



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HQ WARNER ROBINS AIR LOGISTICS CENTER (AFMC)
ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE GEORGIA

08 FEB 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION LIST A

FROM: WR-ALC/CC

SUBJECT: Domestic Violence and Military Members

1. There simply is no place for domestic violence in the Air Force or on Robins Air Force Base. Domestic violence is, in fact, a crime.
2. I expect all Air Force personnel to do their part in stopping such violence. The Memorandum from Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz (Atch) outlines what we are to accomplish. Note that everyone has a role, but those in command still bear the greatest responsibility for action.
3. Suspected cases of domestic violence will be referred to Family Advocacy NLT 72 hours upon discovery. Certainly, if family problems have escalated to the point of law enforcement involvement or there has been an emergency room visit, intervention is required. I expect you to energize the resources available to address such matters—we have on and off base victim service programs such as The Safehouse, Family Advocacy, Family Support, the Rainbow House, Family Support, and our own Chaplains, to name only a few.
4. You must also take appropriate disciplinary action when warranted. Where criminal activity is shown to exist, treat these offenses as you would any other and consider the full range of options, including court-martial. Holding people accountable for a domestic violence crime is the first real step toward resolution of underlying problems. Even if a victim refuses to cooperate at some point in the process, there is often sufficient evidence to take disciplinary action if that is the course you choose. As with any case of suspected criminal conduct, consult the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate for guidance.
5. Openly confronting domestic violence is the right thing to do. It is also the smart thing to do. It protects the victim, protects the children who witness such crime, forces the wrongdoer to account for such conduct, and is often the first step to resolving root causes. Moreover, it contributes decisively to good order and discipline and readiness in our military force.
6. Ensure all military personnel in your unit are aware of this memorandum.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donald J. Wetekam", is positioned above the typed name.

DONALD J. WETEKAM
Major General, USAF
Commander

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

November 19, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence will not be tolerated in the Department of Defense (DoD). In Fiscal Year 2000, more than 10,500 physical and/or sexual assaults of a spouse were substantiated in the DoD Family Advocacy Program, with more than 5,200 active duty personnel identified as the alleged perpetrators.

Domestic violence is an offense against the institutional values of the Military Services of the United States of America. Commanders at every level have a duty to take appropriate steps to prevent domestic violence, protect victims, and hold those who commit it accountable.

Therefore, I call upon the leaders at all levels in the Department of Defense to make every effort to:

- *provide timely information to new personnel and family members, to include lists of locally available military and civilian resources to prevent domestic violence, procedures for responses to reports of domestic violence, and information about the DoD Transitional Compensation Program;
- *improve coordination between military and civilian community agencies that provide the first response to domestic violence issues and incidents, especially through negotiated agreements;
- *increase protection to victims through coordinated enforcement of civilian orders of protection affecting military personnel on DoD installations and military protective orders issued by commanding officers; and
- *update and standardize education and training programs on domestic violence for commanding officers senior noncommissioned officers, and personnel with law enforcement, health care, and legal responsibilities, to ensure those programs contain information on how to prevent domestic violence, how to recognize when it has occurred, and how to take action to protect victims and to hold offenders accountable as appropriate.

Paul Wolfowitz