



Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program: Addressing Domestic Abuse

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FAP Scope and Mission

Overview

- The Department of Defense (DoD) Family Advocacy Program (FAP) is congressionally mandated, and serves as the policy proponent for, and a key element of, the DoD's Coordinated Community Response system to prevent and respond to reports of child abuse/neglect, domestic abuse, and problematic sexual behavior in children and youth in military families
- FAP is located at every installation with command sponsored families, within and outside the continental United States
- FAP support, clinical, and case management services are provided to individuals who are eligible for care in military medical treatment facilities
- FAP is focused on prevention, rehabilitation, and family well-being, with over 900 licensed clinicians who provide case management and treatment



DoD Definitions of Domestic Abuse and Domestic Violence

Domestic Abuse (DA)

- A pattern of behavior resulting in emotional/psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty that is directed toward a person who is: a current or former spouse, a person with whom the abuser shares a child in common; or a current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile

Domestic Violence (DV)

- The use, attempted use, or threatened use of force or violence against a person, or a violation of a lawful order issued for the protection of a person who is: a current or former spouse; a person with whom the abuser shares a child in common; or a current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile
- Acts of domestic violence are addressed under the United States Code, the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and/or state law



FAP Domestic Abuse Process

- FAP receives allegation of incident
 - FAP forwards all allegations to law enforcement with the exception of restricted reports
 - Commanders, law enforcement must refer ALL known/suspected abuse cases to FAP
 - Medical services are engaged for evaluation
- FAP clinician performs psychosocial clinical assessment(s)
- Incidents that meet a reasonable suspicion of abuse are reviewed by an Incident Determination Committee (IDC; a multi-disciplinary team) using standardized maltreatment definitions
- For an incident that meets the clinical criteria for abuse, a treatment plan is developed in the FAP Clinical Case Staff meeting
- Victims in domestic abuse incidents are provided the option of making a “restricted report,” which allows them to receive advocacy and treatment services without involving command and law enforcement (do not go to IDC)
- Unrestricted reports of domestic abuse are recorded in the Central Registry



DoD FAP Central Registry

- DoD FAP maintains a central child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse database, also referred to as a central registry to:
 - Analyze the scope of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse within the DoD, the types of abuse, and information about victims and alleged abusers in order to identify emerging trends and develop changes in policy to address child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse.
 - Support the requirements of DoDI 1402.05.
 - Support responses to public, congressional, and other government inquiries.
 - Support budget requirements for child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse program funding.
- Military Services submit data to Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) quarterly
- Military Services are responsible for the quality of their data submission and for meeting edit standards outlined in policy

FAP Domestic Abuse Data Flow and Review



Reports of Domestic Abuse Incidents



Military Service Case Management System/Central Registry

Service-level quality assurance processes



DoD FAP Central Registry (Unrestricted Reports Only)

DoD-level quality assurance
processes

Bi-annual data working group
meetings



FAP Domestic Abuse Data and Analysis

Data Elements and Metrics

- Type of domestic abuse incidents
- Number of reported incidents
- Number of met criteria incidents
- Number of unique victims
- Spouse abuse incident and victim rates
- Victim and offender demographics
- Domestic abuse fatalities
- Measure of offender treatment success

Data Analysis

- Descriptive statistics
- Tests of statistical significance



FAP Domestic Abuse* Data and Trends

- In FY18, there were 16,912 reported incidents of domestic abuse of which 8,039 met the DoD clinical definition of abuse
- Of the met criteria domestic abuse incidents in FY18, physical abuse represented approximately 74 percent
- Despite slight fluctuations, rates of spouse abuse have been stable over the last ten years (FY09-FY18)
 - Reports of spouse abuse per 1,000 married couples
 - Met criteria incidents of spouse abuse per 1,000 married couples
 - Unique spouse abuse victims per 1,000 married couples
- Similarly, the number of intimate partner abuse incidents and unique victims have been stable over the last ten years (FY09-FY18)
- Although the number of adult sexual abuse incidents increased from FY09-FY17, the number decreased in FY18
- A total of 15 domestic abuse fatalities were taken to the IDC in FY18

**Domestic abuse includes spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse*



FAP Domestic Abuse Related Metrics

Current Metrics

- Service provided by Domestic Abuse Victim Advocates (DAVAs) vice FAP Clinicians
 - Victims served
 - Victims initially making restricted reports
 - Victims whose restricted reports changed to unrestricted reports
 - Victims initially making unrestricted reports
 - Victims sexually assaulted
- DA offender treatment success
 - Number of allegedly abusive spouses who began and completed treatment in previous FY
 - Number of spouses above who were not reported in met criteria domestic abuse incident in current FY

FY20 Metrics

- Clarified metric
 - Victims reporting sexual abuse
- New metrics
 - Total number of restricted reports
 - Total number of converted reports
 - Victims by beneficiary status
 - Total number of reports by referral source
 - Command
 - Law enforcement
 - CPS/Civilian Social Services
 - Health Clinic/MTF/Medical/Dental
 - Child Care/School/EFMP/Recreation Center
 - Self-referral
 - Other



FAP Domestic Abuse Initiatives

Ongoing

- Professionalization of DAVAs, including standardized training on current issues and best practices in DA
- Multi-dimensional outreach and engagement strategies to better connect with younger military families and to encourage self-assessment and early help-seeking
- Defense Suicide Prevention Office and DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office partnership to address risk reduction and management through increased focus on access to firearms and 'means safety'
- 24/7 access to DAVAs via locator on Military One Source
- Increased focus and training on assessment (e.g. incorporation of explicit questions on strangulation and sexual abuse)
- Collaborative development of Intimate Partner Violence screening tool and reporting protocols for primary care providers



FAP Domestic Abuse Initiatives (cont.)

Developing

- Expanding and standardizing DAVA training on the use of technology in domestic abuse
- Building partnership with Veteran's Affairs (VA) Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program to better assist victims transitioning to VA services
- Re-issuing policy to support broader categories of couples in intimate partner relationships
- Partnering with Military Law Enforcement Policy to improve response to domestic abuse and support of victim safety
- Prevention analysis and environmental scan of Services' prevention efforts and coordination with DoD components addressing other violent/harmful behaviors



Appendix





Restricted/Unrestricted Reporting

Restricted Reporting

- A process allowing an adult victim of domestic abuse, who is eligible to receive military medical treatment, including civilians and contractors who are eligible to receive military healthcare outside the Continental United States on a reimbursable basis, the option of reporting an incident of domestic abuse to a specified individual without initiating the investigative process or notification to the victim's or alleged offender's commander

Unrestricted Reporting

- A process allowing a victim of domestic abuse to report an incident using current reporting channels, e.g. chain of command, law enforcement or criminal investigative organization, and Family Advocacy Program for clinical intervention



References and Resources

- DoD Instruction 6400.01, “Family Advocacy Program (FAP),” May 1, 2019
- DoD Manual 6400.01, Volume 1, “Family Advocacy Program (FAP): FAP Standards,” July 22, 2019
- DoD Manual 6400.01, Volume 2, “Family Advocacy Program (FAP): Child Abuse and Domestic Abuse Incident Reporting System,” August 11, 2016
- DoD Manual 6400.01, Volume 3, “Family Advocacy Program (FAP): Clinical Case Staff Meeting (CCSM) and Incident Determination Committee (IDC),” August 11, 2016
- DoD Instruction 6400.06, “Domestic Abuse Involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel,” August 21, 2007, as amended
- DoD Report on Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse in the Military for Fiscal Year 2018, available <http://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/fap-fy18-dod-report.pdf>
- Department of Defense Domestic Abuse Victim Assistance Directory and 24/7 Hotline Information, available <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/leaders-service-providers/child-abuse-and-domestic-abuse/victim-advocate-locator>