



# **DoD Domestic Abuse Prevention & Victim Intervention Programs**

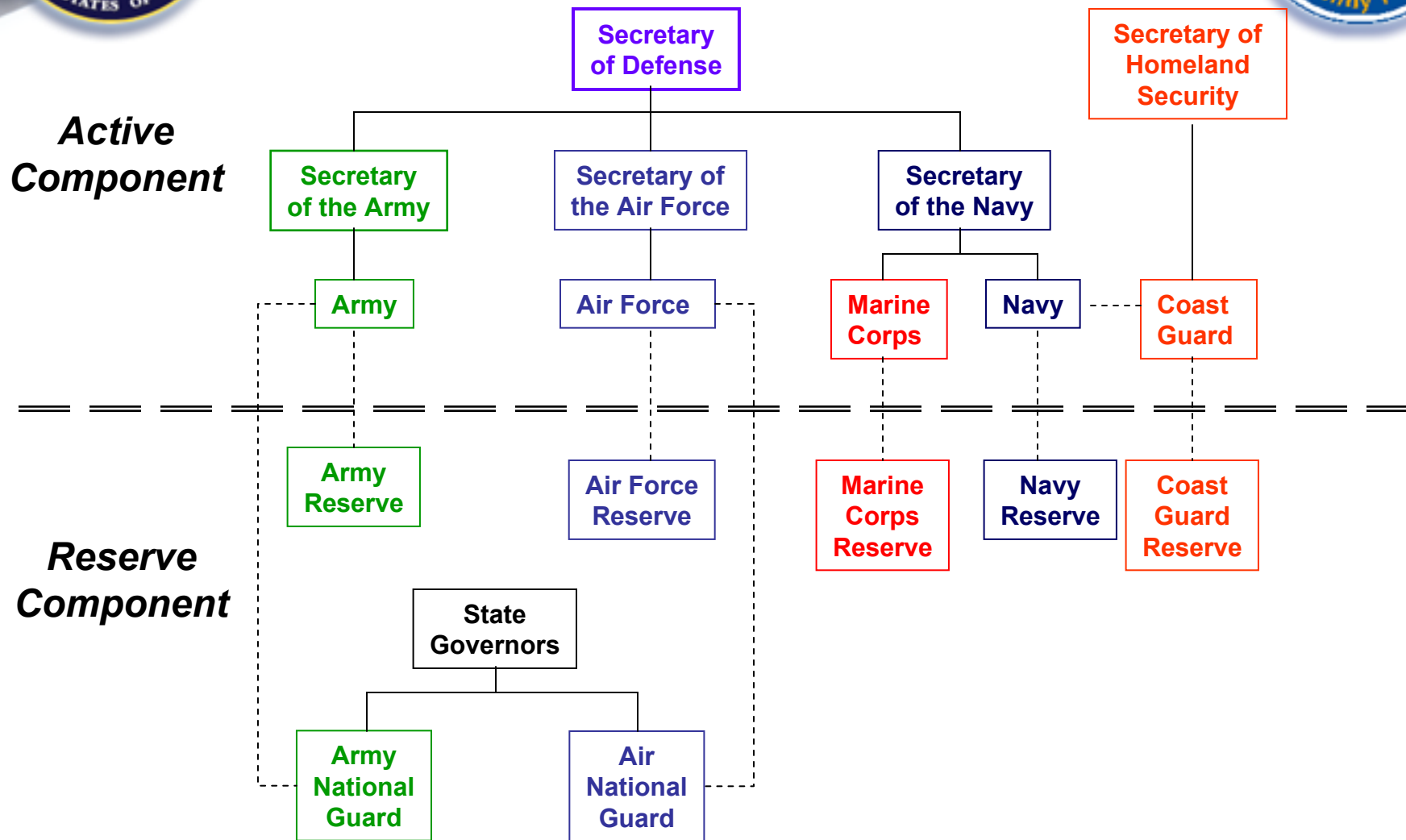
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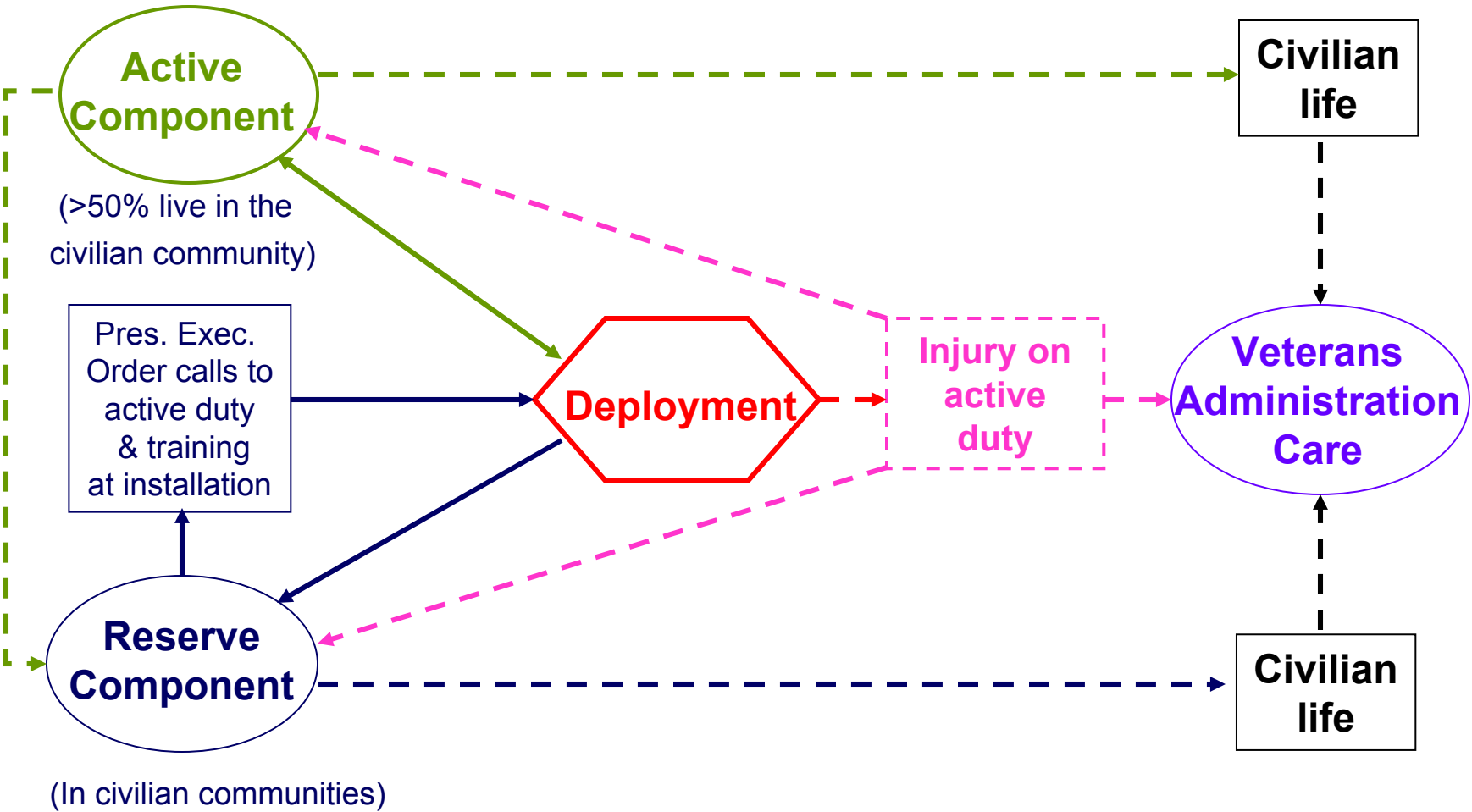


# Armed Forces of the United States: "Total Force"





# Total Force in Wartime





# DoD Today



- High personnel & operational tempos
  - Total Force (Active & Reserve Components)
  - Two wars (8 years, 6 years)
  - Repeated lengthy deployments
- Risk factors for domestic abuse include effects of repeated deployments
  - Stress for both the service member and non-deployed family members
  - Increased risk of anxiety disorders & PTSD
  - “Self-medication” by returning veterans



# DoD Definition of Domestic Abuse

- Domestic violence
  - An offense under the U.S. Code, the UCMJ, or state law involving the use, attempted use, or threatened use of force or violence against *[see below]*
  - Or the violation of a lawful order issued for the protection of a person, or
- A pattern of behavior resulting in emotional/psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty of *[see below]*

*[When the victim is]* a person is of the opposite sex who is:

- A current or former spouse;
- A person with whom the abuser shares a child in common;  
or
- A current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile.



# FAP Domestic Abuse in Incidents Meeting FAP Criteria

- Incidents reported to FAP have declined 13% since FY 2001
- Reported incidents/1,000 couples have declined 20% (27.7 to 22.2)
- Incidents meeting criteria have declined 38%
- Incidents meeting criteria /1,000 couples have declined 43% (16.5 to 9.4 )
- Abusive servicemembers/1,000 service members have declined 36% (7.6 to 4.9)

## Alleged abusive spouses

- 67% male, 37% female
- 63% Active component
  - Of these, 91% male
- 37% civilian spouses
  - Of these, 72% female

## Victim spouses

- 67% female, 37% male
- 49% Active component
  - Of these, 39% females
- 51% civilian spouses
  - Of these, 94% females



# Addressing Domestic Abuse in Active Component



- Public awareness & prevention/risk factor reduction
- Victim advocacy
  - Restricted reporting policy
  - Downloadable manual (Battered Women's Justice Project with DoD assistance)
- Training
- Coordination with civilian authorities
  - Memoranda of Agreement/Understanding
  - Coordinated Community Response projects
- UCMJ authority for commander to take protective and/or disciplinary action for active duty personnel
  - On-line commander's training
- Family Advocacy Program assessment & treatment services

**DoD Instruction 6400.06**



# Public Awareness & Prevention/Risk Reduction

- Public awareness campaigns
  - Teen dating violence
  - Domestic abuse
- Risk factor reduction
  - Education/training classes & information dissemination
    - Relationships
    - Stress & conflict resolution/management
  - Counseling for individuals & couples
  - Collaboration/coordination with other prevention and family support activities





# Public Awareness Initiatives



<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil>

- National Domestic Violence Hotline
  - Posters, brochures, wallet cards mailed to FAPs
  - Materials downloadable
- Family Violence Prevention Fund
  - Campaign targeting males
  - Poster & brochures mailed to FAPs
  - Materials downloadable
- AFIS/AFRTS Public Service Announcements
- Ad Council & FVPF – in progress
  - Toolkits for FAP
  - Toolkits for Reserve Component Family Readiness Counselors
  - Materials will be downloadable



# Military OneSource



<http://www.militaryonesource.com>

**1-800-342-9647**

**OCONUS Access**

- “Warm handoffs” to:
  - National Domestic Violence Hotline
  - Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center
  - Domestic violence shelters/programs
  - DoD Victim Advocates
  
- Information
  - Articles on Web site
  - Publications for shipment
  
- Referrals for non-medical counseling



# Non-Medical Counseling



- **Focused Telephonic Consultation**
  - Up to 12 scheduled sessions with short-term solution-focused trained mental health professionals
  - Issues: Adjustment to situational stressors, decision-making, stress management, communication, parenting skills
- **Face-to-face counseling referrals**
  - Up to 12 consultations with licensed counselors in the community (99% of installation and Guard/Reserve locations)
  - Issues: Family or couples concerns, adjusting to deployment or reunion, grief counseling, stress management
- **Military Family Life consultants**
  - Face-to-face consultations with licensed counselors on/off the installation



# Domestic Abuse Restricted Report



- By active duty victim (not Reserve Component) or family member victim who chooses restricted reporting
- Made only to DoD domestic abuse victim advocate or health care provider (including FAP clinical staff)
  - Victim advocacy
  - Medical exam
- No disclosure to law enforcement or command unless an exception applies



# Restricted Report Exceptions

- Disclosure **only** if any of the following apply:
  - Written authorization by victim
  - Necessary to prevent/lessen **serious AND imminent** threat to health or safety of victim or another
  - Victim discloses child abuse by self or alleged abuser
  - Needed for supervision of the victim advocate or health care provider
  - Disclosure ordered by judge to a military or civilian court
  - **Required by law** or international agreement to another authority (e.g., state reporting requirements for health care providers)
  - Active duty victim (not civilian victim)
    - Adverse impact on duty assignment per HIPR, with protection for specific details of the abuse
    - Fitness for duty disability retirement determination



# Assistance to Domestic Abuse Victims



- Who make restricted reports:

- safety assessment
- safety planning
- coordination with health care providers
- information & referral

- Who make unrestricted reports

- safety assessment
- safety planning
- coordination with health care providers
- information & referral
- law enforcement & command involvement
- obtain & enforce protective orders
- obtain DoD financial assistance when victim qualifies



# FAP Intervention Procedures



- Ensure victim receives medical assessment/treatment and safety assessment
- Ensure law enforcement and Service member's unit commander are notified **in unrestricted reports**
- Assess psycho-socially all family members and prepare treatment recommendations
- Manage multidisciplinary Case Review Committee determination
- Prepare treatment recommendations for commander
- Provide social services treatment to victim, and to abuser, as permitted/ordered by commander



# Financial Assistance to Victims



- Funds for transportation to safety, if necessary
- Shipment of personal property, if divided
- If the service member is separated from active duty for abuse, or is convicted of abuse and forfeits all pay & allowances, up to 3 years of:
  - Transitional Compensation (based on service member's pay)
  - Medical and dental benefits
  - Commissary & Exchange benefits
  - Secretaries of the Military Departments have waiver authority