

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9044

To expand and enhance programs and activities of the Department of Defense for prevention of and response to domestic violence and child abuse and neglect among military families, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 21, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To expand and enhance programs and activities of the Department of Defense for prevention of and response to domestic violence and child abuse and neglect among military families, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Military Domestic Vio-
5 lence Prevention Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPORTS ON STAFFING LEVELS FOR THE FAMILY**
2 **ADVOCACY PROGRAMS.**

3 Not later than six months after the deployment of
4 the Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP)
5 Family Advocacy Program Staffing Tool, and every year
6 thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Con-
7 gress a report setting forth the following:

8 (1) Current staffing levels for the Family Advoca-
9 cy Programs (FAPs) of the Armed Forces at each
10 installation so staffed.

11 (2) Recommendations for ideal staffing levels
12 for the Family Advocacy Programs, as identified by
13 the staffing tool, set forth, at the election of the Sec-
14 retary, by Armed Force or by installation.

15 **SEC. 3. SHARING AMONG THE ARMED FORCES OF INFOR-**
16 **MATION ON INCIDENTS REPORTED TO THE**
17 **FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS.**

18 Commencing not later than one year after the date
19 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
20 shall ensure that appropriate information on incidents re-
21 ported to the Family Advocacy Programs (FAPs) of the
22 Armed Forces is shared among and across the Armed
23 Forces.

1 **SEC. 4. ENHANCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR AWARENESS OF**
2 **MILITARY FAMILIES REGARDING FAMILY AD-**
3 **VOCACY PROGRAMS AND OTHER SIMILAR**
4 **SERVICES.**

5 (a) PILOT PROGRAM ON INFORMATION ON FAPS FOR
6 FAMILIES ENROLLING IN DEERS.—The Secretary of De-
7 fense shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasi-
8 bility and advisability of various mechanisms to inform
9 families about the Family Advocacy Programs (FAPs) of
10 the Armed Forces during their enrollment in the Defense
11 Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). The
12 matters assessed by the pilot program shall include the
13 following:

14 (1) An option for training of family members
15 on the Family Advocacy Programs.

16 (2) The provision to families of information on
17 the resources available through the Family Advocacy
18 Programs.

19 (3) The availability through the Family Advo-
20 cacy Programs of both restricting and unrestricted
21 reporting on incidents of domestic violence or child
22 abuse and neglect.

23 (4) The provision to families of information on
24 the Military OneSource program of the Department
25 of Defense.

1 (5) The provision to families of information on
2 resources relating to domestic violence and child
3 abuse and neglect that are available through local
4 community service organizations.

5 (b) OUTREACH ON FAP AND SIMILAR SERVICES FOR
6 MILITARY FAMILIES.—Each Secretary of a military de-
7 partment shall improve the information available to mili-
8 tary families under the jurisdiction of such Secretary that
9 are the victim of domestic violence or child abuse and ne-
10 glect in order to provide such families with comprehensive
11 information on the services available to such families in
12 connection with such violence and abuse and neglect. The
13 information so provided shall include a complete guide to
14 the following:

15 (1) The Family Advocacy Program of the
16 Armed Force or military department concerned.

17 (2) Military law enforcement services, including
18 the process following a report of an incidence of do-
19 mestic violence or child abuse or neglect.

20 (3) Other applicable victim services.

1 **SEC. 5. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON**
2 **WOMEN IN THE SERVICES REPORT ON INI-**
3 **TIAL ENTRY POINTS FOR SUPPORT FOR MILI-**
4 **TARY FAMILIES IN CONNECTION WITH DO-**
5 **MESTIC VIOLENCE.**

6 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit
8 to the congressional defense committees a report setting
9 forth the results of a study, conducted by the Defense De-
10 partment Advisory Committee on Women in the Services
11 (DACOWITS) for purposes of the report, on initial entry
12 points (including anonymous entry points) for use by
13 members of military families in seeking support for domes-
14 tic violence or child abuse and neglect, including online
15 chat rooms and other support, text-based support, and ap-
16 plications on smartphones.

17 **SEC. 6. IMPROVEMENT OF COLLABORATION IN DOMESTIC**
18 **VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, Department of Defense
21 Instruction 6400.01, relating to the Family Advocacy Pro-
22 gram (FAP) of the Department of Defense, shall be modi-
23 fied to enhance collaboration among the programs and
24 components specified in subsection (b) for the purpose of
25 leveraging the expertise and resources of such programs
26 and components to order to improve the availability and

1 scope of domestic violence prevention services for military
2 families.

3 (b) PROGRAMS AND COMPONENTS.—The programs
4 and components specified in this subsection are the fol-
5 lowing:

6 (1) The Family Advocacy Program.

7 (2) The Sexual Assault Prevention and Re-
8 sponse Officer (SAPRO) of the Department of De-
9 fense.

10 (3) The Defense Suicide Prevention Office
11 (DSPO).

12 (4) The Defense Equal Opportunity Manage-
13 ment Institute (DEOMI).

14 (5) The TRICARE Management Activity
15 (TMA).

16 (6) The substance abuse prevention programs
17 and components of the Armed Forces.

18 (7) Such other programs and components of the
19 Department of Defense as the Secretary of Defense
20 considers appropriate.

1 **SEC. 7. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DE-**
2 **FENSE REPORT ON BEST PRACTICES IN PRE-**
3 **VENTION AND RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIO-**
4 **LENCE AND CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**
5 **AMONG MILITARY FAMILIES.**

6 (a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 120 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector
8 General of the Department of Defense shall submit to the
9 Secretary of Defense, and to the congressional defense
10 committees, a report on best practices among military in-
11 stallations in prevention and response to domestic violence
12 and child abuse and neglect among military families.

13 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection
14 (a) shall include the following:

15 (1) An identification and assessment of best
16 practices among military installations in prevention
17 and response to domestic violence and child abuse
18 and neglect among military families in connection
19 with the following:

20 (A) Installation leadership.

21 (B) Communication between the Family
22 Advocacy Program and the installation com-
23 mand team.

24 (C) Elimination of or reduction in barriers
25 to effective incident response.

1 (2) Recommendations for mechanisms, at the
2 installation, Armed Force, and military department
3 level, to identify and assess lessons learned through
4 programs, projects, and activities for prevention and
5 response to domestic violence and child abuse and
6 neglect among military families.

7 (3) An identification and assessment of re-
8 sources in communities surrounding military instal-
9 lations that could assist in prevention and response
10 to domestic violence and child abuse and neglect
11 among military families.

12 (4) An assessment of the benefits of bidirection-
13 al relationships involving the community resources
14 identified pursuant to paragraph (3).

15 (5) Recommendations for memoranda of under-
16 standing, or other formal relationships, between in-
17 stallations and surrounding communities on the
18 shared use of resources identified pursuant to para-
19 graph (3), including recommendations on mecha-
20 nisms for expediting entry into such memoranda of
21 understanding.

22 (6) Such other matters regarding best practices
23 among military installations in prevention and re-
24 sponse to domestic violence and child abuse and ne-

1 neglect among military families as the Inspector Gen-
2 eral considers appropriate.

3 (c) GUIDANCE AUTHORIZED IN LIGHT OF REPORT.—

4 Each Secretary of a military department may issue guid-
5 ance for commanders of installations under the jurisdic-
6 tion of such Secretary on best practices in prevention and
7 response to domestic violence and child abuse and neglect
8 among military families at such installations in light of
9 the matters included in the report of the Inspector General
10 under subsection (a).

11 **SEC. 8. CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DEFINED.**

12 In this Act, the term “congressional defense commit-
13 tees” has the meaning given that term in section
14 101(a)(16) of title 10, United States Code.

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