

**SUBJ:** DACOWITS RFI 4 - September 2024 QBM

**FROM:** CG-1K11 (FAP)

**TO:** DACOWITS

**THRU:** Office of Diversity & Inclusion (DPR-4)

**INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE**

The Services' fatality reports from FYs 2012-2022, as reported to the Committee in June 2024 via RFI 6, reflect that there were 516 Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) related suicides and homicides, and that the vast majority (50 to 89 percent) of those involved weapons (most often guns) and typically these weapons were readily available in the home. The Committee is interested in learning more about whether these offenders and victims had been known to installation Family Advocacy Program (FAP) personnel prior to the fatality incidents and how gun possession is addressed by command and/or other installation officials when known/suspected offenders possess firearms.

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The Committee requests a **written response** from Office of Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP) via the Military Community Advocacy (MCA) Directorate and the Military Services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Department of the Air Force (Air & Space), Coast Guard, and National Guard) on the following:

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**DACOWITS:**

- a. In Fiscal Year 2021-22, how many of the offenders who committed domestic-violence associated suicides/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.
- b. How many of IPV offenders or victims were known to possess firearms before the fatality incident?
- 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?
- d. What are the strategies/procedures used to determine whether an alleged offender owns or possesses a firearm (personally owned or military-issued)?
- 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.

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.

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

**CG Response:**

- a. Coast Guard Investigative Services (CGIS) reported there were no reports of CG Domestic Violence suicide/homicide between FY21-22.
- b. N/A, there were no reports during that timeframe.
- c. During the FAP initial risk and safety assessment, the victim and offender are asked if there are weapons in the home. The answer is a result of self-reporting. FAP informs the command of the status of weapons and may make a recommendation to command regarding weapon removal/safe storage. The command is responsible for weapon removal and safe storage. FAP does not collect weapons or data on weapons.
- d. This information is based on self-reporting during the initial FAP risk and assessment and safety planning. CGIS also asks the victim, offender, and family members if they own or have access to a weapon. In addition, CGIS can access the National Crime Information Check (NCIC) which has a list of registered weapons. However, if weapons were purchased illegally or borrowed, no check would allow law enforcement the ability to know if weapons are inside the residence.
- e. Under 18 U.S.C. § 922, it is a crime for any person convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence to ship, transport, possess, or receive firearms or ammunition. There is no exception for military personnel engaged in official duties. During the initial risk assessment, FAP and/or CGIS will ask if there are weapons in the home. The applicable command is then informed and determines safe storage outside the home.
- f. Once an IPV/DA incident occurs, the situation is assessed utilizing a Coordinated Community Response (CCR). CG policies and procedures set forth in Family Advocacy Program, Commandant Instruction 1752.1 (series) determine the initial and ongoing risk level and protective factors. All cases are assessed for risk, severity, and safety. Moderate to high-risk cases are staffed by the High Risk for Violence Response Team (HRVRT) for an immediate response and safety planning. In addition, the Clinical Case Staff Meeting (CCSM) is utilized to determine treatment planning. If risk and severity is high, the recommendation to the command is often to separate the offender from the victim until the family is assessed by FAP and CGIS, and protective factors are put in place. If the offender is a service member living off base, the command may house the service member in temporary quarters on base until the incident is assessed and

protective factors are in place. The safety of the victim, family members, and the offender take precedence over the location of the residence.

- g. FAP assesses the victim, offender, and family members for risk and safety during the initial clinical assessment. FAP continues this assessment until the case is closed. The clinical assessment includes suicide and homicide assessment in addition to other screening tools. FAP also utilizes the Prevention Program, Behavioral Health Specialist, and our multidisciplinary teams (e.g., CCR, HRVRT, CCSM) as needed.