



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, EUROPE, AND SEVENTH ARMY**  
**THE COMMANDING GENERAL**  
**UNIT 29351**  
**APO AE 09014-9351**

AEAGA

4 May 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army in Europe Command Policy Letter 35, Family Advocacy Program

1. Reference AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program, 1 September 1995.
2. The men and women of the United States Army uphold the highest tradition of respect, honor, integrity, and personal courage. These are Army values, and our soldiers live by them. These values, however, can be destroyed by family violence such as spouse or child abuse.
3. The commander's responsibility in preventing family violence is one that demands attentive leadership. As leaders, commanders have direct and day-to-day contact with their soldiers and their soldiers' families. Sensitive leaders recognize when their soldiers show signs of anxiety or tension that could lead to physical, emotional, or sexual abuse of family members. Caring leaders also know how to spot signs that indicate that their soldiers are being victimized.
4. To prevent family violence and to provide guidance for dealing with it when it occurs, the Army established the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) (ref). The FAP is a commander's program that provides guidance on how to prevent family violence and how to report, investigate, and treat spouse and child abuse when prevention fails.
5. The goal of the FAP is to prevent family violence. One of the primary ways of doing this is by helping commanders learn to recognize signs of potential violence. In directing the overall management of the FAP, the Army Community Service (ACS), under the leadership of the United States Army Installation Management Agency, Europe Region Office—
  - a. Teaches commanders how to prevent, identify, assess, and treat family violence. The ACS does this by providing the commander's mandatory FAP briefing within 45 days after assumption of command. In addition, the ACS will provide annual education for all soldiers on the family dynamics of spouse and child abuse, the availability of prevention and treatment services, and the Army's policy on family violence.
  - b. Gives each commander and noncommissioned officer a copy of the FAP Desk Guide. This guide provides clear and specific steps leaders must take to prevent family violence. It also provides essential guidance on how to intervene when violence occurs.
  - c. Coordinates FAP services with medical facilities, law-enforcement personnel, chaplains, staff judge advocates, and others.

*This letter is available at <https://www.aeaim.hqusareur.army.mil/library/home.htm>.*

AEAGA

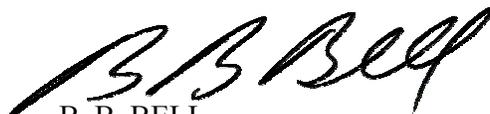
SUBJECT: Army in Europe Command Policy Letter 35, Family Advocacy Program

6. The reporting requirements of AR 608-18 encourage every soldier, employee, and member of the military community to report information of known and suspected cases of child and spouse abuse. It also requires commanders, law-enforcement personnel, doctors, nurses, social workers, youth-services personnel, psychologists, and other medical personnel to report known and suspected abuse.

7. Commanders must immediately report known and suspected child and spouse abuse to the 24-hour reporting point of contact (RPOC). In the European region, the 24-hour RPOC is the military police. Commanders play an active role in the treatment process by communicating with the FAP multidisciplinary team and ensuring that soldiers are given time to attend services (for example, counseling and classes outlined in the treatment plan). Completion of services for victims is critical to helping them recover from violence and getting offenders to solve problems that led to them to commit acts of violence.

8. Commanders and leaders must be aware that family violence is not just a violation of Army regulations; it is also a violation of Federal law. If a soldier is charged with a misdemeanor or felony, commanders are authorized to take disciplinary or administrative action. All commanders are urged to coordinate with legal experts and consider the multidisciplinary team's determination and service recommendations, especially when violence recurs. Commanders should consider the soldier's service record, retention potential, and compliance or noncompliance with command-directed treatment or administrative restrictions. Commanders should also ensure that families receive transitional compensation information on entitlements and financial benefits if the soldier is separated from active duty through a court-martial or administrative action that resulted from the soldier's abusing a family member.

9. Family violence is unacceptable, incompatible with the Army's core values, and will not be tolerated in the Army in Europe. As commanders, you can make a positive difference by helping soldiers and families who have suffered family violence. By establishing trust, offering support, encouraging nonviolence, and providing solutions to problems, commanders can prevent a family situation from escalating to a crisis or resulting in violence. Commanders must remember these guidelines for preventing family violence: immediately report suspected or known child or spouse abuse to the RPOC, openly discuss prevention strategies, carefully listen to soldiers to build trust, teach soldiers to take responsibility for their actions, set the example, and emphasize that family violence will not be tolerated.



B. B. BELL  
General, USA  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:  
A (AEPUBS)