



## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



### Department of Defense Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP)

#### Overview of D-SAACP

The Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Section 584 required the DoD to establish a training and certification program for Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Victim Advocates (VAs). The DoD established D-SAACP to meet this requirement, to standardize sexual assault response for victims, and to professionalize victim advocacy roles. DoD Instruction 6495.03 establishes policy, assigns responsibilities, and prescribes procedures for the implementation of D-SAACP.



The program consists of three components that enhance the quality of support victims receive and builds confidence in the DoD's ability to respond to military sexual assault victims.

#### Certification Infrastructure

Ensure that individuals offering advocacy services are rigorously screened, equipped with specialized training, and supported by their command. The infrastructure is designed to uphold the highest standards of service provision and ensure advocates meet the needs of those they serve.

#### Competencies Framework

Incorporate the principles of victim-centered care and ethical integrity to prioritize understanding the unique challenges faced by military sexual assault victims, through recognition of the complex dynamics of military life and the need for standardization in providing specialized care.

#### Evaluation and oversight of SARC and SAPR VA training

Implement oversight and management of training provided to SARCs and SAPR VAs in prevention and response strategies so they are empowered to disseminate essential knowledge throughout the organization.

#### Goals of D-SAACP

Improve the quality of response to victims of sexual assault by aligning the DoD's victim response approach with national victim advocacy standards

Prepare SARCs and SAPR VAs to contribute to unit readiness by helping build a climate of trust and mutual respect, addressing victim needs, and working to mitigate the negative effects of sexual assault on a unit

Develop a professionalized sexual assault workforce capable of rendering culturally-competent, recovery-oriented victim assistance to the military community

Support the role of military leadership in advocating for victims, promoting recovery, and ensuring good order and discipline

#### Structure and Application

The National Organization for Victim Advocacy (NOVA) administers the D-SAACP through a DoD contract, enabling sexual assault responders to provide assistance that aligns with national standards for victim advocacy and response.



DD Form 2950 is the official form for  
initial certification applications



DD Form 2950-1 is the official form  
for certification renewals

For more information, please visit [sapr.mil](https://sapr.mil).

For confidential victim assistance, call or visit the DoD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247 or [safehelpline.org](https://safehelpline.org).