

**Victim Service Subcommittee Witness Hearing Questions for
Army Family Advocacy Program (FAP)
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1. Describe the Army Family Advocacy Program?

- The Army remains committed to preventing Family violence by providing a full range of programs and services designed to enhance Soldier and Family strength and resiliency. The FAP is dedicated to the prevention, education, reporting, investigation, intervention, and treatment of domestic and child abuse. The Army FAP uses staff within the Medical Treatment Facility and the Army Community Service centers to provide a variety of services to help Soldiers and Families enhance relationship skills to improve their quality of life. This mission is accomplished through a variety of groups, seminars, workshops and counseling and intervention services.

2. What population does the Family Advocacy Program Serve?

- AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program, is the governing regulation and ACSIM is the proponent. The regulation applies to (1) members of the Active Army; the Army National Guard of the United States, including periods when operating in an Army National Guard capacity, (2) the United States Army Reserve on active duty training, special duty for training, or special duty for training (duration of 30 days or more), (3) other uniformed Services (and their Families) assigned to or residing on Army installations; and (4) others entitled to care in medical treatment facilities.

3. What Types of Services are provided through FAP?

- Each installation operates a FAP to provide prevention, identification, reporting, investigation, victim advocacy, and treatment services. A FAP manager (FAPM) is responsible for directing the activities of the program, coordinating civilian and military resources, and publicizing reporting procedures. Among the myriad of services provided to prevent and intervene in domestic abuse, the Army ensures a 24/7 Victim Advocacy helpline to provide crisis intervention to victims of domestic abuse, the New Parent Support Program, which provides home visitation to educate at-risk parents with children ages birth to three years, and treatment for offenders.

4. Description of training provided through FAP

- Preventing Family violence is a command priority and leader responsibility. All commanders and their senior enlisted advisors receive FAP training. The Army also provides Soldiers annual FAP awareness training, a basic course for newly assigned personnel, and a series of advanced courses for clinical health care providers. In addition, two specialized courses for military police and criminal investigators on intervening in Family violence are taught at the U.S. Army Military Police School, Fort Leonard Wood, MO. Post employment, FAP staff receive initial and advanced specialized Family Advocacy Staff Training in residence. Biannual FAP training may also be provided to help staff meet continuing education requirements.

5. Qualifications of FAP staff: Professional Degrees are required for all FAP staff.

- FAPM possess a master's degree in social work, psychology, marriage and Family therapy, counseling or public health and must have a range of administrative, management, prevention, and direct services experience in order to deal with the complex issues associated with Family violence. At least two years

of postgraduate clinical, counseling or teaching experience in Family and children's services is required. Five years is preferred, with one year in programs dealing with Family violence issues.

- FAP victim advocates must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, marriage and Family therapy, child counseling, counseling or behavioral science, education, community health, or public health or criminal justice with two years of experience in domestic abuse victim advocacy.

6. Distinction between Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence and Adult Sexual Assault.

- **Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence** occurs within the Family or intimate partner relationship, the focus of FAP is on treatment to help and empower families to restore healthy functioning and build resiliency within the family and or intimate party relationship. Victims often elect to remain with the offender, which adds another dimension of vulnerability to domestic abuse relationships. Victim advocacy services are voluntary and may be provided to prevent abuse, and or during the aftermath of abuse. Services include prevention, crisis intervention and support during the assessment, investigation, and medical. Support is also provided if the case is adjudicated.

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- **Adult Sexual Assault focus is on** sexual assault that occurs outside the family. The focus of SAPR/Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Prevention Program (SHARP) is to prevent sexual assault, provide advocacy for victims, offender accountability, and training to support commanders in the execution of the commander SHARP Program. The Sexual Assault victim advocate's emphasis is supporting the victim throughout the life cycle following the assault, to include crisis intervention, investigation, initial and medical/counseling follow-up visits, and legal proceedings, when requested by the victim. The victim advocate may or may not be aware of or familiar with the perpetrator, which is different from a domestic abuse case, where the victim, in many cases resides with the perpetrator, and may continue to depend on the perpetrator for financial and emotional support.

FAP Victim Advocacy	Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program /SHARP Victim Advocacy
Provides 24/7 crisis intervention and on-going advocacy support/ offers restricted and unrestricted reporting	Provides 24/7 crisis intervention and on-going advocacy support/ offers restricted and unrestricted reporting
Provides support to Soldiers and Family members victimized by their spouses or intimate partners with whom relationships have been established	Provides support to adult Soldiers and eligible Family members sexually assaulted by perpetrators outside the family
Does not respond to sexual harassment complainants	Responds to sexual harassment complainants
Requires minimum of Bachelors Degree and 2 years experience/ no certification required/ continuing education; includes contractors and DA civilian staff.	No degree requirement; requires 80 hour SHARP training and National Organization Victim Assistance Certification/ continuing education/ only military/civilian staff
Service provided outside of the command/ ACS/ MTF/Non expeditionary requirement	Embedded within command/ with expeditionary capability
Background Checks: National Agency Check (NAC), Army Central Registry (ARC), Drug and Alcohol, and Criminal Investigation screenings	Background Checks: NAC, ACR, Drug and Alcohol, and Criminal Investigation screenings, Sex Offender Registry and Behavioral Health screening (mil)