



# DACOWITS RFI #6

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## Intimate Partner Violence and Domestic Abuse

OPNAV N17  
Commander, Navy Installations Command

June 2024



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## b. MCA and Military Services:

i. How do you measure the effectiveness of current DoD and Service policies in identifying and reducing the incidence of DA/IPV?

ii. What metrics are used to evaluate programs /policies' effectiveness? Provide findings and analysis of metrics/measures used from FY18-23.

Policy Effectiveness Measurements	Evaluation Metrics	Ongoing Improvement Efforts
<p><b>Fleet and Family Service Programs Certification Standards (FFSPC) Compliance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FFSP Certification Standards informal review mid-cycle, but not required. Program Certification at least every 4 years.</li> <li><b><u>FY18-FY23: 75 Installations Certified</u></b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correlates findings of trends;</li> <li>Mandatory Onboarding for New Employees;</li> <li>Routine audits of certification findings and corrective actions and process improvement efforts</li> </ul>
<p><b>High Risk for Violence and Consequent Command Actions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor monthly report of High Risk for Violence and Consequent Command Actions.</li> <li><b><u>Consequent Command Actions reporting covered cases from FY18-23: 100%</u></b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assigned Family Advocacy Liaisons –Command designated position to monitor and report consequent command actions to SECNAV and OSD FAP.</li> </ul>



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**b. MCA and Military Services: Regarding the assessment of domestic abuse “reports” as meeting DA/IPV DoD criteria or not:**

**iii. What areas/programs have been identified as needing improvement and what actions are being taken to address identified deficiencies?**

The Navy is addressing the following areas within the program for improvement efforts:

- Enhance stakeholder partnerships;
- Continuous improvement in training and credentialing of FAP victim advocates;
- Navy Staff Judge Advocates are examining implications of No Contact Orders versus MPOs to ensure standardization and appropriateness for safeguarding victims.



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## c. MCA and Military Services:

Regarding the assessment of domestic abuse “reports” as meeting DA/IPV DoD criteria or not:

**i. Describe the kind of monitoring, oversight, quality control and trainings that are undertaken to assure Family Advocacy Program (FAP) personnel across all Services are evaluating domestic abuse/violence reports in a standardized and consistent manner and that all domestic abuse allegations are screened in accordance with DoD policy. Describe the methods and frequency of such quality monitoring, training and/or quality control reviews.**

Navy Family Advocacy Program (FAP) ensures standardized and consistent evaluation of reports through the following measures:

### Monitoring and Quality Control:

- FFSP Certification Standards Review – Pre-certification (informal) evaluation every 24 months, Formal review conducted every 4 years;
- Quality Assurance (QA) Review – Completed quarterly at the Installation, Region, and CNIC;
- Peer review – IAW SECNAV 1754.8 require a percentage of open and closed cases reviewed per provider, quarterly. These reviews are completed at the installation level and monitored and tracked by the regions;
- System Parameters within Fleet and Family Support Management Information System (FFSMIS) – Ongoing.

### Training:

- On-demand training;
- In-person scenario-based mock Incident Determination Committee (IDC) trainings;
- Targeted Face-to-face IDC observation and sustainability review.



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- c. **MCA and Military Services: Regarding the assessment of domestic abuse “reports” as meeting DA/IPV DoD criteria or not:**
- ii. **Specify the areas of concern/deficiencies that have been identified in the “met criteria” evaluation processes.**

The Navy has on-going initiatives to immediately address concerns/deficiencies within program execution:

## Validation of Enterprise-wide Case Review Processes and Procedures

- Targeted trainings for installations and regions;
- Incorporating program subject matter experts as short-term employees to provide guidance and exemplify best practice.

## Extensive Quality Assurance (QA) Reviews can be laborious and taxing.

- Targeted quarterly regional and installation reviews focus on select items from the QA checklist;
- Cases review analysis to identify common trends for corrective action.

## Constraint of Publishing of Annual Certification Summary

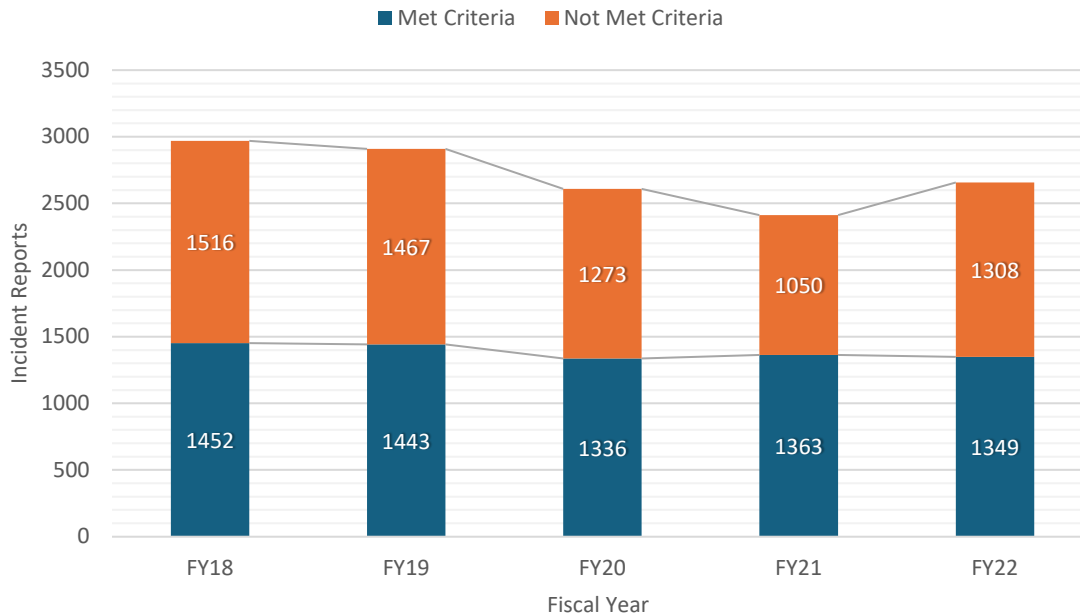
- Increased dissemination of information and frequent collaboration with Certification Program Manager;
- Update policy to direct deliberate release of quarterly certification summaries.



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d. MCA and Military Services: Identify the key reasons that domestic and intimate partner “reports” fail to qualify as “met criteria” incidents of domestic abuse/violence, e.g.: was some other kind of abuse reported, do victims recant and withdraw reports, do reports not involve domestic or intimate partners, is there inconsistency across installation Incident Determination Committees (IDCs) and Services in how reports are evaluated and determined to meet or not meet DoD criteria of domestic abuse, etc.

- Limited information regarding the specific allegation resulting in an unmet finding
- Diverging accounts from the victim and alleged offender resulting in credibility concerns
- Command Representatives may present irrelevant information (i.e. Service member’s character, work performance, etc.) potentially impacting IDC member’s decision



Fiscal Year	% Incidents Met Criteria
FY18	49%
FY19	50%
FY20	51%
FY21	57%
FY22	51%



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e. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps: DoD and the Military Services developed risk assessment tools in accordance with DoD policy, but according to the Domestic Abuse: Actions Needed to Enhance DOD's Prevention, Response, and Oversight report (GAO 21-289), the Army, the Navy, and the Marine Corps had not, at that time, ensured their consistent implementation across installations, and may therefore have been limited in their ability to identify and convey the need for any critical safety measures for victims of domestic abuse. Describe what actions have been taken to remedy that identified concern.

NAVADMIN 122/59 FAP directs:

- Enterprise-wide implementation of risk assessment tools for Clinicians and Victim Advocates
- Utilization of standardized procedures for FAP personnel

FFSP Certification Standard N-MIL-AM 4.0:

- Clinical care record reviews of Family Advocacy Program (FAP)

## Navy FAP Risk Assessment Tools

Victim Advocate Lethality Assessment Checklist

Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA)/ Child Abuse Risk Assessment (CARA)

Intimate Partner Physical Injury Risk Assessment (IPPT-RAT)

Incident Severity Scale (ISS)

Safety and Lethality Assessment



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**f. MCA and Military Services:** In its 2019 report, DACOWITS recommended the Services implement a means for Service members suffering from domestic abuse to access immediate and convenient access to resources and assistance, similar to the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program and the “Safe Helpline” offered to military sexual assault victims. Was this recommendation adopted? Please describe whether it has and how it was adopted or what alternative option may have been developed.

While a dedicated hotline like the “Safe Helpline” for military abuse victims has not been adopted by the Navy or DoD, Navy installations are equipped with an On-Call phone manned by FAP personnel to provide immediate support and resources to victims of abuse.

- OPNAVINST 1752.2C directs immediate access and ongoing abuse victim advocacy services, 24 hours per day through personal or telephone contact.
- FFSP Certification Standard N-MIL-FAP 1.02 - requires a well-publicized, 24-hour access line is available to receive reports of suspected child abuse and neglect.





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g. MCA and Military Services: Identify the domestic abuse hotlines used by DoD and the Services and their utilization rates for the last five years. i. Are they military specific? Or are they a national non-DoD hotline (such as used on Military OneSource)? ii. Are there translation services available? iii. Are they staffed 24/7? iv. Are they available OCONUS/Deployed/Remote locations? If not, what alternative is available?

**Domestic Abuse Hotlines Used by DoD and the Services**

Organization	Military/ National non- DoD	Translation services available	Staffed 24/7	Available OCONUS/Deployed/ Remote locations
National Domestic Violence Hotline	National non-DoD	Yes, offers services in English, Spanish and 140+ languages. Partnership with Abused Deaf Women’s Advocacy Services to offer TTY Live Video Phone, Instant Messenger Chat and email the deaf and hard of hearing.	Yes, available 24/7	Yes, offers call 800-799-7233, Text “START” to 88788, or Live Chat
Military Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate Locator	Military specific	Yes, Military OneSource offers translation services at 800-342-9647 or live chat.	Yes, online tool available 24/7	Accessible worldwide through the Military OneSource website
Pathways to Safety International	Non-DoD	N/A	No, emails response within 72 hours	Information, support, and referral available via e-mail



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**i. MCA and Military Services: GAO 21-289 identified that installations did not all have sufficiently comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) for victim services with all relevant civilian agencies.**

**i. Is there a sample MOU provided by DoD/Service regulations? If so, please provide links to samples and the dates they were developed/published.**

Sample MOUs have been developed in accordance with OPNAVINST 1752.2C and NAVADMIN 159-22, links to sample MOU templates are hosted on CNIC CAP iShare portal.

**ii. What office reviews installation MOUs to assess sufficiency and whether all relevant or necessary civilian agencies have been engaged?**

Review MOUs as part of the FFSC Program Certifications Review for relevancy and address local gaps for services.

**iii. How have the Services addressed/remedied the identified deficiency?**

FFSP Certification Standard N-MIL-AM 6.07 MOU Requirements – MOUs must contain at a minimal:

- (1) Services exchanged or provided,
- (2) Program goals and objectives of such collaborations,
- (3) Roles and responsibilities,
- (4) Reporting responsibilities,
- (5) Communication protocols, and
- (6) Confidentiality protections.

The Navy addressed/remedied the identified deficiency by implementing the following actions:

- Development and dissemination of standardized MOU templates;
- Collaboration with civilian agencies.



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**j. The 2019, DoD Inspector General (2019-075) report identified that “military service law enforcement organizations did not consistently comply with DoD policies when responding to adult nonsexual incidents of domestic violence” specifically in the areas of crime scene processing, interview thoroughness, FAP notification failures, and submission of criminal history data to the required databases.**

**MICO and Military Services: Response from Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), Code 23E.**

**i. What actions have been taken to improve law enforcement response to domestic violence reports and to improve the quality and sufficiency of domestic violence investigations.**

- NCIS increased numbers of training iterations to three (3) per year for the Advanced Family and Sexual Violence Training Program. During this course, NCIS Agents are provided training on response to domestic violence investigations. This course meets mandatory training requirements as cited in DODI 5505.19.
- NCIS implemented a new training program focusing on domestic violence investigations with an emphasis on strangulation investigations. Additionally, NCIS developed a strangulation protocol for domestic violence investigations.

**ii. What kind of monitoring and/or quality review is undertaken, and at what Service level, to assess whether law enforcement responses to domestic violence and related investigations are sufficient and proper investigative techniques and processes employed?**

- NCIS has established a headquarters-level Family and Sexual Violence (F&SV) Program Management Department led by a GS-15 Deputy Assistant Director who oversees three divisions responsible for F&SV Policy and Engagement, Investigations Oversight and Compliance, and Analytics.
- NCIS has various levels of investigative oversight & compliance ranging from field office management controls, NCIS Inspector General inspections, and Headquarters program reviews.



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## **j. Response from Military Law Enforcement, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Code N34**

### **i. What actions have been taken to improve law enforcement response to domestic violence reports and to improve the quality and sufficiency of domestic violence investigations.**

CNIC utilizes the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) for all civilian federal police officers training, however, FLETC curriculum does not offer the full training requirements specified in DoDI 5525.15 and the DoDI 6400.06. CNIC requested a curriculum review to address all training requirements by summer of 2024.

- In the interim, CNIC partnered with Navy Education Training Center (NETC) to address training requirements until the formalized DoD directed training is available. Navy training will meet the requirements of proficiency and competency for DoD Police Officers.
- NETC has initiated revisions for the Master-at-Arms training with a more comprehensive approach in domestic violence response.

### **ii. What kind of monitoring and/or quality review is undertaken, and at what Service level, to assess whether law enforcement responses to domestic violence and related investigations are sufficient and proper investigative techniques and processes employed?**

NAVADMIN 228/23 directs Commander, Navy Installations Command as the global Type Commander with administrative control of all Navy installations and enduring locations by coordinating and overseeing manpower, training, equipping functions, and standards.

- All DoD initial entry-level training programs shall be accredited by the DoD POST Commission every three years in accordance with the curriculum accreditation process.
- Assessment procedures to include remediation for non-compliant programs will be as prescribed by the DoD POST Commission.



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k. MCA and Military Services: The written responses provided in March 2024 (fatality reports) provided data in differing forms that the Committee needs to reconcile to ensure accuracy and gain better understanding.

i. Provide the number of domestic violence fatalities, by Service, and for the whole Defense Department, from FY12-FY23.

ii. From FY12-23, break out the number of fatalities by (1) homicide, suicide and undetermined/accidental, (2) gender, (3) whether the deceased was the offender or victim, (4) Service/civilian status of deceased and offender, and (5) whether it was a DA or IPV incident.

iii. What number and percentage of fatalities resulted from the use of a gun?

RFI 6 k.	i. / ii (1)	ii (2)		ii(3)			ii(4) - decedent			ii(4) - offender			ii(5)		iii.	
DV Fatalities FY12-FY23	Total	DECEDENT GENDER		DECEDENT DV STATUS: OFFENDER or VICTIM			DECEDENT SERVICE STATUS			OFFENDER SERVICE STATUS (Homicides only)			INCIDENT TYPE		CAUSE OF DEATH - GUNSHOT	
NAVY		Male	Female	Offender	Victim	Both	AD	FM	CIV	AD	FM	CIV	DA	IPV	Total	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	55	34	37	39	13	55	25	9	24	7	5	24	12	55	62%
Homicide	36	9	27	1	32	3	15	17	4	24	7	5	24	12	20	56%
Suicide	49	44	5	35	5	9	39	6	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	35	71%
Accidental	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0%
Undetermined	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0%