



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS
111 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0111

SAMR (600A)

MEMORANDUM FOR Chairman, Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS), ATTN: DACOWITS Members, Washington, DC 20310-0111

SUBJECT: Army Written Responses to DACOWITS's Requests for Information RFI 4

1. The Committee requests a written response from the Army the following:

a. In FY21-22, how many of the offenders who committed domestic-violence associated suicide/homicides and how many of the IPV homicide victims were known to FAP prior to the fatal incidents? Provide the numbers by FY and by offender/victim/Service status.

Response:

Suicide fatalities known to FAP						
Fiscal Year	Total Suicides	Known to FAP	Victim	Offender	Military	Civilian
FY21	20	12	2	10	7	5
FY22	30	12	0	12	11	1

Homicide fatalities known to FAP						
Fiscal Year	Total Homicides	Known to FAP	Victim	Offender	Military	Civilian
FY21	9	5	4	1	1	4
FY22	9	5	5	0	2	3

b. How many of IPV offenders or victims were known to possess firearms before the fatality incident?

Response: Of the 68 domestic violence (DV) related homicides and suicides from FY21-FY22, a total of 45 suicides and 13 homicides involved firearms. A review of the on-post registration of firearms revealed that two (both from FY22) of the subjects that perpetrated homicide and three (two from FY21 and one from FY22) of the victims that died by suicide had registered a weapon on-post prior to their death. The numbers within the firearms registration databases only provide Army Law Enforcement (LE) with

oversight on firearms that are registered on an installation. Off-post residents have no requirement to register their weapons with LE. Service members who live on-post are directed to register their weapons, and Army leadership is required to enforce those requirements. Army policy within Army Regulation (AR) 190-11, Physical Security of Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives, outlines the registration and storage of privately owned firearms on the installation for service members who live in on-post quarters and in the barracks.

c. If known, in how many instances of IPV fatality incidents had firearms been removed from an offender's home, had the offender voluntarily turned them in for storage outside the home, or had removal attempts been made prior to the fatality incident?

Response: The requirement for removal of firearms due to a service member's actions or identified risk factors prior to a fatality incident are the direct responsibility of the service member's leadership. In instances where a service member is part of an ongoing investigation prior to the fatal incident, LE provides notification to leadership to help them decide whether to request or order the service member to turn over their firearms. The removal or tracking of previously removed firearms is not a responsibility or requirement of LE.

d. What are the strategies/procedures used to determine whether an alleged offender owns or possesses a firearm (personally owned or military-issued)?

Response: In cases where LE engages with an alleged offender, LE would use the weapon registration database to determine if a service member residing in on-post housing or barracks had a registered firearm. LE would further use interviews of known acquaintances, criminal databases, and LE observations to determine if an alleged offender owned or had access to firearms. This is done as part of officer safety during LE contact. In off-post cases, Army LE would reach out to local LE agencies as an additional resource to determine if an alleged offender had access to firearms.

e. Are known offenders required or encouraged to store firearms outside the home? Provide information about the policies/procedures/protocols relevant to removing firearms from residences of those known to the installation FAP.

Response: AR 190-11, Physical Security of Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives, states the Senior Commander at an installation is responsible for regulating privately owned firearms. The Senior Commander is also required to establish policies for firearms registration for service members living on the installation, to establish procedures for carrying a firearm onto the installation, and to identify requirements for all service members and their Families to comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding personally owned firearms. Army policy requires service members

who live in the barracks to store their firearms within the unit's arms room as part of the installation's Physical Security Plan. Service members who reside in on-post quarters are authorized to store their firearms within their quarters.

A pending policy update to AR 190-11 (section 4-13) includes a provision for commanders to order service members who reside in installation quarters to turn in privately owned firearms to unit arms rooms pending review of commanders' assessment of service members' risk factors and overall well-being.

In accordance with DoDI 6400.06, commanders will ensure subordinates are informed of the Lautenberg Amendment and that all military and covered civilian personnel will be required to certify annually they do or do not have a qualifying conviction by completing a Department of Defense (DD) Form 2760, Qualification to Possess Firearms or Ammunition. A pending update to AR 608-18 will include this guidance.

To address firearm safety in the home, the Army established a multi-pronged, public health approach to suicide prevention that includes Lethal Means Safety (LMS). LMS includes securely storing firearms, medication, and poisons used for overdose. Army Suicide Prevention LMS strategies include:

(1) The publication of AR 600-92, Army Suicide Prevention Program, which offers comprehensive guidance to commanders and other prevention personnel regarding suicide prevention measures.

(2) The development of an LMS toolkit to bolster LMS efforts across the Army to build capacity across the Suicide Prevention workforce. The toolkit includes education on suicide prevention and LMS, and conversation starters for discussing LMS in times of crisis and non-crisis, U.S. state maps for off-post firearms storage options, and community partnership materials. The toolkit also includes a catalog of LMS communication materials aimed at increasing LMS behaviors and awareness that target commanders and Family members.

(3) The distribution of Behavioral Health Provider-specific Lethal Means Safety Training to Military Treatment Facilities.

(4) The establishment of a Chaplain Training Pilot to train Army Chaplains to deliver LMS counseling to service members and their Families.

(5) The Army partnership with the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) to develop a Lethal Means Safety module for Ask, Care, Escort (ACE) training.

f. How often is an offender removed from his/her home environment in IPV/DA situations? In addition, what are the criteria, circumstances, and relevant regulatory/policy provisions which are used to make such a decision? Identify the procedural differences for on-and off-base housing.

Response: In every instance of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) or Domestic Abuse (DA), the offender and/or the victim is removed if a criminal threshold is established. AR 190-30, Military Police Investigations, mandates that if IPV or DA reach the criminal threshold, Military Police and/or Department of the Army Civilian Police act to prevent the propensity for further violence. This often results in a series of actions which include the apprehension of the aggressor, command involvement to issue no contact orders or Military Protective Orders, and potential restriction of the service member to installation housing/barracks to ensure their safety and the safety of the non-service member.

In instances where IPV/DA occur off-post, the service member's chain of command and Military Police will coordinate civilian law enforcement responses to reported or suspected incidences of abuse. In addition, per AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, and AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program, the chain of command and Military Police are required to refer victims to both on- and off-post services. Memorandums of Understanding require the installation Provost Marshal or Directorate of Emergency Services to coordinate with LE agencies, ensuring a coordinated community response.

Many Army installations publish a FAP policy that requires or encourages commanders to remove an active-duty offender from their home for a 72-hour period. A pending policy update to AR 608-18 requires Senior Commanders to initiate protective measures designed to safeguard members of the military community while an incident is being investigated.

FAP staff conduct clinical assessments to assess relevant risk factors, including risk of lethality. They determine appropriate risk management strategies, including clinical treatment; monitoring, controlling, or supervising the abuser's behavior to protect the victim and any individuals who live in the household; and victim safety planning, per DoDM 6400.01, v.4, Family Advocacy Program: Guidelines for Clinical Intervention for Persons Reported as Domestic Abusers.

g. What are your Services' strategies to identify suicidal ideation, monitor those at risk, and prevent domestic abuse-related suicides?

Response:

(1) FAP staff, Chaplains, and other first responders are trained on suicide prevention, risk factors, and reporting requirements. The Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) is used to assess for suicidal ideation and intent. If indicated, the individual will be escorted to the Military Treatment Facility Emergency Department immediately for assessment and evaluation by a Behavioral Health Service Line

licensed provider. If warranted, the provider can immediately hospitalize the service member to address clinical risk. Behavioral Health providers make care plans with command teams to ensure the safety and well-being of the service member. Coordinated care planning supports the service member and Family member's safety.

(2) To monitor those at risk, the FAP refers to Department of Defense Manual (DoDM) 6400.01, v.3, Family Advocacy Program: Clinical Case Staff Meeting (CCSM) and Incident Determination Committee (IDC), which states CCSMs include at least monthly reviews for incidents of child sexual abuse, high risk for violence or injury, chronic child neglect and civilian court-involved child abuse cases, and at least quarterly reviews for all other incidents, which are risk factors that could lead to suicidal ideations or suicide.

(3) FAP notifies commanders within 24 hours after receipt of a report of domestic or child abuse allegations, which can be risk factors that could potentially lead to suicidal ideations or suicide. Commanders are required to concur or non-concur with treatment recommendations in writing. The designated case manager is responsible for providing subsequent updates to the commander. This allows commanders to monitor the service member, especially those in high-risk cases.

(4) The Army uses the Commander's Risk Reduction Toolkit (CRRT) to identify a service member's potential for high-risk behavior. The Army CRRT displays up to 40 risk factors and facilitates the analysis of trends and event relationships, which provides unit command officials with a composite picture of high-risk events. Information gathered from the CRRT is used to improve communication, recommend interventions, target prevention activities, develop risk reduction strategies, and monitor progress of improvement actions.

(5) The Family Advocacy Program provides primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention services to service members and Families, to include education, awareness, and intervention services. FAP coordinates services to decrease stressors and increase safety, to include providing respite care, emergency shelter, Emergency Placement Care, and Army Emergency Relief.

(6) In accordance with AR 608-18, Army FAP briefs all incoming commanders and service members on domestic abuse, child abuse and neglect, LMS and the Lautenberg Amendment, reporting points of contact, and prevention services.

(7) FAP provides standardized briefings for leaders, service members, and community members. Suicide Prevention and LMS is part of the overall FAP prevention strategy in part with the Suicide Prevention program.

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(8) The Army recognizes the month of September as National Suicide Prevention awareness month and highlights the theme, "We are Stronger Together. Connect to Protect." This theme emphasizes the importance of community and healthy relationships in mitigating suicide risk, urging every member of the Army to foster connections and support one another.

(9) The Army recognizes the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, highlighting the Army's commitment to providing upstream prevention efforts to reduce harmful behaviors and increase awareness of available support services to reduce incidents of Intimate Partner Violence and Domestic Abuse within the Army.