



Understanding Military Culture



Mission

- Defend U.S. territories and occupied areas
- Overcome any aggressor that imperils our nation's peace and security



Chain of Command

- Rank is everything, with rank comes increasing responsibility & authority = respect
- Chain of Command is the law of the hierarchy
- Access to those high in the Chain of Command will be filtered by his/her staff



Command “need- to –know”

- There are no institutional boundaries between one's employer, doctor, judge, social worker and advocate
- The military system is, for the most part, seamless
- There is no “right to privacy” for any facet of an individual's life that may potentially effect “mission-readiness”



“Only the strong survive”

- Deficiencies must be corrected and eliminated
- Someone is always to blame, i.e. responsible for any identified “deficiencies”
- Failure is not an option



Directives/regulations govern everything

- ...except Command prerogative, much like our judges

Excerpted from 2004 National Network to End Domestic Violence Annual Conference Materials and developed by Connie Sponsler-Garcia of the Battered Women's Justice Project and Debby Tucker of the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence.



“Domestic Violence.....will not be tolerated in the Department of Defense”....DepSecDef

- Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence, visit www.ncdsv.org, Military



Definition of Domestic Violence in DoD has two levels:

- Domestic Abuse: 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 when such violence or abuse is directed towards 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 the 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.

