

SUPPORTING STATEMENT - PART A

Independent Analysis and Recommendations on Domestic Abuse in the Armed Forces: Expert Panels – 0704-IADA

1. Need for the Information Collection

A comprehensive, independent analysis on the military-specific risk factors for domestic abuse (DA) and the best approaches across the coordinated community response system to mitigate those factors has never been conducted and is necessary to inform sustainable solutions to decrease incidents and prevent violence before it occurs. This project is required by the FY21 NDAA, SEC 549C, and will support a) the programmatic needs of the sponsoring office—the Family Advocacy Program within the Military Community Advocacy Directorate in Military Community and Family Policy, b) Congressional requirements per Section 549C of the FY21 National Defense Authorization Act, c) the current administration’s priority to address gender-based violence, and d) implementation of some recommendations contained in the U.S. Government Accountability Office Report 21-289 (May 2021).

The overall project is wide ranging, from an epidemiological analysis to predict stages of military service where risk is highest for domestic violence, to an analysis of age-appropriate and positively focused prevention training for school-aged children, to assessing whether prevention would be enhanced by raising the disposition authority for domestic violence offenses. The work is separated by phase and task (see table below).

- **This application is for the expert panel tasks only** (Tasks 3a, 4a, and 5a).
- Phase 1 has been completed; we are currently working in Phase 2 of the project; and Phase 3 has not yet been funded.
- Tasks 2, 3, 4, and 5 follow the same methodological plan, but for different topics (i.e., an expert panel followed by field research with military stakeholders).
- Literature reviews are included in Tasks 2, 3, and 4, but not included in the table, because they do not involve collections from human subjects.

Phase	Task	OMB Application Name
1	<p>Task 1a. Develop a Survey of Service Members and Spouses To identify risk factors for and the effects of military domestic violence (including incidents where no one accessed military services) DoD will work with RAND NDRI to develop a sampling plan, research design, and survey instrument for , field, and analyze a stand-alone, confidential survey of military service members and spouses.</p>	NA
2	<p>Task 1b. Field and Analyze the Survey of Service Members and Spouses To identify risk factors for and the effects of military domestic violence, RAND NDRI will field and analyze the planned survey of military service members and spouses.</p>	Survey on the Strengths and Challenges of Military Relationships (This ICR is under review with OMB. OMB placeholder 0704-SCMR)

Phase	Task	OMB Application Name
1	<p>Task 2a. Expert Recommendations on Prevention and Outreach To develop recommendations for the use and dissemination of military domestic violence prevention resources and best practices for targeting prevention resources to high-risk individuals, DoD worked with RAND NDRI to host an expert panel, analyze their inputs, and summarize their recommendations.</p>	<p>Independent Analysis and Recommendations on Domestic Abuse in the Armed Forces: Expert Panel(s) <i>Approved under Fast Track Generic Clearance (0704-0553). Subsequent expert panels were deemed ineligible for Fast Track and therefore, are currently going through the normal PRA process</i></p>
2	<p>Task 3a. Expert Recommendations on School-Based, Age-Appropriate Healthy Relationship Programs To develop recommendations for school-based healthy relationship programs, DoD will work with RAND NDRI to host an expert panel, analyze their inputs, and summarize their recommendations.</p>	<p>Independent Analysis and Recommendations on Domestic Abuse in the Armed Forces: Expert Panels</p>
2	<p>Task 4a. Expert Recommendations on Improving Access to Resources for Domestic Abuse Victims To develop recommendations to improve access to resources for domestic abuse victims, DoD will work with RAND NDRI to host an expert panel, analyze their inputs, and summarize their recommendations.</p>	<p>Independent Analysis and Recommendations on Domestic Abuse in the Armed Forces: Expert Panels</p>
3	<p>Task 5a. Expert Recommendations on Training and Assigning Prevention-Related Responsibilities to the Workforce To develop recommendations DoD will work with RAND NDRI to host an expert panel, analyze their inputs, and summarize their recommendations.</p>	<p>Independent Analysis and Recommendations on Domestic Abuse in the Armed Forces: Expert Panels</p>
2	<p>Task 2b. Field Research to Summarize Current Prevention and Outreach DoD will work with RAND NDRI to conduct site visits, stakeholder interviews, and/or focus groups with key stakeholders such as domestic abuse survivors, domestic abuse support providers, commanders, and FAP staff on prevention and outreach.</p>	<p>Forthcoming</p>
3	<p>Task 3b. Field Research to Summarize Current Healthy Relationship Programs in DoDEA and Community Schools DoD will work with RAND NDRI to conduct site visits, stakeholder interviews, and/or focus groups with key stakeholders such as school administrators, teachers, and counselors, and military school liaisons to document current approaches to school-based, healthy relationship training.</p>	<p>Forthcoming, not yet funded</p>
3	<p>Task 4b. Field Research to Summarize Victim Access to Services including Barriers and Facilitators to Access DoD will work with RAND NDRI to conduct site visits, stakeholder interviews, and/or focus groups with key stakeholders such as FAP leaders and providers, affiliated medical and behavioral health</p>	<p>Forthcoming, not yet funded</p>

Phase	Task	OMB Application Name
	providers, domestic abuse advocates, security forces, and military leaders to document current approaches to facilitating access to services.	
3	<p>Task 5b. Field Research on Training and Assigning Prevention-Related Responsibilities to the Workforce</p> <p>DoD will work with RAND NDRI to conduct site visits, stakeholder interviews, and/or focus groups with key stakeholders such as FAP leaders and providers, military prevention specialists, affiliated medical and behavioral health providers, domestic abuse advocates, and military leaders to document current approaches to preparing the domestic abuse workforce for prevention-related responsibilities.</p>	Forthcoming, not yet funded
3	<p>Task 6. Legal Reviews and Expert Panels</p> <p>DoD will work with RAND NDRI to include policy and legal reviews on domestic abuse expedited transfers, reporting legal actions to the National Crime Information Center, military protective orders, and disposition authority for domestic violence cases.</p>	Forthcoming, not yet funded

Research Questions for this ICR

1. What school-based, healthy relationship training and education programs should DoDEA and community schools consider for inclusion in their primary- and secondary-education curricula?
2. What strategies would improve victims’ access to domestic abuse resources?
3. What are the best ways to train the domestic abuse prevention workforce (e.g., military leaders, medical providers, FAP providers)? How should prevention responsibilities be assigned?

Domestic abuse can result in devastating personal consequences and societal costs, is incompatible with military values, and reduces mission readiness. Without the benefit of new research and continuous improvement efforts to intervene early and improve force resiliency, the Department of Defense (DoD) risks continued incidents of DA across the armed forces.

Data collection is necessary to find sustainable solutions to decrease incidents and prevent domestic abuse before it occurs. Three separate expert panels will be convened to offer recommendations to answer the following research questions.

2. Use of the Information

The three expert panels will convene virtually and asynchronously on the RAND-operated ExpertLens™ platform (www.expertlens.org) to complete four rounds of review and input.

- **Round 0:** Experts provide their recommendations for the topic - see question 16 of Round 0 instrument. (Experts also provide demographic information to be used to describe the panel in aggregate in the final report).

- **Round 1:** Experts respond to proposed strategies for the topic (drawn from their Round 0 comments and the research literature). Each expert will rate each strategy on importance (1-9 Likert scale) and feasibility (1-9 Likert scale) and provide open-ended comments about the reasons for their ratings. (Because the recommended strategies are developed based on inputs from the expert panelists, we cannot submit them as an instrument at this time as they will not be known until after the panel convenes.)
- **Round 2:** Experts view summary of panelist ratings and discuss areas of disagreement.
- **Round 3:** Experts revise their importance and feasibility ratings based on their discussion with the other panelists.

Following the last round, recommendations with strong ratings on importance and feasibility will be included in the report for DoD consideration.

NOTE: The first expert panel for this effort was approved under Fast Track Generic Clearance (OMB Control Number: 0704-0553). It was conducted using the same research methods described in this proposal but focused on a different topic (Recommendations to Improve Domestic Abuse Prevention and Outreach in the Military). We are submitting a new proposal, rather than amending the Fast Track approval, because we were told that these panels would no longer be eligible for Fast Track approval.

Recruitment

Potential panelists with expertise on one of the research questions will be invited to participate. We expect their expertise will derive from a variety of sources and plan to include:

1. **Scholars:** We will identify subject matter expert scholars through their publications and academic reputations and will invite the research sponsor and sponsor's partners to provide suggestions. Public online profiles, journal articles, nominators, and our own records will be sources of scholars' contact information. (Panels A, B, and C)

2. **U.S. military program or service providers/practitioners:** We will select a sample of installations from each Service that have Family Advocacy Programs (FAP) and that are diverse by size and location. We will ask the installation FAP managers to nominate experts and provide nominees' names, positions and organizations, military rank (if applicable), work email addresses and a bullet or two about the nominees' relevant expertise. (Panels A, B, and C)

3. **U.S. military commanders or senior noncommissioned officers:** Recruited via the same nomination process described in (2). (Panels A, B, and C)

4. **Domestic abuse survivor activists, lobbyists, organizers, or members of civilian advocacy or support groups:** We will solicit nominations from domestic abuse advocacy and support groups and civilian organizations that support military personnel or

family members. We will also search online for high profile, qualified experts, and will invite the research sponsor and sponsor's partners to provide suggestions. (Panels A, B, and C)

5. DoDEA and community school administrators, teachers, and counselors. We will request nominations from representatives from DoD Education Activity, other military organizations that work directly with military children, and from school administrators for public schools that serve military children from a nearby installation. (Panel A)

The RAND research team will email experts to invite them to participate in an expert advisory panel. Experts will visit a website to read the informed consent statement (included with this information collection request) and those who choose to volunteer will be asked for their preferred email address for the study, several questions important for the selection process and design of the panel, and for their proposed recommendations on the topic. From that pool of qualified volunteers, we will select a balanced panel of experts to include diverse types of subject matter expertise, and individuals who can represent a variety of stakeholder perspectives (e.g., from the different Service cultures, from under-represented demographic groups).

Response Rate

To maximize response rates, we aim to select experts for whom the topic is salient, personalize invitations, include ExpertLens platform troubleshooting information in the invitations, send reminder and thank you emails, have a helpdesk available for any technical issues, and invite participants to contact the project team if they have any questions or concerns about the panel. Additionally, the panelists do not need to use a government device or network to access the online platform, and during each round they may participate at a date and time convenient to them. We will examine the observed characteristics of respondents and nonrespondents to consider and report the possible implications of any notable differences.

Outcomes

Results from the expert panels will be combined with literature reviews to provide evidence-based and expert-recommended strategies that respond to each of the research questions above. Given that this is a Congressional request, the three reports will be publicly released and will be used to guide military leaders and decision makers as they develop policies and procedures to prevent domestic abuse in the military.

3. Use of Information Technology

All responses will be collected online, through a dedicated website for initial recruitment and an online platform designed for expert panel facilitation (www.expertlens.org).

4. Non-duplication

The information obtained through this collection is unique and is not already available for use or adaptation from another cleared source.

5. Burden on Small Businesses

This information collection does not impose a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses or entities.

6. Less Frequent Collection

Each panel, comprised of topic-specific experts, will be conducted one time only. Without these panels of diverse experts providing their input, we will lack critical insights necessary to appropriately tailor domestic abuse research and recommendations for military populations and settings.

7. Paperwork Reduction Act Guidelines. This collection of information does not require collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the guidelines delineated in 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2).

8. Consultation and Public Comments

Part A: PUBLIC NOTICE

A 60-Day Federal Register Notice (FRN) for the collection published on Tuesday, May 31, 2022. The 60-Day FRN citation is Vol 87, No. 104, FRN 32390-32391.

No comments were received during the 60-Day Comment Period.

A 30-Day Federal Register Notice for the collection published on Tuesday, December 13, 2022. The 30-Day FRN citation is 87 FR 76186 FRN 76186-76187.

Part B: CONSULTATION

No additional consultation apart from soliciting public comments through the Federal Register was conducted for this submission.

9. Gifts or Payment

No payments or gifts are being offered to respondents as an incentive to participate in the collection.

10. Confidentiality

A Privacy Act Statement is not required for this collection because we are not requesting individuals to furnish personal information for a system of records.

A System of Record Notice (SORN) is not required for this collection because records are not retrievable by PII.

A Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is not required for this collection. Expert names and contact information will be used to communicate with panelists for the duration of the panel. During this period, names and contact information will be stored securely and separately from the expert panel platform data. There will be no link file that would allow an expert's name to be

matched with their expert panel input. After the panel closes, expert names and contact information will be destroyed.

Temporary, Cut off upon completion of research project. Destroy 30 year(s) after Cut off (DAA-0330-2021-0008-0001).

11. Sensitive Questions

We will ask participants to share the following confidential information:

- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Race
- Age group

Responses to these questions are not required to participate.

We ask these questions during the recruitment phase to help us evaluate whether our recruitment methods are reaching diverse experts as intended or whether we need to pursue additional avenues. This information will also help us compose diverse panels, provided we have more volunteers than we can accept. This sensitive information about respondent characteristics will not be shared among panelists. Indeed, we do not share any respondent characteristics, and we ask participants not to reveal any personally identifying information to the other panelists.

To develop new and more equitable approaches for domestic abuse prevention and response for the armed forces, our research needs to be inclusive of experts whose voices may be undervalued, marginalized or underrepresented in other settings. This virtual expert panel forum, where identities and characteristics are not shared across participants, presents a unique opportunity for interaction from experts from across diverse communities.

12. Respondent Burden and its Labor Costs

Part A: ESTIMATION OF RESPONDENT BURDEN

1) Collection Instrument

Expert Panel on **School-Based Healthy Relationship Programs**

- a) Number of Respondents: 90
- b) Number of Responses Per Respondent: 1
- c) Number of Total Annual Responses: 90
- d) Response Time: estimate of 3.5 hours on average over several weeks
- e) Respondent Burden Hours: 315 hours

Expert Panel on **Strategies to Improve Domestic Abuse Victims' Access to Resources**

- a) Number of Respondents: 90
- b) Number of Responses Per Respondent: 1

- c) Number of Total Annual Responses: 90
- d) Response Time: estimate of 3.5 hours on average over several weeks
- e) Respondent Burden Hours: 315 hours

Expert Panel on the **Domestic Abuse Prevention Workforce**

- a) Number of Respondents: 90
- b) Number of Responses Per Respondent: 1
- c) Number of Total Annual Responses: 90
- d) Response Time: 3.5 hours on average over several weeks
- e) Respondent Burden Hours: 315 hours

2) Total Submission Burden

- a) Total Number of Respondents: 270
- b) Total Number of Annual Responses: 270
- c) Total Respondent Burden Hours: 945 hours

Part B: LABOR COST OF RESPONDENT BURDEN

1) Collection Instrument(s)

Independent Analysis and Recommendations on Domestic Abuse in the Armed Forces:
Expert Panels

- a) Number of Total Annual Responses: 270
- b) Response Time: 3.5 hours
- c) Respondent Hourly Wage: \$47.33
- d) Labor Burden per Response: \$165.66
- e) Total Labor Burden: The estimated cost = \$44,428

2) Overall Labor Burden

- a) Total Number of Annual Responses: 270
- b) Total Labor Burden: \$44,728

The Respondent hourly wage was determined by using U.S. Bureau of Labor information on median usual weekly earnings in 2020 for individuals with a professional degree (\$1,893), available as of May 11, 2022 at:

<https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2021/data-on-display/education-pays.htm>

13. Respondent Costs Other Than Burden Hour Costs

There are no annualized costs to respondents other than the labor burden costs addressed in Section 12 of this document to complete this collection.

14. Cost to the Federal Government

Part A: LABOR COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

1) Collection Instrument(s)

Independent Analysis and Recommendations on Domestic Abuse in the Armed Forces:
Expert Panels

- a) Number of Total Annual Responses: 270
 - b) Processing Time per Response: 1.5 minutes
 - c) Hourly Wage of Worker(s) Processing Responses: \$38.92
 - d) Cost to Process Each Response: \$.97
 - e) Total Cost to Process Responses: \$261.90
- 2) Overall Labor Burden to the Federal Government
- a) Total Number of Annual Responses: 270
 - b) Total Labor Burden: \$261.90

Part B: OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE COSTS

- 1) Cost Categories
 - a) Equipment: \$0
 - b) Printing: \$0
 - c) Postage: \$0
 - d) Software Purchases: \$0
 - e) Licensing Costs: \$0
 - f) Other: \$900K - RAND contract (Contract No. HQ0034-21-D-0006)
- 2) Total Operational and Maintenance Cost: \$900K

Part C: TOTAL COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- 1) Total Labor Cost to the Federal Government: \$261.90
- 2) Total Operational and Maintenance Costs: \$900K
- 3) Total Cost to the Federal Government: \$900,261.90

15. Reasons for Change in Burden

This is a new collection with a new associated burden.

16. Publication of Results

The dataset will not be released beyond the research team, but aggregated results and deidentified illustrative quotes will be disseminated through published reports. Prior to public release, the reports will follow Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) requirements for quality assurance review, sponsor review, and Defense Office of Prepublication and Security Review. The results will be published because this is a Congressionally-mandated study. We anticipate the project will begin in late June/early July 2023, with data collection for two panels to begin in fall and winter of 2023-2024. The sponsor will receive internal interim briefings in the spring of 2024, and draft reports in July 2024. Data collection for the third panel is expected to begin mid-2024 and follow a similar timeline.

The reports' publication dates depend on the timeline to complete all necessary quality review processes and receive DoD security clearance for the reports' release. We expect the report titles to reflect the signed project description and information collection topic (e.g., *Domestic Abuse in the Armed Forces: Improving Survivors' Access to Resources*), with the first two to be formally published in 2024 and the last one in 2025.

17. Non-Display of OMB Expiration Date

We are not seeking approval to omit the display of the expiration date of the OMB approval on the collection instrument.

18. Exceptions to "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Submissions"

We are not requesting any exemptions to the provisions stated in 5 CFR 1320.9.