

Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

Victim Assistance Overview

**Response Systems Panel
November 7, 2013**

Victim Assistance Agenda

- Overarching Mission & Objectives
- Quality Victim Assistance
- Victim Assistance Personnel
- Victim Assistance Policy
- Major Programs and Initiatives
 - Collaboration with DoJ Office of Victims of Crime
 - DoD Safe Helpline
 - DoD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP)
 - DoD Initiatives

SAPR Mission, Lines of Efforts and Objectives

Mission: The Department of Defense prevents and responds to the crime of sexual assault in order to enable military readiness and reduce—with a goal to eliminate—sexual assault from the military.

Lines of Effort

Objectives

Communication – Communicate DoD's efforts to support victim recovery, enable military readiness, and reduce—with a goal to eliminate—sexual assault from the military.

Prevention - Deliver consistent and effective prevention methods and programs.

Investigation - Achieve high competence in the investigation of sexual assault.

Accountability - Achieve high competence in holding offenders appropriately accountable.

Advocacy – Deliver consistent and effective victim support, response, and reporting options.

Assessment – Effectively standardize, measure, analyze, and assess program progress.

Cultural imperatives of mutual respect and trust, professional values, and team commitment are reinforced to create an environment where sexual assault is not tolerated.

Investigative resources yield timely and accurate results.

Perpetrators are held appropriately accountable.

DoD provides high quality services and support to instill confidence, inspire victims to report, and restore resilience.

DoD incorporates responsive, meaningful, and accurate systems of measurement and evaluation into every aspect of SAPR.

Quality Victim Assistance

The President's 1982 Task Force on Victims of Crime found that the criminal justice system regularly re-victimized victims, the system was out of balance in favor of offenders, and the poor treatment of victims was more widespread than they had imagined. The Task Force report provided a framework to define victim services both in and out of the criminal justice system and laid the foundation for the establishment of victims rights.

- Established by Crime Victims' Rights Act
 - Protection
 - Privacy
 - Respectful Treatment
 - Information
 - A Voice
- Embedded in DoDD 1030.1 and DoDI 1030.2
 - Victim and Witness Assistance
- Ensured by DoD Victim Assistance Personnel

DoD SAPR Victim Assistance Personnel

DoD provides three separate programs to assist victims of sexual assault.

➤ **Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program Personnel**

- **Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)**
- **Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocate (SAPR VA)**
 - Purpose: Provide non-clinical crisis intervention, referral, and ongoing non-clinical support to adult sexual assault victims. Supervise and conduct awareness, prevention and response training
 - Policy Guide: DoD SAPR Instruction 6495.02
 - Policy Office: Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office
 - Can accept Restricted Reports, Victim Privilege MRE 514

➤ **Victim Witness Assistance Program Personnel**

- **Victim Witness Liaisons (VWL)**
- **Victim Witness Assistance Personnel (VWAP)**
- **Victim Witness Assistance Coordinators (VWAC)**
 - Purpose: Assist victims with exercising their federally mandated rights and with navigating criminal justice system
 - Policy Guide: DoD VWAP Instruction 1030.2
 - Policy Office: Office of the Secretary of Defense – Legal Policy
 - No confidentiality or privilege communication

➤ **Family Advocacy Program Personnel**

- **Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate (DAVA)**
- **Family Advocacy Program Managers (FAPM)**
 - Purpose: Prevent, report, identify, evaluate, treat, rehabilitate, and follow-up on child maltreatment & domestic abuse
 - Policy Guide: DoD Instruction 6400.1 & 6400.6
 - Policy Office: Family Advocacy Program Office
 - Victim Privilege MRE 514 for victim advocates in UCMJ cases

DoD SAPR Victim Assistance Personnel

Sexual Assault Response Team

- Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs)
- Victim Advocates
- Medical and Mental Health Personnel
- Chaplains
- Unit Commanders
- Investigators/Law Enforcement
- Judge Advocates
- Victim Witness Liaisons
- Special Victim's Advocacy Program Attorneys

*Only these officials
can receive a
Restricted Report*

*These officials
facilitate reporting to
SARCs, SAPR VAs,
Medical Personnel
& Law Enforcement*

SARC Responsibilities

- Center of gravity for victim's case
- Coordinates response to victim
- Manages and trains victim advocates
- Reports statistics in Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database
- Serves as program's link to command
- May provide direct victim advocacy
- Not an attorney or legal advisor

Victim Advocate Responsibilities

- Works for the SARC
- Provides direct victim advocacy
- Present whenever victim requests
- Not an attorney or legal advisor
- Not a mental health counselor

Victim Assistance Policy

DoDI 6495.02 Requirements:

- **Focus on the Victim (p3, Policy Section)**
Ensures focus is on necessary and appropriate support for victim recovery
- **24/7 Response Capability (p4, Policy Section)**
Provides for an immediate response to victims
- **SARCs provide a response that is gender-responsive, culturally-competent, and recovery-oriented to sexual assault victims (p3, Policy Section)**
- **Sexual Assault Cases as 'Emergency Cases' (p4, Policy Section)**
Ensures emergency care for victims of sexual assault even if physical injury is not evident
- **Safety Assessments and Oversight of Victims' Safety (Enc. 9)**
Provides victim's with immediate and ongoing safety
- **Formation of High-Risk Response Teams (Enc. 9)**
Ensures the safety of victims of sexual assault by proactively assessing danger and activating response team within 24 hours of a high-risk assessment
- **Monthly Case Reviews (Enc. 9)**
Requires safety assessment for every victim of sexual assault
- **Sexual Assault victims are informed of the option to request a Military Protective Order (Enc. 5)**
Ensuring victims are aware of available safety options
- **Expedited Transfer Policy (p5, Policy section & Enc. 5)**
Affords victims of sexual assault the option to transfer bases or change location within same base

Victim Assistance Policy

DoDI 6495.02 Requirements:

- **Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (Enc. 2)**
Standardizes quality of care victims receive across Services and professionalizes role of SARCs and SAPR VAs
- **DoD Safe Helpline (Enc. 2)**
Establishes Safe Helpline as the sole DoD hotline for crisis intervention and requires the Services to publicize and promote awareness
- **Document Retention (pp4-5, Policy Section)**
Retains critical documentation for Unrestricted and Restricted Reports
- **Healthcare personnel trained to safeguard victim's Restricted Reporting option (Enc . 4, 7, 10)**
Ensures victims retain their options should they report to healthcare personnel
- **Each Service member who reports a sexual assault to have opportunity to consult with legal assistance counsel (Enc. 2)**
Allows victim to consult with legal assistance attorney on military justice system
- **SAPR Training for DoD Personnel (Enc. 10)**
Increases knowledge associated with sexual assault prevention and response throughout DoD
- **Training on Victim Advocate Privilege (Enc. 6, 10)**
Ensures key personnel are aware of how to protect communication between a victim and a victim advocate and SARC
- **SARCs and SAPR VAs to be Government employees (Enc. 2)**
Complies with NDAA mandate to field government civilian and military SARCs and SAPR VAs

Major Programs and Initiatives

Collaboration with Department of Justice Office of Victims of Crime (OVC)

- Developed *Strengthening Military-Civilian Community Partnerships to Respond to Sexual Assault* training curriculum for the training of civilian rape crises center victim advocates located near military installations/bases
- Ongoing efforts include regional training by a team consisting of a SARC, JAG and civilian rape crises center Victim Advocate
- Development of an interactive game-based Advanced Victim Advocacy Online training for SARCs and SAPR VAs – expected to launch by 1 Jan 2014

Major Programs and Initiatives

DoD Safe Helpline

Goal: Provide crisis intervention services and support for members of the DoD community 24/7, worldwide

- Launched in 2011 through contract managed by DoD SAPRO
- SHL operated by Rape, Abuse, Incest and National Network (RAINN)
- More than 16,000 people helped
- More than 200,000 people received information

Services Available

- Safehelpline.org: Provides information, referrals and feedback tools
 - Telephone Helpline: (877) 995-5247 (Same in CONUS/OCONUS/DSN)
 - Online Helpline: safehelpline.org
 - Texting Referrals: 55-247
- Responder Administration Website: Maintains SARC and responder contact information for all Services, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserves for every base/installation in the world
- Self-Care Mobile Application: Available on Apple and Android devices
- Safe HelpRoom: Secure, moderated, online peer support forum

Major Programs and Initiatives

DoD Safe Helpline

Telephone Helpline

- Provides crisis support services for DoD community members affected by sexual assault
- Safe Helpline staff can offer “warm hand-off” transfers to SARCs, Military OneSource, National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and civilian sexual assault service providers
- Safe Helpline Staff Overview:
 - ~80 SHL staff work at RAINN’s office in Washington, DC
 - SHL staff complete 70 hours of training on sexual assault and the military
 - SHL staff participate in monthly in-service trainings and receive clinical supervision and ongoing support from professional supervisors
 - SHL staff undergo criminal background checks

Major Programs and Initiatives

DoD Safe Helpline

Online Helpline

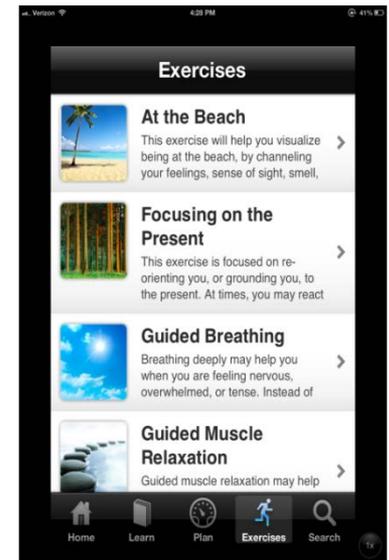
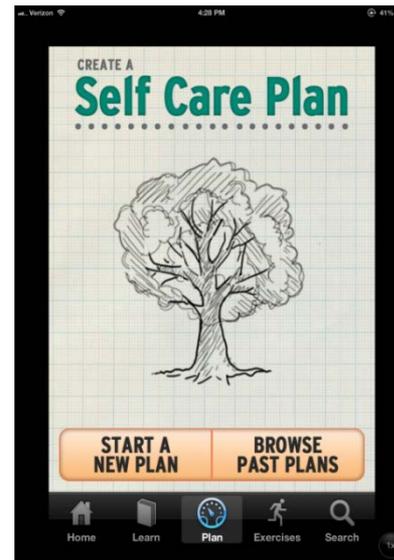
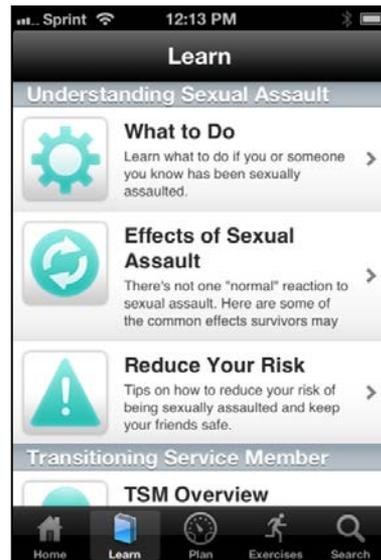
- Leverages RAINN's groundbreaking National Sexual Assault Online Hotline, the first and only one of its kind, to serve members of the military in a secure online environment
- Secure application and server environment
- Anonymous service:
 - IP address of user is not collected
 - Application obscures connection between user and staffer
 - No Personally Identifying Information (PII) is solicited
- Stringent privacy & confidentiality protections:
 - Transcripts of sessions are not stored
 - Layered user agreement and privacy policy
 - Strict privacy protocols for staff and supervisors
 - All sessions are monitored by supervisors who have the capacity to transfer sessions when needed

Major Programs and Initiatives

DoD Safe Helpline

Self-Care App

- The free Safe Helpline App (for iOS and Android) provides sexual assault survivors in the military the ability to create a customized self-care plan and connect to resources anywhere in the world
- In 2013, the Safe Helpline App was awarded the President's Innovation Award from the American Telemedicine Association



Major Programs and Initiatives

DoD Safe Helpline

Goal: Safe HelpRoom allows survivors of sexual assault in military to connect with one another in moderated and secure online environment at safehelpline.org

Safe HelpRoom (SHR)

- Built on same platform as RAINN's Online Hotline technology
- Safe HelpRoom is *the first* secure, moderated, online peer support service for survivors of sexual assault
 - Safe Helpline users desire peer support resources
 - Survivors currently use social networking to disclose their experiences and connect to peers in an unsecure manner
 - SHR provides an alternative to unmonitored, inaccurate message boards/chat services that may pose risks to a user's privacy, interfere with criminal prosecution, or negatively impact a user's emotional health
 - Technology-enhanced interventions are effective in maintaining treatment gains

Major Programs and Initiatives

DoD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP)

Overview

- Launched in 2012 through contract managed by DoD SAPRO
- Operated by National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)
- More than 22,000 SARCs and SAPR VAs certified
- Ensures DoD compliance with NDAA FY 2012 (Sec 1568) requirement to establish training and certification program for SARCS and SAPR VAs

Goals

- Provide quality response to victims and survivors
- Deliver standardized advocacy & assistance by trained professionals
- Enable SARCs and Victim Advocates to enhance military readiness with standardized and effective training
- Mitigate the impact of sexual assault on military units with informed commanders and leaders who actively participating in victim assistance efforts
- Build on the expertise and infrastructure from the civilian victim advocacy community

Major Programs and Initiatives

DoD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP)

- Requirements
 - Law: NDAA FY12 Sec 584
 - Policy: DoDI 6495.02 (Enc. #2 & p16) requires that victims are offered assistance from a D-SAACP-certified SARC or SAPR VA
- Foundation of D-SAACP
 - Developed with civilian SMEs and adapted from national standards
 - OVC, NOVA, NACP, National Victim Assistance Standards Consortium
 - Identifies qualities required in a D-SAACP-certified SARC & SAPR Victim Advocate
 - Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes
 - Incorporates Code of Ethics - Defines professional standards of conduct
- Certification Process
 - Application via DD Form 2950 to NOVA
 - Signed Code of Professional Ethics
 - Letters of Recommendation: From SARC's Commander and, for SAPR VAs, an additional recommendation from SARC
 - Completed National Agency Check
 - Experience Evaluation required for Levels II – IV
 - Recertification required after two years with 32 hours of continuing education
- Credential Status
 - Certifications may be revoked for failures to meet program standards or misconduct 16

Major Programs and Initiatives

DoD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP)

Certification Levels

- Level I
 - Required to serve as SARC or SAPR VA
 - Training and recommendation letters required; experience *not* required
- Level II
 - Full time SARCs and SAPR VAs
 - 3,900 hours (two years) sexual assault victim advocacy experience; training, recommendation letters, evaluations required
- Level III
 - 7,800 hours (four years) sexual assault victim advocacy experience; training, recommendation letters, evaluations required
- Level IV
 - 15,600 hours (eight years) sexual assault victim advocacy experience; training, recommendation letters, evaluations required

Feedback from Certified SARCs

“I think it is a great program that allows us the ability to be certified in a field that truly requires a special kind of person. I am honored to be working with victims and to help them in any way I can. Though it is a position I wish we didn't have I'm grateful that we exist to help those who need assistance.”

D-SAACP Certified SARC

“Certification is quite necessary and appreciated. Ensures continued training and education of advocates which is required to remain abreast of changes and best practices for victims we will serve.”

D-SAACP Certified SARC

Victim Assistance Initiatives

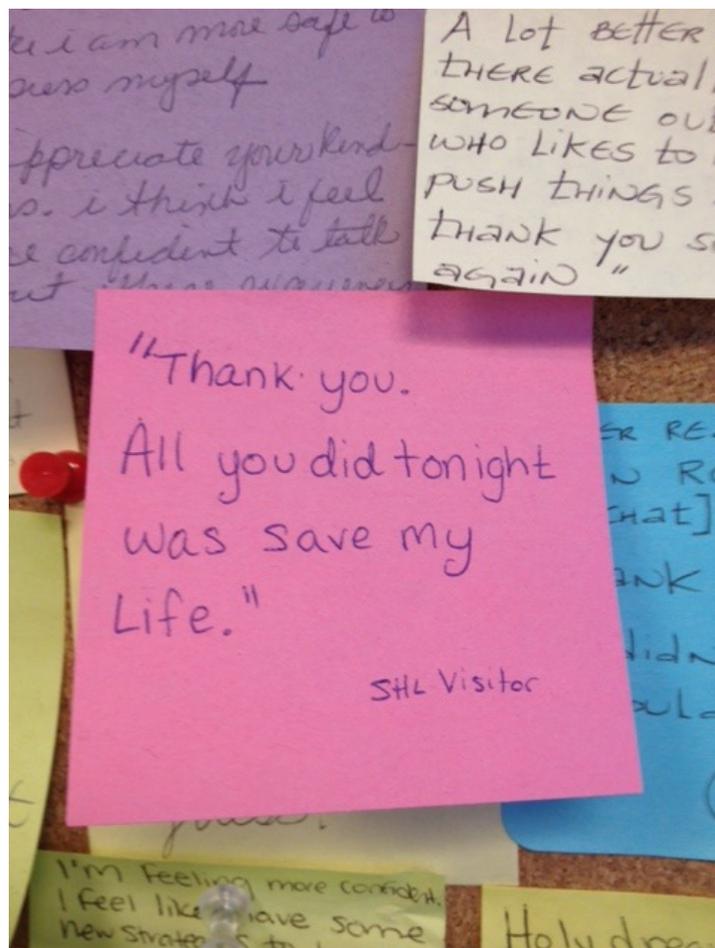
Completed

- **Completed DoD-wide Stand-down:** Each Service conducted a Stand-down to ensure that leaders, recruiters, SARCs, and every member of the Armed Forces clearly understands their role in fostering a climate of dignity and respect
- **Conducted Survivor Summits:** Department leaders continue to ensure policy making is informed by victim experiences by conducting semi-annual Survivor Summits
- **Enhanced Training:** Services are currently implementing core competencies and learning objectives for the following training -- Refresher/Annual, Accessions, Pre-deployment, Post-deployment, Professional Military Training and SARC/VAs. Developed by DoD SAPR Office and the Services

In Progress

- **Improving Response and Victim Treatment:** Services developing methods to assess, monitor, and improve victim treatment by their peers, co-workers, and chains of command
- **Improving Victim Legal Support:** Each Service will establish a special victim's advocacy program that provides legal advice and representation to the victim throughout the justice process
- **Ensuring Victim's Rights:** DoD will develop a method, in coordination with Joint Service Committee, to incorporate victim rights afforded by the Crime Victim's Rights Act into military justice practice
- **Expanding Victim's Rights:** DoD will amend the Manual for Courts Martial to provide victims of crime the opportunity to provide input to the post-trial action phase of courts-martial
- **Elevating Oversight:** DoD will require status reports of unrestricted sexual assault allegations and actions be taken to the General/Flag Officer within the chain of command; Services are currently implementing requirement for General/Flag Officer review of involuntary separation of a Service member who filed an Unrestricted Report of sexual assault





DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

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