

NAVY FAMILY OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM



OMBUDSMAN

ADVANCED TRAINING

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response



Serving Our Families Around the World

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Purpose of Training

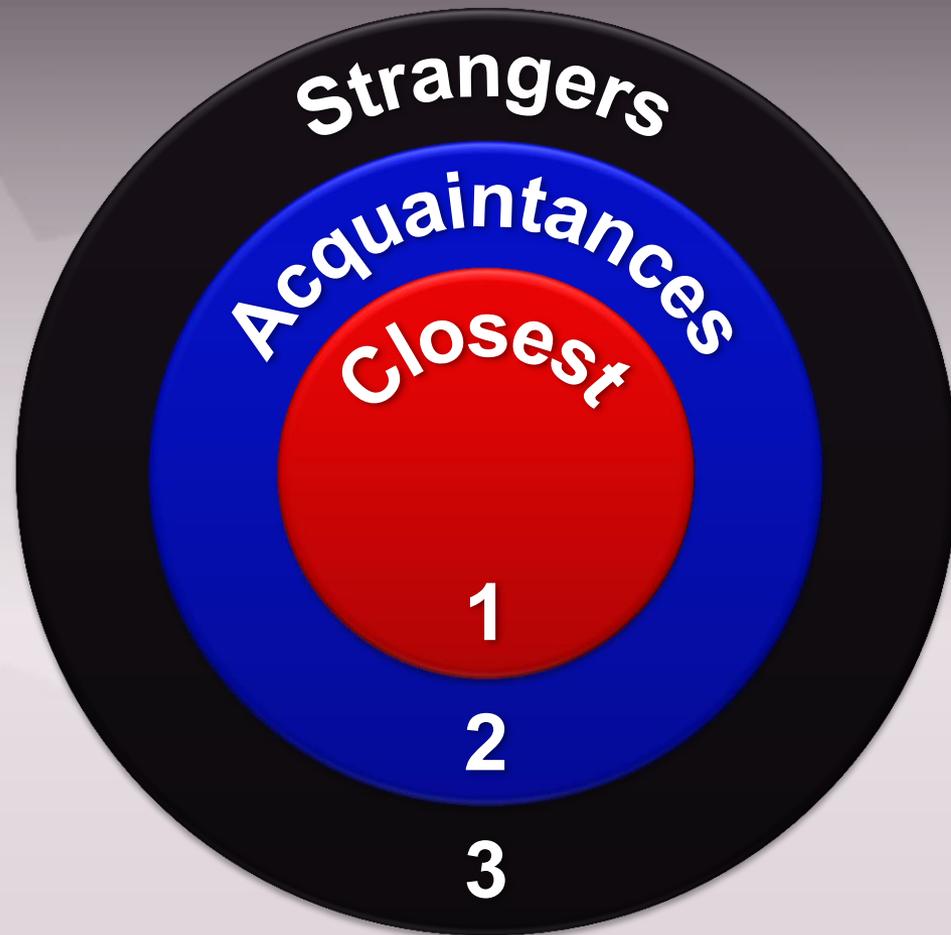
Describe how sexual assault victim response is handled by SAPR personnel

Explain confidentiality policy and reporting options

Recognize how SAPR Program protects and maintains victims' privacy

Ombudsman's role in support of SAPR efforts

Circles of Privacy





Barriers to Reporting

Most common reasons for not reporting or delayed reporting of sexual assault:

- ★ Victim's sense of shame
- ★ Having friends and family hear of details
- ★ Being perceived as having permitted the assault
- ★ Being seen by the command as weak

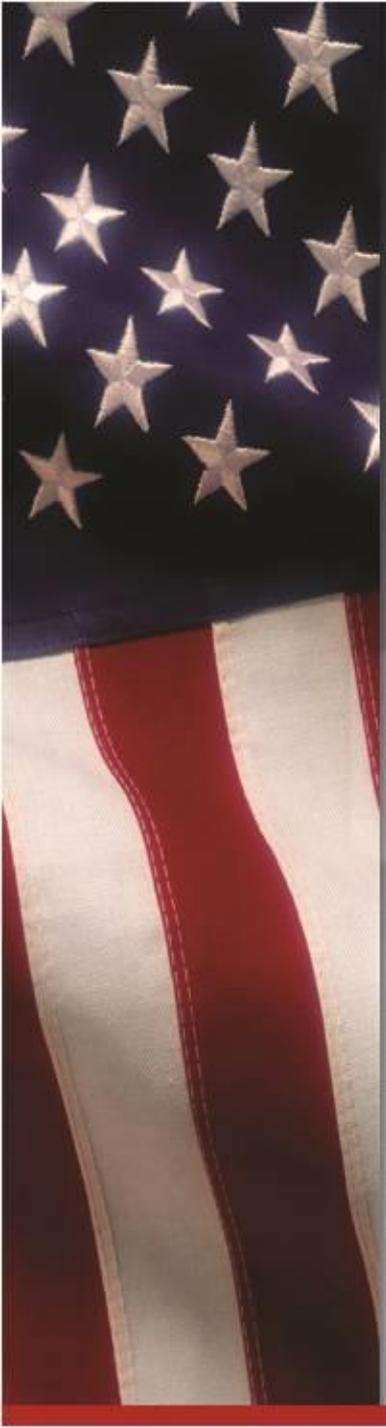


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Military Reporting Trends

Reasons given for not reporting sexual assault

- ★ Embarrassment
- ★ Memory block
- ★ Fear of legal process
- ★ Desire to be seen as tough
- ★ Desire to protect offender
- ★ Lack of trust
- ★ Concerns about career

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Military Reporting Trends

Reasons given for not reporting sexual assault

- ★ Lack of privacy or fear of exposure
- ★ Accusations of victim
- ★ Having to retell and relive assault
- ★ Fear of higher-ranking offenders
- ★ Self-blame
- ★ Fear of punishment for collateral misconduct

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Navy Reporting Trends

Reasons Navy victims fail to report

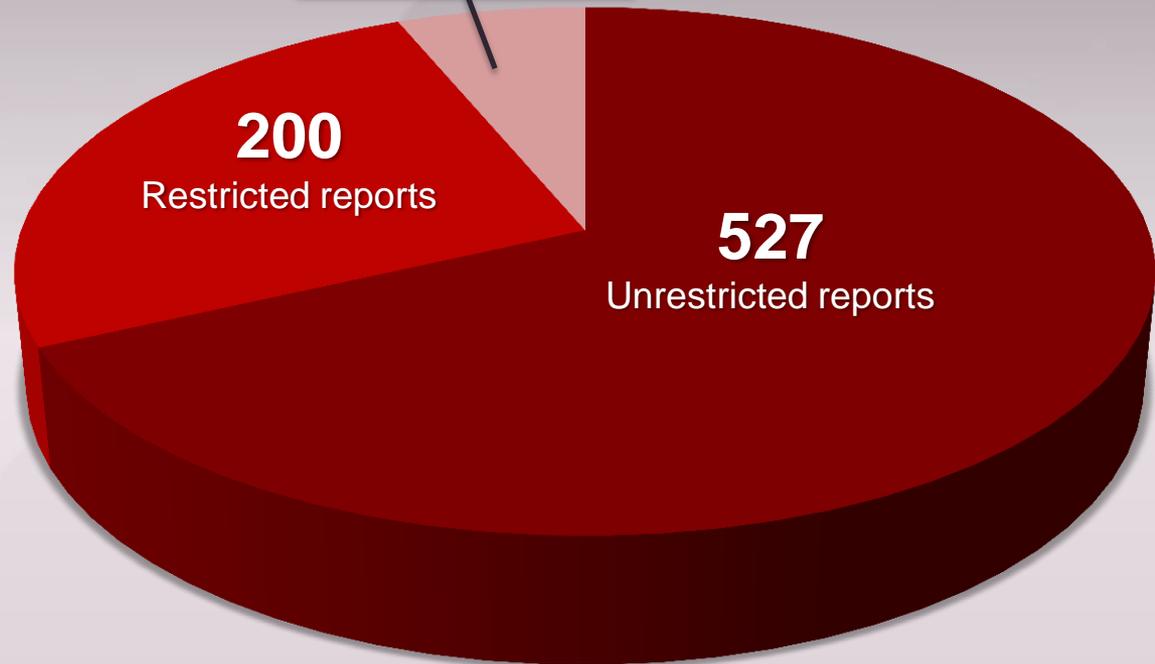
- ★ Fear of ostracism
- ★ Fear of public disclosure
- ★ Shame and embarrassment
- ★ Fear of negative impact on career
- ★ Fear of stereotype that women are weak
- ★ Commitment to mission
- ★ Fear of losing security clearance
- ★ Could influence morale of other females

DoN Reporting Statistics FY 2012

775 Total Reports

48

Converted reports



SAPR Program Goals

- ★ Awareness and prevention education
- ★ Victim advocacy and intervention
- ★ Collection of reliable data on sexual assault



DoD and Services Policies

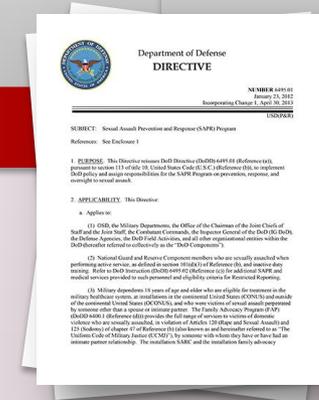
Cross-service Standardization

**24/7
Response
Capability**

**Confidentiality
Policy
(restricted
reporting)**

SARC Role

**Sexual Assault
Case
Management
Group
(SACMG)**



SAPR Roles and Responsibilities

Awareness and Prevention

SARC

SAPR VA

SAPR POC

Victim Advocacy and Intervention

SARC

SAPR VA

SAPR
Command
Liaison

Collection of Reliable Data

SARC

SAPR VA



Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)

- ★ Train and assign SAPR VAs
- ★ Track victim services
- ★ Safeguard information and victim privacy
- ★ Facilitate SACMG
- ★ Monthly victim updates come from the victim's CO
- ★ Provide regular updates to CO



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SAPR Victim Advocate (SAPR VA)

- ★ Secure victim's basic needs
- ★ Provide victim support and assistance
- ★ Provide victim information and options
- ★ Refer to Victim's Legal Counsel (VLC)
- ★ Reduce re-victimization
- ★ Accompany victims to various appointments upon request
- ★ Ensure victim receives Victim and Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) services
- ★ Offer covered communication for restricted reporting
- ★ Secure transportation if needed

SAPR Command Liaison

- ★ Serve as a direct link between the victim and commanding officer
- ★ Generally known only to command, SARC and victim
- ★ Promote responsive management of sexual assault cases
- ★ Ensure victim is not re-victimized by a command response





SAPR Data Collection Coordinator (DCC)

- ★ Collect data through coordinated effort with all agencies assisting victim
 - ★ Ensure timely filing of initial, continuation, and final SITREPs
- 

SAPR Command Point of Contact (SAPR POC)

- ★ Provide information about SAPR and sexual assault prevention and education requirements
- ★ Coordinate sexual assault awareness and prevention trainings for command
- ★ Maintain information about local military and civilian sexual assault resources
- ★ Maintain relationships with other military and civilian resources



Confidentiality and Reporting Options



Unrestricted Reporting

Medical treatment, advocacy, counseling, and an official investigation of the crime



Restricted Reporting

Confidentially disclose the crime to specifically identified individuals and receive medical treatment, advocacy and counseling without triggering command notification and official investigation



Unrestricted Reporting

- ★ Ensures widest range of rights and protections
- ★ Triggers command notification
- ★ Differentiate between SAPR or FAP case
- ★ Reportable regardless of offender status and location of assault

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○ Unrestricted Reporting: Applicability

- ★ Any military medical beneficiary
- ★ Active-duty Sailors
- ★ Reservists
- ★ Military spouses
- ★ Military dependents, 18 or older, if assaulted by someone other than spouse/intimate partner

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○ Unrestricted Reporting: Benefits

- ★ Protection of victims
- ★ Accountability of assailant
- ★ Special consideration of duty status for victims
- ★ Reduced threat of attacks on others
- ★ DoD preferred reporting method

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○ Unrestricted Reporting: Limitations

- ★ Victims cannot change to restricted reporting
- ★ Victims may consider investigation or legal process too intrusive
- ★ Assault will become known and discussed among those with a need to know
- ★ Investigation and court proceedings could be lengthy



Restricted Reporting: Applicability

Without triggering an investigation, the victim can disclose sexual assault to:

- ★ SARC
- ★ SAPR VA
- ★ Healthcare provider (HCP)
- ★ Deployed Resiliency Counselor (DRC)
- ★ Victim's Legal Counsel (VLC)
- ★ Chaplain



Restricted Reporting: Description

- ★ Command leadership is notified that a sexual assault has been reported but is given no personal identifying information about victim or offender, if known
- ★ Resources available to victims
 - Medical treatment
 - Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE)
 - Advocacy services
 - Counseling
 - Victim's Legal Counsel (VLC)
 - Chaplain



Restricted Reporting: Exceptions

- ★ Any victim, including active-duty personnel, who discloses sexual assault by a current or former spouse/intimate partner
- ★ Someone under age 18 who is sexually abused by someone over 18 or in a position of power or authority over them (e.g., a teenage babysitter), constitutes child sexual abuse and will be referred to FAP

Restricted reporting is available to victims of domestic abuse through the FAP program.



Restricted Reporting: Benefits

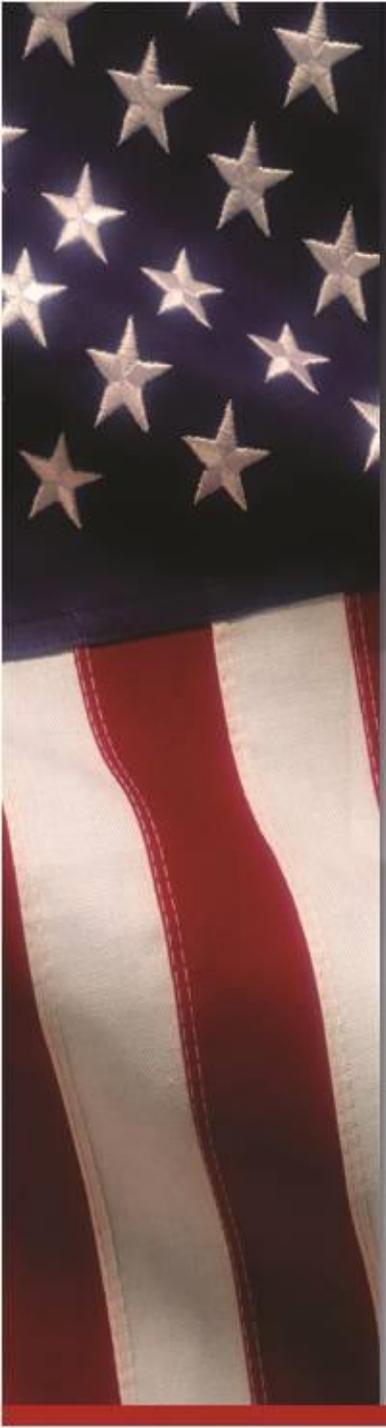
- ★ Remove barriers for victims
- ★ Enable victims to change to unrestricted reporting
- ★ Build victims' trust in system to increase reporting
- ★ Give victims time to consider options and begin the healing process
- ★ Empower victims



Restricted Reporting: Limitations

- ★ Assaultants remain unpunished and at large
- ★ Victims cannot receive military protective orders or expedited transfer
- ★ Evidence from crime scenes may be lost
- ★ Victims are limited in who they can discuss assault with



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Ombudsman Role in SAPR

- ★ Assess caller information
- ★ Explain mandatory reporting requirements
- ★ Identify resources and contacts
- ★ Make appropriate referrals and notifications

Scenario



A spouse was sexually assaulted. She wants to receive help but doesn't want her husband's command to know what happened. She calls the ombudsman for information on whom to call and their contact information.

At this point, can she file a restricted report?

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Scenario - Answer

No. When a victim of sexual assault tells NCIS/law enforcement or the command—which includes the command ombudsman—about an assault, the right to file a restricted report is negated.

Summary

Describe how sexual assault victim response is handled by SAPR personnel

Explain confidentiality policy and reporting options

Recognize how SAPR Program protects and maintains victims' privacy

Ombudsman's role in support of SAPR efforts