

**Recommendation:**

The Department of Defense develop an organic cadre of women's self-defense instructors composed of both men and women, military and civilian personnel. Cadre are to provide a series of interpersonal violence self-defense courses across military installations to raise awareness of the onset of a violent attack, to empower women to escape such an attack in its early stages, and improve women's safety and well-being.

**Problem:**

The Services specifically lack training during the moment of an attack of interpersonal violence. We only provide training to raise awareness and resources for recovery which are all excellent. One of the biggest problems facing humanity today is a complete lack of understanding as to why these attacks happen. The answer is simple, but difficult. Attacks are the actions of evil. Evil is intentional harm to take power. People aligned with evil believe they get power during sexual assault, torture and murder. What evil wants is more power, so it will start with petty attacks, then continually escalate the intensity of the attacks to the ultimate in taking power from an individual – murder. Evil will never stop until it is stopped. These attacks are not senseless violence in the eyes of that attacker. From that person's perspective the attacks are highly calculated and often highly planned.

Recently we received the terrible news of the brutal murders of Airman First Class Natasha Aposhian and Army Specialist Vanessa Guillen by fellow service males.

**Solution:**

On July 31, 2020 in response to these murders, the Secretary of the Air Force sent a service-wide bulletin to announce the establishment of an Interpersonal Violence Task Force (IPVTF). This news prompted me to begin the proposal process.

I propose the development of an organic cadre of women's self-defense instructors composed of both men and women, military and civilian personnel. Cadre are to provide a series of inter-personal violence, self-defense courses across military installations to raise awareness of the onset of a violent attack, and to empower woman to escape such an attack in its early stages.

The techniques proposed are not an advertisement for martial arts, they must be practical techniques designed to counter attacks specific to women. For example, how does a woman escape if someone grabs her by her hair? This is an attack design specifically against a women's femininity, and requires a special technique to escape.

In addition, the nature of evil lends itself to recognizing the onset of an attack. A person trained to recognize the signs can break the chain of events leading up to the attack and can thereby escape before the onset of physical violence. We have to train individual service men and women to be as expert at stopping attacks that manifest evil against individuals, as we are as a Department to stop evil that manifests within nation states.

My Commanding General, Brigadier General Alice Trevino has approved the local testing of a pilot course for women's self-defense. In addition to teaching self-defense to a small number of women, this pilot will also produce photos, videos, comments and input from the women who participate. This material will help inform the course development process.

**Background of Person Recommending:**

I already work in the United States Air Force as a NH-04 Operations Research Analyst, Government Civilian at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. I have been teaching self-defense techniques to women since 1998, on the side of my various day jobs. I have also been studying and teaching Bujinkan martial arts for 28 years, and am a sixth degree blackbelt.

At my leadership's direction, I would be happy to help advise the USAF Interpersonal Violence Task Force or other DoD organizations for the development of a cadre of women's self-defense instructors.

I have two young daughters, who may want to follow my footsteps and someday join one of the services. I am personally committed to improving women's safety within the military before that day.

Very Respectfully,

Darin Ashley  
Operations Research Analyst  
Air Force Installation Contracting Center (HQ AFICC/KA)