DoD Domestic Abuse Prevention & Victim Intervention Programs

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Armed Forces of the United States: “Total Force”

Active Component
- Secretary of Defense
  - Secretary of the Army
  - Secretary of the Air Force

Reserve Component
- Secretary of Homeland Security
  - Secretary of the Navy
    - Navy Reserve
    - Marine Corps Reserve
  - Marine Corps
  - Air National Guard
  - State Governors
    - Army National Guard
    - Air National Guard

Total Force in Wartime

Active Component

- (>50% live in the civilian community)
- Pres. Exec. Order calls to active duty & training at installation

Reserve Component

- (In civilian communities)

Deployment

Veterans Administration Care

Injury on active duty

Civilian life

Civilian life
DoD Today

• High personnel & operational tempos
  – Total Force (Active & Reserve Components)
  – Two wars (8 years, 6 years)
  – Repeated lengthy deployments

• Risk factors for domestic abuse include effects of repeated deployments
  – Stress for both the service member and non-deployed family members
  – Increased risk of anxiety disorders & PTSD
  – “Self-medication” by returning veterans
DoD Definition of Domestic Abuse

• Domestic violence
  – An offense under the U.S. Code, the UCMJ, or state law involving the use, attempted use, or threatened use of force or violence against [see below]
  – Or the violation of a lawful order issued for the protection of a person, or
• A pattern of behavior resulting in emotional/psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty of [see below]

[When the victim is] a person is of the opposite sex 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.
FAP Domestic Abuse in Incidents Meeting FAP Criteria

- Incidents reported to FAP have declined 13% since FY 2001
- Reported incidents/1,000 couples have declined 20% (27.7 to 22.2)
- Incidents meeting criteria have declined 38%
- Incidents meeting criteria /1,000 couples have declined 43% (16.5 to 9.4)
- Abusive servicemembers/1,000 service members have declined 36% (7.6 to 4.9)

**Alleged abusive spouses**
- 67% male, 37% female
- 63% Active component
  - Of these, 91% male
- 37% civilian spouses
  - Of these, 72% female

**Victim spouses**
- 67% female, 37% male
- 49% Active component
  - Of these, 39% females
- 51% civilian spouses
  - Of these, 94% females
Addressing Domestic Abuse in Active Component

- Public awareness & prevention/risk factor reduction
- Victim advocacy
  - Restricted reporting policy
  - Downloadable manual (Battered Women’s Justice Project with DoD assistance)
- Training
- Coordination with civilian authorities
  - Memoranda of Agreement/Understanding
  - Coordinated Community Response projects
- UCMJ authority for commander to take protective and/or disciplinary action for active duty personnel
  - On-line commander’s training
- Family Advocacy Program assessment & treatment services

DoD Instruction 6400.06
Public Awareness & Prevention/Risk Reduction

- Public awareness campaigns
  - Teen dating violence
  - Domestic abuse
- Risk factor reduction
  - Education/training classes & information dissemination
    - Relationships
    - Stress & conflict resolution/management
  - Counseling for individuals & couples
  - Collaboration/coordination with other prevention and family support activities
Public Awareness Initiatives

http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil

• National Domestic Violence Hotline
  – Posters, brochures, wallet cards mailed to FAPs
  – Materials downloadable

• Family Violence Prevention Fund
  • Campaign targeting males
  • Poster & brochures mailed to FAPs
  • Materials downloadable

• AFIS/AFRTS Public Service Announcements

• Ad Council & FVPF – in progress
  • Toolkits for FAP
  • Toolkits for Reserve Component Family Readiness Counselors
  • Materials will be downloadable
Military OneSource

http://www.militaryonesource.com
1-800-342-9647
OCONUS Access

• “Warm handoffs” to:
  – National Domestic Violence Hotline
  – Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center
  – Domestic violence shelters/programs
  – DoD Victim Advocates

• Information
  – Articles on Web site
  – Publications for shipment

• Referrals for non-medical counseling
Non-Medical Counseling

• Focused Telephonic Consultation
  – Up to 12 scheduled sessions with short-term solution-focused trained mental health professionals
  – Issues: Adjustment to situational stressors, decision-making, stress management, communication, parenting skills

• Face-to-face counseling referrals
  – Up to 12 consultations with licensed counselors in the community (99% of installation and Guard/Reserve locations)
  – Issues: Family or couples concerns, adjusting to deployment or reunion, grief counseling, stress management

• Military Family Life consultants
  • Face-to-face consultations with licensed counselors on/off the installation
Domestic Abuse Restricted Report

- By active duty victim (not Reserve Component) or family member victim who chooses restricted reporting
- Made only to DoD domestic abuse victim advocate or health care provider (including FAP clinical staff)
  - Victim advocacy
  - Medical exam
- No disclosure to law enforcement or command unless an exception applies
Restricted Report Exceptions

- Disclosure **only** if any of the following apply:
  - Written authorization by victim
  - Necessary to prevent/lessen **serious AND imminent** threat to health or safety of victim or another
  - Victim discloses child abuse by self or alleged abuser
  - Needed for supervision of the victim advocate or health care provider
  - Disclosure ordered by judge to a military or civilian court
  - **Required by law** or international agreement to another authority (e.g., state reporting requirements for health care providers)
  - Active duty victim (not civilian victim)
    - Adverse impact on duty assignment per HIPR, with protection for specific details of the abuse
    - Fitness for duty disability retirement determination
Assistance to Domestic Abuse Victims

- **Who make restricted reports:**
  - safety assessment
  - safety planning
  - coordination with health care providers
  - information & referral

- **Who make unrestricted reports**
  - safety assessment
  - safety planning
  - coordination with health care providers
  - information & referral
  - law enforcement & command involvement
  - obtain & enforce protective orders
  - obtain DoD financial assistance when victim qualifies
FAP Intervention Procedures

- Ensure victim receives medical assessment/treatment and safety assessment
- Ensure law enforcement and Service member’s unit commander are notified in unrestricted reports
- Assess psycho-socially all family members and prepare treatment recommendations
- Manage multidisciplinary Case Review Committee determination
- Prepare treatment recommendations for commander
- Provide social services treatment to victim, and to abuser, as permitted/ordered by commander
Financial Assistance to Victims

- Funds for transportation to safety, if necessary
- Shipment of personal property, if divided
- If the service member is separated from active duty for abuse, or is convicted of abuse and forfeits all pay & allowances, up to 3 years of:
  - Transitional Compensation (based on service member’s pay)
  - Medical and dental benefits
  - Commissary & Exchange benefits
  - Secretaries of the Military Departments have waiver authority