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JUL 27 2004

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is the Department of Defense Year 2002 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. For this reason, it is not possible to make comparisons among the reporting years at this time. We will continue to require further refinements in data submissions in order to achieve the requisite quality needed for such comparisons.

Developmental challenges in establishing automated data collection and transmittal systems within some of the Military Departments precluded this report from accompanying the Secretary of Defense's evaluation of the final report of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence as required by Section 591 of the NDAA for FY 2000

I trust that this information proves useful to you.

Sincerely,


Charles S. Abell
Principal Deputy

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Member





REPORT TO CONGRESS

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE YEAR 2002 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 information from that database.

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 final 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 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 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 domestic violence database is derived from combining 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 2002 DATA

Although all the Military Departments are working on increasing the data submissions required by Section 594, software systems for some reporting elements remain undeveloped or in field testing. Thus, the Department of the Navy was not able to submit reliable data for this report. As a result, this report contains only the automated data reports obtained from the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Army. Automation of the reporting elements will continue to be developed until we attain the requisite quality of data submissions. It is not possible, at the present time, to make comparisons between the reporting years, and such comparisons would not be useful until a higher level of quality is achieved.

III. DATA ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS REPORTED IN 2002

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

A total of 2,705 alleged incidents of domestic violence were reported by the Departments of the Air Force and Army law enforcement units that provided data with respect to incidents occurring in 2002. Of these reports, 81.4 percent of the victims were spouses, 1.8 percent were former spouses, and 16.8 percent were other intimate partners. Active duty Service members allegedly committed 95 percent of these incidents.

There were a total of 13 homicides involving domestic violence. The alleged offenders in 77 percent of the homicides were active duty personnel. Of the victims in the 13 homicides, 77 percent were current spouses, and 23 percent were intimate partners. None were former spouses.

Of the 2,692 reports of alleged domestic violence that were not homicides, 95 percent of the alleged offenders were active duty personnel. In the 2,553 non-homicide domestic violence incidents allegedly committed by active duty personnel:

- 92.3 percent of the most serious allegations¹ were physical assault; 4 percent were sexual assault; and 3 percent were property damage. The most serious allegation was unspecified as "other" in .7 percent of the incidents.
- 91.1 percent of the victims were females, and 8.5 percent were males. The sex of the victim was not reported in .4 percent of the incidents.

¹ Incidents were classified by reference to the "most serious allegation" as follows:

- 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.

- A spouse was the victim in 84 percent of the incidents. Of the 2,138 incidents with a spouse victim, a wife was the victim in 92.2 percent of the incidents, a husband was the victim in 7.4 percent of the incidents, and the sex of the spouse victim was not reported in 0.4 percent of the incidents.
- The three most frequent domestic violence incidents were physical assault of a wife (74 percent of all non-homicide incidents), physical assault of a husband (6 percent), and physical assault of a female intimate partner (10 percent). These accounted for 90 percent of all non-homicide domestic violence incidents allegedly committed by active duty Service members.

The following chart shows the nature of the 2,705 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 (Offender's Sex)				Against former spouse (Offender's Sex)				Against other intimate partner (Offender's Sex)				TOTAL ALLEGED OFFENDERS			
	M	F	UNK	TOTAL	M	F	UNK	TOTAL	M	F	UNK	TOTAL	M	F	UNK	TOTAL
	Homicide	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	10	0	0
Physical assault	1,878	152	8	2,038	17	2	0	19	255	44	2	301	2,150	198	10	2,358
Sexual assault	58	3	1	62	1	0	0	1	48	0	0	48	107	3	1	111
Property damage	31	1	1	32	1	1	0	2	18	12	0	30	50	14	0	64
Other	5	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	14	19	1	0	20
Total non-homicide DV incidents allegedly committed by AD personnel	1,972	157	9	2,138	19	3	0	22	335	56	2	393	2,326	216	11	2,553
Total DV incidents allegedly committed by AD personnel	1,979	157	9	2,145	19	3	0	22	338	56	2	396	2,336	216	11	2,563

Most serious reported allegation of DV incident by non-active duty personnel	Against spouse (Offender's Sex)				Against former spouse (Offender's Sex)				Against other intimate partner (Offender's Sex)				TOTAL ALLEGED OFFENDERS			
	M	F	UNK	TOTAL	M	F	UNK	TOTAL	M	F	UNK	TOTAL	M	F	UNK	TOTAL
	Homicide	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Total non-homicide DV incidents allegedly committed by non-AD personnel	31	22	0	53	21	6	0	27	33	21	5	59	85	49	5	139
Total DV incidents allegedly committed by non-AD personnel	33	23	0	56	21	6	0	27	33	21	5	59	87	50	5	142

TOTAL DV INCIDENTS	2,012	180	9	2,201	40	9	0	49	371	77	7	455	2,423	266	16	2,705
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Actions taken by military commanders in alleged incidents of domestic violence reported to military law enforcement units reporting data.

In 2002, there were a total of 2,504 incidents of domestic violence for which there was sufficient evidence to take disciplinary action, and command action was reported on 2,173 incidents. Of these 2,173 reported incidents, military commanders took the following actions:

Of the 10 domestic violence homicides allegedly committed by active duty personnel, 1 active duty personnel committed suicide, and, in the other 9:

- Command action was pending in 7.
- Administrative action was taken in 1.
- 1 received a general court martial.

It should be noted that with respect to the one administrative action entered into the DIBRS database, the case was in fact referred to civilian court and the active duty member administratively discharged.

Of the remaining 2,164 command actions reported:

- Action was pending in 10.6 percent of the incidents.
- 5.7 percent resulted in no action being taken,
- 4.2 percent were ordered into counseling,
- 16.2 percent resulted in administrative action against the Service member,
- 9.1 percent resulted in nonjudicial punishment under Article 15 of the UCMJ,
- .2 percent resulted in an administrative separation of the Service member from the Service,
- .5 percent resulted in a court martial, and
- 6.1 percent resulted in a referral to a civilian court for criminal prosecution.
- The specific action taken in 47.4 percent of the incidents was not reported.

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

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

ACTIONS TAKEN BY COMMANDERS

Most serious allegation with sufficient evidence for disciplinary action against a service member	Action pending (incl. fugitive)	No action taken	Ordered to counseling	Admin. action	Nonjudicial punishment	Admin. separation	Summary court martial	Special court martial	General court martial	Tried in civilian court	Action unknown	TOTAL
<i>Homicide</i>	7			1					1			9
<i>Physical assault</i>	183	110	86	331	179	5	4	1	3	128	977	2,007
<i>Sexual assault</i>	31	11	1	9	6				1	1	7	67
<i>Property damage</i>	6	1	3	6	8					3	23	50
<i>Other</i>	9	2		4	3				1	1	20	40
TOTAL ACTIONS TAKEN	236	124	90	351	196	5	4	1	6	133	1,027	2,173

Total alleged spouse abuse incidents reported by Air Force and Army FAP.

All the Military Departments have automated FAP databases from which they submit child and spouse abuse data to DMDC for the DoD FAP central registry. Although FAP data is reliable across the Military Departments, only the Departments of the Air Force and Army data are reported consistent with the DIBRS domestic violence section of this report.

It should be again noted that the FAP central registry contains data on incidents of alleged spouse abuse that are both criminal in nature and non-criminal in nature. It also does not include data pertaining to domestic abuse in unmarried couples. The DIBRS database only contains incidents of a criminal nature. Ideally, the combination of the two databases will produce a more complete picture of the extent of domestic abuse in DoD.

The total number of alleged incidents of spouse abuse reported by the Departments of Air Force and Army FAP in 2002 was 7,104 as shown in the following table:

MILITARY FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Most serious allegation of reported domestic abuse incidents	TOTAL
<i>Physical abuse</i>	5,963
<i>Sexual Abuse</i>	24
<i>Emotional abuse</i>	1,117
<i>Unspecified domestic abuse incidents</i>	0
Total domestic abuse incidents	7,104

Of the 7,104 alleged incidents, 60 percent were committed by active duty personnel.

As previously noted, the FAP database does not collect information on the command outcome of the incidents of spouse abuse reported to the program.

IV. PLANS TO IMPROVE THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DATABASE

Each Military Department continues to take actions to improve the extent and quality of data for the domestic violence database in future years. DMDC continues to work with the Military Departments 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 and criminal investigative data to formats that meet DIBRS requirements, including the use of personal identifiers; and
2. Conversion of all data on actions taken by military commanders in response to reports of domestic violence to formats that meet DIBRS requirements.