

THE PERISCOPE (Kings Bay, GA)

'Military Men' Takes on Domestic Violence

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Kings Bay's Fleet and Family Support Center has instituted a new program, Military Men against Domestic Violence, to train command coordinators with the goal of stopping violence in the home.

"One of the goals of family advocacy is to educate and prevent domestic violence against spouses and children," said Patsy Troxell, FFSC family advocacy manager. "Educating service members and their families has become one of the command's top priorities in prevention of domestic violence."

Capt. Mike McKinnon, Kings Bay commanding officer, is taking a strong stance to prevent domestic violence

"Domestic violence not only tragically affects the lives of our Sailors, Marines and their families, but it affects readiness as well," said McKinnon. "If you care about readiness, then there should be a part of you that cares about doing something to prevent domestic violence. If you have a heart that cares, if you have the time and opportunity, and your talents lie with mentoring, influencing change or working with people, then I encourage you to strongly consider how you may be able to participate in the MMADV program."

Helping in the education and training is Al Emerick, president of the Hubbard House in Jacksonville. Hubbard House is a safe house for domestic violence victims. He brings credibility and firsthand knowledge of the consequences of unchecked violence to train and educate command coordinators.

"The purpose of the training is to help the leaders understand what causes domestic violence and to train them how to approach each situation so it can be prevented in the future," said Emerick

During MMADV training, command coordinators are challenged in their own beliefs regarding male and female roles, male privilege, and their own power and control issues in their relationships, Troxell said. At the end of the eight-hour program, coordinators will be able to teach other Sailors how to identify signs of domestic violence and signs of attitudes displayed by offenders of domestic violence.

Sgt. Maj. Mike Timmerman is one of the coordinators learning new skills to help mentor his fellow service members about the pitfalls of domestic violence.

“I believe this training will help a lot of young men and their families learn the importance of stopping domestic violence,” said the Marine Corps Security Force Company sergeant major. “Men need to take a stand against domestic violence and I intend on implementing this training at the command level. If we can instill more positive information and leadership into our young men, it will help prevent a lot of the negative decisions being made. This will keep our service members out of trouble and keep our families and communities safe.”

Some of the subjects taught at the MMADV training include conflict resolution, reality checks, belief system challenge and self-evaluation.

October is *Domestic Violence Prevention Month* and the FFSC will hold their semi-annual leadership training as another means of curbing the problem. MMADV attendees will be asked to provide their first day of training for the attendees of the workshop.