UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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JAN 29 2004

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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DIRECTOR, FORCE TRANSFORMATION
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Domestic Abuse Training for Chaplains

Reference: DepSecDef Memo dated November 19, 2001, Subject: Domestic Violence

This directive-type memorandum assigns responsibilities and prescribes procedures for domestic abuse (as defined in Attachment 1) training requirements for chaplains.

Chaplains provide unique services to the military community and for victims and alleged offenders in domestic abuse situations. Victims and alleged offenders are entitled to the protections of privileged communications with the chaplain. In recognition of this special relationship based on such privileged communication, chaplains should have specialized training that will assist them in understanding their role in the military environment where support for victims and appropriate accountability by offenders are important policy objectives. To achieve this training requirement, each military department shall ensure that chaplains of that military department receive specialized training that is appropriate for domestic abuse situations and, at a minimum, covers the subjects listed in Attachment 2.

Military departments shall provide the specialized training required during all chaplain officer basic courses and at periodic continuing professional military education update opportunities. Each military department shall establish training policies and develop training procedures that comply with the requirements of this memorandum. The Offices of the Armed Forces Chaplain Board and Family Advocacy Program shall be consulted and provide guidance on training curriculum development that is consistent with the subjects listed in Attachment 2.

This memorandum is effective immediately. A DoD issuance implementing this domestic abuse training policy shall be released within 180 days.

David S. C. Chu

Attachments:
As stated

ATTACHMENT 1

DEFINITIONS

Domestic abuse is (1) domestic violence or (2) a pattern of behavior resulting in emotional/psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty that is directed toward a person of the opposite sex who is: (a) A current or former spouse; (b) A person with whom the abuser shares a child in common; or (c) A current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile.

Domestic Violence An offense under the United States Code, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, or State law that involves the use, attempted use, or threatened use of force or violence against a person of the opposite sex, or a violation of a lawful order issued for the protection of a person of the opposite sex, who is (a) A current or former spouse; (b) A person with whom the abuser shares a child in common; or (c) A current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile.

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ATTACHMENT 2

# DOMESTIC ABUSE TRAINING OUTLINE FOR CHAPLAINS

I. Dynamics of Domestic Abuse

- Defining Domestic Abuse
  - DoD definition
  - Examples of the range of domestic abuse incidents
  - Isolated incidents
  - Patterns of behavior
    - Physical
    - Sexual
    - Psychological
  - Tactics of abusers
    - Economics
    - Children
    - Coercion and threats
    - Intimidation and isolation
  - Impact on the victim (isolated incident as well as more chronic and potentially lethal)
  - Effects on children
  - Common misconceptions regarding domestic abuse in the military
  - Possible punitive and administrative sanctions resulting from an incident of domestic abuse
  - Understanding the role and responsibilities of DoD law enforcement and criminal investigative organizations

- Beliefs, Attitudes, Culture Issues

II. DoD/Military Department/Service Policy

III. Victim Safety

A. Needs of victim
B. Victim safety plan
C. Victim advocates
D. Shelter policy
E. Commanding officer responsibilities
F. Chaplain responsibilities
   - Return from deployment issues
   - Violence acknowledgement during counseling
G. Transitional compensation

H. Particular needs of immigrant victims
I. Civilian and military protective orders

IV. Effective Offender Intervention

A. Intervention staff responsibilities
B. Commanding officer responsibilities
C. Chaplain responsibilities

V. Family Advocacy Program Overview

- Collaborative role

VI. Privilege and Confidentiality

A. Implications when domestic violence and child abuse/neglect co-occur
B. Alternatives for intervention when chaplain is not released from privilege communication

VII. Spirituality and Domestic Violence

VIII. Resource Support

- Handouts
  - Listing of chaplains with expertise in dealing with domestic violence
  - Listing of supportive clergy in local area

IX. Statistics (for reference purposes only)