

The page features a central orange rectangle containing the title. To the left and right of this rectangle are large, stylized teal shapes that resemble overlapping paper or fabric folds, creating a sense of depth and movement. The teal shapes are composed of several overlapping planes, with some appearing to be in front of others, creating a 3D effect.

Ending the Silence: Connecting Military Victims of Crime to Services and Support

Gene McCleskey, Pamela Jacobs, and Jane Male

Supporting Victims of Crime in the Military



Pamela Jacobs, J.D.

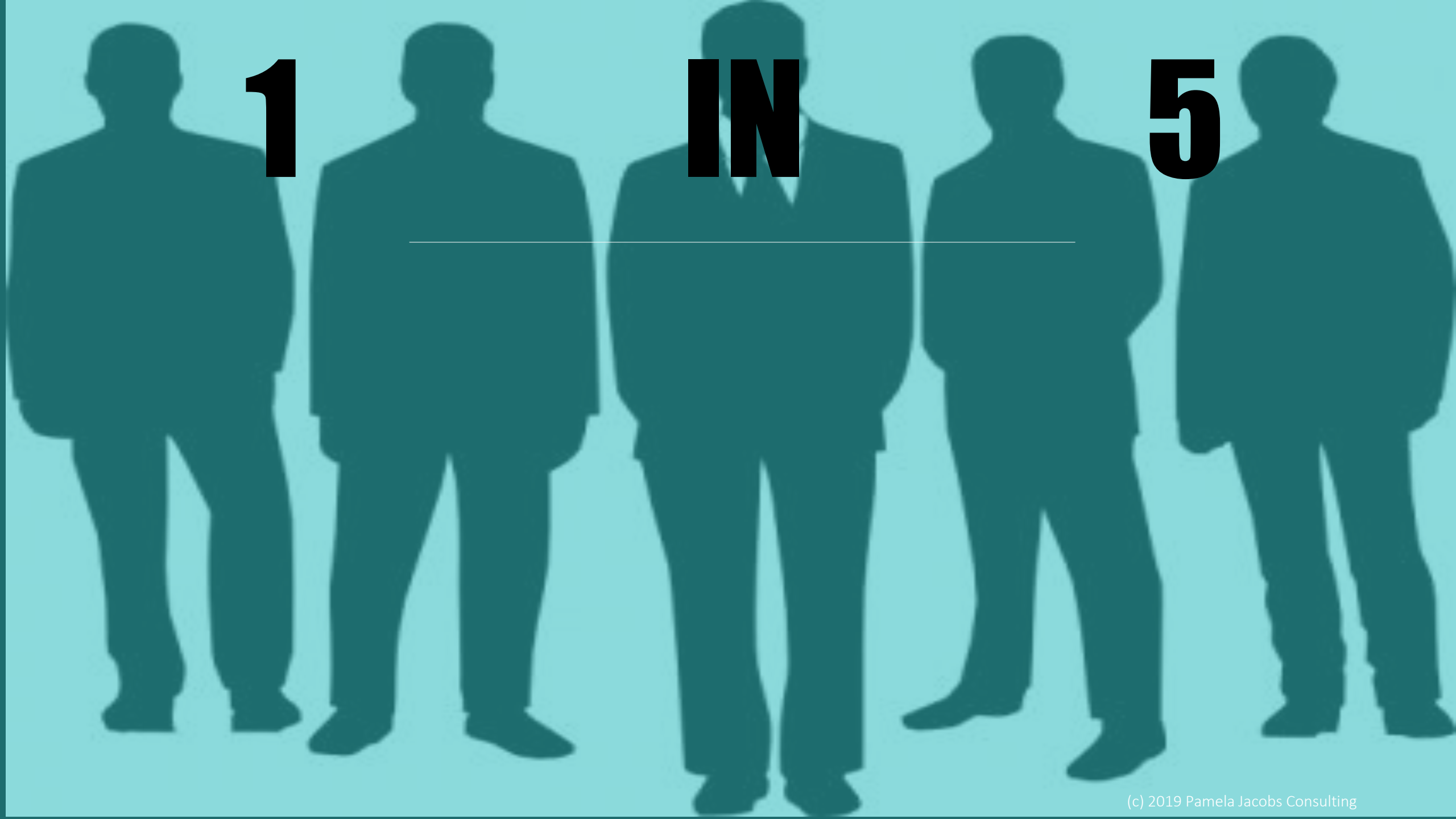
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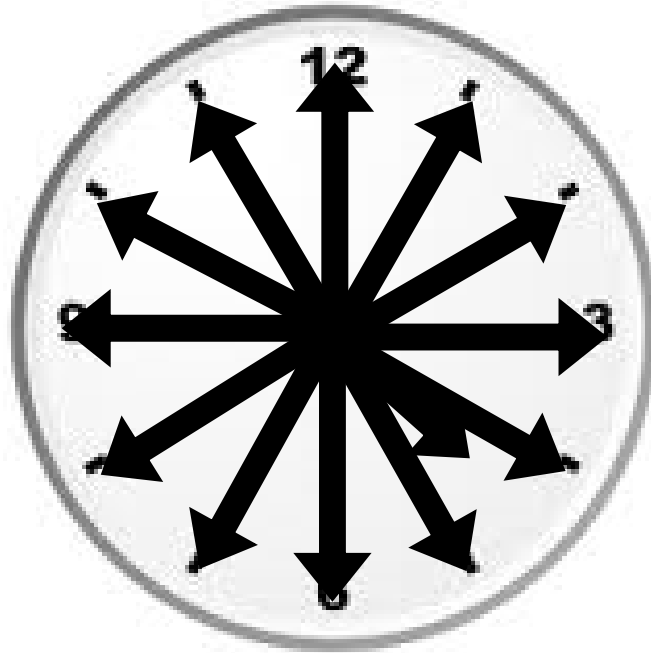


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Every 9 seconds in the United States, someone commits an act of domestic or sexual violence.

Similarities Between Military and Civilian Sexual Assault

- The attacker usually knows the victim.
- While women are much more likely to be sexually assaulted, men are also victims – and may face many barriers in reporting.
- Majority of perpetrators are men.
- Alcohol is often *used*—not involved (especially for female victims).
- Perpetrator often alleges it was consensual.



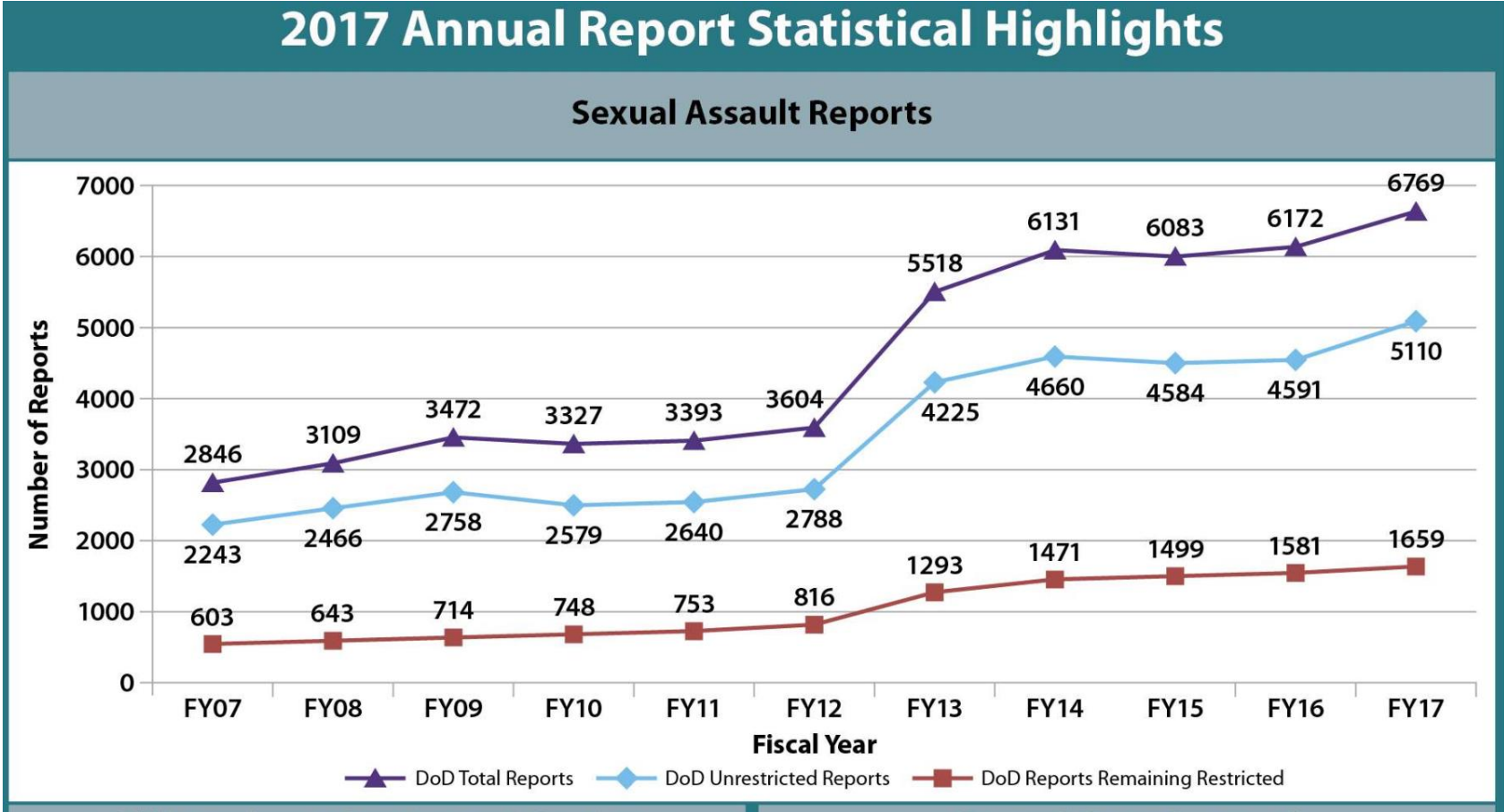
The Military Family

“Rape in the military is much like rape in the family. It’s where you live. It’s not just where you work.”

(Resick 2007)



Sexual Assault in the Military



FY16 Annual Report Statistical Highlights

Closing the Gap Between Prevalence and Reporting

FY 2012

Estimated Number of Service Member Victims:

~26,000



* 2012 WGRA

FY 2014

Estimated Number of Service Member Victims:

~20,300



* 2014 RMWS

FY 2016

Estimated Number of Service Member Victims:

~14,900



* 2016 WGRA

Military Investigation and Justice Experience Survey: Overall Experience*



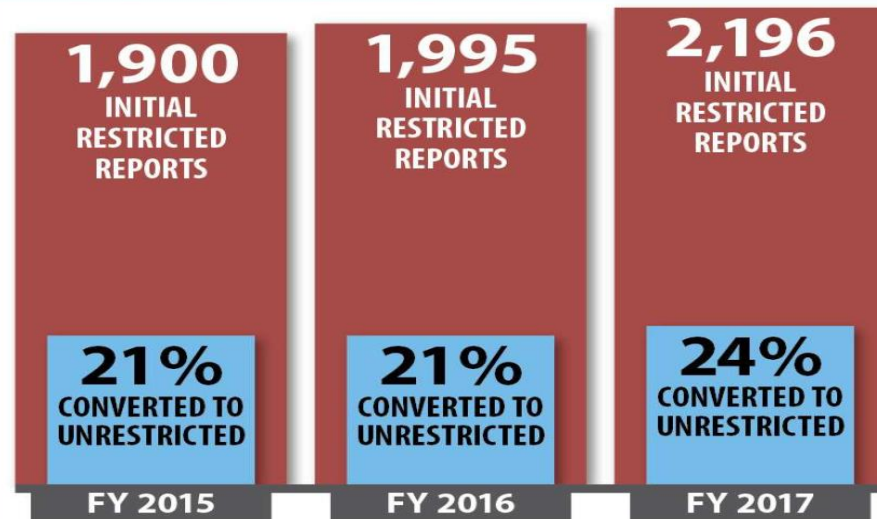
of survivors said they would recommend others to report



of survivors who interacted with a SVC/VLC were satisfied

* MIJES results draw from a non-representative sample and may not represent the entire force.

Conversion Rate



Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment

Total of 696 Formal Complaints in FY17



of substantiated incidents occurred on duty



of complainants were Enlisted members



E1-E4 female Service members comprised the largest single grouping of complainants



of alleged offenders were in pay grades E5-E6 and 98% were male Service members

Active Duty Focus Groups Common Themes Across Services

Active Duty Focus Group Participants

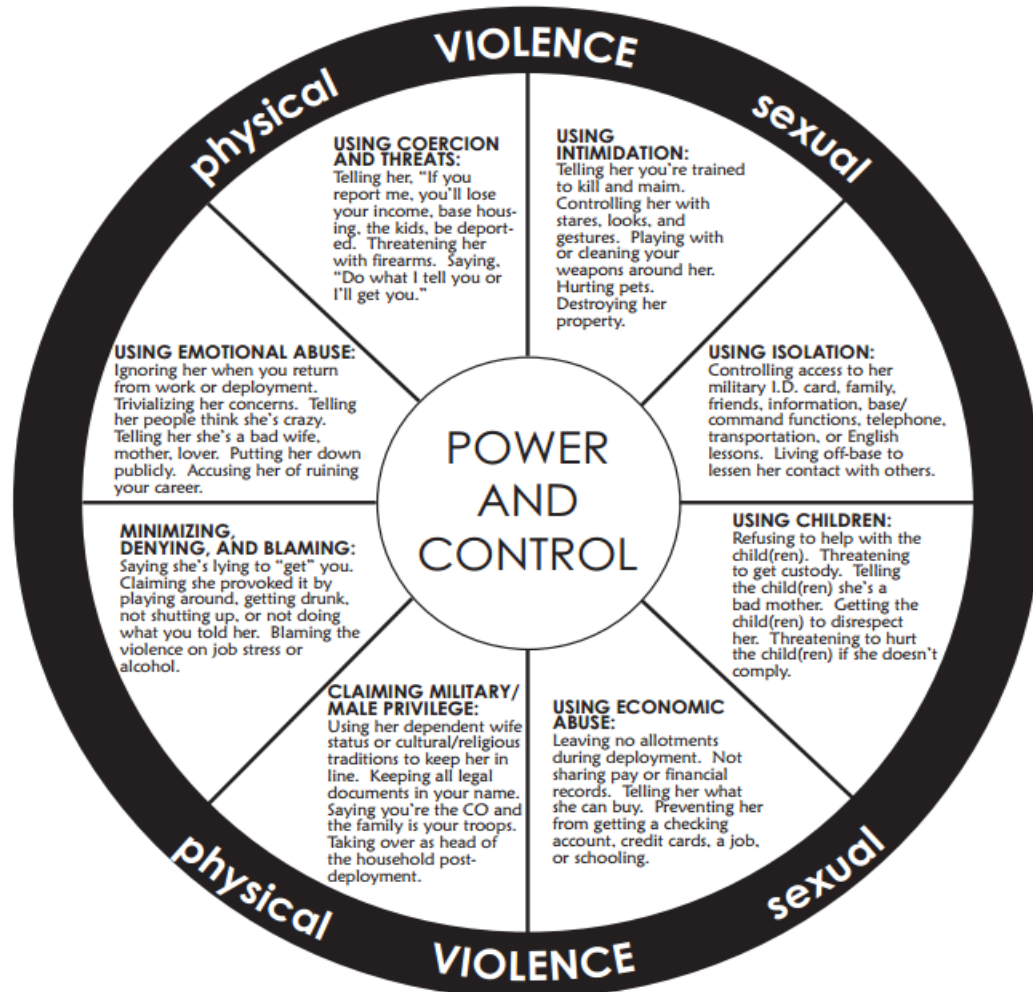
54 Focus Group Sessions  384 Total DoD Participants

“It’s going to come down to what you’re comfortable with. But at the end of the day, I think everyone has a responsibility to not just be that innocent bystander but to take action whether it’s at that time or reporting it later, just doing something.” – Air Force CONUS, Junior Officer, Female

“The resources for victims have definitely improved... You see the SARC on base... They’re always around, and that’s important. Those staffs are pretty well supported everywhere. People know who they are. So I tend to think the resources are definitely improved.” – Navy CONUS, Junior Officer, Male

“I think the important thing as leaders is creating an environment where if something happens, they know they can come forward and there’s not going to be any repercussions.” – Air Force OCONUS, Senior Enlisted, Male

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE in the military



IT'S MORE THAN PHYSICAL VIOLENCE.

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive and coercive behavior used to dominate or control a current or former intimate partner.

Domestic Violence is not about violence; it's about POWER.

Military – Contributing Factors

- Concentration of young men
- Lack of supports/role models
- Culture of power/obedience
- (Enhanced) feelings of entitlement
- Access to weapons
- Mental health concerns
- Increased barriers for victims

Department of Defense Task Force on
Domestic Violence (DTFDV)



The title is presented in two lines. The top line, "Impact of PTSD and", is in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The bottom line, "Combat Stress", is in a larger, white, bold, sans-serif font. Behind this text are four large, light gray, 3D-style letters: "P", "T", "S", and "D", which are slightly offset to the left and right, creating a layered effect. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly wood or stone, with a subtle reflection of the letters and text below.

Impact of PTSD and Combat Stress

PTS vs. DV

PTS

- Perpetrator may be unaware that he is using violence; may be re-experiencing combat
- Stand alone violence with no pattern of coercive or abusive behavior
- Violence may be directed at multiple people
- Other power and control dynamics/tactics not present
- Perpetrator is remorseful and takes responsibility for his actions

DV

- Perpetrator is using violence to gain or maintain control over his partner
- Other power and control tactics are present, and were likely present before and during the deployment
- Violence is directed almost exclusively at intimate partner
- Perpetrator minimizes, makes excuses for, denies, and blames the victim or others for his violence

PTS Reactions vs. DV Behaviors

PTS Reactions

- Avoidance & isolation
- Hyper vigilance
- Irritability
- Increased anger
- Re-experiencing traumatic event

- Shame and remorse

DV Behaviors

- Isolating victim
- Stalking & surveillance
- Intimidation & threats; righteous rage (entitlement)
- Emotional & economic abuse, coercion

- Minimizing, denying, blaming



Important to Remember ...

- PTS may make abuse worse, but it does not cause it.
- We may not know for sure the full cause of the violence.
- Every report of violence should be taken seriously.
- Victims should be believed, supported, and connected with community advocacy resources.
- Treatment for PTS(d) or TBI will not cure domestic violence behaviors.
- Batterers' intervention will not cure PTS(d), TBI, or depression.

Rethink Our Response

~~Abuse = Leave
PTSD = Stay & support~~

Military Spouse's/Partner's View

- The military is part of her life, too.
- Military spouses often form very close bonds with other spouses.
- Other military families may be the only support system she has.
- She may feel guilty leaving or reporting a service member after s/he returns home from combat.
 - “I was a very strong woman in love with a deeply troubled man.” ~ Leslie Morgan Steiner
- A military spouse may have difficulty trusting someone outside (or within) the military.
- Though transition assistance is available, the victim may be concerned about finances, health insurance, housing.

**A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE will leave
the abuser as soon
as her life will be
better if she does.**



One of the greatest needs of anyone who has experienced trauma is to feel safe; trust is essential to safety.



Services Advocacy Programs Provide ...

- Shelter
- Transitional or Permanent Housing
- Individual and Group Counseling
- Medical and Court Advocacy
- Services for Offenders
- Assistance with Protective Orders
- Trauma-Informed Support
- Case Management
- Children's Services
- Safety Planning

...and much more!

Advocacy works!





How do we find them?

- <https://nnedv.org>
- <https://ncadv.org>
- <https://www.nsvrc.org>
- <https://rainn.org>
- <https://thehotline.org>
- <https://www.militaryonesource.org>
- <https://www.ovc.gov/map.html>

OUR GOAL IS NOT TO

make choices for victims/survivors, but rather to support them and their ability to make choices for themselves and their children.





**ENDING
VIOLENCE
= BALANCING POWER.**

Healing is Possible



Stay in Touch!

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thank

you