



Appendix G: Domestic Abuse-Related Sexual Assault



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The Family Advocacy Program (FAP) is the congressionally mandated Department of Defense (DoD) program responsible for providing clinical assessment, support, and treatment services in response to reported incidents of domestic abuse in military families. Sexual assault occurring within the context of a marriage or intimate partner relationship (sexual abuse) is a subset of domestic abuse.

Oversight Responsibilities

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, DoD FAP has broad responsibility for promoting public awareness and prevention of domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect, providing victims of domestic abuse with the option for making a restricted report, and coordinating comprehensive advocacy, clinical intervention, safety and risk assessment, and other support to victims.

Definition of Domestic Abuse

DoD Instruction 6400.06, “Domestic Abuse Involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel,” defines “domestic abuse” as “...[d]omestic violence or 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.”

Sexual assault occurring within the context of domestic abuse is referred to FAP for comprehensive safety planning, victim advocacy and support, and treatment when appropriate.

Data

Comprehensive data and analysis of all domestic abuse is included in the *Report on Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse in the Military for Fiscal Year 2020*, released on April 30, 2021, as required by Section 574 of Public Law 114-328.

Data Collection

FAP incident data are tracked by the Military Departments and reported to the Department through the FAP Central Registry maintained by the Defense Manpower Data Center. The FAP Central Registry contains information pertaining to incidents that met criteria for abuse. In this context, “met criteria” means that the incident met the DoD definition of abuse set forth by a standardized algorithm that indicates the need for more rigorous treatment, intervention, support, safety planning, and protection.

Victim Characteristics

Central Registry data indicate that in Fiscal Year 2020, there were 303 unique victims of adult sexual abuse who received FAP services. Victims were 94.4 percent female (286 of 303) and

5.6 percent male (17 of 303). Of the 303 victims, 163 (53.8 percent) were family members, 117 (38.6 percent) were Military Service members, 21 (6.9 percent) were non-beneficiaries, and 2 (0.7 percent) were civilian non-DoD beneficiaries (retired Service members or government contractors).

Alleged Offender Characteristics

Of the 299 alleged offenders, 280 (93.6 percent) were male and 19 (6.4 percent) were female. Military Service members represented 80.9 percent (242 of 299) of alleged offenders, family members represented 16.4 percent (49 of 299), non-beneficiaries represented 2.0 percent (6 of 299), and DoD civilians and civilian non-DoD beneficiaries (retired Service members or government contractors) represented 0.7 percent (2 of 299).

Of the 242 alleged offenders who were Military Service members, 238 (98.3 percent) were active duty, Regular Component members, and 4 (1.7 percent) were members of the Reserves or National Guard. Of the 242 Military Service members, 228 (94.2 percent) were enlisted members, and 14 (5.8 percent) were officers.

Accountability

The mission and scope of FAP is to provide comprehensive clinical assessment and support services to individuals and families impacted by domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect. FAP's primary focus is to assess the risk to, and safety of, victims and families to provide treatment and rehabilitation of the alleged offender and to provide support and clinical services for the victim when appropriate. By responsibilities set forth in DoD Manual 6400.01, Volume 1, Enclosure 3, "Family Advocacy Program (FAP) Standards," FAP reports all unrestricted reports of domestic abuse to law enforcement within 24 hours. As part of the Coordinated Community Response model employed by DoD, first responder law enforcement (military or civilian, depending on jurisdiction) and military criminal investigative personnel have responsibility for investigating reports of alleged domestic abuse. Investigation, command action, and legal adjudication, as appropriate, are addressed by other organizations outside of FAP.

FAP social workers, prevention specialists, victim advocates, and nurses provide critical clinical and support services to families impacted by these often complex incidents and are bound ethically to promote the well-being of clients and support their self-determination foremost. Responsibility for holding alleged offenders appropriately accountable and tracking associated outcomes falls to command and applicable law enforcement and civilian or military justice systems, as appropriate.