Domestic Violence is an issue we as police officers will have to deal with for the rest of our careers. It is a subject we cannot and should not ignore.

Police tactics will always be changing to try and deal with this in the most effective way. Officers learn new techniques and ways of dealing with domestic situations all the time. One that has been thrown at me recently is the issue of surveillance, utilizing newer technologies to monitor phones and computers so as to get a better view of what is going on in the home. This is a very new and powerful tool that will become part of our arsenal.

When I was asked if I would contribute an article about the issue of domestic violence, I was in the middle of a very heated argument with my partner. I was trying to keep my cool, but the situation was very tense. I took a deep breath and decided to write about my experience, but I had to be very careful not to reveal any personal details.

So, as I sit here, I want to talk about a few things that I have learned through my experiences with domestic violence.

First of all, I want to thank everyone who has been there for me during these difficult times. I couldn't have made it without the support of my family, friends, and colleagues. I have had that built into my role as a police officer. I have worked hard to ensure that I have the support of my family, friends, and colleagues. This is something that I have learned from my experiences with domestic violence.

We find this subject difficult to bring up. If it does come up, it's often because someone has felt the need to share their experience. However, we must also accept it and it has become something that we must talk about more openly.

It is estimated that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men will experience domestic violence at some point in their lifetime. This is a staggering statistic, and it is important that we continue to do our part in addressing this issue.

First define respect as a verb in the sense of communicating with civility, demonstrating patience, listening to different points of view and to learn from people who may have different beliefs. Second, to define respect as a noun in the sense of being respectful. This is not something that can be expected, but it is something that we all can strive to do. We all can make a difference.

We are ALL affected by domestic violence. WE ALL have an obligation to help one another. WE ALL can make a difference.

We are the only hope that some people have to keep them safe. And once that momentary effect leaves, there are many other factors at play that can lead to a full blown assault. If you were to ask what caused the soap opera actor to stop acting, I would say it was the abuse. He said that he was so afraid of his new partner that he couldn't even act.

The average length of marriage is 8 years.

If you are a domestic abuse victim, you should call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) to speak with a trained counselor who can provide you with confidential information and resources.

The month of October has been designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It's unfortunate that a month is set aside to bring attention to this issue, but it is a necessary reminder that the issue of family violence is still a relevant and important one.

Second, to define respect as a noun in the sense that it is to be expected. This is something that is normal, that is the way it is. It is something that we are taught from a young age.

But when it comes to defining respect, it's not as simple as saying that it's a good thing. There are many different ways of defining respect, and it's important to be aware of the different meanings that people may have for the word. Respect can be defined as a noun or a verb, depending on the context in which it is used.

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Every officer has a story about a domestic violence call they have responded to. We are taught in the basic academy and by our field training officers that they are one of the most dangerous calls an officer has to respond to, and it only takes a couple to find out that it true. Emotions are running high, often alcohol or some other substance is involved and a lot of the time you as the officer are seen as the enemy by everyone involved.

My biggest question as the police to understand why we may not get the cooperation from a victim that we think we should. It helps explain why we may not get cooperation at the beginning, but how that cooperation may end when it comes time for the victim to follow through and hold the abuser accountable for what they did after the crisis is over.

I’ve asked myself if I had to leave forever right now, with kids and limited access to my finances, what would I do? My answer is always I don’t know if I could do it and that is without all the emotional baggage that comes along with being an abuse victim. Some officers from our department are currently involved in an investigation, with all too often circumstances, of a domestic violence case. On the night of the incident the officers contacted the victim, who due to her history was not real supportive or trusting of the police. She had been viciously assaulted by her abuser and eventually confessed in the officers what happened. Between the time of the incident and now that the trial date is approaching the victim and abuser have reconciled once again and are back together. The victim has changed her statement about what happened several times, to include saying the abuser wasn’t even in Florence at the time, and called department supervisors in an attempt to stop the case from moving forward, even accusing the investigating officers of harassment because they won’t stop their investigation. It would be easy for our officers to ask themselves “why doesn’t she just get out” and not put the work into the case that they have, but then what would the outcome be?*

John Pitcher
Commander Florence Police Department

In 2018, Agencies In Oregon Served…

- 128,786 Request for Assistance from victims of Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault
- 1,123 Sheltered nights for fleeing victims of Domestic Violence
- 32 After business hours calls from law enforcement or EMS
- 108 Calls to Crisis Line
- 79 Individuals participated in DV/SA Support Groups

In 2018 SOS locally served…

- 6,186 Requests for help from Domestic Violence (second highest in the state)
- 8,414 Calls to Crisis Line
- 336 Victims of Domestic Violence
- 1,123 Sheltered nights for fleeing victims of Domestic Violence
- 32 After business hours calls from law enforcement or EMS
- 128,786 Individuals provided some form of temporary shelter due to Domestic Violence

For more information on how you can help or get involved, contact SOS staff at 541-997-2816.

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Domestic Violence

Mayoral Proclamation
October 7th, 5:30pm

How you can help SOS

- Volunteer for: Front desk reception, office assistance, clothing sorter, fundraising, or crisis line
- Join Friends of SOS: An annual donation of $100 or more
- Support the SOS Endowment Fund
- Donate items such as: Sleeping bags, tents, shoes, blankets, clothing, coats and small household items

Domestic Violence Awareness Month