



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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SUBJECT: Department of Defense (DoD) Campaign to Prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome

In conjunction with the April 2007 observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, DoD is launching a Department-wide Campaign to Prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) in collaboration with the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome. Violent shaking of an infant or small child can result in learning disorders, mental and developmental retardation, paralysis, blindness, or death. Of such shaken young children, approximately 25 percent die as a result of their injuries. Of those that survive, 80 percent will have lifelong disabilities that hinder their development and ability to learn. Initial hospitalization costs for each shaken baby approximate \$60,000, first-year treatment and rehabilitation may cost \$100,000, and medical costs during preschool years can surpass \$1 million.

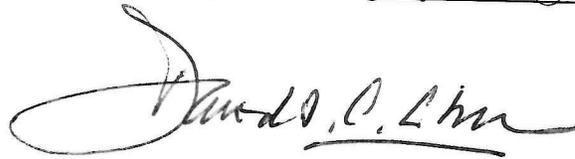
Military parents need information and support about how to cope with the stress of an infant, especially a baby that won't stop crying. In the 2003 Military Departments' reports of child fatalities due to abuse, 73 percent involved children under the age of three. In about half of those fatalities, the abuse was committed by the father, stepfather, or father surrogate, typically by shaking the child to stop the child's crying.

The DoD Campaign to Prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome has three components:



- A toolkit mailed to military installation Family Advocacy Programs (FAPs), medical treatment facilities (MTFs), and National Guard (NG) state family programs. The toolkits contain a training curriculum designed for military fathers of infants; brochures and other educational resources; and the toll-free Military OneSource phone number, providing twenty-four hour availability of counselors for stressed military parents.
- Educational DVDs mailed to the installation FAPs, MTFs, and NG state family programs, and
- Public service announcements airing on the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service throughout DoD.

I encourage leaders at all levels to strengthen their commitment to collaborate in preventing the devastating occurrence of SBS. The DoD Family Advocacy Program point of contact for this initiative is Ms. Gerry Carlon. She may be reached by telephone at (703) 602-4991 X-3; DSN 332-4991 X-3; or by e-mail at gerry.carlon@osd.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. C. Chu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David S. C. Chu