



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



VICTIM ASSISTANCE

The Department of Defense (DoD) Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) enacts policies and creates programs to provide high-quality services and support to members of the DoD community consistent with DoDI 6495.02 who have been sexually assaulted. These policies and programs are intended to strengthen resiliency of sexual assault survivors and instill confidence and trust in the reporting process, whether they choose to file a restricted or unrestricted report. DoD's approach ensures that Service members receive the protections to which they are entitled, and support through an integrated victim services network of care.

Approach

SAPRO works closely with the Services to standardize victim response programs and resources across the Department. Core elements include:

- >> *Certified cadre of specially-trained **Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs)** and **Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates (SAPR VAs)** who help victims obtain services and offer trauma-informed care, referrals, and ongoing nonclinical support*
- >> *Rigorous **DoD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP)** that requires certification for anyone providing direct services to victims*
- >> ***Restricted reporting** option that enables access to healthcare and advocacy support, but does not trigger an investigation*
- >> *Worldwide, anonymous, 24/7 crisis intervention support, information, and resources through the **DoD Safe Helpline***
- >> *Professional **Special Victims' Counsel (SVC)** and **Victims' Legal Counsel (VLC)** who provide victims with legal representation, support in exercising their legal rights, and help while navigating the military justice system*
- >> ***Special Victim Investigation and Prosecution Capability** comprised of specially trained MCIO investigators, judge advocates, paralegals, and victim witness assistance personnel*
- >> *Access to **gender-responsive, culturally informed services***
- >> *Support and protections for Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard Service members who experience **retaliation after reporting***

Policy

The Department issued the SAPR Program Procedures (DoDI 6495.02) to formalize victim assistance programs and care. SAPRO developed two supplemental victim-centered policies – D-SAACP (DoDI 6495.03) and DoD Standards for Victim Assistance Services in the Military Community (DoDI 6400.07) – which set high standards for how the Department responds to and supports victims throughout their path to recovery.

DoD Safe Helpline

Since 2011, Safe Helpline has delivered confidential and anonymous, 24/7, one-on-one support to members of the DoD community who have been affected by sexual assault. The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) operates the Safe Helpline through a contract with DoD SAPRO.

STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT

- More than 98,000 SARCs and SAPR VAs were D-SAACP approved since program launch
- Almost 24,000 SARCs and SAPR VAs are currently D-SAACP certified
- 3.67 million Safe Helpline web visitors since launch
- 335,000 people served by Safe Helpline since launch (phone, online helpline, and app downloads)

MAJOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE EFFORTS

- Overseeing D-SAACP certification and Department-wide victim assistance standards
- Executing DoD Plan to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Assault of Military Men
- Introducing male-specific Safe Help Room sessions and follow-up support
- Offering self-guided educational programs through Safe Helpline on sexual assault-related topics for victims, family members, friends, leaders, and SARCs and SAPR VAs
- Implementing *DoD Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy*



safehelpline.org | 877-995-5247

>> Telephone Helpline

>> Online Helpline

>> Info by Text

>> Self-care App

>> Safe HelpRoom

>> Follow-up Support

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