

RFI Category and Number:

RFI #7 DOMESTIC ABUSE/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AFFECTING SERVICEWOMEN

RFI Question:

The Committee requests a written response from each of the Military Services (to include the Reserves and National Guard) with information regarding safe housing for servicewomen who are victims of domestic violence (DV), to include details on the following:

- a. The current policies and procedures that ensure the safety of DV victims once incidents occurs. Please include data on where Service members are housed if they need to be removed to safe or alternate housing (to include whether it is on- or off-based housing.
- b. Explain how your Service interprets “suitable, safe and alternate housing” for victims of domestic violence per DoDI 6400.06.

RFI Response:

a. Policies:

OPNAV 1752.2B

MILPERSMAN 1300-1200

- (1) As outlined in OPNAV 1752.2B, 25 April 2008, it is the role of the Family Advocacy Program Victim Advocate (FAP VA) to assist all victims, regardless of active duty status with assessing shelter or safe housing when the need arises. When the victim, a FAP VA or the FAP Case Manager determines that the need for a shelter or safe housing is necessary based on a full and thorough evaluation of risk, the FAP team will work with military and local resources to identify available options, based on the victim’s need. FAP VAs and FAP Case Managers are directed under SECNAVINST 1752.3B to ensure that victims are not re-victimized through the unnecessary removal from housing.
- (2) When concerns for the safety and the well-being of Service members and or their dependents dictate a transfer prior to their normal projected rotation date, a safety transfer may be authorized. Safety transfers include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) Temporary duty at CO’s discretion,
 - (b) Permanent change of activity (PCA),
 - (c) Permanent change of station (PCS) to a unit within the same command,
 - (d) Unit on the same installation, and
 - (e) Unit in a different geographic location

- b. Suitable, safe and alternate housing is housing that meets the needs of the victim at the time of the crisis and is safe from immediate danger. Most Navy installations rely on memorandums of understandings with local shelters that provide shelter resources off of the installation. While varying in degree of seriousness and need, when a client has unique or challenging circumstances partnerships with other military and community partners may be called upon to solve those situations. For example, if the victim has teenage sons and they are not allowed at the domestic abuse shelter, the shelter may have a relationship with a local hotel or the installation has an agreement to utilize a lodging solution on the installation.

OCONUS Locations: Because of the limited resources in overseas locations, creative responses to domestic abuse incidents may be required. Without access to domestic abuse shelters, for example, the FAP VA, FAP Case Managers and commands work together to explore temporary safety options for the victims on/off the installation. At some sites, the victim may stay with an undisclosed family from the command, with a friend or at an undisclosed location on or off base that has been established for this purpose. Another option may be to make temporary arrangements at off-base shelters.

When an Active Duty Service member is the alleged offender, the command may remove the Service member from the home until the risks to the victim is reduced. Civilian offenders may face base debarment.

POC or office responsible:

Family Advocacy Program, Commander, Navy Installations Command