



# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



## Policy and Strategy

The Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (DoD SAPRO) is the single point of authority, accountability, and oversight for the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program. SAPRO’s policies are gender-responsive, culturally competent, and recovery-oriented to support those who have been victimized. In its policy and strategy oversight and advisory role, SAPRO aims to translate concepts into action, improve outcomes, and achieve results that endure.

## Approach

DoD SAPRO works closely with the Armed Services and the National Guard to advise the Secretary of Defense on recommended sexual assault prevention and response actions. To succeed in this mission, SAPRO convenes various forums, such as integrated decision teams and working groups, to collaborate with Department stakeholders on new policy, implement updates to existing laws, and develop solutions to emerging issues. This approach allows the Department to effectively recommend and enact methods to prevent sexual assault and support victims when crimes occur.

## Key Policies and Strategies

- >> **DoDI 6495.01, “Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program”** outlines the overarching Department policy on sexual assault prevention and response.
- >> **DoDI 6495.02, Volume 1 “Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) 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 monthly case management groups.
- >> **DoDI 6495.02, Volume 2, “Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program: Education and Training”** establishes SAPR training requirements for Service members, individuals who supervise Service members, and DoD civilian personnel. This policy, updated in 2021, aligns training requirements with leading research and best practices on sexual assault prevention and response.
- >> **DoDI 6495.03, “Defense Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP)”** issues guidance and procedures to ensure all personnel providing advocacy services to victims of sexual assault hold professional credentials in victim advocacy.
- >> **DoDI 6400.09, “DoD Policy on Integrated Primary Prevention of Self-Directed Harm and Prohibited Abuse or Harm”** implements an integrated violence prevention policy that creates a unity of effort across prevention programs and policies and established a framework for violence prevention efforts.
- >> The **Catch a Serial Offender (CATCH) Program** allows an adult victim who chooses to file a Restricted Report of sexual assault to confidentially submit information about their alleged offender or incident into the CATCH system to help the Department identify serial offenders.
- >> The **Prevention Plan of Action (PPoA)** guides the Department’s prevention efforts at each echelon of the military environment. The PPoA identifies the key military stakeholders and resources that make up the system needed to improve prevention efforts and lays the foundation for concrete action to address sexual assault in the military environment.
- >> The **DoD Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy (RPRS)** provides support to individuals who experience retaliation after reporting sexual assault. Released in July 2017, RPRS addresses retaliation against Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard Service members who allege they were sexually assaulted while performing Active Service or Inactive Duty training and report sexual assault or sexual harassment. DoD anticipates issuing a stand-alone DoD Instruction dedicated to Retaliation response related to adult sexual assault in early 2022.
- >> The **DoD Plan to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Assault of Military Men** includes researched-informed, gender-specific prevention techniques to protect military men from sexual assault and encourages them to seek resources and support.

## STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT

SAPR Policy and Strategy is influenced by:

- 80+ Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military recommendations
- 50+ Secretary of Defense-directed initiatives enacted since 2012 to improve prevention and response efforts
- 150+ Congressional provisions operationalized related to sexual assault, including the most comprehensive reforms to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) since 1968
- 200+ recommendations from government panels and task forces assessed for applicability to the SAPR mission space
- 66+ Government Accountability Office sexual assaulted-related recommendations assessed to measure prevention and response efforts and to inform future programming
- 10+ DoD Inspector General engagements conducted since 2010 to review and improve prevention and response efforts



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)