



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR)

"The larger effects of sexual assault are broad and deep. [They] create lasting physical and emotional trauma to the survivors, and those persist long after the attack. It's corrosive to morale and to our operational and combat readiness."
– Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) and presents an opportunity for units around the world to dedicate focused attention on the importance of eliminating this crime. The [Department of Defense](#) theme is: ["Hurts one. Affects all. Preventing sexual assault is everyone's duty."](#) Sexual assault is a crime that devastates victims, undermines teamwork, threatens unit cohesiveness, and ultimately reduces fleet readiness. Awareness through education, training and leadership is vital to the success of the Navy's prevention and response program.

Sexual Assault Is a Crime that Will Not Be Tolerated

- The Navy's ["zero tolerance"](#) sexual assault policy requires support from all Sailors – from the deck plates to the blue tile – to successfully eliminate sexual assaults from the Navy.
- Sexual assault is a crime that is detrimental to readiness, retention, and morale. It attacks the human dignity of our people and is inconsistent with the [Navy Ethos](#) and Core Values.
- Victims of sexual assault should be directed to the [Safe Helpline](#) website or call 877-995-5247 for support and confidential guidance.

Eliminating Sexual Assault from Our Ranks Is an All Hands Effort

- The Navy is dedicated to establishing a culture and work environment that is safe and sexual assault-free.
- The implementation of [Bystander Intervention \(BI\)](#) training is key to preventing sexual assaults before they occur.
- The Navy is committed to training its people to understand and recognize when a situation may lead to sexual assault. Shipmates should look out for one another and prevent harm before it occurs.
- Alcohol is associated with many sexual assault cases, as offenders often victimize and target individuals who are under the influence of alcohol. Stopping alcohol abuse in the Navy and Marine Corps will vastly impact and decrease the number of sexual assaults in the Department of the Navy.

Navy Leadership Must Educate Sailors, Respond to Victims and Hold Offenders Accountable.

- Leadership should recognize SAAM within their commands and dedicate focused attention on the importance of eliminating sexual assaults in their organizations and throughout the Navy.
- Justice is upheld through the reporting, investigation, prosecution and defense process.

Key Messages

- The Navy must reinforce a zero tolerance environment for sexual assaults.
- The [SAPR program](#) focuses on prevention, training, victim advocacy, and accountability.
- Creating a safe, sexual-assault-free environment is an all-hands effort.
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month presents an opportunity for units around the world to dedicate focused attention on the importance of eliminating sexual assault.

Facts & Figures

- In fiscal year 2010, the Navy averaged 37 reported sexual assaults every month – the actual number of incidents is believed to be higher.
- Navy sexual assault victims and perpetrators come in all ranks, ages and genders. 65 percent of Navy cases were Sailor-on-Sailor attacks. Most victims knew their attacker.
- The largest victim and known offender demographic is E1-E4, 20-24 years old.
- For training aids and resources on the SAPR program visit www.SAPR.mil.