SM's permanent record.



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**What process is in place to ensure communication, coordination and notification occurs with civilian authorities as it relates to DV/IPV? To include, incidents that occur outside of the installation, involve a civilian partner, or civilian court order (e.g., restraining/protective order), etc.?**

- All military protective orders are entered into ALERTS and the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system. In the event a Military Protective Order (MPO) is issued against a Soldier and any individual involved in the order does not reside on an Army installation at any time during the duration of the MPO, the installation law enforcement will notify the appropriate civilian authorities (local magistrate courts, family courts, and local police) of—
  - (a) The issuance of the protective order.
  - (b) The individuals involved in the order.
  - (c) Any change made in a protective order.
  - (d) The termination of the protective order.



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## What can commands do to assist a servicewoman who is being abused by a non-military member?

- Treat the victim with dignity and respect
- Take immediate steps to ensure the victim's physical safety, emotional security, and medical treatment needs are met.
- Notify the installation Family Advocacy Program and law enforcement of concerns to launch an Investigation on and or off the installation; and to seek assistance with civilian protective orders, and to optimize other victim support services.
- Ensure the victim has a safety plan and contact numbers to persons who can assist in crisis.
- Consider a military protective order for the safety of the victim and her dependents; and determine whether barring the non-military member from the installation would increase the level of risk of harm for the victim or children.
- Commander and Senior Enlisted Non Commissioned Officers participate in required FAP command briefs to become knowledgeable of FAP related policies, programs, and procedures that are available to support victims, e.g. Victim Reporting Options and 24/7 advocacy support.



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**Are there different factors to consider when the DV/IPV victim lives on-base vice off-base? For example, what resources are provided to servicewomen who need temporary shelter from an abusive domestic partner? What about servicewomen with children?**

- Resources, such as victim advocacy support are available to victims of abuse and their family members regardless of where a victim resides. However, immediate access to resources and support systems may be limited for victims that reside off the installation even though Memorandum of Agreements have been established with local shelters, dv support agencies and child protective services.

For example:

- a) The victim residing off base may be isolated from support systems and resources to help protect self, children and pets.
- b) The command has no authority over the non-military member, especially when residing off the base, thus increasing risk for safety.
- c) Military Protection Orders are not enforceable off the installation; ALERTS notification should enable local police to more accurately assess risk when responding to abuse off the installation/ and seek command support.
- d) Bystander intervention may be handicapped due to lack of awareness regarding reporting options, procedures, and or resources available for military victims and family members.



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## How are restraining orders handled when two members are assigned to the same base or same unit?

- When a commander issues a military protective order that involves a victim and a Subject in the same unit, the commander must take steps, including local or permanent change of station transfers and temporary or permanent transfers or reassignments of duties, to ensure that the protective order is not violated. Judge Advocates, including Special Victim Counsel representing victims, work with the commander to preclude contact between the victim and the Subject while allowing the unit to meet all mission requirements. Violation of a protective order is a violation of the UCMJ and Victims can, and do, report those violations to law enforcement, legal counsel, or the chain of command.





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# QUESTIONS