



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

“Sexual assault is unacceptable. Let me repeat myself, there is no place in the Navy and Marine Corps for a sexual assault offender.”

– **Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus**

Senior military and civilian leaders met from Sept. 8 through Sept. 9 for the first Department of the Navy (DoN) Sexual Assault Prevention Summit, hosted by the Secretary of the Navy. The summit’s theme was “Honor Bound,” focusing on the importance of the link between Navy core values and eliminating sexual assault.

Sexual Assault—“Not in my Navy”

As part of the service’s focus on eliminating sexual assault from its ranks, the Chief of Naval Operations revived the phrase, “Not in my Navy,” to reinforce a Navy environment intolerant of sexual assault.

- Sexual assault is a crime. An assault creates a lasting physical and emotional trauma to survivors, dramatically affecting morale, unit cohesion and the operational readiness of the total force.
- The Total Force – active duty, reserve and civilians – must contribute to a climate of prevention that condemns sexual assault and holds offenders accountable for their actions, encourages victims to report sexual assault and cares for and supports victims.
- The majority of the force fully supports the elimination of sexual assault from our ranks. The Navy has a force which largely upholds the Navy Ethos and core values and will be instrumental in eliminating Navy-perpetuated sexual assault from the service.

From Sexual Assault Victim Intervention (SAVI) to Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR)

Highlighting the importance of prevention and response to sexual assault, the Navy’s shift from SAVI to SAPR aligns its title with its mission. Victim intervention will remain a critical part of the SAPR program, which takes a multi-disciplinary approach to raise awareness of effective prevention, victim response and offender accountability.

- The Navy is taking actions to eliminate the threat of sexual assault by upgrading case management and reporting procedures, incorporating SAPR into training curriculums at all levels including accession points, ensuring more medical, legal and investigative professionals are trained to deal with sexual assault victims and cases, and by creating a new awareness campaign to effectively communicate programs for victims and prevention.
- Bystander intervention is key to reducing sexual assault. The technique enlists the efforts of those who witness potentially high risk situations for sexual assault to take action to intervene before the crime occurs.
- All Navy commands continue to have a 24/7 sexual assault response capability focused on victim support and offender accountability.
- The establishment of the DoN Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) reflects the Secretary’s commitment to working with the Services towards eliminating the threat of sexual assault against all Sailors and Marines. SAPRO will serve as the primary DoN resource for expert SAPR assessment, oversight and program support.

Key Messages

- There is no place in the Navy for a sexual assault offender. Sexual assault is incompatible with our Navy Ethos and core values.
- Sexual assault is a crime. An assault creates lasting physical and emotional trauma to survivors, dramatically effecting morale, unit cohesion and operational readiness.
- Bystander intervention is the key strategy for reducing sexual assaults.

Facts & Figures

- In 1994, the Navy was the first military service to establish a sexual assault intervention program.
- There are currently 64 Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) across the country.
- Nationally, 75% of sexual assaults are perpetrated by repeat offenders.
- Currently, Navy civilians co-chair two of the four DoD Sexual Assault Advisory Council sub-committees (research and outreach).