



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



PREVENTION

The DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) is committed to eliminating sexual assault in the Military and fostering a culture of dignity and respect across the Department. SAPRO develops force-wide prevention techniques, practices, and strategies to highlight signs of victimization, stop misconduct, and act to prevent future crimes. SAPRO's approach to preventing sexual assault requires a personal commitment from every Service member. From new recruits to senior leaders, everyone plays a key role in combating the crime.

Prevention Approach

SAPRO takes an aggressive, comprehensive approach to preventing sexual assault and seeks to drive engagement at each level of the military. This approach is applied across the Department through a variety of efforts.

- >> **Strategy:** The forthcoming *2017-2021 Sexual Assault Prevention Plan of Action* builds on the *2014-2016 Sexual Assault Prevention Strategy* by drawing from expert research and practices in both the DoD and civilian communities to advance sexual assault prevention
- >> **DoD-wide Forums:** SAPRO coordinates with other DoD organizations to address readiness-impacting behaviors and spearhead joint approaches to military prevention efforts
- >> **Education and Training:** DoD incorporates training and activities beginning at accession and continuing throughout a Service member's career
- >> **Outreach:** SAPRO works with the Services to build campaigns and awareness initiatives that promote a culture intolerant of sexual assault

Prevention in Action

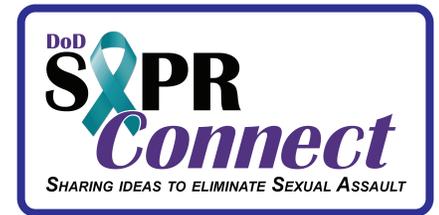
Successful prevention efforts require tailored actions and messages to guide attitudes and sustain positive climates. SAPRO has built a multidisciplinary approach with the following elements:

- >> **Leadership involvement at all levels** to set an example for the unit
- >> **Peer-to-peer mentorship** to promote military values, attitudes, and behaviors
- >> **Education and training** to professionalize the force
- >> **Accountability** of all staff that fosters a unit climate of trust and safety
- >> **Organizational support** to institutionalize programs focused on prevention
- >> **Community involvement** led by DoD leaders and SARCs that extends the unit climate
- >> **Deterrence** measures that are evidence-based and carefully implemented
- >> **Communication** to encourage appropriate values, attitudes, and behaviors
- >> **Incentives** to recognize those who establish innovative initiatives that energize the unit
- >> **Harm reduction** tactics that are calibrated to reduce areas of concern

Implementing some or all of these elements in prevention efforts offers multiple forms of influence on Service members. Much like a puzzle, these elements complement each other to form an overall comprehensive prevention program. These key elements are integrated throughout every level of the Department, with leaders playing a critical role.

STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT

- More than 2,200 continuing education units for professional credential renewal earned through SAPRO-led Prevention Webinar series
- Thousands of Service members around the world involved in SAPR Connect, DoD's online prevention community of practice
- 120+ daily visitors access more than 300 prevention-related resources on SAPR Connect



MAJOR PREVENTION EFFORTS

- Developing the *2017-2021 Sexual Assault Prevention Plan of Action* to advance prevention efforts by tapping into evidence-based practices and articulating what Service members can do at each echelon of the Department
- Releasing the *Prevention Guide* to provide unit leaders with specific actions they can consider to advance and retain a climate of dignity and respect
- Executing the *Installation Prevention Project* to establish a framework to understand current practices at the installation level and identify opportunities for growth
- Leading the annual *DoD-wide Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month* each April to foster awareness of the impact of sexual assault on the DoD community and encourage all Services members to do their part to fight this crime
- Recognizing Service members and DoD Civilians with the annual *DoD-wide Prevention Innovation Awards*

For more information, please visit sapr.mil

For confidential victim assistance, call or visit the DoD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247 or safehelpline.org