

January 20, 2010

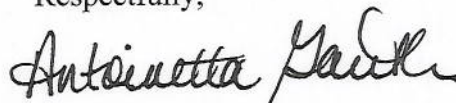
Greetings,

As many are aware Domestic Violence has been on the rise for many years with some years more favorable than others. In 2009, there were a total of 76 deaths in Maryland due to Domestic Violence, which included men, women and children of various ages, cultures and socioeconomic class. There has also been a climb in Fort Meade Domestic Violence incidents, primarily in the months of October-December 2009. The Victim Advocate and Sexual Assault Response Coordinator diligently conducted various briefings throughout the month of December to educate Soldiers during a time when pressures such as finances or marital discord may seem unmanageable. While briefing Soldiers is an annual requirement according to AR 608-18, as the victim advocate I have found it just as important to brief the spouses, Department of Defense employees and contractors. There are many Fort Meade residents and employees who are unaware of what behaviors constitute an unhealthy relationship. Accessing resources, identifying red flags and where one can receive the needed help are all important aspects of learning the Dynamics of Family Violence.

In 2010, a major goal of the victim advocate is to begin briefing Department of Defense employees and contractors on the Dynamics of Family Violence. I am requesting all Directorates to support the effort to educate employees on this crucial topic. This is not a requirement but an effort to ensure the well being of everyone. Family violence does not discriminate nor does it start or end with Soldiers.

If you would like to support the efforts to educate your staff, please call or e-mail the Installation Victim Advocate at 301-677-4117 or tina.saundersgauth@us.army.mil to arrange a time and date that would be convenient for your staff to attend a briefing. The briefings are 45 minutes with a 5 minute question and answer session. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Antoinetta Gauth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Antoinetta "Tina" Gauth, MSW
Installation Victim Advocate