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THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF

DAWN A OGDEN
MILITARY AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER
JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
UNITED STATES SENATE

ON ACCESSING SERVICES: HOW THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT SERVES
HAWAII MILITARY FAMILIES EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

OCTOBER 16, 2014

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The Navy Family Advocacy Program (FAP) mission is prevention, identification, intervention, rehabilitation and accountability. The Violence against Women Act (VAWA) aligns strongly with our mission. The VAWA has:

- Heightened awareness of the impacts of violence against women.
- Contributed to expanded resources we can offer clients (i.e. resources identified through National Domestic Violence Hotline).
- Added a measure of emphasis to our already established FAP.

Here in Hawaii, the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Family Advocacy Program is fully staffed and resourced to meet the needs of our Navy and Air Force members. The program operates within a Coordinated Community Response model (command, legal, law enforcement, medical, FAP, etc) to address all allegations of domestic abuse. We dedicate 22 staff members to this mission:

- **2 Family Advocacy Educators** who provide training to commands, family groups, military and civilian agencies focused on preventing child abuse and domestic abuse and on how the Family Advocacy Program can assist. They participate in the “Hawaii Says No More” community partnership and the Child Abuse Prevention Program Council. Yearly participation in National Awareness month Campaigns for Domestic Violence, Child Abuse and Teen Dating Violence both within the military community and in partnership with community agencies. Educators have spoken about healthy relationships and boundaries and internet safety with local schools and teen centers. Provided training to Hawaii Department of Education on the Impact of Deployment on students. Implemented evidence-based programs that focus on prevention of family violence.
- **3 Domestic Abuse Victim Advocates (DAVAs)**, who provide direct, individualized support to victims of domestic abuse and intimate partner violence. Duties include informing victims of their reporting options, assisting victims in safety planning, accompanying victims to medical and court appointments, providing information and referrals to military and civilian resources and providing system advocacy to aid victims in navigating multiple systems and helping agencies. DAVAs also educate commands, law enforcement, medical providers and the military community about domestic abuse and resources for victims. DAVAs support the Restricted Reporting process which allows an adult victim of domestic abuse, who is eligible to receive military medical treatment, the option of reporting an incident of domestic abuse to a DoD victim advocate, military health care or mental health provider without initiating the investigative process or notification to the active duty member’s command. The victim is eligible for medical treatment, advocacy and counseling services while exploring options, increasing their trust in the system, and gaining sense of control.

- **12 FAP Clinicians:** Our Clinicians are installation level personnel, holding at least a state license in their field of expertise. They provide non-medical clinical services to domestic abuse victims and military offenders, including their children who are affected by domestic abuse. Clinicians conduct risk-focused intake interviews, comprehensive psycho-social assessments, safety risk assessments and planning; develop treatment plans; provide individual, couples and group counseling; and provide case management and monitoring. Clinicians also maintain treatment records and collaborate and consult with command and civilian agencies and providers as indicated. JBPHH offers a 20-week domestic violence offenders group for men and just initiated a domestic violence offenders group for women.
- **5 New Parent Support Program Home Visitors** include registered nurses, clinical social workers, and para-professional parent educators. Services include screening for risk and protective factors associated with child abuse and neglect, parent education and support targeted to the developmental needs of the infant or young child, promoting nurturing and attachment to support the social emotional development of children, strengthening formal and informal social support, referrals to concrete services and resources during times of need, and building coping skills and strategies to strengthen family resilience.

Highlight of Hawaii Specific FAP Resources

- **Military Family Advocacy Coordinating Council:** Oahu-based Family Advocacy Programs from all branches of service regularly meet along with civilian organizations such as the U.S. Attorney's Office, Children's Justice Center, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Child Welfare Services, Victim/Witness Services, and Honolulu Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division. The mission is to improve communication and collaboration and share resources and training opportunities between service FAPs and relevant community partners. This is one of numerous partnerships with community providers who work with Domestic violence victims.
- **Joint Military Safe House:** Joint Military Safe House (JMSH) was established in partnership with all other Services and the Armed Forces YMCA. The facility provides a short-term, secure (undisclosed) location where victims of domestic abuse and their children can be safe from further abuse while making decisions and plans regarding their future. Armed Forces YMCA dropped out of the partnership in 2006 due to funding cuts. Since then costs have been paid for by Navy, but JMSH access remains open to all branches of the military, including the Coast Guard. Victims must be on active duty, activated reserve or an immediate family member of an active duty member or activated reservist. Service-specific victim advocates maintain daily contact with their JMSH residents to ensure needs are addressed, including crisis intervention, and support and

resource referrals. Victims are provided with a hand held duress alarm that will dispatch to military police in case of emergency. Although not a direct result of VAWA, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam's commitment to the goals of VAWA is demonstrated by maintaining a safe house option for victim use.

- **New Parent Support Program (NPSP) Initiatives:** Nurturing Father's Group is an evidence-based program that promotes nurturing fathering practices and enhances the growth and well-being of men and children. Co-Parenting program is an evidence-based approach for improving outcomes for parents in their relationship with each other and their children. The training is hosted by JBPHH and includes participation from Army, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and participants of the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies program. A Resource Fair is held twice a year to provide military families with information about related military and community resources. Department of Health HKISS (Early Intervention Program) and Women-Infant-Children (WIC) routinely participate. NPSP staff participates in Safe Sleep Hawaii Committee to promote education and prevention of SIDS.
- **FAP training and information is provided to the Command triad** within 90 days of reporting to the Command. That group includes the Commanding Officer, the Executive Officer and the Command Master Chief. At the Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, The Air Force Commander and First Sergeant are included. The training focuses on ensuring the safety of victims and offender accountability. Additionally it provides local FAP contact information for reporting allegations of abuse, assisting victims, clinical resources and appropriate support networks on JBPHH to address domestic violence. A key point of the training is to reiterate that Commanders and law enforcement are required to report all known or suspected cases of domestic abuse to FAP. The training is aligned with the intent of the VAWA and serves to strengthen command resolve and highlight options for command intervention.
- **Public Awareness and information campaigns:** Throughout the year, FAP aggressively markets domestic violence prevention messages, using multiple venues to heighten awareness, build advocacy networks and generally inform military and civilian community members about how to identify, prevent and get help for domestic violence. Those efforts incorporate news articles, newsletters, banners, commemorative projects/events that highlight prevention efforts such as Child Abuse Prevention Month and Domestic Violence Prevention month and other methods used to heighten awareness. An important part of marketing is getting out information on military and civilian domestic violence hotlines such as the National Domestic Violence Hotline created under the VAWA.

Thank you for this opportunity to share information about how the VAWA has reinforced the value of the JBPHH family advocacy program's domestic violence prevention and response efforts. It also strengthens the commitment that DoD and DoN have demonstrated to prevent family violence and intervene when necessary to ensure safety, rehabilitation and accountability.