

Child Abuse Prevention Month in the Army  
April 2011

Draft Installation Commander's Proclamation

The Army is committed to providing a wide range of programs and services for Soldiers, DA Civilians, and their Families. One of the important resources at [Installation Name] is our garrison's Family Advocacy Program (FAP). A key mission of FAP is to conduct an annual public awareness and community education campaign every April in connection with Child Abuse Prevention Month in the Army.

The theme of this year's campaign is "Safety First: Safe Communities and Responsible Families = Child Abuse Prevention. As commander of this installation it is my goal to provide a safe community that contributes to the quality of life and well being of everyone. We pride ourselves on a culture of safety and responsibility. Child abuse in an Army Family marks the breakdown in our culture of safety. This is unacceptable. Resources are available for Army Families to help all our children and all of their parents, no matter how stressful their lives might be.

If an Army child is not safe from harm behind the doors of his or her own home, then our community is not a safe place to live. Children are the most vulnerable members of our community, and we demand safety for them.

The primary responsibility for child abuse prevention rests with the Family. Parenting, especially in times of high stress and operational intensity make a tough job even tougher. Army parents know that it is a sign of strength to ask for professional help to keep their children safe from harm. Connecting with the New Parent Support Program (NPSP), Military Family Life Consultants (MFLCs), Chaplains, and other Family services can help Families deal with the challenges that may lead to abuse. It is up to the rest of us – you and me and all the community services – child care, schools, youth programs, health services– to give strong parents the help they need. We also always need to be ready to recognize and report child abuse when it happens.

There is no excuse for leaving children in an unsafe home.

Do your part to make [Installation Name] safe for all children and supportive for all parents. Join the prevention team. Need help? Ideas on how to help someone else? Where to report? Contact the Family Advocacy Program.

[Signed]  
Installation Commander