



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON VICENZA  
UNIT 31401, BOX 41  
APO AE 09630

IMEU-VIC-MWA

18 SEP 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Policy Memorandum 08-17, Parental Physical Discipline versus Child Abuse

1. Purpose. The purpose of this memorandum is to implement a parental physical discipline policy for the members of the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza and Livorno communities. This policy supersedes U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Policy Memorandum 06-11, Parental Physical Discipline versus Child Abuse dated 19 Sep 2005.
2. Responsibility. All commanders, officers, and Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) are responsible for ensuring that their unit meets, maintains, and complies with this policy.
3. General. Confusion exists regarding the difference between parental discipline and child abuse. To clarify, the following standards are established for the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza and Livorno Military communities.
  - a. The only Parental Physical Discipline tolerated is non-injurious spanking administered with an open hand to the buttocks or the hand of a child over 18 months of age. No objects or weapons may be used, i.e. belts, sticks, spoons, brooms, etc. Verbal threats of abuse towards children are reportable to the Family Advocacy Program and Social Work Services.
  - b. Physical Child Abuse includes, but is not limited to, all non accidental, physical acts administered by a parent or guardian on a child which leaves a mark, welt, or bruise on the child's body. Such acts will be referred to the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) Case Review Committee (CRC) for consideration as child abuse IAW AR 608-18.
4. Severe Physical Child Abuse may result in determination of assault, which could lead to administrative, non-judicial or judicial action against the perpetrator IAW Art.128 UCMJ and U.S. vs. Robertson, 36 MJ 190 (CMA 1992).
5. More appropriate methods of parental discipline exist to modify a child's behavior. Your Physician, Social Work Services, and Family Advocacy Program / New Parent Support Program (NPSP) can answer parenting questions and issues as well as offer information and/or training on more effective parenting and discipline methods.

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6. Commanders and supervisors will inform all Soldiers, civilians, contractors, and Family Members of this policy. Together we can make our military communities a safer place for our most defenseless community members.

7. Point of Contact of this action is the Family Advocacy Program Manager at DSN 634-7489 / 7500.



ERIK O. DAIGA  
COL, MI  
Commanding

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