



Army Domestic Abuse Prevention Month 2009

Two years ago this month, the Army launched the Army Family Covenant as evidence of our enduring commitment to Soldiers and their Families. The Covenant commits the Army to providing Soldiers and their Families a quality of life commensurate with their level of service and sacrifice. Domestic abuse undermines the Army's promise and negatively impacts Family Readiness.

As part of the National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October is designated as Army Domestic Abuse Prevention Month. An opportunity to raise awareness and educate the Army about programs available to prevent abuse, to recognize signs of abuse, and to learn about victim support services and treatment intervention services for offenders.

This year's theme, "Make the Right Choice! Act to Prevent Domestic Abuse," captures the notion that each person in the Army community has a responsibility to recognize the warning signs of abuse, encourage offenders to seek treatment before situations escalate, report abuse, provide safety for victims, and refer them to agencies that can provide assistance.

Throughout October, Family Advocacy Program Managers at all Army installations will conduct events to increase awareness of programs and services to prevent abuse and educate Soldiers and their Families. Together, as one Army, we recommit ourselves to preventing domestic abuse. "The strength of our Army comes from the strength of our Army Families."

Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army

George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army