



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ARMOR CENTER AND FORT KNOX
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121-5000

Expires 21 October 2005

ATZK-CFA (608)

21 October 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, All Units Reporting Directly to This Headquarters
Commanders, Fort Knox Partners in Excellence
Directors and Chiefs, Staff Offices/Departments, This Headquarters

SUBJECT: USAARMC Policy Memo No. 14-03 - Physical Separation of Parties Involved in Domestic Violence

1. Reference. AR 608-18, Army Family Advocacy Program, 1 Sep 95.
2. Purpose. This policy memorandum implements a mandatory 72-hour minimum cool-off period for soldiers involved in domestic violence on the Fort Knox installation.
3. Responsibility. All commanders, officers, and noncommissioned officers (NCOs) are responsible for ensuring that units meet, maintain, and comply with this policy.
4. General. Violence against a spouse is contrary to the values and standards of personal excellence of the United States Army. Spouse abuse is a community issue, which requires a consistent and coordinated community response (CCR) and early intervention. Essential to the CCR is the support of individual units in ensuring that victims of domestic violence are offered immediate safety, long-term protection, services, and support. A spouse or soldier who is a victim of domestic violence must be protected from further abuse. When disputing couples involved in domestic violence are allowed immediate access to each other, the risk of further violence increases significantly.
 - a. When the Military Police (MP) or civilian law enforcement respond to a domestic disturbance involving physical assault and an active duty soldier is identified as the offender, commanders, upon notification by the Provost Marshal Office (PMO) will issue a no contact order for a minimum of 72 hours. Social Work Service Family Advocacy Program (SWS/FAP) staff will initiate contact with the offender and the victim within the 72 hours to address safety issues, and conduct initial assessments by a Level II treatment provider to determine whether to recommend continuation of the no contact order.
 - b. SWS/FAP staff will make recommendations to the command based on their assessment. In cases where the Level II provider recommends continued separation due to safety concerns, the command will make a determination, based on all of the circumstances surrounding the incident, whether to rescind or continue the no contact order. The Level II provider's assessment shall be a substantial factor in this determination.

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c. In situations where a soldier must retrieve necessities from home, the commander will ensure the victim is notified and that a unit escort is assigned to accompany the soldier to the home. The Military Police will assist units, if requested, to retrieve items from the quarters. The escort must be an officer or NCO, no less than one grade higher than the offender. This requirement will ensure offenders are not accused of taking or destroying property, as well as ensure the protection of victims from further violence. Commanders will ensure soldiers understand that this is a one-time visit during the separation period and will exercise command discretion (i.e. secure keys to quarters, etc.) to ensure this requirement is complied with. **If an Emergency Protective Order (EPO) or Domestic Violence Order (DVO) is in place, the command shall refer the soldier to the court of jurisdiction and will not assist the soldier in going on or about the quarters.**

d. Where the civilian spouse is the offender, commanders will make every effort to ensure the safety of the soldier. A full range of safety measures will be considered; this may include moving the soldier to alternate quarters or other measures when extreme danger is present. Civilian spouses barred from the installation will check in at the MP Station before arriving at any of the aforementioned locations and will check out at the MP Station before leaving the installation. Command will consult with Army Community Service FAP (ACS/FAP) staff before making a determination to lift the bar.

e. Where a domestic violence incident occurs off post and the soldier offender is arrested by civilian law enforcement, commanders, upon notification by the PMO of the soldier's release, shall implement the above as appropriate.

f. Where a domestic dispute does not include a physical assault (verbal domestic), the on-call victim advocate will make a recommendation to the command to implement a minimum 72-hour cool-off period. This requires that the Military Police Desk Sergeant notify the victim advocate of all domestic verbal calls/responses. Separation of parties will be at command discretion. The victim advocate recommendation will be a substantial factor in making the determination to separate parties.

g. Where an Emergency Protective Order (EPO) or Domestic Violence Order (DVO) is in place, commanders will counsel soldier offenders as to the conditions outlined in the order, and will make every effort to ensure offenders adhere to said order. Commanders will advise the LEC/PMO that an EPO or DVO is in place against a soldier within their command. Command discretion shall be utilized to ensure EPOs or DVOs are not violated (See para 3b).

h. Upon recommendation by the MP or on-call victim advocate, commanders will order removal of weapons from the home of soldiers involved in domestic disputes and secure them in the unit's arms room.

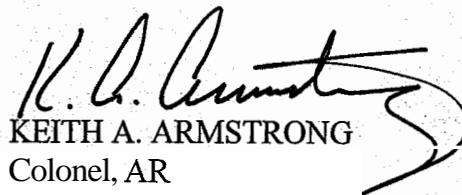
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i. Commanders should consider a suspension of pass and leave privileges for soldiers when warranted under the provision of this policy. In severe cases, restriction or pre-trial confinement should be given consideration **after** consultation with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

5. This policy is effective immediately and will remain in effect until superseded or rescinded.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



KEITH A. ARMSTRONG
Colonel, AR
Garrison Commander

DISTRIBUTION:

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CF:

DCG, USAARMC