



# SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

Strategic Plan  
2018 -2022





# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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<b>Foreword: From the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Principles: Sexual Assault Prevention, Response and Recovery .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Goals and Objectives .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Goal 1: CLIMATE .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Goal 2: PREVENTION .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Goal 3: RESPONSE .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Goal 4: RECOVERY .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Goal 5: ACCOUNTABILITY .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Glossary of Terms .....</b>	<b>19</b>



# FOREWORD

## From the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard

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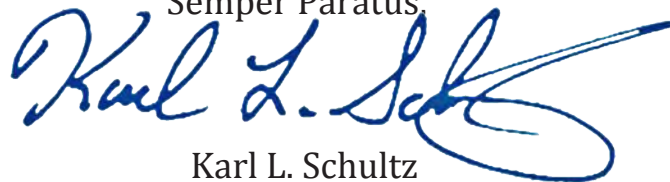
The United States Coast Guard has ensured the security and prosperity of our maritime Nation since 1790 due to our bias for action and the professionalism and courage of our people. This bias for action must also focus inward, protecting against violations of our Core Values of Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty. This includes all forms of sexual assault and harassment.

Every member of our mission ready total Coast Guard workforce - Active Duty, Reserve, Civilian, and Auxiliary - has a responsibility to foster a service culture of trust, respect, and dignity. A culture that will not accept sexual assault or its enabling behaviors. Successful accomplishment of our missions demands a level of cohesion and teamwork that is incompatible with the devastation caused by sexual assault which is an attack on our values, and degrades both individual and unit readiness. We each have a duty to act. Every member of the Coast Guard is not only empowered, but directed to stand-up to sexual assault, sexual harassment, and predatory actions, whether at work or off-duty. This is what we do - it is woven into the fabric of our culture.

The lines of effort detailed in our 2013-2017 Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Strategic Plan have enabled the Coast Guard to make important strides towards better confronting sexual assault. But there is considerable work ahead to eliminate the scourge of sexual assault from our ranks. This Sexual Assault Prevention, Response and Recovery (SAPRR) Strategic Plan for 2018-2022 continues our comprehensive response and prevention efforts, and now formalizes our commitment to the long-term recovery and resilience of victims and the broad Coast Guard community impacted by sexual assault. Through the establishment of *recovery* as its own strategic goal, and as an element of our sexual assault program, we will expand existing policies that assist in the recovery process to preserve victim privacy, dignity and the opportunity to continue to serve.

While I am grateful for the progress that we have made, it is only with your continued dedication and leadership that together we can drive sexual assault from our Service.

Semper Paratus



Karl L. Schultz  
Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
Commandant



# PRINCIPLES

## Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery

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### MISSION

The mission of the Coast Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery (SAPRR) Program is to eliminate sexual assault from our Service. The Coast Guard will ensure that if it does occur, we will provide immediate and compassionate victim support; a responsive and intimidation-free reporting environment inhospitable to retaliation; a timely, professional investigation; holistic care and recovery for victims; and accountability for those who commit this crime.

### VISION

The vision is a Coast Guard where all members of our mission ready total workforce - Active Duty, Reserve, Civilian and Auxiliary - live and work in a climate of trust, respect, and dignity; where all members are leaders who take prompt action to correct any behavior counter to this climate; and who do not stand by and allow it to occur.

### VALUES

The Coast Guard Core Values of Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty define us. These values are the foundation of the Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery Program.





## INTRODUCTION

Sexual assault remains a significant problem affecting every segment of our society. It is a tragedy whenever it occurs and has no place in our Coast Guard. It is incompatible with our American values and our military culture. Sexual assault undermines our morale, degrades our readiness, damages our mission performance, breaks our obligation to one another, and erodes public trust in the nation's Armed Forces. We have made noteworthy progress since the release of the 2013-2017 Coast Guard Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Strategic Plan, but until we have eliminated this behavior, we will continue to work to execute the objectives within this plan.

The Coast Guard remains fully committed to sustaining an effective and responsive sexual assault program and must continue to dedicate significant time and resources to achieve the mission, vision, and goals concentrated on eliminating sexual assault from our Service. This updated Strategic Plan provides a comprehensive and coordinated approach to direct the efforts in the Coast Guard and is completed in alignment with the Department of Defense (DoD) sexual assault initiatives.

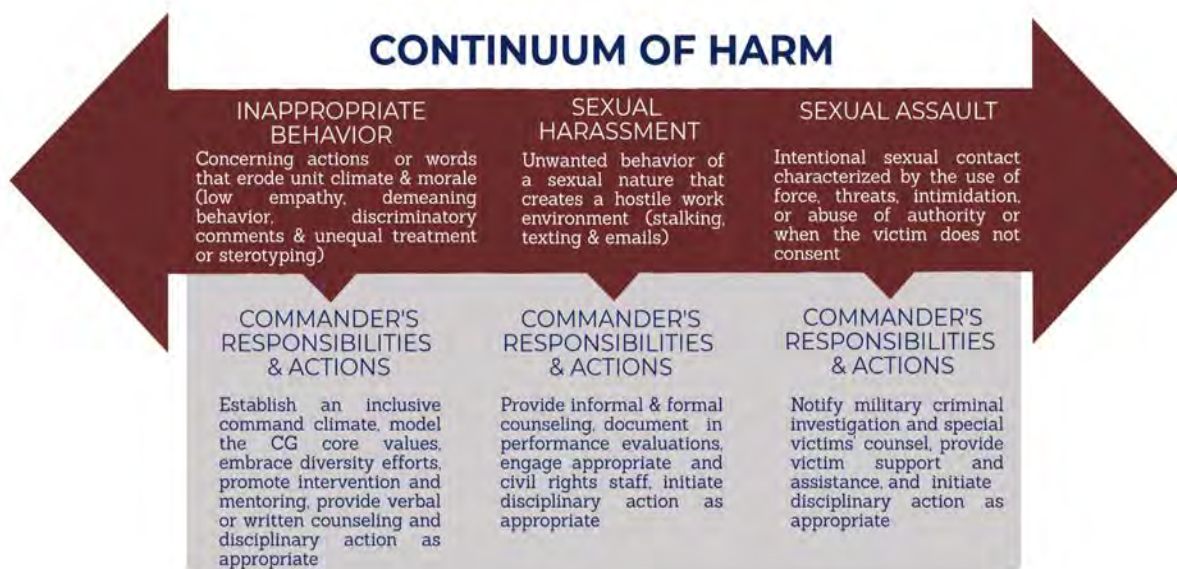
The Coast Guard SAPRR Strategic Plan is structured around five goals: climate, prevention, response, recovery, and accountability. The Service, first and foremost, is committed to upholding a climate of trust and adherence to our Core Values, which is the foundation for all prevention, response, recovery, and accountability activities. Engaged leadership, across all segments of the Coast Guard community, has been instrumental in all that has been accomplished and is vital to our continued progress in supporting the Service's most valued asset – our people.



The development and execution of the 2013-2017 SAPR Strategic Plan instituted a baseline knowledge and understanding of our sexual assault programmatic efforts, and developed a framework for cultivating a skilled cohort of professionals to serve our workforce and their families. These efforts enabled the Coast Guard to purposefully transition its focus toward prevention and recovery strategies while maintaining existing momentum in the goals of climate, response, and accountability. In addition to our 2017 National Defense Authorization Act Recovery Report, the Coast Guard has officially integrated recovery as an element of our sexual assault Program. Further, this Strategic Plan, now includes the goal of recovery to elevate awareness for comprehensive victim-centered support, during the initial response and beyond. Recovery efforts facilitate the member's return to wellness.

Preventing sexual assault requires robust practical knowledge and equipping our workforce with the skills to intervene before a situation develops. Primary prevention initiatives seek to promote positive behaviors while concurrently eliminating workplace conditions that may tolerate harmful behavior. Harmful behaviors do not exist in isolation, but are part of the "continuum of harm" shown below. Eliminating behaviors such as bullying, hazing, discrimination, domestic violence, and sexual harassment ensures a safe and positive work environment. This amplified focus on prevention will allow the Coast Guard to enhance unit cohesion by addressing all behaviors and attitudes in contrast to our Core Values, and actions - such as drug and alcohol abuse - that can precede or accompany the crime of sexual assault.

This plan emphasizes proactive measures directed at promoting a Coast Guard culture and professional working environment rich with common courtesy, respect, and equal treatment towards our entire Coast Guard community. It is specifically targeted to drive out and disband all unwelcomed and antiquated mentalities and behaviors, including those that digress from the inappropriate into the more egregious and criminal, as shown in the "Continuum of Harm."





# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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During fiscal years 2018-2022, the Coast Guard will remain focused on the four existing strategic goals while adding a fifth – Recovery – to create the SAPRR Program. These strategic goals and objectives, coupled with decisive action and regular assessment, will close the gap between the Coast Guard’s vision and our current state.

## **Goal 1: CLIMATE**

Create a culture inhospitable to sexual assault, and behaviors that enable it, while eliminating any stigma or retaliation associated with reporting.

## **Goal 2: PREVENTION**

Eliminate sexual assault within the Coast Guard through the foundation of a strong preventive culture.

## **Goal 3: RESPONSE**

Ensure the availability and quality of support for sexual assault victims. Increase confidence in the system and reduce barriers to reporting.

## **Goal 4: RETURN TOWARDS WELLNESS**

Provide comprehensive and flexible victim recovery care to facilitate a return to wellness.

## **Goal 5: ACCOUNTABILITY**

Ensure those who commit sexual assault in the Coast Guard are held accountable. Improve capability and capacity for the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of sexual assault; and ensure leadership engagement in response to sexual assault.



## CLIMATE

Sexual assault, and the behaviors and conditions that allow it to occur, are incompatible with Coast Guard Core Values. Sexual assault destroys unit cohesion and trust, which are essential elements for mission success and readiness. Leaders at every level must assess environmental risks, eliminate social stigmas, recognize early signs of predatory and high-risk behaviors, identify vulnerabilities, and take timely and effective action to mitigate them.

### **2013-2017 Strategic Accomplishments**

- ✓ Expanded existing training for all Coast Guard members, as well as leaders at all levels. Developed a comprehensive training program for all accession points and training centers.
- ✓ Maximized use of DEOCS and DEOMI assessments to identify leadership and climate deficient areas, as well as quantitatively track and analyze workforce attitudes toward sexual assault reporting.
- ✓ Developed robust process to share best practices amongst leaders and service providers.

# GOAL 1: CLIMATE

**Create a culture inhospitable to sexual assault or behaviors that enable it while eliminating any stigma or retaliation associated with reporting.**

## OBJECTIVES

## ACTIONS & ASSESSMENTS

**1.1. Active Leadership.** Build the expectation that all personnel intervene to prevent sexual assault and all behaviors that erode a positive command climate from occurring. Hold leaders accountable when their actions could impede proper prevention and response efforts for sexual assault. Institutionalize a culture that is inhospitable to hazing, harassing, bullying, ostracizing, and all like behaviors or retaliation.

Conduct leadership and climate assessments to identify deficient areas.

Maintain the relevancy and momentum of sexual assault prevention and elimination of concerning behaviors; incorporate monitoring measures and education in formal and routine command training, readiness, and safety forums.

Continually publicize all potential resources and the DoD Safe Helpline services to include the recently added options for follow-up support, retaliation reporting, and prior victimization tools.

**1.2 Command Integration.** Ensure understanding of SAPRR policies and resources. Integrate this into unit indoctrination and training – up and down the chain, across command elements, SAPRR resources, Coast Guard families, and the external environment.

Monitor the accuracy of SAPRR training, resources, and information; incorporate into all leadership courses indoctrination programs and curriculum, to include ombudsmen or additional family outreach programs.

With stakeholders, expand opportunities to create forums, workshops, and events to promote effective relationships between commanders, service providers, Service members, and local resources.

Seek innovative methods to elevate SAPRR awareness organizationally through coordinated participation, with internal and external stakeholders, in national and local events and campaigns.

**1.3 Stigma Elimination.** Eliminate the stigma of reporting sexual assault and seeking support if an assault occurs. Promote a climate unfavorable to retaliation and supportive of victim privacy.

Develop a qualitative tool to analyze and track attitudes toward reporting sexual assault and any workplace repercussions following a report - as appropriate implement solutions.

Implement policy and practice for reassignment of sexual assault perpetrators and victims.

Advertise, encourage the use of, and provide information on SVC services to help ensure the protection of victims' privacy rights.

**1.4 Shared Understanding.** Reduce risk and vulnerabilities associated with sexual assault through a shared understanding, appropriate leader oversight, team cohesion, social responsibility, clearly established Service norms of social behavior, and responsible alcohol consumption.

Utilize culture of respect research and findings to enhance understanding and seek opportunities to close existing culture gaps.

Encourage participation in internal and external sexual assault prevention awareness activities.

Explore the development of enhanced Service wide messaging on the "Continuum of Harm" to include guidance on tools for developing members who demonstrate concerning behaviors.



## PREVENTION

All Coast Guard members must be aware and understand the SAPRR Program, primary prevention strategies, and the importance of their individual role in achieving a workplace free of sexual assault and other concerning behaviors. Early identification of concerning behaviors and proactive, intrusive leadership to address them maintains unit cohesion and a positive command climate. Prevention also requires enhanced knowledge and skills to accurately assess risks or developing situations and the employment of effective tools to intervene, as appropriate.

### **2013-2017 Strategic Accomplishments**

- ✓ Developed the primary prevention Coast Guard Bystander Intervention Training (CG BIT) focused on tiered facilitated instruction on practical bystander intervention skills.
- ✓ Expanded advanced training to grow and maintain knowledge and skill sets for effective survivor assistance and prevention techniques.
- ✓ Analyzed sexual assault incidents to quantify the use of alcohol as a contributing factor and collaborated with the Department of Defense and external organizations to enhance alcohol awareness efforts.

## GOAL 2: PREVENTION

**Eliminate sexual assault within the Coast Guard through the foundation of a strong preventive culture.**

### OBJECTIVES

### ACTIONS & ASSESSMENTS

**2.1 Institutional Knowledge.** Develop, integrate, and expand multiple channels for annual training delivery; incorporate SAPRR guidance and prevention tools.

Institutionalize evidence-based risk and protective factors, to include social influences and perpetrator behavior into our sexual assault prevention training.

Assess the effectiveness of Bystander Intervention Training (BIT) through climate assessment and case reviews; adjust as needed.

Expand awareness and use of relevant resources, to include the use of internal stakeholders such as SVC, and the DoD SAPR Connect to expand access to primary prevention tools and knowledge.

**2.2 Member Engagement.** Promote and encourage a “by-doer” culture where members intervene safely before an incident occurs and eliminate enabling behaviors.

Evaluate practical use of Coast Guard Bystander Intervention Training and evaluate CG use of other evidence-based primary prevention programs.

Increase Coast Guard personnel participation and engagement in the annual Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) observances and activities.

Acknowledge the positive impact of Coast Guard personnel who intervene or report concerning behaviors.

**2.3 Enabling Behaviors.** Expand procedures and institutionalize a preventative culture that addresses the role alcohol and other concerning behaviors have in escalation along the continuum of harm.

Incentivize self-referral to medical intervention for concerning behaviors, such as alcoholism or anger management, while guarding members career standing; e.g. security clearance, promotion/advancement.

Bolster efforts with other programs - substance abuse, work life, and suicide prevention - to identify concerning behaviors and share promising practices to reduce risks.

Leverage the Flag-level Workforce Wellness and Resiliency Council to raise visibility of the National Institutes of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) Low Risk Drinking Guidelines and alcohol trends within all programs managing concerning behaviors.

**2.4 Community of Practice.** Expand primary prevention growth opportunities and maintain a community of practice among Coast Guard SAPRR professionals, federal partners, external subject matter experts, and educational institutions.

Reinforce networking and promote partnerships among Coast Guard SAPRR professionals with DoD SAPR Programs, Coast Guard SVCs, and civilian organizations; conduct research and implement promising new initiatives.

Increase availability of tools and promote two-way communication with Coast Guard SAPRR professionals.

Annually analyze sexual assault incidents in the Coast Guard and the Department of Defense to better quantify and identify contributing factors. Adjust our tactics as needed to address changes.



## **RESPONSE**

Reporting sexual assault is a courageous act. The Coast Guard seeks to eliminate sexual assault from the Service; however, when it does occur it is imperative to immediately provide supportive services to those in need. Effective response requires a suite of adaptable tools, programs, and highly skilled professionals designed to meet the specific needs of the victim. It demands a safe and trustworthy command climate, a well-understood and reliable reporting process, anonymous and confidential intervention and compassionate accessible medical, legal and victim advocate services to maintain victim confidence in the system and to reduce reporting barriers.

### **2013-2017 Strategic Accomplishments**

- ✓ Increased the availability of trained Victim Advocate (VA)s by establishing tailored standards of accessibility.
- ✓ Tracked specially trained professionals - VAs, SARCs, medical personnel, attorney's and CGIS agents - to validate training currency, share best practices and trends to ensure effective quality of care and response for victims and commands.
- ✓ Established professional credentialing for SARCs and VAs through National Advocate Credentialing Program (NACP) offered by National Organization for Victim Assistance.
- ✓ Assessed Coast Guard member confidence in reporting systems.



# GOAL 3: RESPONSE

**Ensure the availability and quality of support for sexual assault victims. Increase victim confidence of the system and reduce barriers to reporting.**

## OBJECTIVES

## ACTIONS & ASSESSMENTS

**3.1 First Responder Proficiency:** Ensure all Coast Guard victims have access to anonymous and confidential intervention and receive timely, professional care, and advocacy during and subsequent to a report.

Sustain the efficacy of SAPR field personnel via appropriate and relevant advanced training opportunities to maintain the high skill set required for victim response.

Periodically validate SAPR field personnel screening and certification to include the credentialing of Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)s and Victim Advocate (VA)s using the National Advocate Credentialing Program by the National Office of Victim Assistance.

Measure existing training capabilities for SARCs, VAs, CGIS special agents, Special Victims' Counsel attorneys, and medical personnel to meet individual unit demand.

**3.2 Underrepresented Reporting:** Expand understanding of underrepresented reporting of sexual assault. Bolster response services for men who report sexual assault.

Bolster efforts to provide tailored services to male victims through additional outreach and communication strategies.

Use existing participation in national and local events to educate service members in underrepresented or high risk groups.

Promote the utilization of alternative resources such as the DoD Safe Helpline services to eliminate the stigma for those struggling to report incidents of sexual assault.

**3.3. Maintain System Confidence:** Strengthen the efficacy of the SAPRR Program. Coast Guard personnel must know and understand the reporting process and outcomes to trust and utilize the existing system.

Track, measure, and analyze case reporting, survey results, response activities, and investigation outcomes to validate system integrity. Report findings to the field in a timely manner.

Develop standardization in the collection, collation, and sharing of data between response, prevention, investigative, and Civil Rights components.

Provide tools to commanders, supervisors, and peers to prevent retaliatory actions, as well as provide information to all personnel on reporting options and support services for when retaliation is present.

Advertise, share, and promote the rights of victims of sexual assault and ensure, where possible, victims are afforded an opportunity to consult and be represented by SVC.



## RECOVERY

Sexual assault can have significant impacts that can last a lifetime. Appropriate support must be anchored in victim choice at every stage – from reporting to recovery. There is no single solution for a victim to achieve long-term wellness. The Coast Guard must maintain the privacy and dignity of the victim while offering a broad complementary system of medical, behavioral care, legal services and administrative support that empowers victims to have a voice during their path to recovery, while preserving military readiness.

### **2013 - 2017 Strategic Accomplishments**

The goal of recovery was added as a formal strategic goal in the Coast Guard 2018-2022 SAPR Strategic Plan. The growth and maturity of our SAPRR Program enabled the Coast Guard to expand focus on the long-term recovery of victims of sexual assault. While the 2013-2017 SAPR Strategic Plan did not articulate recovery as a specific strategic goal, a number of accomplishments were achieved in this area, establishing a foundation for the objectives and actions identified in this strategic plan.

- ✓ Developed Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Tactics, Techniques and Procedures to facilitate expedited transfers in order to relocate victims who filed Unrestricted reports to keep the victim safe and assist in their recovery.
- ✓ Established SARC roles for providing victims with information on care options when the victim is transitioning from the Service.
- ✓ Offered victims who filed unrestricted reports a Temporary Separation from Active Duty, for up to two years, to allow them to focus on their recovery.

# GOAL 4: RECOVERY

**Provide comprehensive and flexible victim recovery care to facilitate a return to wellness.**

## OBJECTIVES

## ACTIONS & ASSESSMENTS

**4.1 Appropriate Support.** Empower and encourage victims to choose supportive care that enables a pathway to wellness. Ensure understanding of the available resources to both victims and their external support networks before, during and following Unrestricted and Restricted reporting.

Provide training to all Coast Guard personnel on the full range of supportive care, legal options and medical services available to victims for the duration of service. Revise existing medical communication tools to reinforce availability.

Provide victims guidance and support in establishing short and long-term recovery goals.

Create cross-programmatic linkages between SAPR support and victim services (e.g. legal, SVC, Physical Disability Evaluation System (PDES), health, SARC) in the field for alignment on victim recovery care, and in the protection of the victim's privacy, for the duration of their service.

Ensure all medical providers and administrative personnel are sensitive to potential pitfalls, such as administrative discharge for disqualifying diagnoses that may follow a sexual assault.

**4.2 Workforce Resilience.** Provide victims a healthy, safe, and supportive environment that provides the necessary resources needed to maintain mission readiness. Expand victim's identification of triggers or instances that bring about memories of trauma, obtain resources to manage impacts of these occurrences and improve understanding of when and how to reach out for timely help.

Sustain career long availability of military sexual trauma support, including counseling services and medical care, to victims who make Restricted and Unrestricted reports.

Evaluate best practices for the long-term wellness of all trauma victims - to include sexual assault - through direct communication with the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

Provide victims tools to assist in the identification of triggers or instances that insight memories of trauma and inform healthy decisions in response.

Expand awareness of resources and sharing of information on resilience to broad Coast Guard community, including dependents.

**4.3. A Holistic Professional Approach.** Promote active leadership and innovative solutions to preserve the opportunity for continued service. Reduce barriers for victims and facilitate coordination with available services for victims who chose to transition to civilian life.

Implement an assignment tool to eliminate the co-location of victims and subjects for the duration of both careers.

Evaluate expansion of recovery care options by medical personnel following Restricted reports. Consider medical professionals ability to offer Maximum Allowable Weight exemption, and sick leave policies for medical conditions resultant from a sexual trauma.

Expand coordination with SVC and PDES attorneys and the Veteran's Administration Military Sexual Trauma program to ensure transitioning victims maintain access to supportive care.



## ACCOUNTABILITY

The Coast Guard will protect the health and safety of all personnel who are victims of sexual assault and will hold those who commit sexual assault accountable for their actions while preserving their due process rights. The Coast Guard ensures professionalism and objectivity by assigning Coast Guard Investigative Service special agents to investigate all sexual assault reports and elevating the authority level at which disposition decisions in sexual assault cases are made in order to promote accountability and confidence that such allegations are taken seriously.

### **2013-2017 Strategic Accomplishments**

- ✓ Established the use of the DoD Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (DSAID) for case management and data metrics - including standardized reporting service-wide.
- ✓ Measured disposition determinations and final actions service-wide to ensure consistent standards and appropriate case prosecution – including trend analysis.
- ✓ Instituted early coordination between investigators and judge advocates for timely, thorough, and efficient reporting, investigation, and accountability.
- ✓ Limited disposition authority for incidents to special court-martial convening authorities, who are at least a Captain (O-6), with an assigned staff judge advocate.

# GOAL 5: ACCOUNTABILITY

Ensure adequate capability and capacity for the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of sexual assault; and ensure leadership engagement in response to sexual assault.

## OBJECTIVES

## ACTIONS & ASSESSMENTS

5.1 Fair, Just, and Timely Allegation Resolution: Rapidly and thoroughly address and resolve allegations of sexual misconduct at the appropriate level to ensure a fair and equitable system of appropriate accountability.

Cultivate early coordination between unit leadership, investigators, and judge advocates to improve efficiency and accountability.

Monitor, assess, and report trends in case disposition and final actions, including length of time from initial report to final case disposition. Provide means to identify and assess areas of potential concern.

5.2 Investigation Aptitude and Capacity: Sustain a high level of competence to facilitate the rapid and complete investigation of every unrestricted report of sexual assault.

Sustain the efficacy of the investigatory process via appropriate and relevant training opportunities.

Continue to bolster existing partnerships with DoD and external law enforcement agencies to benchmark best practices, engage in shared education, and exercise opportunities for further development.

Monitor and review case files to verify compliance and equitable resolution.

5.3 Program Oversight: Provide appropriate program oversight to remain accountable to our goals and to sustain an effective SAPRR program, to include field and staff compliance with policies. Metrics and data trends must continue to be collected and analyzed in order to inform policy and process, and to remain accountable to our goals.

Validate the use of the standardized reporting metrics and use of the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (DSAID); adjust metrics and stakeholder database interface to provide maximum transparency.

Perform quality assurance visits to units by SARCs to ensure compliance with SAPRR Program policy.

Increase Flag-level engagement and advisory of the SAPRR Service-wide efforts with regular and direct reporting to the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

Support Congressional reviews; incorporate insight from the Government Accountability Office, internal inspections, and program audits.

# Glossary of Terms

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**Bystander:** A person who is present at or potentially aware of an event or incident, but is not involved.

**Bystander Intervention:** Bystander Intervention is a strategy that motivates and mobilizes people to act when they see, hear, or otherwise recognize signs of an inappropriate or unsafe situation, to act and prevent harm. An active bystander is someone who helps prevent violence or gets involved when violence occurs. Active bystanders intervene to: (1) help someone who may be a target for sexual assault, or (2) prevent someone from becoming a perpetrator of sexual assault.

**Continuum of Harm:** A model of escalating adverse behaviors on the spectrum of behavior that can contribute to an increase in the incidence of sexual assault.

**Primary Prevention:** Strategies which promote positive behaviors and attitudes, while focusing on reducing or removing risk factors that may lead to sexual assault to prevent violence before it occurs.

**Physical Disability Evaluation System (PDES):** The PDES process focuses on determining whether a member is fit or unfit for retention. If, for reasons related to being a victim of sexual assault, a member is no longer fit for continued service in the Coast Guard, that member can request assistance and representation from a PDES attorney.

**Recovery:** Recovery is self-directed and empowering to the victim. Every victim of sexual assault has different needs, so recovery is an individual process that is supported from the initial crisis stage and continues as long as the victim needs and/or desires support (long-term recovery).

**Restricted Reporting:** The Restricted Reporting option may be used by a service member or adult armed forces dependent to disclose to specific individuals on a confidential basis that he or she is the victim of a sexual assault. If the assault has been disclosed to ONLY a SARC, a VA, or health care provider, it will not be reported to the chain of command or law enforcement (unless the victim consents or an established exception is exercised). If the assault was disclosed to anyone in the armed forces (except otherwise privileged communications with chaplains or a legal assistance attorney), the report must be Unrestricted. Exceptions to Restricted Reporting do exist.

**Sexual Assault:** Intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, forcible sodomy, and other unwanted indecent contact (e.g., kissing against another person's will) that is aggravated, abusive, or wrongful (to include unwanted and inappropriate sexual contact), or attempts to commit these acts. "Consent" means words or overt acts indicating a freely given agreement to the sexual conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of refusal or lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent (i.e., "no" means "no."). Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the accused's use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent. The victim's lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from intoxication, from unconsciousness due to sleep or alcohol consumption, or from any other conditions which render the person substantially incapacitated or substantially incapable of understanding the nature of the sexual act, declining participation in the act,

## Glossary of Terms (cont.)

or communicating unwillingness to engage in the sexual act does not constitute consent. A current or previous dating relationship shall not constitute consent. The manner of dress of the victim shall not constitute consent.

### **Sexual Assault Forensic**

**Examination (SAFE):** The medical examination of a sexual assault victim under circumstances and controlled procedures to ensure the physical examination process, and the collection, handling, analysis, testing, and safekeeping of any bodily specimens, meet the requirements necessary for use as evidence in criminal proceedings. This exam is also known as a Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Exam (SAMFE).

### **Sexual Assault Response**

**Coordinator (SARC):** Coast Guard member, military or civilian employee, who is trained to ensure appropriate care is coordinated and provided to victims of sexual assault; in addition, tracks the services provided to a victim of sexual assault from the initial report through final disposition and resolution. Serves as the central point of contact within a geographic area to conduct all sexual assault awareness, prevention, and response training. SARCs also train and oversee all Victim Advocates (VA) within their areas of responsibility.

**Sexual Harassment:** Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of employment; submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for employment decisions; such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably

interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment; and this definition also encompasses unwelcome display or communication of sexually offensive materials. Specific definitions of the elements of the sexual assault, sexual contact, and forcible sodomy offenses are found in Articles 120 and 125, UCMJ.

### **Special Victims Counsel (SVC):**

A trained judge advocate who provides legal assistance and representation to victims in a confidential attorney-client relationship throughout the investigation and any related proceedings.

### **Unrestricted Reporting:**

The Unrestricted Reporting option may be used by a service member or adult armed forces dependent to disclose, without requesting confidentiality or Restricted Reporting, that he or she is the victim of a sexual assault. Under these circumstances, the victim's report to command or law enforcement authorities or to a SARC, VA, HCP, or anyone else is reportable to the CGIS.

### **Victim Advocate (VA):**

A trained advocate for the victim; a person who can provide emotional support to the victim during interviews, medical procedures, and legal proceedings. The VA may be present, but is not to participate (e.g., prompting the victim) during the interview process. In coordination with the SARC, the VA may provide liaison assistance with other organizations/agencies on victim care matters. VAs report directly to the SARC when performing VA duties. Under certain conditions, VAs may be required to testify at a judicial proceeding but do not maintain any type of records or files.



For more information about the  
Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery  
(SAPRR) Program, go to:  
[www.dcms.uscg.mil](http://www.dcms.uscg.mil)

