

Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS)

June 2024

Requests for Information # 6b-6k

Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps





RFI #6 Intimate Partner Violence and Domestic Abuse

RFI #6b.

- i. How do you measure the effectiveness of current DoD and Service policies in identifying and reducing the incidence of DA/IPV?
- ii. What metrics are used to evaluate programs /policies' effectiveness? Provide findings and analysis of metrics/measures used from FY18-23.
- iii. What areas/programs have been identified as needing improvement and what actions are being taken to address identified deficiencies?

Response:

- Conducting internal and supporting external research evaluations to measure the effectiveness of specific curriculums and services offered by the Family Advocacy Program (FAP).
- Pre-and-post surveys are used for curriculum evaluations. Outcome Rating Scale and Session Rating Scale are used for FAP service effectiveness. Analysis and findings are currently in progress.
- There continues to be a need for curriculums targeting healthy relationship skills.
 - In collaboration with HQ and local FAP staff aboard Camp Pendleton, HQMC Program Evaluation and Research is in the initial stages of designing an evaluation for POWER, an installation-created program that focuses on domestic abuse, identifying it, and recognizing its impact on children.



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RFI #6c. Regarding the assessment of domestic abuse “reports” as meeting DA/IPV DoD criteria or not:

- i. Describe the kind of monitoring, oversight, quality control and trainings that are undertaken to assure Family Advocacy Program (FAP) personnel across all Services are evaluating domestic abuse/violence reports in a standardized and consistent manner and that all domestic abuse allegations are screened in accordance with DoD policy. Describe the methods and frequency of such quality monitoring, training and/or quality control reviews.
- ii. Specify the areas of concern/deficiencies that have been identified in the “met criteria” evaluation processes.

Response:

- All allegation procedures, training requirements, quality monitoring, and training guidelines are in accordance with DoD policy DoDM 6400.01 V3. Incident Determination Committee (IDC) is the USMC process to monitor, quality control, and provide oversight to evaluate domestic abuse reports in a consistent manner.
- Lack of sufficient incident evidence and/or information, difficulty evaluating impact, cooperation from involved entities, and when case information is not readily available at OCONUS installations.



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RFI #6d. Identify the key reasons that domestic and intimate partner “reports” fail to qualify as “met criteria” incidents of domestic abuse/violence, e.g.: was some other kind of abuse reported, do victims recant and withdraw reports, do reports not involve domestic or intimate partners, is there inconsistency across installation Incident Determination Committees (IDCs) and Services in how reports are evaluated and determined to meet or not meet DoD criteria of domestic abuse, etc.

Response: IDC process determines which incidents meet and do not meet criteria for abuse and include cases that rise to suspicion but do not "meet criteria" (i.e. abuser/victim is not an Intimate Partner). See also OSD response for this RFI.



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RFI #6e. DoD and the Military Services developed risk assessment tools in accordance with DoD policy, but according to the Domestic Abuse: Actions Needed to Enhance DOD's Prevention, Response, and Oversight report (GAO 21-289), the Army, the Navy, and the Marine Corps had not, at that time, ensured their consistent implementation across installations, and may therefore have been limited in their ability to identify and convey the need for any critical safety measures for victims of domestic abuse. Describe what actions have been taken to remedy that identified concern.

Response:

- Following the GAO findings, USMC released a comprehensive list of required risk assessment tools and an updated procedural guide on their use. Use of Intimate Partner Physical Injury-Risk Assessment Tool (IPPI-RAT), Campbell Danger Assessment, and non-medical clinical assessments to assess risk in domestic abuse allegations.
 - FAP personnel are trained in these risk assessment tools prior to use.
- Installation level audits, HQMC quality audits, and internal certification processes monitor completion requirements of risk assessments and provide recommendations for critical safety measures for appropriate cases.



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RFI #6f. In its 2019 report, DACOWITS recommended the Services implement a means for Service members suffering from domestic abuse to access immediate and convenient access to resources and assistance, similar to the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program and the “Safe Helpline” offered to military sexual assault victims. Was this recommendation adopted? Please describe whether it has and how it was adopted or what alternative option may have been developed.

Response: FAP Advocate helplines are available for each Marine Corps installation. Installations have SOPs for the helpline management, for 24/7 coverage and 24/7 advocacy services. FAP Advocates provide face-to-face assistance to victims within two hours and within a 50-mile driving radius of the installation, when requested by the victim or other appropriate entities. HQMC periodically audits these 24/7 advocate helplines. Each installation provides online resources (local and national) in conjunction with a new marketing strategy catered to ease of access for military victims of domestic abuse. Military OneSource’s 24/7 helpline, Live Chat or Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate (DAVA) Locator feature and the National Domestic Violence Helpline provide support and resources via phone, chat or text message.



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RFI #6g. Identify the domestic abuse hotlines used by DoD and the Services and their utilization rates for the last five years.

- i. Are they military specific? Or are they a national non-DoD hotline (such as used on Military OneSource)?
- ii. Are there translation services available?
- iii. Are they staffed 24/7?
- iv. Are they available OCONUS/Deployed/Remote locations? If not, what alternative is available

Response:

- USMC DAVA Hotline utilization rates: FY18=2,930. FY19=3,486. FY20=4,130. FY21=3,140. FY22=2,915. FY23=3,625.
- USMC uses and advertises installation, local, and national helplines.
- Translation services are provided through the Language Line.
- They are staffed 24 hours, seven days a week, and every day of the year.
- The Language Line is accessible wherever a phone connection is available.



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RFI #6h. In 2021, the definition of intimate partner was updated in DoDI 6400.6, but the updated definition is not found in the regulations cited in your December 2023 briefings. Please identify the specific Service regulation, interim change, or other document that updated your Service's definition and provide a link to or copy of that publication.

Response:

MCO 1754.11A is currently pending revision to include the updated definition of intimate partner. HQMC provided a brief to FAP Leaders on the updated Intimate Partner definition during the Family Advocacy Staff Training Course in April 2022. *(See Enclosure 1) and continues to do so annually at the same meeting as well as in quarterly program calls.



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RFI #6i. GAO 21-289 identified that installations did not all have sufficiently comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) for victim services with all relevant civilian agencies.

- i. Is there a sample MOU provided by DoD/Service regulations? If so, please provide links to samples and the dates they were developed/published.
- ii. What office reviews installation MOUs to assess sufficiency and whether all relevant or necessary civilian agencies have been engaged?
- iii. How have the Services addressed/remedied the identified deficiency?

Response:

- i. Each installation establishes and manages MOUs per DoD standards and their needs to address prevention, intervention and safety concerns.
- ii. Installation Family Advocacy Committees (FAC) and FAP routinely establish and review MOUs and make revisions as necessary. During internal certifications, HQMC reviews all installation MOUs to ensure it operates per DoD standards and is effective.
- iii. All installation FAPs, Family Advocacy Committees (FAC) are required to continually monitor the effectiveness of the MOUs and make revisions as necessary. HQMC has a quality assurance process to review MOUs at least once every four years to ensure installations are within compliance. HQMC will make recommendations and installation FACs and FAPs are also required to make necessary changes.



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RFI #6j. The 2019, DoD Inspector General (2019-075) report identified that “military service law enforcement organizations did not consistently comply with DoD policies when responding to adult nonsexual incidents of domestic violence” specifically in the areas of crime scene processing, interview thoroughness, FAP notification failures, and submission of criminal history data to the required databases.

- i. What actions have been taken to improve law enforcement response to domestic violence reports and to improve the quality and sufficiency of domestic violence investigations.
- ii. What kind of monitoring and/or quality review is undertaken, and at what Service level, to assess whether law enforcement responses to domestic violence and related investigations are sufficient and proper investigative techniques and processes employed?

Response:

- NCIS received request via tasker from the Navy and the NCIS response is contained within their report for both questions. The USMC defers to the NCIS response for this RFI.



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RFI #6k. MCA and Military Services: The written responses provided in [March 2024](#) (fatality reports) provided data in differing forms that the Committee needs to reconcile to ensure accuracy and gain better understanding. Provide the number of domestic violence fatalities, by Service, and for the whole Defense Department, from FY12-FY23.

- a. From FY12-23, break out the number of fatalities by (1) homicide, suicide and undetermined/accidental, (2) gender, (3) whether the deceased was the offender or victim, (4) Service/civilian status of deceased and offender, and (5) whether it was a DA or IPV incident.
- b. What number and percentage of fatalities resulted from the use of a gun?

Response: Both questions will be answered by the DON Fatality Reviewers on behalf of the USMC. The USMC fatality review is done in conjunction with USN, led by DON Fatality Reviewers.