



## Appendix A: Additional Accomplishments, Activities, and Outreach



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This appendix highlights additional significant accomplishments, activities, and outreach undertaken by the Department of Defense during Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), which were not covered in the main body of the Annual Report. The activities are organized as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. DoD SAPRO Activities

Activity	Goal Description
Prevention	Deliver consistent and effective prevention methods and programs
Victim Assistance and Advocacy	Deliver consistent and effective victim support, response, and reporting options
Accountability and Investigation	Achieve high competence in the investigation of sexual assault and holding offenders appropriately accountable
Assessment	Conduct comprehensive sexual assault assessments and issue reports

### Prevention

#### Promoting Excellence in Prevention Award

In FY24, the following individuals received the Promoting Excellence in Prevention Award:

- **Army:** Dr. Corrine Wilsey and Dr. Stephanie Marsh, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York
- **Marine Corps:** Ms. Morgan Humberger, Headquarters Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California
- **Air Force:** Ms. Sierra Elliott and Ms. Lisa Wright, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Florida
- **Space Force:** Ms. Jessica Ditson; Mr. Nicholas Mowes; Ms. Jessica Schroeder; Ms. Katherine Hammer; Mr. Hugo Escobar; and Ms. Melissa Dashner, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado
- **Coast Guard:** Ms. Marta Wiecha-Swierczek, U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area

### Victim Assistance and Advocacy

#### Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM)

April is SAAPM. Launched in FY22, the Department's theme – "Step Forward. Prevent. Report. Advocate." – continued in FY24, as this theme encompasses actions taken by the Department that are informed by the work of the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military. The "Step Forward" theme is a call to action for individuals at all levels of the Department to use their personal strength to advance positive change in preventing sexual violence, highlighting the power of acts that can bolster prevention, increase reporting, and promote advocacy for a safer DoD community. As part of SAAPM, DoD provided an update to Veterans Affairs (VA) and DoD officials on SAAPM campaign information and marketing materials, which can be found at <https://www.sapr.mil/?q=saapm>.

## 2024 SAPRO Virtual Learning Event (VLE)

In June 2024, DoD SAPRO hosted its third annual VLE, which provided Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates (SAPR VAs), SAPR Program Managers, and Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) an opportunity to receive program and policy updates and earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) at no cost for their DoD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP) certifications. Over 700 individuals attended the on-line VLE.

## 50th National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) Training Event

The SAPR DoD community participated in NOVA's 50<sup>th</sup> Training Event, which provided SAPR personnel an opportunity to receive program and policy updates from DoD leadership and civilian organizations on sexual assault prevention and response programs, learn about Sexual Assault Response Workforce recruiting efforts, and earn CEUs for their D-SAACP certifications. DoD also hosts its "Military Monday Morning" meeting for DoD attendees to hear from SAPRO leadership and have an interactive exchange on emerging topics in warfighter assistance.

## Liz Blanc Exceptional SARC and SAPR VA of the Year

Since 2009, DoD has annually recognized one SARC and SAPR VA from each Military Service and the National Guard for the Exceptional SARC and SAPR VA of the Year Award for innovative achievements contributing to unique and exceptional victim response within the military community. The award was renamed for DoD SAPRO's Senior Victim Assistance Advisor, Liz Blanc, who passed away in 2020 after a battle with cancer.



Liz Blanc

This year, the Department is honored to recognize the following awardees of the Liz Blanc Exceptional SARC and SAPR VA of the Year Award:

- **Army SARC:** Dr. Hai-Wen Chu; 8<sup>th</sup> Army SHARP, South Korea
- **Army SAPR VA:** Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class Chelsea Wheelehan, 66<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade
- **Navy SARC:** Mr. Alexander Arce, Naval Base San Diego and Naval Air Facility El Centro, California
- **Navy SAPR VA:** Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Wayne McGonigal, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, Louisiana
- **Marine Corps SARC:** Ms. Latricia Kamins, Air Station Miramar, California
- **Marine Corps SAPR VA:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Elizabeth Hoise, 1<sup>st</sup> Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Camp Pendleton, California
- **Air Force SARC:** Captain Samantha Van Vynck, Hill Air Force Base, Utah
- **Air Force SAPR VA:** Ms. Sierra M. Elliott, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Florida
- **Space Force SARC:** Ms. Carly Martinez, Vandenberg Space Force Base, California
- **National Guard SARC:** Ms. Erica Davidson, North Dakota National Guard
- **National Guard SAPR VA:** Senior Master Sergeant Jospeh Horne, 132<sup>nd</sup> Wing, Des Moines, Iowa
- **Coast Guard SARC:** Mr. Michael Jordy, U.S. Coast Guard Base New Orleans, Louisiana

- **Coast Guard SAPR VA:** Lieutenant Junior Grade Kirsten Carson, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Mobile, Alabama

## Accountability and Investigation

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### Special Victims' Counsel/Victims' Legal Counsel and Special Victim Investigation and Prosecution Capability

The Department worked with the Military Departments and the National Guard Bureau (NGB) to identify requirements for the Special Victims Counsel program.

## Assessment

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### Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (DSAID) Update

Required by Section 563 of the FY09 NDAA, DSAID is the Department's authoritative, centralized case-level database used to collect and maintain information on adult sexual assaults involving members of the Armed Forces, including tracking and reporting on sexual assault-related retaliation data. The Department operates DSAID and works collaboratively with the Military Services to implement and sustain the system. The Department uses DSAID to also conduct oversight and comply with Congressional reporting requirements.

SARCs use DSAID to provide comprehensive and standardized victim case management. In FY24, an updated SARC DSAID training was released that provides SARCs with an understanding of how to navigate DSAID, what data they are responsible for, and where to go for assistance when working in DSAID. DSAID is routinely updated to account for additional data collection, including case management meetings, expedited transfers and Office of Special Trial Counsel (OSTC) information.

### Government Accountability Office (GAO) and DoD Office of Inspector General (OIG) Update

In FY24, GAO 16-61 "Sexual Assault: Actions Needed to Improve DoD's Prevention Strategy and to Help Ensure it is Effectively Implemented" recommendations were closed by GAO. Additionally, the Department provided status updates to GAO on recommendations from the following GAO reports:

1. GAO 21-113: "Sexual Harassment and Assault: Guidance Needed to Ensure Consistent tracking Response and Training for DoD Civilians;"
2. GAO 22-103973: "Sexual Assault: DoD and Coast Guard Should Ensure Laws are Implemented to Improve Oversight of Key Prevention and Response Efforts;"
3. GAO 15-284 "Military Personnel: Actions Needed to Address Sexual Assault of Male Service Members."

The reports can be found at: <https://www.gao.gov/>.

Additionally, the Department provided feedback to the DoD OIG on their report, "Evaluation of the DoD's Implementation of the NATO Policy on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse." For more information and the DoD OIG's full report, see:



<https://www.dodig.mil/In-the-Spotlight/Article/3669314/press-release-evaluation-of-the-dods-implementation-of-the-nato-policy-on-preve/>.

### Safe Kit and Safe Kit Availability

The Department did not receive reports of hindered access to care associated with a sexual assault due to a lack of resources. All Service members and other eligible beneficiaries, who sought a sexual assault forensic examination (SAFE) at a military medical treatment facility (MTF), had timely access to a SAFE either through the MTF or a civilian facility. This includes the SAFE kit, appropriate laboratory testing, and other resources.

There are 44 MTFs across DoD that operate 24/7 emergency departments (EDs) and are required to provide onsite forensic healthcare services. In circumstances where a victim of sexual assault presents to a MTF that does not offer onsite forensic healthcare, the patient is transferred to a local civilian facility to receive care. For individuals who presented to MTFs, there were no reports of a patient being declined services due to a lack of SAFE kits or other resources in FY24.

In FY24, 950 examinations were conducted across 76 MTFs, including MTFs that operate 24/7 EDs and MTFs without EDs; this includes 568 examinations for Unrestricted cases and 382 examinations for Restricted cases. Of the 950 total examinations conducted in FY24, 697 examinations were conducted for active duty Service members, including 363 for Unrestricted cases and 334 for Restricted cases. For active duty dependents, of the 229 examinations conducted, 181 were for Unrestricted cases and 48 were for Restricted cases. Additionally, there were 24 examinations conducted for retirees of which all 24 were Unrestricted cases (retirees are not eligible for the Restricted reporting option). The table below summarizes these data by Defense Health Network. Of note, DHA does not have oversight over the operational environment; therefore, any examinations conducted in the operational environment are not included in this response.

	UNRESTRICTED CASES			RESTRICTED CASES		
<b>Networks</b>	<i>Active Duty</i>	<i>Active Duty Dependents</i>	<i>Retirees</i>	<i>Active Duty</i>	<i>Active Duty Dependents</i>	<b>Total Number of Exams</b>
Atlantic	58	8	2	78	0	<b>146</b>
Central	21	12	2	25	5	<b>65</b>
Continental	2	1	0	3	0	<b>6</b>
East	70	82	16	40	5	<b>213</b>
Europe	26	12	0	28	5	<b>71</b>
IndoPac	43	5	2	32	5	<b>87</b>
NCR	5	1	1	4	1	<b>12</b>

Pac-Rim	65	4	0	79	6	<b>154</b>
West	73	56	1	45	21	<b>196</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>950</b>

Additionally, based on annual forensic healthcare data collection, there were no reports of any challenges accessing supplies for testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections and diseases, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and testing for pregnancy. Supplies for testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections and diseases, including HIV, and testing for pregnancy are available and can be accessed independent of a SAFE kit.