

Domestic Violence Awareness

Build and maintain healthy relationships



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What is domestic violence?

Title 16, section 91 of the Virgin Islands Code defines "domestic violence" as the occurrence of any of the following acts, attempts, or threats against a spouse, former spouse, parent, child, or any other person related by blood or marriage, a present or former household member, a person with whom there is a child in common, or a person with whom a sexual or otherwise intimate relationship has been or is in existence:

1. Assault
2. Battery
3. Burglary
4. Kidnapping
5. Unlawful sexual contact
6. Rape
7. Forcible or unlawful entry
8. Coercion
9. Destruction of property
10. Harassment
11. Threats
12. False Imprisonment
13. Stalking



How will a domestic violence conviction affect my military career?

-As a National Guard member, a domestic violence conviction will subject you to a variety of administrative procedures, the most severe being reduction in rank (AR 600-8-19) and military separation (AR 135-178).

-Additionally, under the 2006 National Defense Authorization Act, Pub. L. 109-163, sec 554, 119 Stat. 3136, 3264-65 all Soldiers/Airmen in the rank of E-6 and above have a duty to self-report all criminal convictions to their first-line supervisor.

-To ensure that this mandate is met VING is working closely with the VI Police Department and the court to monitor domestic cases so that we are aware when there are cases filed that may involve our Soldiers/Airmen.

Although there is no specific Article in the UCMJ related to domestic violence, the acts committed in association with domestic violence can still be punished under other Articles of the UCMJ. These Articles include, but are not limited to, Article 97 (Unlawful detention), Article 109 (Property other than military property of the United States - waste, spoilage, or destruction), Article 120 (Rape, sexual assault, and other sexual misconduct),

Article 120a (Stalking), Article 128 (Assault), Article 129 (Burglary), and Article 134 (Assault; Child endangerment; Firearm, discharging - willfully, under such circumstances as to endanger human life; Kidnapping; and Threat). Punishments for these crimes include, but are not limited to, **confinement, discharge, and forfeiture of pay and allowances.**

Additionally, if you have a 'qualifying conviction' for a misdemeanor or felony crime of domestic violence, the **Lautenberg Amendment** will 1. prohibit you from possessing firearms and ammunition, thus preventing you from carrying out duties requiring the bearing of arms and; 2. prohibit you from receiving OCONUS assignments; and 3. prohibit you from reenlisting.

Do you need help? If you need assistance with respect to domestic violence issues, whether as a victim or a perpetrator, you can get help through the following resources:

- *VI Emergency 911
- *VIPD: STX:340-778-2211; STT:340-774-2211; STJ:340-693-8880
- *Women's Coalition STX 340-773-9272
- *Men's Coalition STX 340-778-2161
- *Family Resource Center STT 340-776-3966
- *www.militaryonesource.com
- *Dr. Chester Copemann, VING Dir of Psychological Health
340-718-5113(O); 340-513-0414 (C)
- *Chaplain Dion Christopher 340-712-7943(O);340-226-5790 (C)