



Domestic Violence Awareness

The Basics

By: Special Agent Robin Kerr

Domestic Violence Awareness, The Basics - Part I By Special Agent Robin Kerr

This article is the first of a five-part series on domestic violence. It is designed to give readers the definition of domestic violence, statistics regarding it, the triggers, and what constitutes restricted and unrestricted reporting. Quite often, victims and friends of victims wonder if they are in, are witnessing or are being told about a domestic violence situation. Hopefully, you will get those answers over these next five weeks. If you miss any of the articles, you can go to the CFAY website, and follow the link for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) current quarter article on Domestic Violence. The link will give you access to all five parts of the domestic violence series of articles.

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Yokosuka/OperatingForcesSupport/NCIS/CrimeReductionProgram/index.htm>.

So let's get started.

What is domestic violence? It's a pattern of behavior resulting in emotional/psychological abuse; economic control; and/or interference with personal liberty such as violence or abuse directed at the opposite sex who is: a current or former spouse; a person with whom the abuser shares a child; or a current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a home.

Many people wonder, "Why doesn't she leave?" The most common answer is Fear; fear of more violence; fear of losing child custody; and fear of losing financial support. There are many services available to get you through the process safely and without losing everything, so when you are ready to end the cycle of violence, contact NCIS, Base Security, and/or the Fleet and Family Service Center for assistance. No one deserves to be assaulted, and these types of incidents escalate. Very rarely is there a fatal attack on an intimate partner without prior assaults occurring in the relationship. Today's verbal abuse can become tomorrow's physical assault.

You can reach NCIS during regular working hours at 243-7535. After-hours, please contact base security, who will reach the NCIS duty agent. We have Special Agents specifically trained to handle these types of investigations, so please take that first step to keep yourself safe.



Domestic Violence Awareness, The Statistics - Part II

By Special Agent Robin Kerr

This is part II of the five part series on domestic violence. Hopefully you didn't miss part I. If so, you can go to the CFAY website, follow the link for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) current quarter article on Domestic Violence. The link will give you access to all five parts of the domestic violence series of articles.

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With that being said, read on to Part II of the series.

Did you know over 40% of new USN recruits have experienced some form of family violence? Did you know every five years, domestic violence kills as many people as the number who died in the Vietnam War? 33% of female homicide victims are killed by an intimate partner. Domestic violence is the 3rd leading cause of injury-related death in women ages 15-44 and 45% of all female intimate violence victims live in a home with children under age 12. 31% of all pregnancy-related deaths were the result of homicide. Most of the domestic violence incidents occur in an off-base residence. If you don't get help for yourself, think about your children. In 15% of domestic violence cases, a child (or children) witnessed the violence. The biggest predictor of physical violence is verbal abuse.

“Separation Violence” (when a couple splits-up) increases domestic violence greatly. Threats and violence escalate at the time separation with 73% of women seeking emergency medical services after separation. Up to 75% of domestic homicides occur after separation. Women are most likely to be killed while attempting to report abuse or leave the abuser. Stalking is a version of domestic abuse.

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Domestic Violence Awareness, The Triggers - Part III

By Special Agent Robin Kerr

This is part III of the five-part series on domestic violence. If you missed the first two articles, you can go to the CFAY website, and follow the link for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) current quarter article on Domestic Violence. The link will give you access to all five parts of the domestic violence series of articles.

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Yokosuka/OperatingForcesSupport/NCIS/CrimeReductionProgram/index.htm>.

Part III of the series deals with triggers for domestic assault.

The five most common triggers of domestic violence are: Suspected Infidelity; Alcohol/Drug Problems; the Relationship Ending; Children; and Money/Religion. Studies of military members that have gone to war and are subsequently diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) show those persons are “significantly more likely to perpetrate violence toward their partners.”

Lethality Indicators are domestic violence situations likely to cause a more severe physical assault. Those indicators are (but not limited to) the following: Loss of job, the threat thereof or financial strain; the victim recently left the home; pending divorce and/or child custody battles; alcohol abuse; access to weapons or threats to obtain weapons; access to the victim; violations of civilian protection orders or military protection orders; stalking; depression; and obsession regarding the victim. If you are experiencing any of these indicators coupled with physical abuse, or you know someone in this situation, it’s time to act before things escalate.

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Domestic Violence Awareness, Restricted Reporting - Part IV

Special Agent Robin Kerr

This is part IV of the five part series on domestic violence. If you missed the first three articles, you can go to the CFAY website, and follow the link for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) current quarter article on Domestic Violence. The link will give you access to all five parts of the domestic violence series of articles.

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Yokosuka/OperatingForcesSupport/NCIS/CrimeReductionProgram/index.htm>.

Part IV of the series discusses restricted reporting and the exceptions to that policy.

The military has a program called Restricted Reporting. Restricted Reporting allows an adult victim of domestic violence, eligible to receive military medical treatment, the option to report an incident of domestic violence to specific individuals without initiating the investigative process or notification to the victim or offender's command. If a victim desires Restricted Reporting, they can make a report of domestic violence to a victim advocate, the supervisor of the victim advocate, a healthcare provider and a chaplain. Any other disclosures (even to a friend or co-worker) do not have the same confidentiality and most likely will result in a criminal investigation being initiated.

Exceptions to Restricted Reporting are when one or more of the following conditions exist: The victim authorizes an investigation be conducted; to prevent or lessen a serious or imminent threat to health or safety of victim or another person as in homicidal or suicidal threats; stalking or abuse during pregnancy; strangulation; a weapon is used; forced sex; suspected child abuse; during disability retirement boards; when required for supervision of victim services; and when required by state or federal statute. NCIS is charged with conducting these types of investigations for the Department of the Navy, depending on the circumstances.

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Domestic Violence Awareness, Unrestricted Reporting - Part V

Special Agent Robin Kerr

This is the final article of the five-part series on domestic violence. If you missed the first four articles, you can go to the CFAY website, and follow the link for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) current quarter article on Domestic Violence. The link will give you access to all five parts of the domestic violence series of articles.

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Yokosuka/OperatingForcesSupport/NCIS/CrimeReductionProgram/index.htm>.

Part V of the series discusses unrestricted reporting and the ensuing investigation.

Unrestricted Reporting means a domestic violence incident is referred to law enforcement and an investigation is initiated. Military personnel are required to notify the appropriate authorities of criminal activity, to include domestic abuse, unless they are the victim and have requested restricted reporting. If the information comes to command or Family Advocacy from someone other than the victim, law enforcement is apprised and an investigation is initiated. If the victim discloses the abuse to any one other than the restricted reporting individuals (victim advocate, victim advocate supervisor, healthcare provider or a chaplain), an investigation may be initiated and Family Advocacy notified. Telling a best friend or co-worker does not meet the criteria for confidential reporting, meaning this information is now unrestricted and if reported to law enforcement, an investigation may be initiated.

Once an allegation is reported to NCIS, an investigation will be conducted. This investigation includes, but is not limited to interviewing the victim, any witness, and the suspect; photography; a crime scene examination; record reviews; criminal history checks and other steps as deemed necessary. Command may issue a military protective order and in more severe cases, the suspect may be put into pre-trial confinement. The safety of the victim is the first priority, and a safety plan will be developed to create a safe place during the pendency of the investigation.

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