



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



Taking Care of Team Members: DoD Professional Response Resources for Sexual Assault

Everyone has a different reaction when they experience sexual assault. The effects can be psychological, emotional, and/or physical, and they may be brief or last a long time. No matter the effects you may be experiencing, we are here to help. Your health matters. You are always part of our team.

Reporting Options that are Sensitive and Responsive to Your Needs

Unrestricted Report

Allows you to receive medical treatment, advocacy services, and legal support. With this option, DoD law enforcement initiates an investigation and your chain-of-command is notified. You have the right to be reasonably protected and may also be eligible for other protections including Military Protective Order and expedited transfer.

Restricted Report

Allows you to receive legal advice, medical care, and advocacy services, but does not trigger an investigation. Please go to Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and SAPR Victim Advocates (VAs) to learn more about Restricted Reports. You do not have to tell law enforcement or your commander about your sexual assault to receive care and other assistance.

Victim Reporting Preference Statement

SARCs and SAPR VAs assist victims of sexual assault to complete a Victim Reporting Preference Statement (DD Form 2910) so they may elect a reporting option and understand the rights and resources available. This form may be used in other matters before other agencies (e.g., the Department of Veterans Affairs) or for other lawful purposes.



If you have experienced a sexual assault, you can talk to someone anonymously by calling 877-995-5247 or visiting www.SafeHelpline.org. A trained professional is always there to provide immediate assistance and can connect you with local response resources.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE: DEDICATED RESPONSE RESOURCES

Professionals are available everywhere the military operates to provide healthcare, advocacy, and legal representation that is independent of command.

>> Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

An installation or unit resource who provides confidential support and coordinates care for a victim of sexual assault throughout the investigation and recovery

>> SAPR Victim Advocate (SAPR VA):

An advocate who provides confidential support, education, and resources to a victim of sexual assault under the supervision of a SARC

>> Special Victims' Counsel/ Victims' Legal Counsel/ Victims' Counsel (SVC/VLC/VC):

An active-duty judge advocate who represents a victim of sexual assault by providing legal advice, guidance, and assistance with exercising their legal rights as a crime victim in a confidential, attorney-client relationship. This is your own attorney, this is not a prosecutor or defense attorney

>> Chaplain:

A military member who can provide spiritual advice and counseling to a victim of sexual assault. Communication is protected and confidential, however chaplains cannot take reports of sexual assault

>> Forensic Healthcare Examiner (FHE):

A specially-trained medical professional who can conduct a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) and address medical concerns associated with the sexual assault. Even if you do not want a SAFE, you are always entitled to medical and behavioral care

>> Catch a Serial Offender Program (CATCH):

If you are not ready to report your sexual assault, the CATCH program allows victims to anonymously submit information about the suspect to the DoD. If the information provided matches another submission, the SARC will notify you and check if you want to participate in an investigation.

Important Reminders and Department of Veterans Affairs Resources

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers help to Service members who have experienced sexual assault. The VA uses the term "military sexual trauma" (MST) to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment experienced during Military Service. The following summarizes the assistance available to Service members:

- **MST Counseling at Vet Centers.** This may include a variety of services, information, and referrals to help you deal with the emotions of MST and regain confidence in your everyday life. Any veteran, or Service member including members of the National Guard and Reserve Component, is eligible to receive counseling regardless of gender or era of Service. Assessment and referral for MST-related counseling is available at all Vet Centers. This counseling may be accessed by Service members confidentially. On-site counseling is available at select Vet Centers across the country. Find your closest Vet Center here: <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>.
- **MST Coordinators.** Every VA healthcare facility has a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) MST coordinator who can assist in accessing MST-related medical and mental healthcare. Information is available at <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome/vha-mst-coordinators.asp>.
- **MST Disability Claims.** For help with disability claims related to MST, contact the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) MST Outreach Coordinator at your local VBA regional office. Information is available at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/mstcoordinators.asp>.

Notes about assistance from the VA:

- When Service members seek care at a VA medical center, information regarding treatment will be included in VA medical records and protected from unauthorized disclosure. VA medical records may be accessed by DoD personnel under certain circumstances on a need-to-know basis. However, MST counseling received at a Vet Center is confidential and such records are not accessible to the DoD.
- Service members on flying status, in the Personnel Reliability Program (PRP), or in the Presidential Support Program (PSP) are reminded to follow DoD and Service policy requiring them to inform the flight surgeon or Competent Medical Authority anytime they receive medical and mental healthcare, especially when that care is from a non-DoD or non-TriCare source. Failure to do so may jeopardize your ability to continue in the PRP, PSP, or on flight status, and could possibly have other career implications.

For more information, please visit sapr.mil.

For confidential victim assistance, call or visit the DoD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247 or safehelpline.org.