

# Sexual Assault in the Military



## Definitions

**Sexual Assault** is a crime that includes sexual harassment, unwanted sexual contact, child sexual abuse, incest, and rape. Sexual contact becomes assault when a person is unable to or does not consent to an activity.

**Rape** is a crime of aggression, power, and control in which one person forces, coerces, or manipulates another person to have sexual intercourse without their consent. Rape includes vaginal, oral, or anal penetration by any object (including fingers) and also includes forced oral sex.

**Restricted Reporting** is a reporting option that enables active duty sexual assault victims to report or disclose a sexual assault without triggering an official investigation. This reporting option allows military victims to receive medical treatment, advocacy, and counseling on a confidential basis. Restricted reports automatically change to unrestricted reports if base security, law enforcement, or command learns about the sexual assault.

**Unrestricted Reporting** is a reporting option that allows active duty sexual assault victims to disclose a sexual assault and have those details reported to military law enforcement. This option triggers an official military investigation.

**Limited Reporting** is similar to restricted reporting. This option is available to National Guard members who are on Title 10 status.

## Facts and Figures

According to Department of Defense figures for 2008:

- There were 2908 reports of sexual assault in all branches of the U.S. military
- 2155 were unrestricted reports
- 753 were restricted reports.
- 110 restricted reports were changed to unrestricted reports
- 6.8% of women and 1.8% of men in the armed forces reported experiencing unwanted sexual contact
- 79% of women and 78% of men chose not to report their assaults
- 163 military sexual assaults were reported in Iraq and Afghanistan
- In 2007, only 8% of reported military sexual assaults were referred to court-martial

## Where can military survivors get assistance?

**Every military installation has a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), and every state has a National Guard SARC. If you have been assaulted or have questions related to sexual violence, call the SARC.** In Connecticut, the SARCs are:

Deb Drucker – Groton Naval Base SARC – (860) 694-2791

Capt. Kristina Polomsky – National Guard SARC – (860) 878-6718

Military personnel and their families can also call Military One Source for information and counseling:

Contiguous U.S. – 1.800.655.4545

International (toll-free) – 800.3429.6477

International (collect) – 484.530.5947

Founded in 1982, the mission of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. (CONNSACS) is to end sexual violence and ensure high quality, comprehensive and culturally competent sexual assault victim services. For information on other topics or to contact your local rape crisis center, contact CONNSACS: 96 Pitkin Street, East Hartford, CT 06108, (860) 282.9881, [www.connsacs.org](http://www.connsacs.org).