



RHUMB LINES

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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

There is zero tolerance for sexual assault in today's Navy. Through the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program, the Navy intends to reduce occurrences of sexual assault through education, while also ensuring the assistance needed for victims is readily available throughout the fleet.

Hurts One, Affects All

- [Hurts One, Affects All](#) highlights how sexual assault changes lives and impacts mission readiness.
- SAPR emphasizes the care and advocacy required to support victims while increasing prevention efforts.
- Training initiatives include an additional level of general military training focusing on practical application and first responder and fleet leadership workshops conducted by U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) and U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT).
- Beginning January 2011, SAPR definitions and reporting requirements will be on advancement exams.

Engaging Bystanders in Sexual Assault Prevention

- Naval Education and Training Command, USFF and PACFLT implemented a [Bystander Intervention \(BI\) pilot program](#) in fleet concentration areas using a "train-the-trainer" model to educate Sailors on how to recognize problematic behaviors and provide them the skills to intervene before sexual assault is perpetrated.
- BI training provides Sailors with the necessary skills to determine if a situation demands their immediate action and helps them implement a course of action to stop a potentially inappropriate act.

Advocacy and Prosecution

- The first [Sexual Assault Response Coordinator \(SARC\) summit](#), held March 22-26, provided the Navy and Marine Corps SARCs training, lectures and discussions on the Department of the Navy's SAPR program. Future training includes a second summit in Orlando, May 2-6, and monthly SARC webinars.
- Leadership accountability has been reemphasized and commanding officers (COs) are now required to consult a Judge Advocate General prior to adjudication of a sexual assault or sexual harassment incident in their command. Following an incident, COs are required to assess their command climate and relay their findings to the chain of command.
- Chaplains play a critical role in SAPR by providing access to support and services, as well as offering an opportunity for the victims to have [confidential communication](#).
- While [deployed](#) members of the military don't always have access to all SAPR-related services; they do have access to chaplains and religious program specialists who deploy with them.
- The Office of the Judge Advocate General has hired a sexual assault legal expert to provide the reach-back support and expertise to more effectively prosecute assault cases from across the fleet.

Key Messages

- The Navy must reinforce a zero tolerance environment for sexual assaults.
- The SAPR program focuses on prevention, training, victim advocacy and accountability.
- Bystander Intervention (BI) programs educate Sailors on how to safely intervene to prevent a sexual assault.
- Sexual assault undermines morale, unit cohesion and readiness of the total force.

Facts & Figures

- More than 400 sexual assaults were investigated in the Navy in 2009.
- The majority of the Navy's sexual assaults are Sailor on Sailor, involve alcohol and are "non-stranger" incidents.
- Most victims and offenders of sexual assault are E1-E4 and between the ages of 20-24.
- Between March and June 2010, 200 Sailors from Norfolk, Pearl Harbor, Pensacola and Bahrain, qualified as BI trainers and have since met with 5,000 of their shipmates.