



Wing Commanders' Series
Additional Resource Document to the
Wing Commanders' Guide to Sexual Assault Prevention & Response

The Importance of Overseeing the Sexual Assault Case Management Process

Proper leadership oversight of the Sexual Assault Case Management Process in your Wing is essential for all parties involved. A principal justification for assigning the SARC to work directly for the Vice Wing Commander was to ensure sexual assault cases were being handled properly and efficiently within the wing. The SARC needs unimpeded access to the Vice Commander, not only for timely notification about an allegation, but also for the "top-cover" sometimes needed to ensure all support agencies understand the importance of their active involvement in the case management process. This may entail actions from ensuring timely attendance by all parties at monthly Case Management meetings to ensuring specific cases get their due attention. This support also includes helping lower-level commanders understand and appreciate both the unrestricted and restricted reporting options. Your strategic leadership and guidance, as well as your active support of the SARC as they lead this group, are critical.

While the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and Case Management Group (CMG) mirror each other, they are not the same. The SART is an initial response team with an operational focus. The CMG is an administrative group designed to be a check and balance in the processing of cases to ensure interdisciplinary support for all parties and timely investigation and adjudication of cases. Both serve an important purpose as it relates to victim care and must be tested and process improved over time to provide the best possible care and support for both victims and alleged perpetrators.

Among the various agencies that make up the Case Management Group are some special areas to monitor.

SARC/VA:

- In an unrestricted reporting situation, Commanders have responsibility for all military members as a case is processed. If the allegation is military-on-military, be sure that both parties are getting proper healthcare.
- Ensure that SARCs and Victim Advocates are not pressured by anyone for information on the existence of a restricted report nor any of the details, except as noted in the AFI.

Healthcare providers (Physical and mental health):

- Ensure SARCs and Victim Advocates have an avenue for expedited access to care for victims.

Victim's Commander (for unrestricted reports only):

- Commanders have responsibility for all military members in an unrestricted case until that case is investigated and adjudicated. They must ensure both parties are getting full access to support services throughout the process.



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Chaplain (HC):

- Ensure HC personnel are included as desired by the victim or alleged perpetrator.

Military Criminal Investigative Organization/Law Enforcement (OSI, CID, NCIS, SF):

- In unrestricted cases ensure there are procedures that are as timely as possible and also mindful of the state of the victim.

Judge Advocate (JA):

- Ensure your Wing has a strong Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) that is working hand-in-hand with the Sexual Assault Response Team members.
- Ensure that feedback on the progress of each case through the system is shared with the victim as often as is needed.
- Ensure feedback and an explanation of the final case disposition is thoughtfully shared with the victim. The victim will greatly benefit from the support of the SARC in that meeting as well as continued support by their Victim Advocate afterwards.

The excerpt below is from AFI 36-6001 (29 Sept 08) outlining the specific duties of the Case Management Group:

AFI36-6001 29 SEPTEMBER 2008

2.7. Case Management Group.

2.7.1. DoD Directive requires the establishment of a multi-disciplinary case management group, chaired by the SARC, to meet monthly to review unrestricted cases, improve reporting, facilitate monthly victim updates, and to discuss process improvement to ensure system accountability and victim access to quality services.

2.7.1.1. For unrestricted cases, the case management group includes the SARC, VA, AFOSI, SF, Healthcare Personnel, HC, JA and the reporting victim's commander.

2.7.1.2. For restricted cases, the group membership is limited to the SARC, assigned VA and Healthcare Personnel representative.

2.7.2. The case management group will review sexual assault trends for the area of responsibility, including environmental information provided to the WG/CV under restricted reporting. The group will provide a report to the WG/CV no less than quarterly, including recommendations.