



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



Service Members Resources from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Labor and DoD Services for those Considering Leaving Military Service

There are many resources available to you within DoD and externally from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL) if you are a Service member on active duty or in the Reserve component, or if you are a Service member considering leaving military service.

Department of Veterans Affairs Resources

The VA provides resources to veterans who have experienced military sexual trauma (MST). The VA uses MST to refer to both sexual assault and sexual harassment. A Service member does not need to file an official report of sexual assault with a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) or law enforcement to request care from the VA. Additional information about MST-related services is available at <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome/index.asp>.

The following VA resources are available to Service members:

MST Counseling

A variety of services, information, and referrals to support victims through the effects of MST are available at all Vet Centers, regardless of sex or era of military service. Counseling may be accessed by current Service members confidentially. On-site counseling is available at select Vet Centers. Find the closest Vet Center at <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

MST Disability Claims

For help filing MST-related disability claims, contact the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) MST Outreach Coordinator at a VBA regional office. Additional information and a list of VBA MST Coordinators by state is available at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/mstcoordinators.asp>

MST Healthcare (Medical and Mental Health)

Every VA healthcare facility has a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) MST Coordinator who can assist in accessing MST-related medical and mental healthcare. Additional information and a list of VHA MST Coordinators by state is available at <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome/vha-mst-coordinators.asp>

Civilian Legal Resources

The VA provides information about legal resources from civilian legal service organizations. More information is available at <https://www.va.gov/ogc/legalservices.asp>

Notes about assistance from the VA:

- Victims may use any of the following as documentation for the VA: DD Form 2910, DD Form 2910-2, or a copy of an entry into the CATCH a Serial Offender (CATCH) Program. However, victims do not have to file an official report of sexual assault with law enforcement or the SAPR Program to access care from the VA.
- When seeking care at a VA Medical Center, information about 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 available 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 the care is from a non-DoD or non-Tricare source. Failure to do so may jeopardize the ability to continue flight status or participation in the PRP or PSP and could have other career implications.

DoD Safe Helpline

The DoD Safe Helpline is a crisis support service for members of the DoD community affected by sexual assault.

Please note: Safe Helpline has resources and information on how to support personnel who have been sexually assaulted who are also in the process of transitioning out of the military at https://www.safehelpline.org/tsm_overview.

For more information, please visit www.sapr.mil.

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



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DoD General Officer/Flag Officer (GO/FO) Reviews

If a victim believes he/she is being administratively separated on inappropriate grounds, he/she may be eligible for a GO/FO review.

Service members are eligible for GO/FO review if he/she:

- Is an enlisted Service member or a commissioned officer who made an Unrestricted Report of sexual assault or a retaliation report associated with a sexual assault report who is recommended for involuntary separation within one year of final disposition of the sexual assault case, in accordance with DoDI 1332.14 and DoDI 1332.30.
 - The written request must be submitted to the first GO/FO in the separation authority chain of command before the separation authority approves the final separation action.
 - Written requests submitted after final separation action is complete will not be reviewed by a GO/FO, but the separated Service member may apply to the appropriate Service Discharge Review Board or Board of Correction of Military/Naval Records.
 - A Service member who submits a timely request will not be separated until the GO/FO conducting the review concurs with the circumstances of and the grounds for the involuntary separation.
- Reported a sexual assault or sought healthcare (medical and mental health) treatment for sexual assault.
 - Victims may communicate with a GO/FO regarding issues related to their military career associated with the sexual assault.
- Believes there were adverse impacts to their military career due to reported retaliation.
 - Victims have the right to discuss those career impacts with a GO/FO. In cases involving retaliation allegations against one's chain of command, the Service member may request review outside of their chain of command.

Department of Labor Resources

Services from the DOL include employment and training opportunities. More information is available at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets>.

Apprenticeship Opportunities

Employment Networking – Opportunities to connect with organizations committed to providing employment and training

Referrals to Employment Opportunities – Referrals to organizations committed to hiring or providing employment education and training-related services

Digital Matching – Platforms match skills and experience with potential employment opportunities

Hiring Events – Access employment and networking opportunities with the potential for on-the-spot interviews and hiring

Training Services

Employment Mentorship – Mentors are available to provide employment and training guidance

Placement Services – Identify employment opportunities and place into employment

Wrap Around Services – Provide a combination of community-based services based on needs

Eligibility for DOL resources:

- Must be transitioning out of military service or be the spouse of a Service member
- Must be within two years of retirement or 365 days of separation
- Must participate in Transition Assistance Program (TAP) services at a Department of Labor Employment Navigator and Partnership Program location. Locations are available here: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/tap/employment-navigator-partnership/enpp-career-seekers>. [Note: TAP, provided under 10 USC 1144, is a cooperative interagency effort among the Department of Labor and the Departments of Defense, Education, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs, the Small Business Administration, and the Office of Personnel Management.]

For more information, please visit www.sapr.mil.

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