



Organizing the Initial Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Department of Defense Out-of-Home Care

Department of Defense
Family Advocacy Program

April 2007

Key Considerations

- Cases are complex
- Immediate response to community is needed
- Command climate and support is critical
- Collaboration with civilian agencies is needed
- Coordinated multidisciplinary response is best
 - Investigation
 - Medical examinations and treatment
 - Counseling
- Two-level Task Force is most effective
 - Installation
 - MAJCOM or Region/Service/OSD Family Advocacy Command Assistance Team (FACAT)

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Investigation

- Clarify who is in charge and coordination channels
- Interviewing of children
 - Assess staff skill in interviewing young children
 - Plan coordination and structure
 - Ensure specially trained interviewers
 - Limit number of interviews
- Limit information sharing among investigators and with families
- Emphasize team building and trust

Community & Family Support

- **Installation command support is critical**
- **Remove suspect from position**
- **Conduct comprehensive medical exams for children**
- **Provide support group focus**
 - **Parents**
 - **Program staff**
- **Ensure follow-up treatment/counseling**

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Media/Public Affairs

- **Level of interest varies**
- **Perception of military varies**
- **Plan ahead for families' interaction with press**
- **Clarify chain of command for information release approval and distribution**

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Installation FAP Manager Tasks

- **Notify Service Headquarters FAP Manager of allegation through Family Advocacy Program (FAP) channels (DoD Instruction & Service policies)**
- **Notify installation command of potential for multiple victims**
 - **Complexity and workload**
 - **Community and media interest**
- **Identify potential members of installation strategy team and working group**

Installation Commander Tasks

- **Review situation**
- **Create local strategy team**
- **Create local working team**
- **Assess sufficiency of local resources**
- **Request additional resources:**
 - **MAJCOM/Region or Service FAP team**
 - **FACAT through Service Headquarters FAP Manager to Secretariat**

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Composition of the Local Strategy Team

- **Installation Commander**
- **Staff Judge Advocate (SJA)**
- **Public Affairs Officer**
- **Commander of Investigative Agency**
- **FAP Officer**
- **Medical Clinic Commander**
- **Commander with oversight of affected program**

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Composition of the Local Working Team

- Assistant SJA Officers
- Public Affairs Office representative
- Investigators (including civilian when applicable)
- FAP Officer/Manager
- Senior Pediatrician
- Senior Mental Health Provider
- Child Protective Services caseworker (when applicable)
- Director of affected program

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Assessing the Local Team's Workload

- What is the size of the potential victim pool?
- What is the screening strategy?
- Progress to date:
 - Number of potential victims screened?
 - Number of victims identified?
 - Number of victims with completed forensic interviews?
 - Number of victims with completed forensic medical examinations?

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Assessing Local Resources & Capabilities

- **Workload in this case**
- **Other installation workload issues**
- **Prior training**
 - **Child sexual abuse**
 - **Multiple victims in out-of-home care**
- **Prior experience**
 - **Multiple victims in out-of-home care**
 - **FACAT or Service Rapid Response Team**
- **Working relationships**

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Situations for a FACAT

- Large or unknown number of victims
- Installation staff and available civilian resources
 - Insufficient
 - Lack relevant experience and/or training
- Sponsors are from different Military Departments
- High potential for media coverage
- Prior multiple-victim case at installation

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FACAT Request

- **Service Headquarters FAP Manager notifies OSD FAP Director of pending request**
- **Identifies potential team members from Service**
- **Provides liaison between OSD FAP Director and installation staff**
 - **Logistical planning**
 - **Workload status**
- **Tracks and coordinates request for FACAT through Service Secretariat**

OSD FAP Director

- Briefs OSD chain of command
- Coordinates DUSD(FMP) approval of FACAT request
- Configures FACAT
- Coordinates deployment of team
 - Provides TDY/TAD fund cites
 - Ensures logistical support to team
- Maintains operational control of FACAT

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FACAT Composition

- **Team Chief - assigned by DUSD(MC&FP)**
- **Investigators - usually same Service as installation**
- **Social Workers/Psychologists**
- **Pediatrician/PNP**
- **Program Specialist***
- **Public Affairs Officer***
- **Attorney***

***optional**

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