



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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FEB 26 2003

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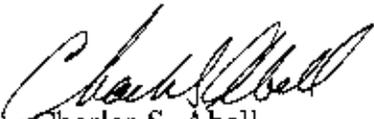
The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is the Department of Defense Year 2001 Data on Reported Incidents of Domestic Violence. The data in this report was drawn from the Department of Defense database on domestic violence established as required by Section 594 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2000, Public Law 106-65. Although all the military departments are increasing the data submissions required by Section 594, software systems for some reporting elements remain undeveloped or in field testing. In addition, refinement of the standardized definitions used in data retrieval is continuing. As implied in the previous document, this report is very much a work in progress. While the data collected and reported in the report is much more accurate than that reported last year, there is every reason to expect that the information will continue to be refined until we reach a steady state in quality some years into the future. For this reason, it is not possible to make comparisons between the reporting years and such comparisons will not be useful until a better level of quality is achieved.

Developmental challenges in establishing automated data collection and transmittal systems within some of the military departments precluded this report from accompanying the evaluation of the annual Task Force report as required by Section 591 of the NDAA for FY 2000. This information has also been transmitted to the co-chairs of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence for their review.

Sincerely,


Charles S. Abell
Principal Deputy

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Member



REPORT TO CONGRESS

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE YEAR 2001 DATA ON
REPORTED INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

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I. INTRODUCTION.

Section 594 of P.L. 106-65, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2000, required the Department of Defense (DoD) to establish a central database of domestic violence incidents involving members of the Armed Forces. The database is to include each domestic violence incident reported to a commander, a law enforcement authority of the Armed Forces, or personnel within DoD's Family Advocacy Program; the number and the nature of the allegations; and for those incidents with sufficient evidence to substantiate the allegation, the command actions taken in response (TAB 1). This report provides the required data.

Section 591(e) of the NDAA for FY 2000 (TAB 2) also required the Secretary to transmit annual data from the database with the Secretary's evaluation of the annual report of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence (Task Force). The Secretary's evaluation of the second annual report of the Task Force has already been transmitted under separate cover.

By memorandum of June 8, 2000 (TAB 3), DoD established the domestic violence database as a sub-database of the Defense Incident-Based Reporting System (DIBRS). The DIBRS database is administered by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). The DIBRS domestic violence database includes the number and description of each allegation of domestic violence investigated by a military law enforcement unit, and the command actions taken in response to substantiated allegations.

The June 8 memorandum also directed DMDC to match the DIBRS domestic violence data to data from the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) central registry of child and spouse abuse reports. The FAP central registry contains data on incidents of alleged spouse abuse, both of a criminal nature and non-criminal nature, reported to the DoD FAP. This data is primarily administrative and clinical in nature, and does not include the command actions taken. Moreover, it does not include data pertaining to domestic violence in unmarried couples. The relevant domestic violence data elements in DIBRS and in the FAP central registry are at TABs 4 and 5, respectively.

The definition of domestic violence for the domestic violence database is derived from combining the DIBRS and FAP data elements. The DoD database on domestic violence thus contains the following data: (1) information on incidents reported to military law enforcement units, but not FAP, (2) where such incidents were also reported to FAP, additional information from FAP data on these incidents, and (3) information on incidents reported to FAP, but not to military law enforcement units.

II. STATUS OF THE DOD DATABASE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOR 2001 DATA

Although all the Military Departments are increasing the data submissions required by Section 594, software systems for some reporting elements remain undeveloped or in field testing. In addition, refinement of the standardized definitions used in data retrieval is continuing. As implied in the previous document, this report is very much a work in progress. While the data collected and reported in the report is much more accurate than that reported last year, there is every reason to expect that the information will continue to be refined until we reach a steady state in quality some years into the future. For this reason, it is not possible to make comparisons between the reporting years and such comparisons will not be useful until a better level of quality is achieved.

In 2001, there were 7,394 alleged incidents that fall within the definition above. Data reported on actions taken by commanders was 3,863 for 2001.

III. DATA ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS REPORTED IN 2001

Total alleged incidents of domestic violence reported by military law enforcement units.

A total of 7,394 alleged incidents of domestic violence were reported by those Military Services' law enforcement units that provided data with respect to incidents occurring in 2001. Of these reports, 92.3 percent of the victims were spouses, 0.3 percent were former spouses, and 7.4 percent were other intimate partners. Active duty service members allegedly committed 59.2 percent of these incidents.

There were a total of 25 homicides involving domestic violence. The alleged offenders in 40 percent of the homicides were active duty personnel. Of the victims in the 25 homicides, 24 percent were current spouses, and 76 percent were intimate partners.

Of the 7,369 reports of alleged domestic violence that were not homicides, 59 percent of the alleged offenders were active duty personnel. In these 4,370 non-homicide domestic violence incidents allegedly committed by active duty personnel:

- 60 percent of the most serious allegations¹ were physical assault, 4.3 percent were sexual assault, 2 percent were property damage, and 2.3 percent were

¹ The following classification scheme was used when more than one type of domestic violence was reported in the same incident:

a. When sexual assault and any other type of domestic violence were reported in one incident, the data were classified as sexual assault.

b. When physical assault and any other type of domestic violence except sexual assault were reported in one incident, the data were classified as physical assault.

c. When property damage and emotional abuse were reported in one incident, the data were classified as property damage.

emotional abuse. The most serious allegation was unspecified in 31.4 percent of the incidents.

- 71.5 percent of the victims were females, and 28.4 percent were males. The sex of the victim was not reported in 0.1 percent of the incidents.
- A spouse was the victim in 92.7 percent of the incidents. Of the 4,054 incidents with a spouse victim, a wife was the victim in 70.5 percent of the incidents, a husband was the victim in 29.4 percent of the incidents, and the sex of the spouse victim was not reported in 0.1 percent of the incidents.
- The three most frequent domestic violence incidents were physical assault of a wife (37.7 percent of all non-homicide incidents), physical assault of a husband (19.2 percent), and physical assault of a female intimate partner (2 percent). These accounted for 59 percent of all non-homicide domestic violence incidents allegedly committed by active duty service members.

The following chart shows the nature of the 7,394 alleged incidents of domestic violence:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV) INCIDENTS REPORTED TO MILITARY LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS REPORTING DATA

Most serious reported allegation of DV incident by active duty (AD) personnel	Against spouse				Against former spouse				Against other intimate partner				TOTAL ALLEGED OFFENDERS			
	M	F	UNK	TOTAL	M	F	UNK	TOTAL	M	F	UNK	TOTAL	M	F	UNK	TOTAL
Homicide	3	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	8	2	0	10
Sexual assault	83	35	0	118	0	0	0	0	67	2	0	69	150	37	0	187
Physical assault	1,649	840	3	2,492	6	3	4	13	90	30	0	120	1,745	873	7	2,625
Property damage	56	16	0	72	2	0	0	2	9	1	0	10	67	17	0	84
Emotional abuse	50	46	0	96	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	5	54	47	0	101
Unspecified DV incident	1,020	256	0	1,276	2	0	0	2	85	10	0	95	1,107	266	0	1,373
Total other DV incidents allegedly committed by AD personnel	2,858	1,193	3	4,054	10	3	4	17	255	44	0	299	3,123	1,240	7	4,370
Total DV incidents allegedly committed by AD personnel	2,861	1,195	3	4,059	10	3	4	17	260	44	0	304	3,131	1,242	7	4,380

Most serious reported allegation of DV incident by non-AD personnel	Against spouse				Against former spouse				Against other intimate partner				TOTAL ALLEGED OFFENDERS			
	M	F	UNK	TOTAL	M	F	UNK	TOTAL	M	F	UNK	TOTAL	M	F	UNK	TOTAL
Homicide	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	10	4	0	14	11	4	0	15
Total other DV incidents	1,655	1,108	0	2,763	6	2	0	8	176	52	0	228	1,837	1,162	0	2,999
Total DV incidents allegedly committed by non-AD personnel	1,656	1,108	0	2,764	6	2	0	8	186	56	0	242	1,848	1,166	0	3,014

TOTAL DV INCIDENTS	4,517	2,303	3	6,823	16	5	4	25	446	100	0	546	4,979	2,408	7	7,394
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Alleged incidents of domestic violence reported by military law enforcement units reporting data for which there was sufficient evidence to take disciplinary action.

There were 10 domestic violence homicides and 3,853 other domestic violence incidents for which there was sufficient evidence to take disciplinary action. These 10 domestic violence homicides were 100 percent of the homicides committed by active duty military personnel. The 3,853 other domestic violence incidents represent 88 percent of all domestic violence incidents reported.

Actions taken by military commanders in alleged incidents of domestic violence reported to military law enforcement units reporting data.

Of the 3,863 alleged incidents of domestic violence committed by active duty personnel for which there was sufficient evidence to take disciplinary action, military commanders took the following actions:

Of the 10 domestic violence homicides allegedly committed by active duty personnel:

- Command action was pending in 1.
- 5 received a general court martial.
- 4 were referred to civilian court.

Of the remaining 3,853 alleged incidents:

- 4 percent resulted in no action being taken,
- 20 percent resulted in administrative action against the service member,
- 9 percent were ordered into counseling,
- 5 percent resulted in an administrative separation of the service member from the service,
- 19 percent resulted in nonjudicial punishment under Article 15 of the UCMJ,
- 3 percent resulted in a court martial, and
- 24 percent resulted in a referral to a civilian court for criminal prosecution.
- Actions were pending in 11 percent of the incidents.
- The actions in 5 percent of the incidents were not reported.

The table on the following page sets forth the command action taken in response to the most serious allegation of domestic violence:

**COMMAND ACTION IN RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS
REPORTED TO MILITARY LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS REPORTING DATA**

Most serious allegation with sufficient evidence for disciplinary action against a service member	COMMAND ACTION											TOTAL
	Action pending (Incl. fugitive)	No action	Ordered to counselling	Admin. action	Admin. separation	Nonjudicial punishment	Summary court martial	Special court martial	General court martial	Referred to civilian court	Action unknown	
<i>Homicide</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	10
<i>Sexual assault</i>	13	61	5	34	12	37	4	3	6	13	4	192
<i>Physical assault</i>	285	47	93	552	23	279	29	5	1	837	175	2326
<i>Property damage</i>	9	0	7	32	27	287	30	3	0	4	11	410
<i>Emotional abuse</i>	11	16	9	3	2	2	3	0	0	19	0	65
<i>Unspecified domestic violence incident</i>	98	16	232	143	129	148	20	3	10	56	7	860
TOTAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS WITH SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT DISCIPLINARY ACTION	415	140	346	764	193	753	86	14	22	933	197	3,863

Total alleged spouse abuse incidents reported to military FAPs.

The total number of alleged incidents of spouse abuse reported to FAP in 2001 was 10,967, as shown in the following table:

MILITARY FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Most serious allegation of reported domestic violence incidents	TOTAL
<i>Sexual abuse</i>	82
<i>Physical abuse</i>	9,335
<i>Emotional abuse</i>	1,490
<i>Unspecified domestic violence incident</i>	60
Total domestic violence incidents	10,967

Of the 10,967 alleged incidents, 62 percent were committed by active duty personnel.

IV. PLANS TO IMPROVE THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DATABASE

Each of the Military Services is taking actions to improve the extent and quality of data for the domestic violence database in future years. DMDC is also working with the Military Services on clarifying reporting categories and data retrieval formulas to increase data retrieval capabilities. Steps being taken include:

1. Conversion of all installation-level military law enforcement unit data to formats that meet DIBRS requirements, including personal identifiers;
2. Conversion of all military criminal investigative organization data to formats that meet DIBRS requirements, including the use of personal identifiers; and
3. Conversion of all data on actions taken by military commanders in response to reports of domestic violence to formats that meet DIBRS requirements.