

## SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR) PROGRAM

- **BLUF**: Sexual assault is a crime that has no place in the Army. SAPR Program reinforces the Army's commitment to eliminate incidents of sexual assault through awareness and prevention, training and education, victim advocacy, response, reporting, and accountability.
- Primary function is to ensure that victims of sexual assault are treated with dignity and respect and not re-victimized for disclosing assault.
- Featuring Soldiers as influential role models, Army launched an “I. A.M. Strong” campaign that provides peer-to-peer messages and a social network to encourage Soldiers to participate.
- ACSIM is responsible for program management, training, and ensuring that each installation has a coordinated victim advocacy response system.
- SARC is designated at each installation to ensure that the SAPR Program is operating in accordance with AR 600.20 Chapter 8.
- Installation SARC works for the FAPM within the ACS and ensures that Victim Advocates, Unit Victim Advocates, and Deployable SARCs are trained prior to providing services to victims.
- SARCs and VAs respond to sexual assault victims 24/7, both in garrison and deployed areas.
- SARC, VA, and UVA make up the SAPR advocacy team in non-deployed environments and ensure that a well-coordinated response system is available to Soldiers who fall victim to sexual assault.
- DSARC and UVA make up the advocacy team in the theater environment. The DSARC and UVA are generally trained by the SARC prior to deploying to theater. Both the DSARC and UVA assist the SARC in providing services to Soldier victims while stationed at garrisons.

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- There are 2 options for reporting: 1. unrestricted reporting protects the victim from further harm and exercises authority to hold offenders accountable for the assault; and 2. restricted reporting affords the option for confidential or restricted reporting.
- 171 ACS SARC/VACs at 87 Army installations and geographically dispersed locations.
- Standardized SAPR training support packages, marketing materials, and SOPs to assist with program implementation in garrison and in Theater.
- FY08 - 410,924 Soldiers and personnel trained: 410,448 were Active Army, 456 Army National Guard and Reserve Components, and 20 were AW2 Hotline operators.
- AW2 Hotline operators received specialized training on crisis response to persons calling for assistance with domestic violence and sexual assault issues.
- The SAPR Program Mobile Training Team (MTT) travels to geographically dispersed locations and installations with limited staff to assist the SARC and FAPM to meet training requirements.

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- Virtual SARC training ensures instruction so newly hired SARCs can perform their jobs immediately. The training is followed up with mandatory on-site training within the first 3 months of assignment to the installation.
- SAPR Program Mobile Training Team (MTT) was established to provide SAPR training to Active, Guard, and Reserve Soldiers, and Army personnel at geographically dispersed locations and installations with limited staff for meeting annual SAPR training requirements.

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**Q: Can Soldiers receive restricted reporting if they have disclosed the assault to their commands or law enforcement?**

**A:** No. If a Soldier discloses sexual assault to the command or law enforcement, by default, the Soldier has elected unrestricted reporting. Therefore, the Soldier's actions may trigger an investigation of the assault.

**Q: With whom can a Soldier who has been sexually assaulted confidentially speak if he/she does not want the assault investigated?**

**A:** A Soldier can only report sexual assault to specified individuals to receive restricted reporting, and thus not trigger an investigation. The specified individuals include the SARC, VA, healthcare provider, or a chaplain.

**Q: Is sexual assault within marriage considered domestic abuse?**

**A:** Yes. If a Soldier sexually assaults his/her spouse, it is classified as a domestic abuse offense and is handled by the FAP Manager. Sexual Assault outside a marriage or an intimate partner relationship falls within the purview of the SAPR Program in accordance with AR 600-20 Chapter 8.

**Q: What materials and training are available?**

**A:** Training materials and support include:

- 12 SAPR VA/SARC Training Support Packages: each consists of 40 hours of advocate training for VAs, UVAs, and DSARCs.
- SAPR Program Quick Series Guides, Unit Commander's Guides, brochures, and posters.
- Guidance on the Management of Sexual Assault Records and the establishment of Restricted Reporting Case Numbers (RRCNs).

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**Q: What is the Army doing to eliminate incidents of sexual assault?**

**A:** Through the SAPR program the Army continues to aggressively address sexual assault issues, focusing on prevention, caring for victims, holding offenders accountable, and assessing and refining our policies and programs. The Army has initiated a comprehensive sexual assault prevention campaign, "I. A.M. STRONG" focused on leaders maintaining a positive command climate, which encourages peer-to-peer intervention where Soldiers do not tolerate behavior that, left unchecked, may lead to sexual assault.

**Q: What is sexual assault?**

**A:** Sexual Assault is a crime defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

**Q: What is the SAPR program?**

**A:** A Commander's program that ensures victims of sexual assault are provided with resources/treatment and feel safe.

**Q: What are commanders' guidelines in addressing sexual assault?**

**A:** Commanders' guidelines in addressing sexual assault are spelled out in Appendix G, Army SAPR Program, Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Actions, AR 600-20 Chapter 8. It contains key actions required by the commander in the event of a sexual assault. The commander must also receive SAPR Program training within 45 days of assumption of command.

**Q: What options do victims have to help them feel safe and comfortable enough to be willing to report SA?**

**A:** There are 2 types of reporting available to the victims: restricted and unrestricted. The ultimate goal is to create a climate of confidence where service members are encouraged to report sexual assault.