



# Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

# PRESS KIT





# Press Kit

For interview requests or media related inquiries, please contact Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) Public Affairs (PA), CDR Gary Ross at (703) 697-5131 or [gary.l.ross16.mil@mail.mil](mailto:gary.l.ross16.mil@mail.mil).

## General Information and Resources

### Slick Sheets

Slick sheets provide useful information about the SAPRO program areas. These materials can be printed or distributed electronically for educational and informative purposes.



### SAPRO Overview Slick Sheet

As the authority on this issue for the Department, SAPRO unifies the prevention and response efforts of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and National Guard by ensuring equal emphasis on critical challenge areas and making best practices common across these Services.

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### Policy Slick Sheet

SAPRO works closely with Service leaders to develop and apply common policies throughout the Military and advises the Secretary of Defense on recommended sexual assault prevention and response actions.

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### Prevention Slick Sheet

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.

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# Press Kit

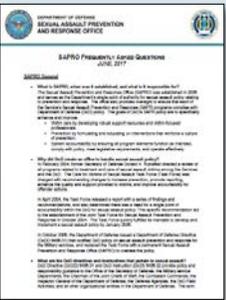
## General Information and Resources, continued



### Victim Assistance Slick Sheet

SAPRO enacts policies and creates programs to provide high-quality services and support to military victims of sexual assault.

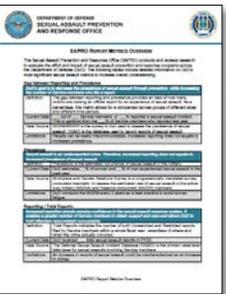
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### Frequently Asked Questions

A general overview of basic SAPR program information, facts, and definitions in question and answer format.

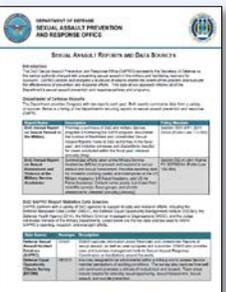
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### SAPRO Reports and Metrics Overview

Comprehensive narrative around the genesis and impact of sexual assault-related research to increase the overall understanding of DoD's most significant sexual assault metrics.

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### SAPRO Reports and Data Sources Overview

Overview of the reporting structures and processes that SAPRO uses to analyze the extent of the problem and to evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and response efforts.

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## External Resources

- [Safe Helpline](#)
- [Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network \(RAINN\)](#)
- [Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month \(SAAPM\)](#)

- [SAPRO Seal](#)
- [SAPRO Leadership Biographies](#)

### Military Service SAPR Sites

- [Air Force](#)
- [Army](#)
- [Coast Guard](#)
- [Marine Corps](#)
- [National Guard](#)
- [Navy](#)



# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



The DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) represents the Secretary of Defense as the central authority charged with preventing sexual assault in the military and facilitating recovery for survivors. SAPRO promotes military readiness by reducing sexual assault through advocacy and execution of program policy, planning, and oversight across the DoD Community.

## Program Oversight Across the Department

As the authority on this issue for the Department, SAPRO unifies the prevention and response efforts of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and National Guard by ensuring equal emphasis on critical challenge areas and making best practices common across these Services.

## Policy for Mission-Critical Initiatives

SAPRO establishes the broad policy parameters of the Department to assure compliance with our mission and military law. Policies establish and reinforce prevention efforts, strengthen victim protections, and establish procedures for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Personnel.

DoD applies a strategic approach to combatting sexual assault. Actions are typically guided by five critical focus areas:

- >> **Prevention** to foster a culture that prevents sexual assault
- >> **Victim Assistance** to deliver consistent, high-quality care and support that restore resiliency and empower survivors to report
- >> **Investigation** to develop special investigators and prosecutors through trauma-informed training, yielding timely and accurate results
- >> **Accountability** to hold offenders appropriately accountable through the military justice system
- >> **Assessment** to effectively measure, analyze, assess, and report on the state of the problem and progress toward program success

DoD's approach is prevention-focused with an uncompromising commitment to victim assistance.

## Services for Prevention and Response Capability

SAPRO also manages a host of programs and services that aid in accomplishing DoD's SAPR mission.

### SAPR Connect

SAPR Connect is a prevention-focused, Common Access Card-enabled online community of practice available 24/7/365 for SAPR stakeholders to share information and ideas to prevent sexual assault and other readiness impacting behaviors.

### DoD Safe Helpline

DoD Safe Helpline provides anonymous, live, one-on-one crisis intervention, support, information, and resources to members of the DoD community who have been affected by sexual assault. Services are confidential and available worldwide, 24/7, so victims have access to help whenever and wherever they need it. The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) operates Safe Helpline through a contract with SAPRO.

### DoD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP)

D-SAACP is a certification program that standardizes victim advocacy across the Department and professionalizes the role of Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and SAPR Victim Advocates, enabling quality victim advocacy for adult survivors of sexual assault within the military jurisdiction. The National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) administers D-SAACP through a contract with SAPRO.

### DoD Sexual Assault Incident Database (DSAID)

DSAID is a centralized case-level database that collects and maintains information on sexual assaults involving Armed Forces members. Operated by SAPRO, DSAID gives SARCs the enhanced ability to provide comprehensive and standardized victim case management.

## STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT

- 54 Secretary of Defense-directed SAPR initiatives enacted to improve prevention and response since 2012
- 71 sections of law and over 100 unique requirements legislated by Congress – most sweeping military justice reforms since 1968
- More than 35,000 service men and women have been certified as Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates
- Nearly 2,000 special agents and prosecutors completed courses in advanced sexual assault investigations in the Department since 2009
- 185 specially-trained attorneys in place to help victims exercise their rights and understand the justice system

## SAPRO'S MAJOR EFFORTS

- Creating the 2017-2021 Sexual Assault Prevention Plan of Action
- Implementing the Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy
- Executing The DoD Plan to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Assault of Military Men
- Creating male-specific Safe Help Room sessions
- Conducting assessments to measure effectiveness of Case Management

For more information, please visit [sapr.mil](http://sapr.mil)

For confidential victim assistance, call or visit the DoD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247 or [safehelpline.org](http://safehelpline.org)



# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



## POLICY

The DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) administers sexual assault-related policy and standards for adoption across the military to establish resources and protections for all Service members. SAPRO's policies are gender-responsive, culturally competent, and recovery-oriented, resulting in medical care and services that support those who have been victimized. In its policy oversight and advisory role, SAPRO aims to establish a comprehensive, trauma-informed response system that goes beyond traditional approaches and empowers victims during the reporting process.

## Approach

SAPRO works closely with Service leaders to develop and apply common policies throughout the military and advises the Secretary of Defense on recommended sexual assault prevention and response actions. To succeed in its mission, SAPRO convenes various forums, such as integrated decision teams and working groups, to collaborate with DoD stakeholders on new policy, updates to existing laws, and emerging issues. This approach allows the Department to effectively recommend and implement methods to prevent sexual assault and support victims when crimes occur. For example, DoD policy mandates that every sexual assault is treated as an emergency, which ensures survivors' psychological and physical health are the top priorities.

## A Proven Policy Process

SAPRO issues policy to combat sexual assault in several forms: Leadership Memorandums, Directives, Instructions, and Federal Register Rules.

- >> **Leadership Memorandums** establish policy procedures directed by the Secretary of Defense prior to publishing a Departmental Directive or Instruction
- >> **DoD Directives (DoDD)** broadly establish policy for DoD programs, define missions, and delegate authority to specific DoD components
- >> **DoD Instructions (DoDI)** establish procedures for executing policy, operating programs, and assigning duty responsibilities
- >> **Federal Register Rules** provide other Federal Agencies and the public the opportunity to comment on DoDDs and DoDIs

## Key Policies

### DoDD 6495.01 Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program

Outlines the overarching Department policy on sexual assault prevention and response and standardizes guidance at all levels.

### DoDI 6495.02 Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Procedures

Details the procedures for responding to the crime of sexual assault within the military, including requirements for victim advocacy, healthcare, training standards, and formal recommendations.

### DoDI 6495.03 Defense Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP)

Issues guidance and procedures to ensure all personnel working directly with military victims of sexual assault hold professional credentials in victim advocacy.

## STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT

- Over 50 Secretary of Defense-directed initiatives enacted since 2012 to improve prevention and response efforts
- 100+ Congressional provisions operationalized related to sexual assault, including the most comprehensive reforms to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) since 1968
- 125 recommendations issued by the Congressionally-mandated Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel
- 43 Government Accountability Office sexual assault-related recommendations assessed over nine engagements to measure prevention and response efforts and inform future programming
- 91 Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services (DTF-SAMS) report recommendations analyzed to focus SAPRO's procedures and implementation processes

## MAJOR POLICY PROGRESS

- Standardized certification requirements for Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and SAPR Victim Advocates (VAs) to ensure quality care for victims
- Worked with legal and investigative offices to establish Case Management Groups (CMGs) to review Unrestricted Reports of sexual assaults and deploy resources
- Partnered with Military Criminal Investigation Organizations (MCIOS), Judge Advocates and Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) to institute a Special Victim Investigation and Prosecution (SVIP) capability to investigate and prosecute offenses, enhance victim support, and facilitate offender accountability
- Issued the *Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy* to guide future policies that support and protect individuals who experience retaliation after reporting
- Formed High-Risk Response Teams to proactively assess danger and activate response resources within 24 hours of a high risk assessment

For more information, please visit [sapro.mil](http://sapro.mil)

For confidential victim assistance, call or visit the DoD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247 or [safehelpline.org](http://safehelpline.org)



# 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

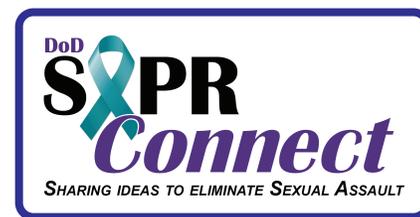
Successful prevention efforts require tailored actions and messages to guide attitudes and sustain positive climates. SAPRO has built a multidisciplinary approach with the following elements:

- >> **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](http://sapr.mil)

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# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



## VICTIM ASSISTANCE

The Department of Defense (DoD) Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) enacts policies and creates programs to provide high-quality services and support to military victims of sexual assault. These policies and programs are intended to strengthen resiliency of sexual assault survivors and instill confidence and trust in the reporting process, whether they choose to file a restricted or unrestricted report. DoD's approach ensures that survivors receive the protections to which they are entitled, the privacy they desire, and the care they deserve.

### Approach

SAPRO works closely with the Services to standardize victim response programs and resources across the Department. Core elements include:

- >> Certified cadre of **Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs)** and **Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates (SAPR VAs)** who help victims obtain services and offer trauma-informed care, referrals, and ongoing nonclinical support
- >> Rigorous **DoD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP)** that requires approved credentials for all those who assist victims. The National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) administers the program through a contract with DoD SAPRO
- >> **Restricted reporting** option that enables access to healthcare and advocacy support, but does not trigger an investigation
- >> Worldwide, anonymous, 24/7 crisis intervention support through the **DoD Safe Helpline**
- >> Professional **Special Victims' Counsel (SVC)** and **Victims' Legal Counsel (VLC)** who provide victims with legal representation, support in exercising their legal rights, and help while navigating the military justice system
- >> Specially-trained **military criminal investigators** utilizing cutting-edge forensic evidence collection tools
- >> Access to gender-responsive, culturally competent **medical and counseling services**
- >> Support and protections for individuals who experience **retaliation after reporting**

### Policy

The Department issued the *SAPR Program Procedures* (DoDI 6495.02) to formalize victim assistance programs and care. SAPRO developed two supplemental victim-centered policies – *D-SAACP* (DoDI 6495.03) and *DoD Standards for Victim Assistance Services in the Military Community* (DoDI 6400.07) – which set high standards for the way the Department responds to and supports victims throughout their path to recovery.

### DoD Safe Helpline

Since 2011, Safe Helpline has delivered confidential, one-on-one support to members of the DoD community who have been affected by sexual assault. The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) operates the Safe Helpline through a contract with DoD SAPRO.

## STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT

- 45,000 SARCs and SAPR VAs are trained and certified through D-SAACP
- 80,000 survivors, family members, colleagues, and others received support through DoD Safe Helpline since its launch
- Over 1.25 million people received information from SafeHelpline.org in the past five years
- 5,000 SARCs and SAPR VAs attended Advanced Military Sexual Assault Advocate Training (AMSAAT) since 2014

## MAJOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE EFFORTS

- Overseeing D-SAACP certification and Department-wide victim assistance standards
- Executing *DoD Plan to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Assault of Military Men*
- Introducing male-specific Safe Help Room sessions and follow-up support
- Deploying self-guided educational program for Service members, Midshipmen, and Cadets attending Military Service Academies
- Implementing *DoD Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy*



[safehelpline.org](http://safehelpline.org) | 877-995-5247

- >> Telephone Helpline
- >> Self-care App
- >> Online Helpline
- >> Safe HelpRoom
- >> Info by Text
- >> Follow-up Support



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
**SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION  
AND RESPONSE OFFICE**



## **SAPRO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

*JUNE, 2017*

### **SAPRO General**

- **What is SAPRO, when was it established, and what is it responsible for?**

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) was established in 2005 and serves as the Department's single point of authority for sexual assault policy relating to prevention and response. The office also provides oversight to ensure that each of the Service's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) programs complies with Department of Defense (DoD) policy. The goals of DoD's SAPR policy are to specifically enhance and improve:

  - Victim care by developing robust support resources and victim-focused professionals.
  - Prevention by formulating and educating on interventions that reinforce a culture of prevention.
  - System accountability by ensuring all program elements function as intended, comply with policy, meet legislative requirements, and operate effectively.
- **Why did DoD create an office to handle sexual assault policy?**

In February 2004, former Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld directed a review of all programs related to treatment and care of sexual assault victims among the Services and the DoD. The Care for Victims of Sexual Assault Task Force (Task Force) was charged with recommending changes to increase prevention, promote reporting, enhance the quality and support provided to victims, and improve accountability for offender actions.

In April 2004, the Task Force released a report with a series of findings and recommendations, and also determined there was a need for a single point of accountability within the DoD for sexual assault policy. This specific recommendation led to the establishment of the Joint Task Force for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response in October 2004. The Task Force quickly fulfilled its mandate to develop and implement a sexual assault policy by January 2005.

In October 2005, the Department of Defense issued a Department of Defense Directive (DoDD 6495.01) that codified DoD policy on sexual assault prevention and response for the military services, and replaced the Task Force with a permanent Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) to oversee the policy.
- **What are the DoD directives and instructions that pertain to sexual assault?**

DoD Directive (DoDD) 6495.01 and DoD Instruction (DoDI) 6495.02 provide policy and responsibility guidance to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Service Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities in the Department of Defense. The term

“Military Services” refers to the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Air Force, which also includes their respective National Guard and Reserve components (10 USC101(d)(3)).

- **Do the Military Services have sexual assault program offices as well?**  
Yes. All four services have permanent sexual assault prevention and response program offices that work closely with the DoD SAPRO.
- **Does each branch of the military follow the same SAPRO protocol?**  
Each Service follows the same broad protocols laid out by SAPRO, and customizes it for their specific service and mission environments. In other words, SAPRO sets the baseline or core standards to follow, and the Services decide how they will implement. For example, every person in DoD must receive training on sexual assault, how to prevent it, and how to assist a victim. SAPRO gives the services that mandate and they develop the training programs to suit their unique needs. SAPRO then provides oversight to make sure that this process is adhered to.
- **Are there consistent prevention and response training standards for each of the Military Services?**  
Yes. The DoD policy mandated baseline training requirements to ensure uniformity across services. However, minor differences in terminology and procedures exist between the Military Services to accommodate each services unique culture and mission. Services are encouraged to expand their training programs beyond the minimum requirements set by the policy, and adapt their programs for maximum effectiveness in each Service’s unique environment.
- **Why are there two sexual assault reporting options?**  
Privacy concerns are frequently cited as a barrier to reporting sexual assault. Some victims would opt to forego medical care and counseling if it meant becoming involved in a criminal investigation. To overcome this barrier, DoD instituted Restricted Reporting to encourage victims to come forward and receive confidential medical care and advocacy services. Restricted Reporting allows for evidence collection and a sexual assault forensic examination. Evidence for prosecuting the case is kept anonymously for a year by the service investigative agency, in case the victim changes his or her reporting option to an Unrestricted Report (which subsequently) triggers an investigation by the service investigative agency.
- **How prevalent is sexual assault?**  
Sexual assault is the nation’s most underreported violent crime. In this country, a sexual assault occurs approximately every 90 seconds. Sexual assault does not discriminate. It affects men, women, and children of all racial, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- **Has there been an increase in sexual assaults reported in DoD?**  
Yes. There has been an increase in the number of sexual assaults reported. The key word in the previous sentence is reported. Before implementation of the two reporting options, there were likely sexual assaults in which victims never reported the crime. This does not mean that sexual assault in the military is on the rise. Rather, given the Restricted Reporting option, more sexual assault victims appear to be coming forward and seeking services. This is a good news message. As victims continue to gain more confidence in the new reporting options and services, it is hoped that many will choose

to eventually opt for Unrestricted Reporting and enable the military to hold perpetrators accountable.

- **Why is this issue important to the military?**

The military reflects the society it serves. It is a microcosm of our greater society and in turn faces the same obstacles as the civilian world. Although the population of the armed services is unique in many ways, we are not immune from sexual assault, and we share common concerns. Sexual assault is incompatible with core military values. Sexual assault weakens unit trust and creates dissention, which ultimately undermines the state of military readiness. It is important for US citizens to know and understand the challenges their war fighters face. DoD SAPRO is committed to educating the general public about the actions taken to combat sexual assault in the military.

- **Many people (within and outside of the military) expect the military to address societal issues before they are addressed in the civilian population. What are the challenges with this expectation?**

The military often leads the way in addressing social issues before they are widely addressed in the civilian population. The public holds the military to a higher standard. One of the unique challenges this presents is that, each week, the hundreds of new Service members coming into the military must learn and adopt these high performance standards from the moment they arrive. With this unique challenge, also comes a unique opportunity that the civilian community does not have: required training. Each Service member – no matter the rank – must undergo annual training on sexual assault prevention and response. That required training is not seen within the civilian community.

- **What is the Department doing to prevent retaliation against those who experience sexual assault?**

The Department views retaliation associated with crime and misconduct reporting as a significant concern. It is committed to eliminating retaliatory behavior, improving resources for reporters of retaliation, and providing tools for commanders, supervisors, and peers to prevent and respond to retaliation against those who report violations. In 2016, DoD released a comprehensive strategy and implementation plan to bolster its response system and increase protections for Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard members who report sexual assault or sexual harassment while performing Active Service or Inactive Duty training and subsequently perceive retaliation associated with their report. The strategy also applies to uniformed witnesses, bystanders, and first responders related to those reports or complaints who also perceive some kind of retaliation for their involvement.

## **SAPR Initiatives**

- **What type of training do VAs and SARCs receive? Do they get any kind of legal training?**

DoD SARCs and SAPR VAs do not receive legal training. Legal assistance is provided to victims through the legal assistance attorney. All SARCs must receive initial and periodic refresher training on several critical areas, including their roles and responsibilities, command relationship, case management skills, reporting options and required reports. Likewise, all VAs receive initial and refresher training on a wide range of areas including policy, reporting options, sensitivity training, command relationships,

crisis support resources and victim rights. A full listing of the required training elements for SARCs and VAs is in DoDI 6495.02.

## **Definitions**

- **How does the DoD define “sexual assault”?**

Sexual assault is not the name of a crime under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ); rather, it is a term specifically defined by Department of Defense Directive 6495.01. The DoD uses the term “sexual assault” to refer to contact sex crimes by adults against adults. It encompasses all sex crimes under the UCMJ ranging from indecent assault to rape. The definition of sexual assault states:

*For the purpose of this Directive and SAPR awareness training and education, the term sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. It includes rape, nonconsensual sodomy (oral or anal sex), indecent assault (unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact or fondling), or attempts to commit these acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender or spousal relationship or age of victim. Consent shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion, or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious.*

- **Does DoD use the term “military sexual trauma”?**

No. Military sexual trauma, or MST, is the term created by Congress and used by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to refer to experiences of sexual assault or repeated, threatening acts of sexual harassment throughout the course of one's military career. The term is used for screening, diagnosing, and treating the psychological trauma and other mental health problems that stem from sexual assault or harassment. This broad definition of MST allows the DVA to identify and treat as many veterans as possible.

- **What is the difference between “Restricted Reporting” and “Unrestricted Reporting”?**

Restricted Reporting allows victims to confidentially access medical care and advocacy services without initiating an official investigation or command notification. When a victim makes an Unrestricted Report, it is referred for investigation, and command is notified. As with Restricted Reporting, victims may receive healthcare, counseling, and advocacy services. However, in an Unrestricted Report, details of the sexual assault incident are provided to command and law enforcement.

## **Chain of Command – Culture**

- **Is sexual assault/harassment a leadership problem? How is it being addressed?**

Setting the right climate for Service members is a leadership responsibility. This means every level of leadership has a moral duty to keep Service members safe from those who would attack their dignity and honor, and to hold perpetrators appropriately accountable. Service members need to have a clear understanding of what is expected of them and the consequences for misconduct. These messages are carried through to commanders through their regular training.

It is important that commanders have a clear picture of the climate within their unit so they know if victims would feel comfortable coming forward and that it is clear that sexual assault will not be tolerated. Commanders have access to a valuable survey tool to help them track the unit's climate related to sexual assault. The Defense Equal Opportunity Climate Survey includes questions designed to provide commanders with a snapshot of their unit's unique command climate.

- **If a victim feels his or her command is not taking a sexual assault report seriously, is there anyone outside the chain of command they can or should report it to?**  
Yes. If victims feel that command is not taking a sexual assault report seriously, they may contact their Service Inspector General, the Department's Inspector General, SAPRO, or provide details to the staff at the DoD Safe Helpline who will bring it to SAPRO's attention. Victims may also contact their military criminal investigative organization.

### **Investigations – Prosecution – Victim Legal Assistance**

- **Should there be more aggressive pursuit and prosecution of perpetrators?**  
Sexual assault cases are some of the toughest cases to investigate and prosecute. However, by Department policy, every Unrestricted Report of sexual assault must be fully investigated. By law, the Department must account for the action taken against every subject identified in a sexual assault investigation. Once a report has been made, successful prosecution hinges on good evidence gathered by investigators and victim participation. Expedient reporting and collection of evidence is believed to produce better quality cases and prosecutions. Consequently, investigators and judge advocates need specialized training to ensure they can obtain the best evidence and effectively use it in court. Victims also have the option to make a Restricted Report, meaning that they can receive support services without initiating an investigation, which precludes command action.
- **Why can't you remove the commanders from the investigative chain?**  
Commanders are not part of the investigative chain. By DoD policy, commanders must forward all Unrestricted Reports of sexual assault to a Military Criminal Investigative Organization—e.g., a unit that is separate and independent from the chain of command—to investigate the allegations. Once the investigators have completed their work, a commander reviews the investigative report and, in collaboration with a military attorney, decides what military justice action is appropriate based on the evidence.
- **Doesn't having a commander involved in prosecution pose a conflict of interest?**  
The ability to impose proper standards of behavior has always been viewed as a command responsibility. Inherent in that responsibility is the authority to address misconduct and offenses by subordinates and impose discipline, according to the facts and circumstances of each case. By removing discipline from the commander's purview, it jeopardizes the commander's ability to achieve mission success and maintain good order and discipline. Further, it isolates commanders from their command by requiring them to establish and maintain good order and discipline while denying them the ability to address misconduct. The military justice system recognizes the distinct role of commanders and their unique ability to create a climate of mutual respect and support within their units. To do this, commanders must be given the tools to address this challenge head on.

- **Is there anyone assigned or available to accompany the victim through the judicial process other than the prosecutor?**

The Victim-Witness Assistance Program assists the victim through the court process. The SAPR VA may also assist the victim. In addition, a victim may approach a legal assistance advisor who can explain the military justice system and can identify services and support which might be available to victims of sexual assault.



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION  
AND RESPONSE OFFICE**



**SAPRO REPORT METRICS OVERVIEW**

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) conducts and reviews research to evaluate the effort and impact of sexual assault prevention and response programs across the Department of Defense (DoD). The following tables include detailed information on DoD’s most significant sexual assault metrics to increase overall understanding.

**Gap between Reporting and Prevalence**

<i>DoD’s goal is to decrease the prevalence of sexual assault through prevention, while increasing the number of Service members who file a report.</i>	
Definition	The gap between reporting and prevalence provides an idea of how many victims are making an official report for an experience of sexual assault. As a percentage, this metric allows for a comparison across groups of different sizes and different time periods.
Current Data	___ out of ___ Service members, or ___% reported a sexual assault incident. This is <i>up/down</i> from the ___% of Service members who reported last year.
Data Source	WGRA/WGRR is the survey to tool used to assess the prevalence of sexual assault; DSAID is the database used to record reports of sexual assault.
Limitations	Results can be easily miscommunicated. Increased reporting does not equate to increased prevalence.

**Prevalence**

<i>Sexual assault is an underreported crime. Therefore, increased reporting does not equate to increased prevalence of sexual assault.</i>	
Definition	Prevalence is the estimated occurrence of sexual assault in the military.
Current Data	DoD estimates ___% of women and ___% of men experienced sexual assault in the past-year.
Data Source	Workplace and Gender Relations Survey is a congressionally mandated survey, conducted biennially, to assess the estimated rate of sexual assault in the active duty military (WGRA) and Reserve component (WGRR) members.
Limitations	DoD conducts the WGRA every 2 years as a best practice to avoid survey fatigue.

**Reporting / Total Reports**

<i>Increased reporting signals growing confidence in the sexual assault response system. It enables a greater number of Service members to obtain support and care and allows DoD to hold offenders appropriately accountable.</i>	
Definition	Total Reports indicates the number of both Unrestricted and Restricted reports filed by Service members within a single fiscal year, regardless of where and when the crime actually occurred.
Current Data	DoD received ___ total sexual assault reports in FYXX.
Data Source	The Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (DSAID) is the primary case-level data base for sexual assaults involving Service members.
Limitations	An increase in reports of sexual assault could be mischaracterized as an increase in crimes.

### Accountability

<i>DoD strives for a fair and equitable system of accountability. When court-martial charges are not appropriate, commanders have a range of other disciplinary actions at their disposal.</i>	
Definition	Accountability reflects the outcomes of alleged perpetrators, to include command actions <sup>1</sup> and command action precluded, or declined. <sup>2</sup>
Current Data	Commanders took disciplinary action against ___% of military subjects.
Data Source	Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (DSAID) is the primary case-level data base for sexual assaults involving Service members.
Limitations	The investigative and judicial process can take over a year to complete. Therefore, subject outcomes can be linked to current or prior Fiscal Years (FY).

### Command Climate

<i>Sexual assault and other readiness impacting problems may occur less frequently when leaders establish safe and respectful unit climates.</i>	
Definition	Command climate indicates Service member perceptions on how well their command promotes a climate of mutual trust and respect.
Current Data	The majority of Service members rated their Command climate favorably with regards to sexual assault (X out of 4 points).
Data Source	Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute's (DEOMI) Organizational Climate Survey (DEOCS) is a voluntary survey that assesses Service member satisfaction with their leadership using a four-point scale. Higher scores indicate more favorable perceptions.
Limitations	DEOCS is based on a convenience sample, and results may not represent the entire force. Thus, DoD is limited in the inferences it can make from aggregating unit-level data up to the Service or DoD-level.

### Retaliation

<i>Retaliation can prevent victims of sexual assault from filing a report; it can impede victims' recovery and harm their careers.</i>	
Definition	Retaliation is an umbrella term for adverse personnel actions taken or favorable personnel actions withheld as the result of reporting or planning to report a criminal offense. <sup>3</sup>
Current Data	___% of victims endorsed at least one negative experience associated with their report of sexual assault, of which ___% were consistent with circumstances military law prohibits concerning reprisal, ostracism, and maltreatment
Data Source	The Military Investigation and Justice Experience Survey (MIJES) is used to assess survivors' experiences with investigative and military justice processes.
Limitations	The MIJES cannot determine if a case of retaliation is legally actionable based on victims' perceptions alone. It is based on a small convenience sample, so results are not representative of all sexual assault victims.

<sup>1</sup> e.g., court-martial, non-judicial punishment, administrative discharge, other adverse administrative actions

<sup>2</sup> e.g., victim declined to participate, insufficient evidence

<sup>3</sup> The term "retaliation" as used in the Military Justice Action of 2016, is not limited to the contexts of sex-related offenses of sexual harassment, though the focus here is those two contexts.

### **Data-Focused Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

#### **Q. Why is military sexual assault data collected?**

- A. Congress requires data about the number of sexual assault reports and the outcome of the allegations made against each subject. DoD also collects these data to inform SAPR policy, program development, and oversight.

#### **Q. What factors should be considered when analyzing and understanding DoD sexual assault data?**

- A. There are several factors to consider:
- Sexual assault is an underreported crime. The number of reports of sexual assault do not reflect the prevalence of the crime. Military members may report a sexual assault whenever (and wherever) they desire.
  - An increase in reports of sexual assault does not necessarily mean there has been an increase in crime. Greater reporting of sexual assault is a stated goal of the Department. In fact, the Department encourages sexual assault survivors to report the crime as a way to access support and restorative care.
  - The Department uses the term “sexual assault” to refer to a range of crimes, including rape, sexual assault, nonconsensual sodomy, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, and attempts to commit these offenses, as defined by the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

#### **Q. What sexual assault data does DoD capture?**

- A. Pursuant to reporting requirements levied by Congress, DoD sexual assault data capture the Unrestricted and Restricted Reports of sexual assault made to the Department during a Fiscal Year (FY) that involves a military subject and/or a military victim. The Department’s sexual assault reporting statistics include data about sexual contact crimes by adults against adults, as defined in Articles 120 and 125 of the UCMJ and Article 80, and attempts to commit these offenses. These data do not include sexual assaults between spouses or intimate partners that fall under the purview of DoD Family Advocacy Program (FAP), nor do these data include sexual harassment which falls under the purview of EO. While most victims and subjects in the following data are aged 18 or older, DoD statistics also capture some victims and subjects aged 16 and 17. Service members who are approved for early enlistment prior to age 18 are included in this category. Since the age of consent under the UCMJ is 16 years, military and civilian victims aged 16 and older are included if they do not fall under FAP’s purview.

#### **Q. What do “Subject Dispositions” refer to?**

- A. Once the investigation of an Unrestricted Report is complete, Congress requires the Services to provide the outcome of the allegations against each subject named in an investigation. These are called “subject dispositions.” Commanders at all levels do not make disposition decisions in isolation. Military attorneys assist commanders in identifying the charges that can be made, the appropriate means of addressing such charges, and the punishments that can be administered if supported by the evidence.

#### **Q. How are “Subject Outcomes” totaled?**

- A. Many investigations extend across FYs. As a result, those investigations that were opened toward the end of the FY typically carry over into the next FY. Subject dispositions can also extend across FYs. As a result, a substantial portion of dispositions are “pending” or not yet reported at the end of the year. DoD tracks these pending dispositions and requires the Military Services to report on them in subsequent years’ reports. Under the Department’s SAPR policy, there is no time limit as to when someone can report a sexual assault to a

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Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) or a Military Criminal Investigation Organization (MCIO). Consequently, in any given year, the Department may not only receive reports about incidents that occurred during the current year, but also incidents that occurred in previous years.



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION  
AND RESPONSE OFFICE**



## SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTS AND DATA SOURCES

### Introduction

The DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) represents the Secretary of Defense as the central authority charged with preventing sexual assault in the military and facilitating recovery for survivors. SAPRO collects and analyzes a multitude of data to assess the extent of the problem and evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and response efforts. This data-driven approach informs all of the Department's sexual assault prevention and response policies and programs.

### Department of Defense Reports

The Department provides Congress with two reports each year. Both reports summarize data from a variety of sources. Below is a listing of the Department's recurring reports on sexual assault prevention and response (SAPR).

Report Name	Description	Policy Mandate
<b>DoD Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military</b>	Provides a summary of DoD and Military Service progress in furthering the SAPR program; documents the number of Restricted and Unrestricted Sexual Assault Reports made to DoD authorities in the fiscal year; and includes synopses and dispositions (results) for cases concluded within the fiscal year; released annually (May)	Section 1631 of FY 2011 NDAA (Public Law 112-383)
<b>DoD Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies</b>	Summarizes efforts taken at the Military Service Academies (MSAs) to prevent and respond to sexual assault and sexual harassment. Provides reporting data for incidents involving cadets and midshipmen at the US Military Academy, US Naval Academy, and US Air Force Academy). Content varies yearly, but draws from scientific surveys, focus groups, and on-site assessments; released annually (January)	Section 532 of John Warner FY 2007NDAA (Public Law 109-364)

### DoD SAPRO Report Statistics Data Sources

SAPRO partners with a variety of DoD agencies to support its data and research efforts, including the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), the Defense Health Agency (DHA), the Military Criminal Investigative Organizations (MCIO), and the Judge Advocates General of the Military Departments. Listed below are the key data sources used to inform SAPRO's reporting, research, and oversight efforts:

Data Source	Acronym	Description
<b>Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (SAPRO)</b>	DSAID	DSAID captures information about Restricted and Unrestricted Reports of sexual assault, as well as case synopses and outcomes. DSAID also provides case and business management tools to Sexual Assault Response Coordinators at installations around the world.
<b>Defense Equal Opportunity Climate Survey (DEOMI)</b>	DEOCS	A survey designed to be administered within a military unit to assess Service member perceptions of working conditions. The survey also captures how well unit command promotes a climate of mutual trust and respect. Topic areas include respect for diversity, equal opportunity, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and suicide prevention.

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<b>Focus Groups on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response</b>	FGSAPR	Conducted at installations and military service academies around the country, these groups capture important qualitative feedback that identifies emerging issues in the SAPR program. They also allow the Department to rapidly identify emerging trends and concerns. Focus groups are held in the year between force-wide sexual assault prevalence surveys as a means to decrease survey burden on the military community.
<b>Military Investigation and Justice Experience Survey</b>	MIJES	An anonymous DoD-wide survey effort to assess the experiences Service members have had with the investigative and military justice system. This survey also assesses respondents' satisfaction with the wide variety of services available to Service members who report sexual assault..
<b>Service Academy Gender Relations Survey (DMDC)</b>	SAGR	A congressionally-mandated, anonymous survey of Service Academy students at all three DoD Academies (USAFA, USMA, USNA). The survey estimates past-year prevalence rates of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexist behaviors. Other questions assess aspects of academy culture and climate, as experienced by cadets and midshipmen.
<b>Health Related Behaviors Survey (DHA)</b>	HRBS	The purpose of this population based survey is to assess trends in a wide range of health behaviors in the military. The study assessed the prevalence of drug, alcohol and tobacco use, general health status, mental health status, and use of healthcare services. Questions on special topics such as gender-specific issues, oral health, sexual assault, suicidal ideation, and deployment are also included.
<b>Quick Compass of Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates (DMDC)</b>	QSARC	This survey is designed to assess effectiveness of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response programs within the Services and Reserve components in areas including resources, procedures, programs, and outreach. Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates who execute the SAPR program are the subjects of the QSARC.
<b>Workplace and Gender Relations Surveys</b>	WGRA WGRR	Congressionally-mandated, confidential surveys of the active duty (WGRA) or reserve component (WGRR). The surveys estimate past-year prevalence rates of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexist behaviors. Other questions assess aspects of military culture and climate, as experienced by active Service members, and members of the National Guard and selected reservists.