



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE

### Department of Defense Fact Sheet: Secretary Hagel Issues New Initiatives to Eliminate Sexual Assault, Updates Prevention Strategy and Releases 2013 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military

This fact sheet summarizes the Department of Defense's (DoD's) new initiatives designed to continue its efforts to eliminate sexual assault in the military, the department's updated sexual assault prevention strategy and DoD's annual report on sexual assault in the military for fiscal year 2013.

#### **DoD New Sexual Assault Initiatives:**

- ***Advance and Sustain Appropriate Culture:*** To further enhance prevention programs, the Secretaries of the Military Departments, in conjunction with the Chiefs of the Military Services and the National Guard Bureau, will update and integrate gender-responsive and culturally competent programs for leaders and service members to address healthy relationships, active bystander intervention, social courage, and core values that support the establishment of mutual respect. In addition, the Chiefs of Military Services will review policies that influence culture and behavior on military installations and in units, and adjust policy within their purview, as appropriate.
- ***Evaluate Commander SAPR Training:*** To ensure that all leaders are educated on sexual assault response policies and provided the appropriate tools to prevent the crime, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD (P&R)) will conduct assessments of the effectiveness of newly-developed core competencies and learning objectives for Pre-Command and Senior Enlisted Leader Sexual Assault Prevention and Response training.
- ***Review Alcohol Policies:*** To improve safety and reduce the risks posed by alcohol, the Secretaries of the Military Departments will review and as necessary revise alcohol policies to address risk factors beyond the individual use of alcohol, to include such matters as training of alcohol providers, emphasizing responsible sales practices, and engaging local community leadership and organizations to expand efforts off-post.
- ***Improve Reporting for Male Victims:*** To promote recovery among male victims, the Secretaries of the Military Departments, in conjunction with Chiefs of the Military Services and the National Guard Bureau, will implement and monitor methods to improve reporting and enhance efforts to encourage male victims to seek assistance. Soliciting male victim input in the development of these methods will be essential.
- ***Develop Collaborative Forum for Sexual Assault Prevention Methods:*** To leverage and advance ongoing research and effective preventative methods, the USD (P&R) will establish a community of practice and collaboration forum to share best and promising practices and lessons learned with external experts, federal partners, Military Services, National Guard Bureau advocacy organizations, and educational institutions.

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- ***Develop Standardized and Voluntary Survey for Victims/Survivors:*** To further improve our collective response by engaging victims, the Chiefs of the Military Services and the National Guard Bureau, in cooperation with the USD (P&R), will jointly develop and participate in a standardized victim survey. This survey tool will provide the sexual assault victim/survivor the opportunity to provide feedback on their experiences with Sexual Assault Prevention and Response victim assistance, the military health system, the military justice process, and other areas of support. The survey shall be developed collaboratively and regularly administered in such a way that protects victim privacy and does not impact adversely victim legal and health status.
- ***Standardize Sensitive Position Screening:*** To ensure the safety and welfare of our people the USD (P&R) in coordination with the Secretaries of the Military Departments, will identify common criteria and standards for screening, selection, training, and, as applicable certification/licensure of sensitive positions in support of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response to include: Sexual Assault Response Coordinators, Sexual Assault Response Victim Advocates, recruiters, healthcare providers authorized to perform sexual assault forensic exams, and initial entry/basic training instructors for officer and enlisted service members. Additionally, the DoD Inspector General, in coordination with the Military Departments, will evaluate standards and criteria for screening, selecting, training, and as applicable, certifying, of Military Criminal Investigative Organization investigators who conduct criminal investigations, to include supporting the DoD Special Victim Capability. Lastly, the DoD General Counsel, in coordination with the General Counsels of the Military Departments, will identify common criteria and standards for screening, selection and training, including certification/licensure, as applicable, for prosecutors, paralegals, and Victim-Witness Assistance Program personnel selected to support the Special Victim Capability and for Special Victims Counsel.

**DoD FY 2014-2016 Prevention Strategy:**

DoD's new sexual assault prevention strategy provides authoritative guidance on delivering consistent and effective prevention methods and programs. This strategy builds on current efforts and identifies leaders at all levels as critical components in prevention and integrates accountability, community involvement, communication, deterrence, incentives, training, education, and harm reduction. This strategy will be updated every two years.

DoD's updated Sexual Assault Prevention Strategy is available at: <http://sapr.mil/index.php/news>.

**DoD FY 2013 Sexual Assault Report Key Highlights:**

- Total number of sexual assault reports: 5,061
- Restricted Reports: 1,293
  - There were 1,501 initial restricted reports and 208 were converted to unrestricted reports during FY13.
  - Restricted reports are not investigated by Military Criminal Investigative Organizations and the alleged offenders are not subject to legal action. While restricted reports remain confidential, victims are offered the full range of care, to include medical treatment and legal advice.

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- Unrestricted Reports: 3,768
- In sum, the total number of reports (5,061 total reports) represents an increase of 50% over FY 2012 numbers (3,374 total reports).
  - The average annual increase has been approximately 5% since the first full year of Restricted Reporting in 2006. The department assesses this unprecedented increase in reports as consistent with a growing level of confidence in our response system and a sign that victims trust us to treat and care for them.
- Number of service member victims of sexual assault: 4,113
- Number of military subjects (accused) with reported dispositions: 3,234
  - Of the 3,234 subjects with case dispositions reported in FY13, the department had legal authority over 2,149 cases (66%).
  - Of the 2,149 military cases where the department had jurisdiction, DoD authorities had sufficient evidence to take some kind of action against 1,569 subjects (73%).

**Programmatic Findings:**

The department made progress in its five lines of effort in FY13. The lines of effort are Prevention; Investigation; Accountability; Advocacy/Victim Assistance; and Assessment.

***Prevention:***

- The SAPRO Prevention Team wrote the Sexual Assault Prevention Strategy (published with the Annual Report and attached to Secretary of Defense directive memo). The Prevention Team researched and identified innovative prevention programs and met with more than 45 subject matter experts to gather proven or successful prevention practices in use at organizations and communities across the country.
- The Secretaries of the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chiefs of the Military Services, and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau collaborated with the Combatant Commanders to develop and implement SAPR stand-downs and visual inspections.
- The Services implemented substantive changes to their respective Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) evaluation systems to enhance commander accountability. The evaluation systems assess the commanders' performance in establishing command climates of dignity and respect and incorporating SAPR prevention and victim care principles.

***Investigation:***

- The department worked with the Services to establish Special Victim Capabilities in the Services, in order to improve the investigation and prosecution of allegations of sexual offenses and to provide support for the victims of such offenses. The capability consists of investigators, prosecutors, paralegals, victim/witness program professionals, and those selected, trained, and certified on sexual assault.
- The DoD Inspector General assessed the Military Criminal Investigative Organizations with a specific focus on initial and annual training, as well as investigative sufficiency and compliance.
- The department continued specialized training on trauma-impacted memory and interviewing techniques to ensure military criminal investigators are using research-proven best practices when questioning victims.

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***Accountability:***

- The Secretary of Defense directed the Secretaries of the Military Departments to establish a special victims' advocacy program to provide legal advice and representation to victims.
- The department directed Judge Advocates to serve as Article 32 investigating officers in sexual assault cases.

***Advocacy/Victim Assistance:***

- The department implemented policy that extends the retention of DD Forms 2910 and 2911 in cases of Restricted Reports, when requested by the victim. The policy is an addition to a previous policy that mandates retention of these forms for five years. In accordance with the FY14 NDAA, this policy will be updated to extend the document retention period to 50 years.
- The department completed fielding of the DoD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP), certifying more than 22,000 Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and SAPR Victim Advocates (VAs).
- The department maintained the Safe Helpline, and expanded its offerings by adding a peer support service called the Safe HelpRoom. The Safe HelpRoom hosts twice weekly group chat sessions wherein survivors can connect with and support one another in a moderated and secure online environment at SafeHelpline.org.

***Assessment:***

- The department continued the development and refinement of Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (DSAID). DSAID provides SARCs the enhanced ability to provide comprehensive and standardized victim case management and also enables DoD to meet Congressional reporting requirements and conduct improved oversight of case management. The database became fully operational in October 2013.
- The department updated SAPR questions for command climate surveys.
- The department developed an initial set of SAPR Metrics to capture reporting trends, victim assistance, and investigation data.