



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU DACOWITS QBM SEPTEMBER 2024

RFI #5 - The Committee is interested in learning whether the Army National Guard and Air Force National Guard have any IPV/DA policies and programs, and if so, what is the extent or ability of the Guard is to offer family advocacy services to Service members and their spouses/intimate partners who are affected by or report IPV/DA.

Response:

- a. Active Duty FAP is the sole resource available for those NG members eligible for T10/T32 Active Guard Reserve services and are geographically located near an installation where FAP services are provided; Domestic abuse response for victims and alleged abusers is based on eligibility to FAP. For those not eligible for FAP, NG M&FR staff provides referral to treatment, counseling, and supportive services, as appropriate. Victims should be provided a warm hand-off to internal and external partners, such as, workplace safety and housing, clinical resources, medical resources, non-medical counseling, and Chaplain Corps resources.
- b. The implementation of the Domestic Abuse Prevention and Response Program is in progress. This will address the risk and protective factors for domestic abuse, including in the context of military life. In addition, NGB will be piloting domestic abuse response in conjunction with a DoD pilot for Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse starting FY25
- c. NG M&FR staff collect information on local agencies and community partners within the areas of which NG members live. The listings are vast and specific to geographical capacity. NG M&FR staff can provide comprehensive listings as needed. Examples include financial assistance, non-medical counseling support, housing, employment, and shelters.
- d. The NG does not have an independent FAP. NGB-J1 is working towards implementing guidance and without lack of additional resources for Victim Advocates or a FAP, we have assessed the NG M&FR program to be the central focal point for domestic abuse response as staff has the ability to triage domestic abuse response efforts for those not eligible for active-duty FAP benefits and resources (or outside of the geographical area of a Military Treatment Facility) and has determined they are the primary gatekeepers to this information and referral service. This service is already being performed by the NG MFRS staff due to their position descriptions and responsibilities outlined within DoDI 1342.22, "Military Family Readiness". In addition, curriculum has been developed to implement train-the-trainer courses for new parents, communication before, during, and after deployment, and anger management; NG M&FR personnel are already required to provide a warm hand-off for domestic abuse response. Staff also is currently the lead for domestic abuse outreach efforts through command and peer support for Service members and their spouses or intimate partners to proactively seek help for unhealthy relationships before the onset of a crisis, such as FAP initiatives IAW DoDI 64001.01 or through MOUs or MOAs established with community partners; Promoting connectiveness across the military community, with special attention to military couples, spouses, and intimate partners through programs such as Strong Bonds and the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, particularly on return from deployment is a key responsibility of NG M&FR staff; Staff will be required to receive additional training for domestic abuse response (TBD) and training to utilize the Campbell Danger Assessment, to assess risk of lethality. NG M&FR staff will be responsible for administrative case management and warm hand offs to community resources; NG M&FR staff will be the conduit to track case data, provide a warm hand off to a Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate for crisis intervention, lethality assessment, safety planning, reporting options, and requested accompaniments, i.e., medical, law enforcement, court, command. Utilizing the existing resource of M&FR staff will allow NGB to measure and report the incidence of domestic abuse, analyze methods of response, and determine future need of additional resources.