

Domestic Violence

1. Stressors, children at home for the summer, and financial obligations can result in additional stress. Added to this, when Soldiers return to their families for rest and recuperation leave or from a long deployment, a stressful situation can easily reach the boiling point. Life has not stopped while Soldiers were serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, or operations in the Balkans. Couples often find that face-to-face communication may be difficult after a separation. Children grow up during separations; they may seem different in some ways. Spouses sometimes become more independent and may need more space. Families may be faced with changing outlooks regarding priorities in the household. Any combination of these factors of “reentering” a changed family can result in additional stress and potentially violent confrontations. Adhere to the reintegration process. Your local chaplain is one of the best sources of counseling when the pressure builds.

2. Domestic violence encompasses a wide range of activities. These include patterns of behavior resulting in emotional and psychological abuse, economic control, and interference with personal liberty. They also include the use, attempted use, or threatened use of force against a person of the opposite sex.

3. Child abuse and neglect include physical injury, sexual maltreatment, emotional maltreatment, deprivation of necessities, withholding medically indicated treatment, and combinations of these inflicted on a child by an individual responsible for the child’s welfare.

4. The Army Family Advocacy Program has a requirement based on AR 608-18 to provide educational information, resources, and services to help all individuals who may be victims of violence, an offender in an abusive relationship, or a person affected by violence. Programs and services include but are not limited to advocacy services, safety planning, domestic-violence-awareness programs, and child-abuse-prevention programs. The program also has a requirement to provide education to childcare providers on the prevention and identification of child abuse. Several pamphlets and additional information are available at http://www.armycommunityservice.org/vacs_advocacy/user/res/res_user_display.asp