

ASCRIBE NEWSWIRE

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Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing Today Released Research that Indicates Women in Military Conflicted about Domestic Violence Screening, Reporting

A study published this month in *Military Medicine* (Vol. 171, August 2006) shows that while women on active duty in the military supported the now-revised policy requiring healthcare providers to offer abused persons services and to report the abuse, concerns remain about the consequences of that policy. In "Domestic Violence in the Military: Women's Policy Preferences and Beliefs Concerning Routine Screening and Mandatory Reporting," Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing (JHUSON) researchers Jacquelyn Campbell, RN, PhD and Joan Kub, RN, PhD, and co-authors found in interviews with active duty military women - 25 percent of whom had experienced domestic violence (DV) during their military service - that despite support of the previous policies by a majority of respondents, less than half thought abuse should be reported to the commanding officer. Those who had been abused were significantly less likely to agree with informing commanding officers. The interviews also revealed that more than 75 percent of the women agreed that routine screening would make it easier for abused women to get help, but about the same number felt by doing so, many would be at more risk for being hurt.

Additional findings included concerns about the negative effect on their military careers and those of their partners if abuse was disclosed and fears that routine screening and mandatory reporting would make it less likely that military women would disclose abuse. Recent revisions in the policies now allow health care providers to keep the DV information confidential if victims so desire.

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About JHUSON:

The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing is a global leader in nursing research, education and scholarship and is ranked among the top 10 nursing higher education institutions in the country. The School's community health program is second in the nation and the nursing research program now holds eighth position among the top nursing schools for securing federal research grants. The School continues to maintain its reputation for excellence and educates nurses who set the highest standards for patient care, exemplify scholarship, and become innovative national and international leaders in the evolution of the nursing profession and the health care system. For more information, visit <http://www.son.jhmi.edu/>.