



*Commanding Officer
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Proclamation 2009*

WHEREAS, domestic violence knows no boundaries. It exists in all neighborhoods, communities and countries. It has no racial, economic, ethnic, gender or social barriers and military families are not exempt.

WHEREAS, according to the National Violence Against Women Survey, each year in the United States approximately 1.5 million women and 850,000 men are the victims of domestic violence. Further, the children of battered women frequently witness these attacks, thus becoming victims themselves.

WHEREAS, violence in our families detracts from mission readiness, undermines work objectives and violates our core values of Honor, Commitment and Courage. You cannot be a dedicated Marine, family member and neighbor and look the other way when someone is being abused. This year's theme: "Have You Crossed The Line?...End Domestic Violence Before It Starts" alludes to the importance of awareness in our prevention efforts. It affects the whole community and it is not an option in today's Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, this Command's commitment to eliminate domestic violence is total. Our leadership is important as domestic violence prevention begins with me and you. Each and every one of us must take a proactive role by increasing awareness of the problem within our community, making prevention efforts our priority and assisting "at risk" families in connecting with needed resources through the Family Advocacy Program. When we succeed in preventing domestic violence, we triumph in many ways: in meeting our mission, in our commitment to build a strong force, and in our requirement that our Marine families are strong, safe, and secure.

THEREFORE, I hereby proclaim the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I ask that you join me in supporting the national challenge to prevent family violence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Werth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark A. Werth

Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma