



# 417th Base Support Battalion *Commander's Policy*

Policy Number: 07-14

Proponent: AETV-WG-WJA

Date: 7 July 2004

SUBJECT: Prevention of Family Violence and Mandatory 72-Hour Separation

## 1. REFERENCES:

a. Army Regulation (AR) 608-1, Army Community Service Program, 20 October 2003.

AR 608-18, Family Advocacy Program, 20 October 2003.

Army in Europe Command Policy Letter 35, Family Advocacy Program, 4 May 2003.

2. PURPOSE: To establish rules, standards, guidelines and responsibility for the prevention and intervention of family violence.

3. SCOPE: This policy applies to all personnel, civilian and military, and their family members, assigned, attached, or otherwise present in the 417th Base Support Battalion (BSB) area of responsibility.

4. POLICY: Early identification and intervention in cases of alleged child and spouse abuse is imperative to avoid tragic consequences. The worst thing that can be done in cases of abuse is nothing. Remember at all times that during the preliminary stages of any allegation of abuse that the alleged victims and alleged offenders rights must be protected and the use of Law Enforcement, Social Work Service and ACS Family Advocacy are our subject matter experts. Use them and be aware of the following:

a. IAW AR 608-18, 3-4b, "All installation law enforcement personnel, physicians, nurses, social workers, school personnel, FAP and Child Youth Services (CYS) personnel, psychologists, and other medical personnel will report information about known and suspected cases of child and spouse abuse to the Reporting Point of Contact (RPOC) as soon as the information is received". In addition, Para 3-4a, states that " every soldier, employee, and member of the military community should be encouraged to report information about known or suspected cases of spouse and child abuse to the RPOC or the appropriate law enforcement agency as soon as the information is received. The RPOC in this community is the Military Police Station at Harvey, Leighton, or Giebelstadt.

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b. The Family Advocacy Program is a Commander's Program. IAW AR 608-18, 3-4c, "Commanders will report allegations of abuse involving their soldiers to the RPOC". Para 1-8b(4), states that each unit/company commanders will provide all relevant information to those investigating the report, including law enforcement agencies and CPS. In addition, Command Policy Letter 35, Family Advocacy Program, 4 May 2003 mandates commanders in Europe to immediately report known and suspected child and spouse abuse to the 24- hour RPOC. Notification of these incidents may come to the attention of the command via the following staff: the military or civilian (Host Nation) police/law enforcement, social work service, command, the FAP, hospital staff, and/or other helping organizations within the community.

c. To increase the safety of individuals in spouse abuse cases receiving logistical support within the 417<sup>th</sup> BSB, commanders, upon notification of these incidents, will implement a mandatory minimum 72-hour cooling-off period of physical separation. During this cooling-off period the soldier is allowed one supervised visit back to the home to pick up items of necessity. Before allowing the couple to reunite in the home, Commanders will ensure that an assessment has been conducted by Social Work Service to determine whether they feel that it is safe for the family to reunite at that time, and/or if additional separation hours are needed at that time.

d. To further ensure the safety and security of persons within their commands or to protect other individuals from persons within the command, Commanders are specifically authorized to issue military no-contact orders. Early intervention and cooperation among involved agencies is essential. Commanders should seek the advice and assistance of SWS and the victim advocate program. A copy of each military no-contact order issued is to be forwarded immediately to the PMO, SWS, FAPM, making sure the alleged victim and the alleged offender receive a copy. Health care professionals, social workers, law enforcement personnel, and attorneys will also play a significant role.

e. In situations where a domestic dispute does not include a physical assault, the commander may still institute a 72-hour physical separation period based on the circumstances and the recommendations of the MPs, the on-call Social Work Service case manager and/or the Victim Advocate Program Coordinator. (These agencies are the proponent for questions regarding this policy.) Commanders, officers and NCOs should remember that oftentimes, when parties involved in domestic violence are allowed immediate access to each other, more violence ensues thus increasing the likelihood of tragic consequences. Under no circumstances should a family be reunited following a mandatory 72-hour separation without a Social Work Service assessment.

f. All allegations of abuse and neglect are reviewed at the Case Review Committee (CRC). The function of the CRC is to recommend treatment plans directed at solving the problems resulting in maltreatment. IAW AR 608-18 Para 1-8b(6), unit commanders will attend CRC case presentations pertaining to soldiers in their command. Commanders play an active role in the treatment process by communicating with the FAP multidisciplinary team, and ensuring that soldiers are directed to attend services (for example, counseling and classes outlined in the treatment plan). Completion of services for victims is critical to helping them recover from violence and getting offenders to solve problems that led them to commit acts of violence. Family violence threatens the morale, good order, and discipline of our military communities. CRC recommended treatment is tailored to alleviate that threat. Failure to participate in recommended CRC treatment may result in community directed losses of logistical support, such as residing in government housing or access to the installations.

g. Family violence is unacceptable, is incompatible with the Army's core values, and will not be tolerated in the Army in Europe. Commanders must remember these guidelines for preventing family violence: immediately report suspected or known child or spouse abuse to the RPOC, openly discuss prevention strategies, carefully listen to soldiers to build trust, teach soldiers to take responsibility for their actions, set the example, and emphasize that family violence will not be tolerated.

5. PROPONENT: 417th BSB, Directorate of Community Activities Family Advocacy Program at 350-7103.

  
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Commanding