TOPIC: VICTIM'S COMMANDER'S PACKAGE
JULY 2024

Topics from Deputy Secretary of Defense Memo, "Updates to Department of Defense Policies to Enhance Support for Adult Sexual Assault Victims," signed May 2024. Available at www.sapr.mil/latest-policy-updates.

Paragraph 4, Policy, in DoDI 6495.02, volume 1, as follows:
Requires the use of the Victim's Commander's Package.

Victim's Commander's Package

ap. To convey critical victim information and any victim special needs to the victim's commander, DoD SAPRO will develop and issue a standardized template for "Recommendations for Victim Care and Support for Unrestricted Reports ("Victim's Commander's Package").

aq. The SAPR VA shall prepare the "Victim's Commander's Package" with victim consent as to the contents to be relayed to the victim's commander. The Victim's Commander's Package will be provided to the victim's commander (or civilian equivalent) **within 24 hours** of filing a DD Form 2910, "Victim Reporting Preference Statement," for an Unrestricted Report. The Victim's Commander's Package will include recommendations to address immediate and ongoing care, to include any known safety concerns or retaliation issues, if any.

(1) The installation SAPR VA shall give the completed package to the SARC to provide to the victim's commanding officer or civilian equivalent.

(2) The victim's commanding officer must review the Victim's Commander's Package and either approve or disapprove the package in writing.

(a) If the commander does not agree with all or some of the recommendations in the package, the SARC will collaborate with the commander to consider other options, to gain approval. If consensus cannot be reached, then the SARC will forward the package to the next general and flag officer in the chain of command for review and appropriate action.

(b) If approved, the victim's commander will sign the package.

(3) At the monthly CMG meeting, the CMG Chair will confirm that a Victim's Commander's Package was approved for each Unrestricted Report.
[The CMG Chair will confirm] that a Victim's Commander's Package was completed within the required timeframe for each Unrestricted Report and signed off by the victim's commander. [The CMG Chair will request] from the appropriate SARC for each victim (on the CMG agenda) whether there were any challenges implementing the recommendations in the Victim's Commander's Package.

Where can I find the template?
We anticipate that the Victim's Commander's Package (VCP) will be published in 2025.

What is the VCP? Is it the same as the 30-day checklist?
No. The "Commander's 30-Day Checklist for Unrestricted Reports" is different from the requirement to review the VCP.

The "Commander's 30-Day Checklist for Unrestricted Reports" is for the benefit of commanders to guide them through requirements when there is a sexual assault in their unit. The 30-Day checklist is in the SAPR Policy Toolkit for Command Teams, on www.sapr.milsapr.mil/toolkit. This 30-day checklist may be expanded by the Military Services to meet Service-specific requirements and procedures.

The VCP is provided to the commander, but it is for the benefit of the victim, so that the commander understands the victim's immediate needs. The VCP is developed within 24 hours of the Unrestricted Report, and contains recommendations provided to the victim's commander for the adult sexual assault victim's immediate and ongoing care, to include any known safety concerns or retaliation allegations/concerns.

In a case where the SARC and commander cannot come to an agreement on the VCP, should the installation commander be skipped and go directly to the General Officer/Flag Officer (GO/FO)?
No. If the installation commander and the SARC cannot come to an agreement, the commander must indicate disapproval, and the package will then be forwarded to next GO/FO in the chain of command for review and appropriate action.

Is the VCP required for all Unrestricted Reports or just for victims with safety concerns?
It is required for all Unrestricted Reports.