



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



## FACT SHEET: SAPR TRAINING

### Background

The Department of Defense (DoD) Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) is responsible for ensuring Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) training is consistent throughout the Department and the Services.

DoD has developed consistent core competencies for the following training: Accessions, Annual Refresher, Pre- and Post-Deployment, Professional Military Education, Pre-Command and Senior Enlisted Leader, SARCs/VAs, and Chaplains. Specific learning objectives were also developed and can be accessed at [www.sapr.mil](http://www.sapr.mil). These core elements of learning were developed in collaboration with the Military Services and the National Guard Bureau (NGB) and promulgated by Under Secretary of Defense Personnel and Readiness in September 2013. The revised curriculum is currently being implemented by the Services.

SAPR training begins with accessions training when all recruits receive an initial SAPR brief during the first 14 days of training. This brief provides a basic understanding of the SAPR program and provides specific information on reporting options. Recruits are also provided with information about on base and local resources for victims of sexual assault. Each Service then conducts more detailed SAPR training during follow-on initial training.

Mandatory SAPR refresher training is conducted for each Service and NGB member annually. SAPR training is also conducted prior to deploying and immediately returning from deployments. The Services and NGB have incorporated bystander intervention training into their SAPR training curriculum, and SAPR content is often included in broader ethics training throughout the Department and NGB.

All phases of professional military education, from junior-level noncommissioned officer schools through the senior-level War Colleges, provide SAPR training. This training is designed to address the specific SAPR responsibilities at each grade and billet assignment. In addition, prior to assuming command at the O-5 level (i.e., battalion, ship, squadron, etc.) and O-6 level (i.e., brigade, group, wing, carrier), officers and their senior enlisted leaders are given specific SAPR training designed to address the roles of leaders and commanding officers (COs) in all aspects of the SAPR program.

Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs), SAPR Victim Advocates (VAs), and Chaplains are trained as first responders and receive initial and continuing SAPR training focused on their specific billets. SARCs and SAPR VAs are certified in their profession through the National Organization of Victim Assistance (NOVA). This professional certification requires a minimum of 40 hours of training for initial certification followed by an additional 32 hours of continuing education every two years.

## **Core Competencies - SAPR Training**

### **Accessions (Recruit) \* Annual Refresher Training \* Pre-Deployment Training**

- Sexual Assault - Describe sexual assault and its impact on the military
- Prevention - Describe strategies to prevent (reduce the risk of) sexual assaults
- Reporting and Response - Identify support resources available to victims of sexual assault

### **Post-Deployment Training**

- Reporting and Response - Identify local, national, international, support resources available to victims of sexual assault

### **Professional Military Education (Enlisted and Officer)**

Sexual Assault - Describe sexual assault and its impact on the military

Prevention - Describe strategies to prevent (reduce the risk of) sexual assaults

Reporting and Response - Identify support resources available to victims of sexual assault

### **Pre-Command and Senior Enlisted Leader Training**

- Sexual Assault in the Military - Refresh understanding of basic concepts of sexual assault
- Prevention - Understand risks and circumstances associated with sexual assault incidence and the proactive measures to prevent sexual assault and associated destructive behaviors within their command
- Advocacy and Response - Understand the essential elements of quality victim care response programs and the roles and responsibilities of victim service providers
- Investigations and Accountability - Understand the complexity of sexual assault crimes and the appropriate investigation and disposition options available
- SAPR Program Leadership - Understand commander's and senior enlisted leader's roles in fostering a command environment free of sexual assault

### **Sexual Assault Response Coordinator/SAPR Victim Advocate**

- Apply the SAPR program to aid victims of sexual assault
- Demonstrate awareness of the impact of sexual assault on victims
- Respond to victim reports and manage crises effectively
- Coordinate services and advocate for victims
- Conduct prevention activities
- Communicate effectively
- Facilitate education and training
- Uphold ethical standards
- Manage the SAPR Program at the installation level

### **Chaplains**

- Demonstrate awareness of the SAPR program
- Demonstrate awareness of the impact of sexual assault on victims
- Provide effective care to those impacted by sexual assault