



The Asks

These areas identified in this document are areas of improvement and are the current asks of Jusika Martinez, Creative and Advocate and Operation Addi to the U.S. Air Force. These improvements will help protect military children, equip parents to potentially have the appropriate tools to help their child heal after a life-changing trauma, and train and equip Airman and the civilian force to help and handle the sexual assault or sexual abuse of a minor.

Daycare Policy:

DODI/AF Changing and Diaper Changing Policy:

Status: Inception phase

Problem Identified: The current one is too vague; it needs to give specific examples of what is a violation or when a child should be changed.

The Why: Clothing was purchased for our daughter without our knowledge, and she was changed into clothing; her hair was redone and photographed with the provider by a 3rd party who is still unknown to this day. Due to how this policy is hidden and dependent upon base location and currently worded, it is unclear what is appropriate change and what is not. In our experience, the redressing of unconsented and personal photography sessions with our child did not violate regulations that oversee family childcare homes. Currently, the diaper changing policy only covers when the child's clothing is soiled and doesn't define what soiled is.

Family Child Care Homes (Specific):

Family Child Care Licencing Requirements:

Status: Inception phase

Problem Identified: The Family Child Care Homes are only regulated by the Branch they operate in, which allows for less public accountability and personal bias to influence inspections of Family Child Care homes. For additional security for the branch and for the parent, they

should also be required to gain licensing within the state they operate in. This allows for outside inspections and allows for public knowledge of any inspection issues they have.

The Why: In our experience, the Family Childcare Supervisor became very involved in each provider's lives and was personally connected to them, potentially influencing how she chose to handle our complaint. Per the IG investigation, they identified that things were not formally done or done at all when leading the Family Child Care Panel. Adding this additional level of licensing allows the states to oversee the inspection process, creating an unbiased relationship. This also helps when Sexual Assault Victims are identified and state agencies are contacted to conduct interviews and investigations.

Family Child Care Inspections:

Status: Inception phase

Problem Identified: The Family Child Care Home inspections are currently not released to the public like most state daycare inspections. This leaves for less accountability on inspections. By allowing states to oversee the licensing, it also publishes these records publicly.

The Why: This helps with the accountability of inspections.

Family Child Care Requirements - Video:

Status: Inception phase

Problem Identified: Video is not required within these homes, which leaves children 4 weeks to 4 years old vulnerable and without a key piece of evidence. From our experience, we learned that the Air Force Office of Special Investigations currently does not have Special Agents at every base or region who are educated or trained in child sex crimes. This leads to significant mishandling, including false information, inaccurate case notes, not understanding children and their trauma reactions from the assault, and sharing case information to those not identified within the standard operating procedure.

The Why: AFOSI agents stated to our SVC that without video, a victim's statement or medical they could not pursue investigating. 20+ months later, it was then identified that this piece of information was false. Adding video is potentially one item of evidence given to you if they state

that three items are needed to begin. In our case, this would not have helped because what happened to our daughter occurred away from the standard child care area that was inspected.

Handling of Sexual Assault (Minors):

Military Community - Education:

Status: Inception phase

The Ask: Military Parents should be educated on the signs of sexual assaults on minors. There are currently zero agencies on military installations that do this sort of education, including the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office of Family Advocacy Program.

The Why: We were acutely aware of the signs of sexual assault. If we had known what to do when we suspected this, our course of action could have been different, and it would have potentially helped to forensically give additional information to the investigators.

Many families connected to the military community believe that this would never happen to them or on a military installation. Additionally, the Operation Addi Knowledge Survey identified that 95% of parents serving in the military would like this education to help them be aware of the signs.

Military Community - Program Support:

Status: Inception phase

The Ask: Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victims Advocate should be notified and assigned at the hospital visit of a child sex crimes victim who are connected to the military. Or we need to identify an organization to help support these families because from our experience Family Advocacy Program can be influenced not to open a maltreatment case or provide services to families.

The Why: If we had someone knowledgeable on the process of sexual assaults on minors on a military installation, we could have been guided and supported instead of it becoming mishandled.

Military Community - Legal Support:

Status: Inception phase

The Ask: Special Victims Counsel application is processed within 48 hours of an allegation, including a military child.

The Why: The military created the Special Victims Counsel, but this wasn't told to us until after we started getting a call from Base Leadership telling me to remove a social post. This would have helped us significantly with handling leadership and the process and would help any family in this sort of situation.

Education - Military Support and Investigative Agencies:

Status: Inception phase

The Ask: Significant education needs to happen for all components that handle children and child investigations to include: Force Support Squadron, Exceptional Family Member Program, Family Advocacy Program, and Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

The Why: No one understood what we were going through except our SVC, which is only one facet of programs that we needed to interact with.

Education - Military Support and Investigative Agencies:

Status: Inception phase

The Ask: Continued education on child sex crimes for Family Advocacy Program and Air Force Office of Special Investigations, more than 1 or 2 times a year.

The Why: AFOSI did not take adequate notes in our case; they also told Family Advocacy to stand down, which is out of the standard operating procedure. That also left us without mental health services for our daughter. Additionally, with Family Advocacy standing down, her maltreatment case did not enter their records system, nor was it reviewed by a Clinical Staffing Meeting. Having someone outside of these chains advocate for families would also be beneficial to ensure that this doesn't happen.

Certification - Investigative Agencies:

The Ask: Air Force Office of Special Investigations needs to be educated and certified in child sex crimes.

The Why: Our child's care was significantly mishandled due to the lack of education on child sex crimes that the Special Agents and the Special Agent leadership possessed.

Status: Elaboration/Construction phase.

The Air Force is currently working on a program to develop the curriculum for certifications, but outside and civilian agencies should have a say in that program.

Improved Process - Investigative Agencies:

Status: Inception phase

The Ask: Air Force Office of Special Investigations needs to develop a process for all child sex crimes to run by their Supporting Special Agents (Psychologists) to review case notes and speak to the victim or the victim's family.

The Why: In our case, our daughter stopped talking for almost 5 months after this happened to her so speaking to the family would have been beneficial.

Improved Process - Supportive Agencies:

Status: Inception phase

The Ask: Air Force Exceptional Family Member Program needs to have a victims track because Expedited Transfers were not available for dependents at the time of our case.

The Why: We were then moved to North Carolina, where there were no services, and they tried sending our daughter to a counselor who treated sexual offenders. We then asked for the requirement of Registered Play Therapy who is Trauma-Informed to be part of the credentials they looked for. We ended up driving 150 miles weekly for care in the evening after work. After advocating for 8+ months, we were then relocated back to the same state at a different place where there were more therapy options. EFMP coordinators also need to understand that EFMP is not just for children who have a physical disability. And they also need to be able to support

families and help identify the service needs because those who are going through a life event don't always know what they need. This also would have helped us avoid being sent to a counselor who treated sex offenders in our new location.