

SAAM Certified Sexual Assault Advocate Appreciation Day



As of April 1, 2013, more than 3,600 DoD Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates (SAPR VAs) have received Department of Defense Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP) Certification during FY13. These advocates join a growing field of certified victim advocates who are trained and committed to upholding the highest standards for victim care and privacy.

Every certified SARC and SAPR VA will receive a D-SAACP customized teal ribbon to wear proudly during SAAM and throughout the year. The teal ribbon is a nationally recognized symbol of sexual assault awareness and prevention.

Each installation/base command is encouraged to plan a “**Certified Sexual Assault Advocate Appreciation Day**” during SAAM. Suggested activities to highlight this day include:

- Designate a day in April as Certified Sexual Assault Advocate Appreciation Day. Request the Installation Commander or Senior Commander issue a SAAM Proclamation that highlights this day and other SAAM activities.
- Coordinate a Command pause for Certified Sexual Assault Advocate Appreciation Day.
- Schedule a ceremony to recognize D-SAACP certified advocates with coins or certificates of appreciation.
- Encourage individual commanders to recognize unit certified advocates in a special formation and highlight teal ribbons.
- Post a command message about Certified Sexual Assault Advocate Appreciation Day on the installation/AOR website.
- Unveil public boards and/or posters with pictures and titles of all certified advocates wearing their teal ribbons and the installation's 24/7 hotline.
- Organize an installation SAAM Run/Walk led by D-SAACP certified advocates and Command with Commanders recognizing these advocates at the start or conclusion of the run/walk event.
- Utilize social media to send an installation message/tweet about Certified Sexual Assault Advocate Appreciation Day.
- Host a luncheon with Command to thank D-SAACP certified advocates and other first responders.
- Recognize SAAM and D-SAACP certified advocates during the monthly Sexual Assault Case Management Meeting.

SAPR Program Managers and SARCs are encouraged to share stories and photos of Certified Sexual Assault Advocate Appreciation Day with the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office and the National Organization for Victim Assistance. Please submit write-ups and photos to dsaacp-followup@trynova.org.

Thank you for your support of our dedicated D-SAACP advocates!

If you are asked “What is D-SAACP?”

The D-SAACP standardizes and improves the quality of response to sexual assault victims, recognizes the role of SARCs and SAPR VAs in unit readiness, further engages military leadership in the victim response and recovery process, and communicates to Service members that they have access to professional, trained, and certified SARCs and SAPR VAs. The SARCs and SAPR VAs play a vital role in supporting a victim from reporting through recovery, and proper training and professionalization of their role improves victim care and response.