

Sexual Assault Prevention & Response (SAPR) Newsletter

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	Sexual Assault Reports			Sexual Assault Reports in Combat Areas of Interest		
	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY08	FY09	FY10
Unrestricted Reports	217	299	254	9	7	6
Restricted Reports	27	32	56	1	0	0
Total	244	331	310	10	7	6



DoD will not release FY11 numbers until March 2012

Message From The Director, Marine and Family Programs Division

We are taking great strides to heighten awareness about the importance of sexual assault prevention and response in the Marine Corps and I am pleased to be a part of the first edition of the SAPR newsletter. This newsletter will serve as a valuable tool to communicate with leaders on current initiatives and best practices for prevention.

The message from our Commandant is clear - Sexual assault has no place in our Corps, and it will not be tolerated. As leaders, we impact command climate and can collectively create an environment that does not condone sexual violence. We must also acknowledge that sexual assault is an under-reported crime, and Marines must trust we will take action and advocate for them when a crime has occurred.

From the Department of the Navy (DON) Summit in 2011 to the pending SAPR training, *Take A Stand*, "bystander intervention" is the way ahead. It is our inherent duty to step-up and step-in to prevent sexual assaults within the Corps. In the coming months, the SAPR Program will continue to make needed improvements and will use the results of the DON survey to establish a framework for new initiatives. Thank you for your commitment to building awareness and reducing the prevalence of sexual assaults within the Corps.



Brigadier General Robert F. Hedelund,
Director, Marine and Family Programs
Division

Sexual Assault Survey

The Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) tasked DON SAPRO to conduct a department-wide sexual assault survey to assess the functionality and effectiveness of the SAPR Program and determine the scope of sexual assaults within the DON.

This survey is for Marines and Sailors and not intended for civilians. MARADMIN 374/11 provides details on this survey. The survey suspense date is 30 September. All Marines are requested to participate.

To complete this brief survey, please go to:
<http://www.donsapro.navy.mil/SURVEY.HTML>

Serious Incident Reports (SIRs)

Improvements are needed in completing Serious Incident Reports (SIRs). SIRs are submitted for actual, suspected, and alleged incidents of sexual assault.

OPREP-3 SIRs provide the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) information on significant events or incidents. Sexual assaults are reportable incidents. Per MCO 3504.2, OPREP-3 SIR message reports should be provided within 1-hour of knowledge of a sexual assault incident. Message reports shall include the rank, initials, and the last four of the SSN to identify the victim, witnesses, and suspect. However, due to the sensitive nature of such incidents, last names are not included in the message report.

"Keeping Faith"

Victim Reporting Preference Statement (VRPS)

The Victim Reporting Preference Statement (VRPS), DD Form 2910, is a mandatory Department of Defense (DoD) form that victims must sign when reporting a sexual assault. It helps both the victim and the Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA) or Victim Advocate (VA) to focus on the reporting options available to the victim and details the implications associated with each reporting option. Refusal to sign the form could result in an automatic unrestricted report, which initiates mandatory notification of command and law enforcement. Victims changing from a restricted report to an unrestricted report must indicate the change on the original VRPS. Victims are provided a copy of the form.

Currently, the VRPS is provided to and maintained by the Command SARC. There is a pending change to the records management policy on the storage and maintenance of the VRPS. The new change will instruct the installation SARC/Program Manager to maintain and store the form. Additional information will be provided once the change has been approved in MCO 1752.5B.

Bystander Intervention Training “Take A Stand”

Following the format of "Never Leave A Marine Behind" suicide training, the SAPR Program is implementing a video-based approach to bystander intervention training for Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs). This three-hour course consists of videos (of victims, Commandant, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, senior leaders, subject matter experts, NCOs, and junior Marines), mini-lectures, guided group discussions, and activities. This course highlights the responsibility of NCOs to one another, as well as to our most at-risk population - junior Marines. Throughout the course, NCOs are reminded of their responsibility to not only provide training to their Marines, but also foster a positive command climate in which Marines have enough trust in their chain of command and in the resources available to seek help and report sexual assault. UVAs will be trained to deliver this course to the NCOs within their unit. This course will fulfill NCOs annual SAPR training requirement. *Take A Stand* will be available in FY12.

Increased Legal Assistance to Victims of Crime

The Honorable Ray Mabus, SECNAV, signed a memorandum July 6, 2011, ensuring all crime (cont.)



MGySgt Spencer, SAPR Military Program Analyst, and SMMC, Sergeant Major Barrett, at the taping of “Take a Stand” instruction video.

victims are fully aware of their rights to legal assistance counsel, predominantly those subject to sexual assault and other forms of violence. It highlighted specific programs, such as the DON's Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) and SAPR Program, which were designed to provide assistance and support for victims of these crimes. Navy and Marine Corps legal assistant attorneys are available to counsel victims on their rights and available services. The Judge Advocate General of the Navy and the Staff Judge Advocate to the CMC have been directed to coordinate with DON SAPRO to ensure all crime victims are aware of legal assistance services.

Sexual Assault Incident Reporting Database (SAIRD)

The SAPR Program presently utilizes a data management system entitled "Sexual Assault Incident Reporting Database" (SAIRD), to track reports of sexual assaults occurring on Marine Corps installations and in Marine Corps Commands. There are a significant number of open cases that have not been updated or appropriately closed in the database. It is imperative that SARCs monitor cases and ensure that data being collected is reliable, accurate, and timely. It is also important that sexual assault incidents in SAIRD are updated after the Case Management Group meetings, as needed, and closed once a disposition/adjudication has occurred. SARCs are asked to review and update open cases, so the program will have accurate knowledge on the status of sexual assaults incidents. The status of cases in SAIRD will be closely monitored in the coming months.

Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Kits

Greater emphasis is needed on evidence collection in the Marine Corps. These 5 important facts will help you advocate for victims of sexual assault within your unit:

1. Evidence collection should be encouraged within five days of a sexual assault (regardless of whether a victim has showered).
2. A victim who opts for a restricted report (does not want to notify his/her command) can have evidence collected and stored with NCIS for 1 year. On average, 20% of victims will change their status from restricted to unrestricted.
3. Victims should request a blood test and urine analysis. The presence of date rape drugs and a victim's blood alcohol level may be contributing factors in the ability to give consent.
4. The SAFE is invasive and emotionally taxing. VAs who understand the evidence collection process will be better able to provide emotional support, if requested.
5. Time lost is evidence lost. Please ensure that the MTF on your installation (or treatment facility near you) is willing and able to provide evidence collection.

The window for evidence collection is small but the potential benefit for the victims may be great. If you would like additional information, please contact the SAPR Program.

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