

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

February 21, 2006

DoD To Launch Public Awareness Campaign Against Domestic Violence

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Department of Defense, in partnership with the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH), is launching a national public awareness campaign to “Take A Stand Against Domestic Violence.”

The campaign is designed as an intervention message to educate Service men and women and their families about domestic violence and provide a vital link to life-saving services by connecting people to the Hotline. Educational materials will be distributed at military installations, as well as in key public places in surrounding civilian communities. In addition, this campaign will include public service announcements in military media outlets.

Dr. David S.C. Chu, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, stated, “The Department of Defense is not immune to the broader societal problem of domestic violence and has a responsibility to act when it occurs. This campaign effectively calls to action those in our military population to assist victims of domestic violence. The launch of the campaign is another in a series of initiatives undertaken by the Department during the past two years to strengthen its response to domestic violence. In addition to launching this public awareness campaign, we have worked closely with the Congress to update and revise key legislation, issued numerous domestic violence policies, engaged in domestic violence coordinated community response demonstration projects, and sponsored numerous domestic violence training conferences for more than 1000 military and civilian personnel. The rollout of this important campaign signals our commitment to keeping up this aggressive pace.”

Sheryl Cates, Executive Director of the NDVH, in recognizing the need for a unified, cohesive campaign to address the issue of domestic violence in the U.S. military, applauds the Department of Defense for its involvement. “We believe the campaign to ‘Take a Stand Against Domestic Violence’ will be a call to action and a signal of hope to women, men, and their families in the military community.”

The dynamic partnership offers one more option to DoD’s broad-based approach to reach the total force and their spouses. The NDVH offers access to domestic violence programs across the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Their Hotline provides crisis intervention, information, and referral to victims of domestic violence and their friends and families 24 hours each day, 365 days every year, in over 140 different languages, with a teletypewriter line available for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing. The Hotline’s phone number is 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), 1-800-787-3224 (TTY) and the Web site is www.ndvh.org.