

# OUR STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING.



## THE SAPR SOURCE



SUMMER 2009

### Assault Victims Find Empowerment in Restricted Reporting

By Navy Lt. Jennifer Cragg

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Many sexual assault victims in the military are using an option that allows them to disclose the details of the assault confidentially and receive medical treatment and counseling without triggering the official investigative process, a senior official in the military's fight against sexual assault said yesterday.

Since the "Restricted Reporting" option became available in June 2005, more than 2500 Service members who were victims of sexual assault or rape have used it, Dr. Kaye Whitley, director of the Defense Department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, said during a "DotMilDocs" radio program on BlogTalkRadio.com.

"I usually say that is probably 2500 people [who] wouldn't have reported that sexual assault," Whitley said.

Upon notification of a reported sexual assault, sexual assault response coordinators, or SARCs, immediately

assign a victim advocate to provide accurate information on the processes of both Restricted and Unrestricted Reporting to the victim. If the victim chooses to use Restricted Reporting, Whitley explained, health care providers initiate the appropriate care and treatment and report the sexual assault to a sexual assault response coordinator, or SARC, in lieu of reporting the assault to law enforcement or the command.

At the victim's discretion, an appropriately trained health care provider will conduct a sexual assault forensic examination, which may include the collection of evidence. In the absence of a Defense Department provider, the Service member will be referred to an appropriate civilian facility for the exam, Whitley said.

The command is not notified of the victim's identity, but the command is notified that a sexual assault took place. This gives the commander an opportunity to take protective or awareness measures for the installation's popula-

"It's really important that people come forward, because anyone that has ever worked with any type of trauma victim knows that early intervention is key ... so our goal in having Restricted Reporting is to get that victim in there to get the medical care and counseling that they need," she said.

The option of Restricted Reporting in the military has provided victims of sexual assault the same option as those in the civilian sector who may involve authorities about the assault, Whitley noted.

"I usually give the example that if I worked for a major corporation in the civilian sector and I am sexually assaulted or raped, if I go forward for medical help or care, they don't pick up the phone and call my boss at the corporation," she said. "Now, if a [military] victim reports a sexual assault to receive medical care, the choice to notify the command is the victim's. That is empowering for the individual."

Previously Printed

## PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IS PART OF OUR DUTY.



## Director's Corner

Dr. Kaye Whitley

**D**OD SAPRO has been very active during the past several months, from wrapping up Sexual Assault Awareness Month, to visiting campuses across the nation to learn more about college and university sexual assault prevention strategies. Along the way, we recognized the outstanding work of some very hard working SARCS.

### Sexual Assault Awareness Month

As you well know, April is always a very busy month. The Department observed Sexual Assault Awareness Month this year by hosting and attending several events.

The first, and perhaps the most important event, was the Exceptional Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Award Ceremony in the Pentagon. Five Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCS) were honored for their work in their respective services. The award ceremony recognized SARCS whose work demonstrated outstanding service in support of their fellow Service members.

DOD SAPRO also hosted a Congressional reception to inform members of Congress and their staff about Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) initiatives occurring across the Armed Services. Representatives from all four Services and the National Guard set up booths and answered attendee questions about current and future SAPR initiatives.

SAPRO also sponsored a prevention focused web seminar facilitated by the non-profit organization, Men Can Stop Rape (MCSR). We had a number of SARCS and VAs tune in to hear how they could refine their skills to engage military men in the prevention of sexual assault. If you missed this one, there will be another "webinar" in September 2009. Contact Marci Hodge at 703-696-9422 if you want to sign up.

I am also pleased to mention that Lt Col Nate Galbreath, SAPRO's Deputy Director, and I were recognized by the leadership of Men Can Stop Rape for the Department's work on the Department's prevention program. The award was given during MCSR's first *National Conference on the Primary Prevention of Men's Violence Against Women*.

### Academy Visits

In late April, I headed the DoD SAPRO assessment team that

visited the United States Air Force Academy. As we do every odd-numbered year, we were on site to review documentation and interview staff about the Academy's work to address sexual harassment and sexual assault. In June, I conducted similar visits with the United States Military Academy in West Point, NY, and the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On each visit, I was also able to speak to the local media about the great work each school has been doing. The Defense Manpower Data Center visited all three academies earlier in the spring to conduct focus groups with the cadets and midshipmen. The feedback from the groups and SAPRO's observations will be combined into this year's Military Service Academy Assessment that the Department provides to Congress each December.

### SAAC

In May, DoD SAPRO hosted the Sexual Assault Advisory Committee (SAAC) bi-annual meeting. We had a different mix of attendees at this meeting, as most of the new DoD leadership has not yet been appointed. The meeting was chaired by Nancy Weaver, the Director of the Defense Language Office, who was sitting in for the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Nevertheless, we took the opportunity to inform our stakeholders in the Department and our federal partners about the initiatives underway in each Service to prevent sexual assault.

### Rutgers University and the University of Kentucky

Members of my office have also been on the road to learn more about sexual assault prevention programs at civilian universities. My office was asked by the Secretary of Defense to explore SAPR programs at civilian universities to find promising practices that could be applied within the Armed Forces.

Lt Col Galbreath met with Ruth Anne Koenick, Director of the Rutgers University Department of Sexual Assault Services and Crime Victim Assistance to talk about the prevention program and other services at Rutgers University.

During the trip he observed a performance by SCREAM Theater, which stands for Students Challenging Reality and Educating Against Myths. The group uses improvisation and skits to educate their peers about the prevention of sexual assault and domestic violence.

*(continued on page 3)*



Student actors from the SCREAM Theater at Rutgers University.

SCREAM Theater is deeply embedded in the university's orientation program, student athletics, and research.

Lt. Col. Galbreath also visited with Dr. Dorothy Edwards, the Director of the Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP)

Center at the University of Kentucky to learn more about the "Green Dot" program.

The university's VIP Center has developed the Green Dot violence prevention campaign ([www.greendotkentucky.com](http://www.greendotkentucky.com)) which encourages members of the University of Kentucky community to contribute "green dots," which are behaviors, choices, words, or attitudes that promote prevention of violence. Part of the campaign consists of training students in bystander intervention and other techniques that decrease likelihood of sexual assault or the prevalence of attitudes that support the crime.

The visits were a great opportunity to see what other experts are doing to prevent sexual assault in a demographic very similar to our own.

### Defense Knowledge Online

Lastly, I would like to encourage everyone to look at our SAPR page on Defense Knowledge Online. There you can find all of the SARC resources for SAPRO including posters, public service announcements for the "Our Strength Is for Defending ... Preventing Sexual Assault is part of our Duty" campaign. We also have forums for discussion so that you can share your tips and techniques with other SARCs and victim advocates around the world. Go to <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/382109> for instructions for registration.

### Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) Collaborative Training Project

PCAR, one of the nation's leaders in sexual assault prevention and response, received a grant from OVC to develop a

training program for civilian victim advocates to better support Service member victims of sexual assault. The training project is entitled, *Strengthening Military-Civilian Community Partnerships to Respond to Sexual Assault*.

The curriculum is an interactive two-day training that will help civilian agency participants establish partnerships with local military installations in order to effectively respond to the needs of sexual assault victims in the military. A Facilitator's Guide, Participant's Manual and CD for this project have been finalized and currently, PCAR and OVC are researching the possibility of a second phase to this project where OVC will fund several military SARCs to partner with their local civilian counterparts to perform regional trainings around the country using the newly developed curriculum

### Other News

This summer we have several Policy Assistance Visits planned, which are described in more detail on page 6. In addition, the SAPRO office has been leading the development of a DoD-wide strategic plan to share best practices and provide a consistent approach to the SAPR program. We'll be meeting with the Service SAPR program managers in July to collaborate on this plan. We're also continuing to work on the new Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database or DSAID. Each Military Service has agreed to enter data into DSAID, or have its existing data system push information into DSAID. Last January, we submitted a plan to Congress to describe how DSAID would work, based on a proposal developed by the Services. We have stuck very closely to that proposal. We anticipate having a contract in place this summer to design and implement DSAID.

Thank you all for your continued hard work to prevent sexual assault and care for victims. We always welcome your suggestions! Let us know how we can help you by sending us an email or giving us a call.

**"OUR STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING!"**



## 2009 Exceptional SARC Award Recipients

In April, OSD SAPR hosted the first Exceptional SARC Awards, which honored SARCs whose work demonstrated outstanding service in support of their fellow Service members. DoD SARCs come from a diverse group of backgrounds and the winners of the Exceptional SARC awards are no exception.

### Master Sergeant Verlean K. Brown, United States Army

Master Sergeant Verlean K. Brown assumed responsibility as the Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and Equal Opportunity Advisor of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) in April 2008. A native of Terry, Mississippi, she joined the U. S. Army Reserve in June 1976 under the Civilian Acquired Skills Program and attended Basic Combat Training at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

Her first assignment as Troop Program Unit member was with the 2d Maneuver Command in Jackson, Mississippi. In February 1987, she was assigned to the 3390th USARF School as an Administrative NCO and NCOES Instructor in 1989. Eleven years later, she transferred back to Jackson, Mississippi, with the 5th BN, 100th Division as an NCOES Instructor. She was reassigned to the 90th RRC at Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, AR, in October 2001 as Senior Training NCO and as Equal Opportunity Advisor in December 2005.

Her education includes many military schools to include the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (Equal Opportunity Advisor), Administrative Specialist Course, Primary Leadership Course. She additionally holds a degree from Arkansas State University. and Hinds Junior College.



### Captain Sally Falco, United States Marine Corps

Captain Falco has spent the last 22 years serving her country and her fellow Marines since joining the United States Marine Corps in 1987.

She started her career as an enlisted Marine, where she served in a wide variety of roles from logistics chief to the 1st Marine Division's Career Planner. After obtaining two bachelor's degrees, she was selected to attend Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in August 2001 and shortly thereafter; she attended The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia in 2002.

Captain Falco has been the SARC at Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, since June 2007. She has received numerous awards for her service in the Marine Corps, and she has degrees in Social Psychology and Criminal Justice from Park University.

### Captain Maritza M. Sayle-Walker, United States Air Force

Captain Maritza M. Sayle-Walker is the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. Serving as the SARC, she is responsible for ensuring that the 15th Airlift Wing, and its 140 associate and tenant units have educational and prevention efforts available for its Airmen as well as providing victim support to victims of a sexual assault.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree in 2003 from Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Texas, and a master degree in business administration from Columbia Southern University in January 2009. Captain Sayle-Walker was commissioned as a second lieutenant in May 2003, and is a Force Management Officer.





## 2009 Exceptional SARC Award Recipients



### Catherine Cole Miller, United States Navy

Ms. Miller has a life-long history of advocacy, addressing the wellness of Navy families and of social justice. Since 1994 she has been the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island SARC, and was the first SARC to establish a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program.

One of the key highlights of her career was the establishment of an expanded sexual assault response team. In 1995, she attended the second Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) conference in San Diego, and coordinated attendance for local Naval Criminal Investigative Service, legal and security personnel. As a result of her expansion of the response team, a pamphlet was gener-

ated that is still used today at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, explaining options and processes to victims. That same year, she organized the first Naval Air Station Whidbey Island VWAP training which included speakers from higher echelons of what is now Commander, Navy Installations Command. She was also the first SARC to present the new SAVI program onboard the USS Abraham Lincoln Battle Group, as part of the return and reunion program.

Prior to her role as a SARC in the Navy, she worked for 15 years for Child Protective Services in Washington State, and was the local liaison between that agency and the Navy's Family Advocacy Program, ensuring a two-way awareness of supports and safety measures available.

Her education includes many military schools to include the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (Equal Opportunity Advisor), Administrative Specialist Course, Primary Leadership Course. She additionally holds a degree from Arkansas State University and Hinds Junior College.

### Sergeant Major Donald R. Werts, National Guard Bureau

Sergeant Major Donald R. Werts was appointed as the Pennsylvania Army National Guard Sexual Assault Response Coordinator in May 2006, and later as the Joint Force Headquarters Sexual Assault Response Coordinator on 11 June 2008.

He enlisted in the United States Army in 1968 and served with the 303rd Research Battalion in Vietnam from August 1968 through October 1970. Following that assignment, Sergeant Major Werts was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas until 1971

He joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in July 1976 with the 2/109th Infantry Battalion in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and served as an Intelligence Analyst. He also served as First Sergeant of Co E. 1/109th Infantry and as the Operations Sergeant Major for the 55th Brigade. SGM Werts transferred to Joint Force Headquarters where he also served as an Equal Opportunity Advisor. In January 2007, Sergeant Major Werts was assigned to HHC 28th Infantry (M) as the Senior Intelligence Sergeant.

Sergeant Major Werts holds a baccalaureate degree in Business Administration from Kings College and a master's degree in business from Wilkes College. In addition, he is a graduate of the US Army Sergeant's Major Academy, and a graduate of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.





# Recent and Future Events

## PAST QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

### APRIL 2009

National Capitol Region Booth at the Pentagon

Joint Community Proclamation Signing for Child Abuse & SAAM, Charleston AFB

Exceptional SARC Awards' Ceremony, Pentagon

Congressional Reception, Capitol Hill, Washington DC

Webinar for SARCs via Internet Part I

Assessment Visit at USAFA, Colorado Springs, CO

### MAY 2009

DOJ USAO Victim Witness Program Issues Seminar

Sexual Assault Advisory Committee Meeting, Pentagon

### JUNE 2009

Assessment Visits at United States Military Academy, West Point, NY

United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD

National Center for Victims of Crime 2009 National Conference

Policy Assistance Visits at: Pensacola, FL, Great Lakes, IL, Parris Island, SC, San Diego, CA

Webinar for SARCs via Internet Part II

## CURRENT QUARTER

### JULY 2009

Policy Assistance Visit at Maxwell AFB, AL

### AUGUST 2009

Policy Assistance Visits at Lackland AFB, TX, Atlanta, GA, Ft. Jackson, SC

Military Sexual Trauma VA Conference, New Orleans, LA

### SEPTEMBER 2009

PCAR Conference, Alexandria, VA

14th International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma, San Diego, CA

**OUR STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING.**

**PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IS PART OF OUR DUTY.**

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED, FIND OUT REPORTING AND CARE OPTIONS FROM MILITARY ONESOURCE  
 STATESIDE: 1-800-342-9647  
 OVERSEAS: 00-800-3429-6477  
 OVERSEAS COLLECT: 1-484-530-5908

Learn what you can do to prevent sexual assault at **MyDuty.mil**

**READINESS = RESPECT**



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