

INFORMATION PAPER

15 Aug 19

SUBJECT: DACOWITS RFIs for September 2019 Quarterly Business Meeting (HQDA-190731-2R35)

1. Purpose. To reply to the DACOWITS Domestic Abuse / Domestic Violence Affecting Servicewomen request for information, question 7.

Question 7: The Committee requests a written response from each of the Military Services (to include the Reserves and National Guard) with information regarding safe housing for servicewomen who are victims of domestic violence (DV), to include details on the following:

Question 7a: The current policies and procedures that ensure the safety of DV victims once incidents occurs. Please include data on where Service members are housed if they need to be removed to safe or alternate housing (to include whether it is on- or off-based housing).

Response 7a: Army Regulation (AR) 608-18 (Family Advocacy Program) sets policy and procedures that ensure the safety of DV victims. Garrison commanders are responsible to establish written policies and procedures for shelter/safe-home referrals for victims of spouse abuse.

Emergency housing and accommodations, to include temporary shelter arrangements may be made available on or off the installation. The shelter arrangement or emergency accommodation used will depend on the situation and installation resources. Civilian shelters, transient billets, temporary quarters, or an installation shelter or safe house system may be used. In the United States, installations will establish memorandums of agreement (MOA) to obtain off-post support addressing problems of spouse and child abuse within military Families. In foreign countries, MOAs with local community agencies may also be necessary.

Commanders can order Soldiers to move into unit-controlled barracks, issue military protective orders restricting contact with victims, place conditions on Soldier liberty, and/or direct Soldiers to remain within specified limits, pending disposition of the alleged offenses.

Question 7b: Explain how your Service interprets “suitable, safe and alternate housing” for victims of domestic violence per DoDI 6400.06.

Response 7b: AR 608-18 defines suitable emergency housing accommodations and temporary shelter. The shelter arrangement or emergency accommodation will depend on the situation and the installation resources. Civilian shelters, transient billets, temporary quarters, and/or installation shelter or safe house systems may be used. Garrison commanders may also establish an MOA with local community-based shelters offering services to battered women.