SUBJ: DACOWITS RFI #11 - September QBM

FROM: USCG Family Support Division, Office of Work-Life (CG-1112)

TO: DACOWITS Committee
THRU: Office of Diversity & Inclusion (CG-127)

CHILD CARE RESOURCES (WB&T)

Comprehensive childcare has been an ongoing challenge for Service members and has been highlighted as such by DACOWITS for more than 35 years. The ongoing lack of childcare creates a strain on military families and impacts to unit operations.

The Committee requests a **written response** from each of the **Military Services** (include information on the Reserves and National Guard) on the following:

DACOWITS:

a. What factors impact willingness to become or remain a family care provider? Incentives/disincentives?

b. What is the current enrollment in the Family Child Care (FCC) program? What is the shortfall or waiting list for this program?

c. Is fee assistance available to Service members who place children in care with an FCC?

d. What is the average timeframe to certify an FCC?

e. Address the portability of an FCC's certification to another installation? Must a previously or currently certified FCC undergo the full certification process upon transfer to a different installation?

f. What challenges confront the Services in recruiting and retaining FCCs?

g. Air Force: Please elaborate on the June QBM 2019 (slide 2) statement: "Enhanced the Expanded Child Care Program."

h. Coast Guard: Please elaborate on the June QBM 2019 (slide 2) statement: "Currently, collaborating with Coast Guard Foundation on providing incentives for new FCC providers."

CG Response:

a. Coast Guard has not conducted a survey on this subject, however anecdotally we find that the following factors affect retention of family child care providers: size of home, start-up cost, lack of provider support services (in the isolated locations).

b. Currently, Coast Guard has 27 providers caring for 160 children enrolled in the FCC program. We do not track the wait list information for the FCC child care option.

c. Yes, Service members can receive child care subsidy assistance if using a Coast Guard-certified FCC provider.

d. The average timeframe for certification of FCC providers is 30-90 days.

e. Provider certifications are honored by the Coast Guard when previously or currently certified FCC providers transfer to different Coast Guard installations. Providers must update their FCC application information with new residency information, undergo home safety inspection, and show proof of insurance but the verification process is fast, lasting no longer than 5 business days. If the providers are getting state certified in addition to Coast Guard certification, they must follow the new state's certification process.

f. As in the answer a., Coast Guard has not conducted a survey on this subject, however anecdotally we find that the following factors affect recruitment and retention of family child care providers: size of home, start-up cost, lack of provider support services (in the isolated locations).

g. N/A

h. In April 2019, Coast Guard announced a new Coast Guard (CG) and Coast Guard Foundation (CGF) child care initiative in conjunction with the Month of the Military Child. The CGF launched a grant program allowing Coast Guard spouses considering to become Family Child Care (FCC) providers an opportunity to offset start-up costs required to establish a child care business. The CGF, with the support of GEICO, will fund FCC grants during a 2-year pilot at Base Kodiak, Training Center Cape May, Sector New York, and Training Center Petaluma. These units will be provided $5,000 for five $1,000 grants for Coast Guard spouses who want to become FCC providers. During this pilot program, feedback will be provided to the CGF in order to potentially move from a pilot to a more formalized grant program in the future. There are two application periods to apply for the grant: 1 May to 15 June 2019 and 1 September to 15 October 2019. Four grants have been awarded for the first application period (all in Staten Island, NY).