

OUR STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING.



THE SAPR SOURCE



SPRING 2009

The Department of Defense Participates in Sexual Assault Awareness Month

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Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

The phrase sexual assault generally conjures the image of an assailant hiding in a dark alley waiting to attack an unsuspecting victim. But in reality, most sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows and alcohol is often the primary weapon used to incapacitate. That's why in April, during Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), the Department of Defense is launching a new social marketing campaign based on a researched-based strategy, designed to dramatically increase prevention of this devastating crime.

This year's theme, "*Our Strength is for Defending...Preventing Sexual Assault is Part of Our Duty*," signifies the Department's goal of Service members having a dual-minded focus of protecting both their country and their brothers and sisters in arms. According to Dr. Kaye Whitley, director of

OSD SAPRO, "It is extremely important that all Service members, starting with senior leadership, understand the importance of preventing sexual assault within the Armed Forces. Sexual assault tears at the very fabric that holds a unit together."

The prevention strategy will focus on educating Service members to participate in what is generally referred to as "active bystander intervention", a term used to describe how Service members can be aware and safely intervene in situations that may be leading up to a sexual assault. "We want our Service members to watch each other's backs whether they are out on a patrol or off-duty having fun," Whitley said. "Active bystander intervention builds on that concept. Research has shown that third party intervention can be pivotal in stopping a sexual assault before it occurs."

The campaign for the new strategy will feature educational materials including campaign posters, informational brochures, and radio and televised public service announcements all designed to inform and educate Service members on the actions they can take to keep each other safe. Topics, in addition to active bystander intervention, will include how to report a sexual assault and support fellow Service members who have been victimized. Special focus will be given to the vital role that the Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC's) and Victim Advocates (VAs) play in sexual assault prevention and response for installations and units.

This is the fifth year that the Department has directly participated in Sexual Assault Awareness Month. For more information on the Department's activities, please visit: www.MyDuty.mil

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



Director's Corner

Dr. Kaye Whitley, Director of SAPRO

I want to thank each of you for your hard work in 2008. Last year, all of you out there working this program played an important role in the successes we achieved for the DoD SAPR program. For those of you who are new, or may have found us through our new messaging campaign: welcome! Let me acquaint you with a few of our accomplishments over the past year:

- In February, The US Forces Japan (USFJ) Commander requested a SAPRO subject matter expert to assist with a review of SAPR policy implementation at installations in Japan. This was in response to several high profile sexual assaults in the area involving service members. We took part in the USFJ SAPR Task Force and assisted with the findings and solutions. We want to thank the USFJ/CC for including us in this critical operation.
- In April, the Department held a remarkably successful symposium in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). The symposium focused on the intersection of alcohol and sexual assault. The event was attended by over 150 participants representing DoD, federal agencies, Congress, and civilian organizations.
- In August, our Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Conference took place in Tampa, Florida. We had more than 300 participants, 15 presenters from various disciplines, 18 hours of lectures and a Services breakout day. The conference offered excellent awareness and dialogue opportunities for SARCs and VAs from around the world.
- Throughout the summer, the SAPRO Policy Assistance Team (PAT) hit the road and conducted visits to Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Pacific Command, and Central Command headquarters. This was our initial visit to operational military installations. I want to thank all of the Commanders and SARCs for helping us set up interviews with VAs, Chaplains, criminal investigators, health care professionals, judge advocates, officers, and enlisted personnel. We look forward to visiting more installations later this year.
- Congress remains interested in the Department's progress with assisting victims and preventing sexual assault in the military. The Department briefed staff and members of the House and Senate Armed Services Subcommittees, as well as the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. At the briefings, we provided updates on a number of initiatives the Department is working to enhance SAPR policies and programs.

On March 17th 2009, the Department released the FY08 Annual Report to Congress on Sexual Assault in the Military. In addition to reporting the number of sexual assaults, the report described the efforts that the Department is taking to prevent sexual assault. The research-based prevention strategy, victim care programs and system accountability were all detailed in the report. The research-based prevention strategy, victim care programs and system accountability was all detailed in the report. While the report showed an 8 percent increase it is important that everyone understand that one sexual assault is too many. We must all work together to prevent this horrible crime from ever occurring within our ranks. It hurts our readiness and tears at the very unity that binds us together.

That's why in April the Department is debuting its new campaign called *"Our Strength is for Defending...Preventing Sexual Assault is Part of Our Duty"*, which calls on everyone to play an active part in preventing sexual assault. The campaign is going to reinforce the ideas that we teach in the Department's annual sexual assault awareness training. All of the Services are making great strides in instituting effective prevention strategies and the Department is committed to preventing sexual assault.

I want to end with a brief tribute to the man chiefly responsible for the success of our program: the former Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, David S. C. Chu. For the past eight years, Dr. Chu was the Secretary's senior policy advisor on recruitment, career development, and pay and benefits for 1.4 million active duty military personnel, 1.3 million Guard and Reserve personnel and 680,000 DoD civilians. In February of 2004, Dr. Chu was tasked to review the treatment and care for victims of sexual assault in the Military Services. He quickly assembled the Care for Victims of Sexual Assault Task Force which undertook a 90-day review of all sexual assault policies and programs within the DoD. No one was more committed to sexual assault prevention and response than Dr. Chu. He was the champion of the SAPR program and provided the leadership to institutionalize the policy throughout the Department.

There is always a lot going on here in the beltway and out in the field. I have several trips and events planned this year that you can see on page 6. I look forward to meeting with all of you during the Policy Assessment Visits and the Military Service Academy assessments. Sexual assault must be prevented and I know each and every one of you is doing your absolute best to ensure that it happens. Keep up the good fight and remember:

"OUR STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING!"



Air Force Leaders Reinforce Zero Tolerance for Sexual Assault

By Staff Sgt. Moniue Randolph, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Leaders from wing level to senior Air Force brass gathered for a two-day leader summit on sexual assault prevention and response Nov. 17-18 here. Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz affirmed their commitment to eliminating sexual assaults in the Air Force, and challenged Air Force leaders and Airmen to do the same.

“Sexual assault is absolutely inconsistent with our core values and it has no place in our Air Force; in a deployed context, at home, or anywhere in between,” said Secretary Donley. “Many offenders were known by their victims and most involved crimes committed by other Service members. This is blue-on-blue violence and we can not accept it.”

General Schwartz echoed the secretary’s comments. “We must foster a culture that actively rejects sexual assault and similar kinds of behavior,” he said to the group. “This is not passive; we cannot just hope for the right outcome. This requires activism on all our parts. The message should be loud and clear that addressing sexual assault is a foremost and direct responsibility of commanders and a collective responsibility of our community of Airmen.”

In 2005, the Air Force launched the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program and placed full-time sexual assault response coordinators, or SARCs, at all main operating installations. SARCs report directly to vice wing commanders and provide support at locations across the Air Force, including main deployment sites. Additionally, 1,695 volunteer victim advocates assist the SARCs in ensuring victims of sexual assault receive the care and support they need.

“Our efforts here and our programs require constant senior leadership involvement,” said Lt. Gen. Dick Newton, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, which oversees the Air Force SAPR program. “The SAPR program relies on Airmen’s ability to trust their leadership and trust the system enough to report incidents of sexual assault.”

Reporting remains one of the biggest challenges facing the program and Air Force leadership. Victims have two options for reporting sexual assault—restricted and unrestricted. Restricted Reporting is available for members serving in an active-duty status and allows a victim to confidentially disclose information about an assault to SARCs, victim advocates and healthcare personnel to receive medical treatment, counseling



Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley speaks at the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Leader Summit challenging Air Force leaders throughout the Air Force-to make a commitment to eliminating sexual assault in the Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo/Scott Ash)

and advocacy without automatically triggering an official investigative process. An unrestricted report is any report of a sexual assault made through normal reporting channels, including the victim’s chain of command, law enforcement, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations or other criminal investigative service.

While there were nearly 600 reported incidents of sexual assault among Airmen in fiscal year 2007, statistics show many victims are still hesitant to come forward when a sexual assault occurs.

“Whether or not Airmen place trust in the system, and whether or not they choose to come forward is based on their trust in (leadership) to be able to get to the root of the problem and solve it for them,” General Newton said. “We must ask ourselves if we have the climate, communication and processes in place; do we have the leadership in place whereby our Airmen feel if they come forward, they will be listened to and supported? We have to make sure we have that trust established for our men and women.”

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Air Force Leaders Reinforce Zero Tolerance for Sexual Assault

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“Creating that culture and climate begins with prevention and awareness education so that our Airmen understand the realities of sexual assault,” said Carl Buchanan, manager of the Air Force’s SAPR program at the Pentagon. Currently, Airmen receive sexual assault awareness training when they enter the Air Force either through Basic Military Training or officer accession programs, and other venues. All Airmen must also fulfill an annual training requirement and pre-deployment training through the base SARC.

New initiatives are on the horizon for the SAPR program to include bystander intervention training, risk reduction, education and training incorporated into formal professional military education courses that “grows” with Airmen as they progress in rank and responsibility.

Pilot sessions for bystander intervention modules were completed in October and November at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and Keesler AFB, Miss., which enabled enlisted, officer and civilian Airmen to provide first-hand input

for the modules, Mr. Buchanan said. Bystander intervention training is a prevention strategy that will provide Airmen the appropriate skills to prevent sexual assaults before they occur and continue to reinforce the wingman approach.

“Our goal is to develop effective education that achieves a working knowledge of sexual assault prevention and results in positive behavioral change,” said Mr. Buchanan. “To aid in this effort, the Air Force has obtained advice from many national experts, some of whom presented powerful messages about sexual assault, victimization, and prevention methodologies to the leaders attending the summit.”

Sexual assault prevention and response education focuses on the definition of sexual assault, how it impacts victims, reporting options, available support, how predators target victims, and steps Airmen can take to identify and address behaviors leading to sexual assault. Formal training is based on continued development throughout an entire career, and will build based on Airmen’s level

of leadership and responsibility. By mid-December, the Air Force plans to release training modules for pre-deployment and for Airmen arriving at their first duty assignments. Similar course modules are also expected to be released in January 2009 for enlisted and officer professional military education curriculum.

“We need to go out and make sure everyone in the Air Force understands sexual assault will not be tolerated,” General Newton said to the group. “I hope we don’t create a great program and build great relationships, then go back to our units and do nothing with it. (Sexual Assault Prevention and Response) needs to become part of our institution. What I hope is that your own awareness has increased and will compel you to act, think, and lead differently.”

For more information, contact the local sexual assault response coordinator or visit the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office website, www.MyDuty.mil.



Students at the recent AF SARC Course pose for a group photo at Maxwell AFB, AL. The mandatory, one-week course provides the foundation for all individuals who work in the Air Force's SAPR Program. Students from CONUS and overseas bases received instruction from national experts, current SARCs, and Air Staff representatives; they also participated in multiple role-playing exercises to practice helping skills, and learn how to assist victims who have experienced a complex trauma like sexual assault.



Spotlight on SARCs & Victim Advocates

The Air Force SAPR Program trains all its Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs), to include deputies, alternates, and administrative assistants through a 40-hour course conducted twice a year at Maxwell AFB, AL. The three-person office at the Headquarters Air Staff couldn't make this happen without the help of many talented SARCs from the field. This month's Spotlight recognizes several of our veteran SARCs who are valued contributors to the SAPR program.

Deborah Allen serves as the installation SARC, at Eglin Air Force Base. Eglin AFB is one of the largest AF installations in the world—with 4,500 civilians and 8,500 military members. Debbie brings her talent and experience to the students in the SARC course, as a facilitator during role playing sessions, and through her enthusiastic presentation of “Basic SARC Responsibilities” to the students. At her home station, Ms Allen planned a base-wide “Not Without Consent” campaign for SAAM in Apr 08. Her supervisor Col Rick LoCastro, 96 ABW/CV, states, “Ms. Allen is nothing short of amazing. She has built a DoD & USAF- recognized program, and all will tell you she is doing incredible things--not just in response when we have a tragedy...but in education, training, and prevention. Her initiative and creativity has taken our program from good...to phenomenal.”



LaNesa Howard is the Installation SARC at Maxwell-Gunter AFB, AL. She is a valued presenter at the SARC course, teaching a dynamic block of instruction on “How to Deliver Effective Training,” which the students always enjoy. Her supervisor Col Tyrone Woodyard, 42 ABW/CV says, “We are very proud of LaNesa's accomplishments and the outstanding SAPR program at Maxwell-Gunter. Her education and training seminars are legendary around the base. Feedback from her training sessions describe her effective and professional use of a multimedia presentation that communicate the facts and dispels the myths of sexual assaults to a diverse population. She demonstrates the emotional, physical and mental effects of sexual assault and the impact on the lives of our Airmen and their ability to perform their duties. She has established an extensive, proactive and responsive network across the installation with our Chaplains, Security Forces, medical and mental health professionals, base operators, command post controllers, Commanders, First Sergeants, civilians and military personnel. LaNesa epitomizes our Wingman culture. Her passion and commitment to care for our Airmen, civilians and family members is a testimony to her phenomenal talents and professionalism.”

Elisabeth Waters is the Installation SARC at Keesler AFB, MS, which is one of the AF's largest Technical Training bases graduating over 30,000 junior Airmen annually from the various training programs. She has a robust program that engages the Airmen on their level, and inspires real change by teaching how to be a good Wingman. Liz has been another valued presenter at the SARC course who has received high praise from the students for her expertise on “Recruiting and Utilizing Victim Advocates.” Col Christopher Valle, 81 TRW/CV states, “Liz Waters delivers leadership, energy, and action as the Keesler SARC each and every day. Her energy brought the SAPR program from a concept to reality. Our base population recognizes and appreciates her effort to care for victims and to foster a culture of respect and responsibility in our Air Force. Liz and her team received the 2008 Community Partner Award from the Gulf Coast Women's Center for Non-Violence, for support and services they provide to victims of violence & assault. Team Keesler appreciates the challenging responsibility to care for our Wingman. We are proud to have Liz Waters on our team.”





Recent and Future Events

PAST QUARTER

9 JANUARY 2009

DTFSAMS Meeting, Arlington, VA

28 JANUARY 2009

Congressional Hearing on Victim Care, Washington, DC

6 MARCH 2009

Congressional Hearing on Prevention, Washington, DC

17 MARCH 2009

Annual Report Released to Congress

24 MARCH 2009

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Oversight Study Kick-Off, Arlington, VA

THIS QUARTER

2, 9, 16, 23 APRIL 2009

National Capitol Region Booth at Pentagon

2 APRIL 2009

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

17 APRIL 2009

Exceptional SARC Awards' Ceremony, Pentagon

20 APRIL 2009

Congressional Reception, Capitol Hill, Washington DC

28 APRIL 2009

Webinar for SARCs via Internet

29 APRIL 2009

Assessment Visit, US Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO

15 MAY 2009

Sexual Assault Advisory Committee Meeting, Pentagon

2 JUNE 2009

Assessment Visit, US Military Academy at West Point, NY

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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