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Welcome to the new SAPR Source!

Greetings from SAPRO! Welcome to our first e-edition of the SAPR Source!

This new e-newsletter will be a key communications tool between our key stakeholders and the SAPRO office as we all work to advance our sexual assault prevention and response strategies throughout the Department of Defense (DoD). We have included a wide variety of articles on what we have been doing inside SAPRO as well as within the Military Services. We want to showcase "best practices" so if you have something to share with others, please send the details our way!

We welcome all comments on this new format. Please feel free to forward the SAPR Source to others. You can also find SAPRO on Facebook and at MyDuty.mil. To unsubscribe to this eNewsletter, please email sapro@wso.whs.mil.

Kaye Whitley, Ed.D.
Director, SAPRO

Coming Soon! DoD Safe Helpline

Sexual Assault Support for the DoD Community

In Spring 2011, the military community will have a new resource, DoD Safe Helpline, for assistance with sexual assault issues. Safe Helpline will provide users 24/7, worldwide, confidential access to experts on sexual assault. Users will be able to "click, call or text" for help. The free and anonymous service will be for all members of the DoD community to include Active Duty, Guard and Reserve members, DoD contractors and civilians, and families of Service members. Users will be connected to specially trained experts with the non-profit Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization.

News from the Field: Basra Soldiers Talk About Sexual Assault

Story and Photos Provided By: Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla, USD-S PAO



BASRA, Iraq – The Big Red One Society Against Sexual Assault, 1st Infantry Division, United States Division-South held a day-long "BRO-SASA" conference at the post Chapel in Basra Dec. 8, to candidly discuss sexual assault in the military.

"If a Soldier was injured from combat wounds and pulled out of the (front) line, everybody else has to pick up the slack," said Master Sgt. Michael Dempster.

"It's the same concept. Sexual assault affects all Soldiers," said Dempster, the noncommissioned officer in charge for the Division Equal Opportunity Office, 1st Infantry Division.

Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Jordan, the Division Sexual Assault Response Coordinator said the number one goal of BRO-SASA is 'prevention before reaction' by educating Soldiers and leadership, through conferences and seminars.

Jordan, also a Unit Victim Advocate, said BRO-SASA branched off from the official

conference of United States Forces-Iraq.

"The official conference was started by the Sisterhood Against Sexual Assault," said Jordan, a native of St. Louis, Mo. "So what we did was just made it all inclusive, a society. We did that because we do know there are men who have been sexually assaulted."

Jordan said that, statistically, sexual assault happens more to women and the majority of those who come forward are female victims.

"People don't think it could happen to them," said Jordan. "It doesn't just happen to females, but males are going to be very reluctant to report any type of sexual assault because they don't want to be labeled as gay... or a punk."

Dempster said sexual assault is one of the most unreported crimes in America and even one assault is enough to warrant the training because of the severe impact it has on people's lives.

"It affects the unit. If the victim and perpetrator are both in the same unit, it could cause the unit to divide," Dempster said. "Some people believe the perpetrator and you have other Soldiers who may side with the victim."

The responsibility to prevent sexual assault is everyone's, said Jordan.

"Every individual is responsible to ensure that it doesn't happen," Jordan said. "However the command is responsible to ensure their Soldiers and their leadership understand there is zero tolerance for sexual assault."

"If that's not emphasized from the top level to the lowest level, Soldiers are not going to take it seriously until it happens to them or until they are accused of sexual assault." Dempster said the 'prevention before reaction' campaign places a high importance in educating and broadening the Soldiers' knowledge on sexual assault, and expects the program to grow.

"I think it's a good program; it allows Soldiers to see the ways they can protect themselves," Dempster said. "When we redeploy back to Fort Riley, (Kan.), this is a program we're going to take back with us. We will get more involved and get more people participating in the training."

Jordan said part of her responsibility is to act as the eyes and ears for the command group.

"We deal with sexual harassment, sexual assault, unfair treatment, and unequal treatment," Jordan said. "We are here to identify if there are any problems in the command, unit or at the lowest level and bring it to the surface and ensure the command is aware."

The EO office is only one avenue made available to Soldiers, depending on the type of report (Restricted and Unrestricted) an individual desires to file.

The Inspector General, Criminal Investigation Department, Staff Judge Advocate, medical personnel, Chaplain, Unit Victim Advocate, and the chain of command are other routes Soldiers could seek for assistance on sexual assault.

Jordan said she felt the program would have a greater impact on Soldier's actions through the "I A.M. (Intervene, Act, Motivate) Strong" campaigns.

"If we can heighten the awareness about sexual assault across the U.S. Armed Forces," said Jordan. "To take that one step to intervene, act and motivate. I think people will be more motivated to do the right thing, that's what BRO-SASA is about."

A "Living" Document

Sexual Assault Policy Evolves

A great deal has changed since 2005 when the first DoD-wide policy on sexual assault was issued. That core policy laid the foundation for the many prevention and response efforts underway now. But there is more to do as Service members are still experiencing sexual assaults. As a result, SAPRO and the Services are collaborating on a new document to build on that foundation by expanding DoD policy to be even more focused and

comprehensive, working toward the goal of reissuing the guidance in 2011.

Ever since SAPRO was set up in 2005, attention has been focused on how to standardize and institutionalize sexual assault prevention and response (SAPR) programs throughout the Department worldwide. These new policy revisions will go a long way toward meeting those two goals. The new policy clearly defines the responsibilities of the SAPR program, for example, giving sexual assault victims priority as emergency cases, notwithstanding the existence of visible physical injuries. In this edition of SAPR Source, one specific policy revision is profiled – expansion of coverage. In future editions, other key updates will also be profiled.

More Can Utilize Services

The 2005 policy was first developed in response to then-Secretary Rumsfeld's concern about reports of sexual assaults on Service members in combat areas. As a result, that policy was focused solely on Service members. Now that we have had five years to gather data on who is being affected, we know that many others in the DoD community could also benefit from sexual assault prevention and response efforts, especially when they are stationed outside the continental U.S. (OCONUS). To that end, several provisions of this new policy address this needed expansion of coverage.

Military Dependents

Under this new policy, all military dependents 18 years of age and older will be covered, at installations located both within the U.S. and in foreign countries. The SAPR policy and services will apply if the military dependent is sexually assaulted by someone other than a spouse or intimate partner (sexual assaults involving family members are covered by the Department's Family Advocacy Policy [FAP]. The FAP policy also covers children under the age of 18). These dependents would be able to use all DoD prevention and response services, including the services of a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and a SAPR Victim Advocate (SAPR VA). Military dependents will also have the option of filing an Unrestricted Report (triggering an investigation) or Restricted Report (confidential report).

DoD Civilians and Dependents

Since DoD civilians often work alongside Service members in areas OCONUS where they cannot easily access services, this new policy recognizes the need to extend sexual assault response resources to that group and their dependents, as well. With this new policy in place, DoD civilians and their dependents (18 and older) will be able to receive emergency medical care and the services of a SARC and VA, when they are stationed OCONUS. This group can only exercise the Unrestricted Reporting option.

DoD Contractors Overseas

When stationed and performing duties at DoD locations outside of the U.S. in contingency areas, DoD contractors also have difficulty accessing support services. Consequently, the Department in the new policy revision recognizes a need to provide emergency medical care and the services of a SARC and VA during their emergency care. The policy will only apply to U.S. citizen DoD contractors and their U.S. citizen employees, who have been authorized to accompany troops in contingency areas OCONUS. Like the DoD civilians, these contractors will only be eligible to file an Unrestricted Report.

What's Next

The new SAPRO policy document (Directive 6495.01 and Instruction 6495.02) is likely to grow to over 100 pages, so there are many more new provisions than noted above. In future editions of the SAPR Source, we will highlight many additional provisions, all designed to further standardize and institutionalize the DoD SAPR programs.

In the Spotlight

Focus on National Guard Bureau

In recent years, the efforts of the National Guard Bureau (NGB) have made it into the news; however, the reality is that the National Guard (NG) has always served a critical role – and

a highly effective one -- in our nation's defense. One of the many reasons the NG has been so effective is the focus given to sexual assault prevention and response. That focus has been demonstrated by increased staff, the new leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Alfranda L. Durr, J-1 Division Chief, and the continued hard work of people like Jane Lux, Program Manager, National Guard Bureau.

In the future, the NGB will continue to work through the many challenges that face all Service members. "We know strong leadership is key to ensuring program success, so our staff will attend leadership schools to increase understanding, educate leaders on their role in setting the right tone for their units, and educate on ways they can better manage victim care," said Durr. "We know we can't do this alone, so we will continue to foster partnerships with those addressing suicide prevention, substance abuse and psychological diseases that intersect with our issue. Sharing all our best practices will allow us to address sexual assault issues and other outlying problems that affect the National Guard as a whole."

Since 2005, the NGB has worked hard to implement its SAPR program by providing joint program response capabilities within each of the 50 states and territories, and the District of Columbia, to include both Army and Air Guard. A major challenge is that the NG does not have one standard SAPR program across each state and territory. Rather, each chooses its own approach to SAPR. Given this reality, one of the keys to encouraging common practices has been the one Joint Force Headquarters Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) assigned per state and/or territory and one sexual assault Program Manager for each Military Service. Currently the NG operates under Service-specific regulations since it is considered part of the larger Service branches; however, the NGB is also creating its own SAPR regulations to address issues specific to the NG when Service members are in state status.

One of these NG-specific issues was the SAPR Restricted Reporting (RR) policy that conflicted with the "Line of Duty (LOD)" process which is usually approved by a commander. However, since commanders cannot keep a report restricted and authorize medical or counseling costs without an investigation, the previous LOD process did not protect a Service member's RR option. LODs are authorized when a NG member is seeking coverage for medical or counseling care for an incident that occurred during a duty status. DoD SAPR services are only available to Service members that are on a duty status at the time of the incident. If the individual is in a civilian status at the time of the incident and not in a Guard duty status, civilian law and resources serve as the only resource for the Service member. It was important to update the policy to cover Service member's rights to a RR without LOD command investigation to allow the victim to receive the same confidential benefits for medical and counseling care as active component Service members. Thanks to the work of the NGB, a SARC can now initiate LOD paperwork for a sexual assault, so that the victim can exercise the option of filing an RR and get the care they need.

Thanks to these efforts, progress is being made. According to Ms. Lux, "The hard work of the NGB has led to increases in SAPR prevention and awareness training for Guardsmen and women, which I believe is starting to change the culture."

NGB's Leadership Focus

Learning First Hand at the SAPR Summit

Coming from 54 states and territories, more than 280 NGB SAPR professionals and leaders spent three days in early November sharing best practices and listening to topic experts. The 2010 National Guard Bureau SAPR Leadership Summit was organized by LTC Alfranda Durr, J-1 Division Chief, and his staff. "The purpose of this conference is to bring together senior leadership and their sexual assault response coordinators," said Durr, "to create and enhance their awareness of sexual assault, and to develop plans to move forward with improved programs in their states."

Demonstrating commitment from the highest level of the NGB, General Craig R. McKinley, Chief, NGB, kicked off the conference with a reminder that all Guardsmen and women deserve to work in an environment free of the threat of sexual assault. "General McKinley is the NGB's first Four-Star General and seeing his incredible personal commitment to this issue sends a strong message to all in the Guard and throughout the Department that the NGB is committed to preventing sexual assault in the Guard," said Durr. "His words left little doubt we will have the high-level attention needed to push through to the desired change."

One of the goals of the conference was to give attendees insight into DoD-wide efforts to combat and respond to sexual assault. As a keynote speaker, Dr. Kaye Whitley, Director, Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO), set the stage by reminding the audience that the Department is a microcosm of the society we serve. "Since the military is a cross-section of society, it is inevitable that the problems that occur in society will be brought into the military," said Whitley. "But sexual assault is not acceptable, and we know that problems such as these are factors in degrading mission readiness and unit cohesion." She then offered a snapshot of the reporting statistics since the policy was put in place in 2005. Whitley also detailed new provisions in the SAPR policy designed to continue to standardize and institutionalize the program throughout the Department.

SARC Spotlight: Robert J. May, Retired Chief Master Sergeant, Air Guard – California National Guard



During SAPRO's annual oversight visits, reviewers often point to the commitment of those in the field as a key indicator of a program's success. The exceptional achievements and commitment of Robert J. May, Retired Chief Master Sergeant, Air Guard – California National Guard, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), offer an excellent example of what it takes to make a positive impact when it comes to SAPR efforts.

May's training and preparation for becoming a SARC started long before the SAPR program existed. When he became a First Sergeant, May began his career serving as a Human Resource Advisor for the California Air National Guard. May's concern for all Service Members' health and wellbeing inspired him to apply for the California Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ) SARC position in 2005.

As the California JFHQ SARC, May is appreciative that Adjutant General, Major General William H. Wade II, and all the other state leaders realize the importance of the SAPR Program. "I believe that having leadership understand and support the SAPR program has changed the culture of how we train and respond to the issues of sexual assault within the National Guard," said May. "Through my involvement with Company Commanders, Squadron Commanders, civilian agencies, and SARCs and VAs from across California, I have seen numerous incidents of how sexual assault survivors have overcome traumatic experiences and shown the strength to continue their service and patriotic commitment to the National Guard. These cases tell me what we are doing is working."

Following in May's lead, many other SARCs in the National Guard SAPR program have successfully implemented separate SAPR training for Army National Guard (ARNG) new recruits to receive initial awareness SAPR training prior to attending basic training. "This type of training is not required under Army policy," said LTC Alfranda Durr, J-1 SAPR Division Chief. "But clearly indicates the commitment of the ARNG to the issue of sexual assault." By doing this, ARNG incorporates sexual assault prevention into the Recruit Sustainment Program, which prepares soldiers for successful completion of their Initial Active-Duty Training.

SAPRO Out & About



In recent episodes of ABC's *Private Practice*, Kay Dee Strickland (photographed center) portrays a woman who has fallen victim to sexual assault. Throughout the taping of these very powerful episodes, Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) staff were on-set to provide Strickland and other *Private Practice* cast and crew members professional insight into the world of sexual assault to ensure the storyline remained as factual and realistic as possible.

On November 18, 2010, staff from the Department of Defense (DoD) Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) had the privilege of attending an event in Washington, DC to recognize and celebrate RAINN's recent involvement with *Private Practice* and RAINN's ongoing accomplishments in helping victims of sexual assault.