



Message from Maj Gen Hertog



Greetings from SAPRO! As the new Director of SAPRO, I am proud to join this organization and be part of the efforts to prevent and respond to sexual assault. DoD and each Service continue to make progress but there is so much more to be done, and I ask for your continued support in those efforts as well.

I especially want to say "Thank you" to each and every one of you who work this critical mission every day. And make no mistake, this is a mission with no end in sight as long as we have one sexual assault. So every day we must renew our commitment to fight the crime of sexual assault.

As a Security Forces officer and six-time commander, I have seen first-hand the devastating and negative impact sexual assault can have on an individual and a unit. That is why I am determined to move out -- and move out fast -- on many initiatives to better respond to victims and to train our department members in our prevention techniques.

My priorities of work include publishing our revised guidance (DoD Directive 6495.01 and DoD Instruction 6495.02) as soon as possible. I am happy to report our revised directive, which lays out the broad policy guidelines, is proceeding towards publication. The DoD Instruction is currently under revision as well. This new instruction will contain guidance about Sexual Assault Response Coordinator credentialing, expedited transfer options for the victim, sexual assault document and evidence retention requirements, and much more.

Beyond these revisions, I am committed to increasing the collaboration with our Services and meeting with program leads and managers every other month. My goal is also to be more responsive to the Services' needs plus the queries we get from Congress and other organizations. In today's fiscal environment we need to study opportunities for standardization such as in data collection and training, as well as determine what programs are working well so we can benchmark them throughout the Department. We are working with DoD Inspector General to look at the feasibility to provide our military criminal investigators with more specialized sexual assault training.

Some of the Services have started down this path already but we have the opportunity to expand upon that training wherever possible. And of course we need to aggressively work on the recommendations from the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services.

So the bottom line is we have a lot of work to do but together we can and will get it done. Every action we take improves our programs to educate our Service members and take care of our victims. That is why we can never lose focus or slow down in our efforts.

This newsletter is a key resource to relay updates and communicate what is ahead. In this edition you will get the latest information about our DoD Safe Helpline, a confidential hotline for Service members to "click, call, and text" to get support. We also have an update on the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database, which is under development and estimated to be fully operational in the Spring of 2012. We will use this newsletter to highlight innovative programs our services have implemented, so feel free to contact us with your input.

Again, I look forward to working with all of you and achieving our goals to enhance our sexual assault prevention and response programs.

Mary Kay Hertog
Major General, USAF
Director, SAPRO

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Guidelines for DoD SAFE Kits Updated

SAPRO just wrapped up a Department-wide project to update its sexual assault forensic examination (SAFE) Kit. This effort was driven by the recognition that more physical evidence collected in a consistent fashion could be key in prosecuting those who committed this crime. "It was important for us to standardize and expand this examination where appropriate," said Maj Gen Mary Kay Hertog, Director, SAPRO. "With the new tools in place, those conducting these important exams will have a roadmap as they collect key information that could help hold perpetrators appropriately accountable."

The revised SAFE Kit and accompanying form (DD 2911) became available in mid-September. The data on the form is formatted consistently with the national standards set by the Department of Justice in "A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations, Adults/Adolescents." DoD also updated all instructions for conducting forensic exams of male and female victims.

DoD Safe Helpline Resources Designed for the Users



This past April, SAPRO unveiled the DoD Safe Helpline, a confidential and anonymous hotline providing the DoD community with sexual assault support services. Safe Helpline gives users 24/7 access to trained staff, who offer support and referrals to civilian and military sexual assault resources.

The DoD community has certainly turned to this new resource. Between February and September 2011, more than 20,000 unique visitors have visited and more than 1,200 visitors have been helped. "In just a few short months, we know many of those in need of information or help have used Safe Helpline. That is exactly what it is designed for," said Maj Gen Mary Kay Hertog. "The bottom line is we want to help victims any way we can, by whatever resource we have available. I understand and respect that victims may not want to come forward in person and ask for help. That is why the Safe Helpline was developed. It gives them another option and is a great way to start the healing process."

Users have three easy ways to get connected:

- Click on www.safehelpline.org
- Call 877-995-5247
- Text 55-247 (inside US) or 202-470-5546 (outside US)

Safe Helpline is operated by the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, the nation's largest non-profit, anti-sexual violence organization, through a contract provided by SAPRO. Safe Helpline staff are trained on the unique needs of those living and working in the DoD community and can offer resources for help, both on and off military installations and bases. They receive monthly training on various aspects of the military environment, culture, and resources.

This ongoing training enables staff to direct Safe Helpline users to the right resources. For many users, the "right" resource might be their local Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), nearest civilian sexual assault service provider or National Veteran's Suicide Prevention Lifeline. In addition, the staff can provide users with phone numbers to contact their installation or base chaplain, the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate General, or nearest medical treatment facility.

Snapshot: Chaplain Training on DoD Safe Helpline

One of the many resources DoD Safe Helpline staff can suggest to anyone using the service is the base or installation chaplain. In order to ensure both groups -- Safe Helpline staff and chaplains -- are aware of each other's role and resources, a recent training session for Safe Helpline staff included a Navy chaplain.

CDR Thomas Walcott, USN Chaplain, spoke to Safe Helpline staff about the often under-

utilized resource of chaplains by victims of sexual assault. Because of their role in supporting military forces, CDR Walcott emphasized chaplains can be a very unique resource to victims of sexual assault. For example...

- Sexual assault often results in spiritual trauma. The guidance and assistance of a religious or spiritual caregiver can be an important part of a victim's overall recovery process.
- Victims of sexual assault may be hesitant to report or discuss their experience due to fear, shame, guilt and a lack of understanding of Restricted and Unrestricted Reporting options.
- Chaplains work closely with other military and civilian resources to include medical, legal, mental health, family support, SARCs, and the Red Cross. If someone does not know where to start, a chaplain can help point them in the right direction.

Victims can search on "www.safehelpline.org" to find a military chaplain in their area or one of many other important resources.

Department of Defense Implements Centralized Sexual Assault Database

Combatting sexual assault is a highly involved process requiring robust organization and communication between many parties. Key to making this process work is the right access to the right data.

Currently, each Military Service maintains sexual assault data in varying formats and systems, making it difficult to provide up-to-date reports and analyses. In order to facilitate data sharing, the Department is implementing a centralized, case-level sexual assault database, termed the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (DSAID).

DSAID will allow SAPRO and the Military Services to better execute sexual assault program oversight and identify areas for policy and program improvement. Specifically, the database will:

- Enhance accessibility of sexual assault data, while still adhering to the privacy provisions afforded to victims making a Restricted Report;
- Promote accurate and timely reporting and analysis of sexual assault incidents with near real-time data; and
- Enhance data collection, trend analysis, and case management to improve the Department's response to victims of sexual assault.

DSAID development officially kicked off with a contract award in August 2010. To set the foundation for development, SAPRO facilitated a working group to gather requirements and created a concept report for submission to Congress. Most recently, DSAID received approval to continue development and funding.

SAPRO is working to make DSAID fully operational by Spring 2012, and users will be provided tools and resources they need to use the database.

The Air Force and the National Guard Bureau will be the first organizations to use the full functionality of the database. The Army and Navy are expected to integrate their Sexual Assault databases with the system and will have access to DSAID's reporting capabilities.

In the Spotlight: Focus on the Army



A new Army program is built around an important, potential connection: Addressing sexual harassment and sexual assault together could go a long way to create an environment

free of sexual violence. Termed the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Prevention (SHARP) Program, this effort formally integrates sexual harassment and sexual assault prevention and response. This approach reinforces the Army's commitment to achieve cultural change to eliminate incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault through awareness and prevention, training, victim advocacy, reporting, and accountability.

Throughout 2011 and 2012, the Army will continue several initiatives – and add a few more -- to train more than 17,000 command-selected unit SARC/SHARP personnel. One of the new additions is "Team Bound" which is a self-study portion of the annual SHARP training required for all Soldiers and Army civilians. Team Bound is an interactive, critical decision-making tool designed to enhance awareness of the behaviors that constitute sexual harassment and sexual assault and how to prevent them.

Team Bound demonstrates strategies for intervention and allows users to practice making decisions and taking action in a safe, virtual environment. Scenarios cover instances of sexual harassment and sexual assault, showing how inappropriate jokes and touching can foster an environment where offenders feel comfortable committing sexual violence.

"By role playing through different characters, 'Team Bound' gives Soldiers and civilians the opportunity to recognize and practice taking action to stop sexual harassment and a possible sexual assault," said Ms. Carolyn Collins, Army SHARP Program Manager. "Soldiers protect their Battle Buddies daily and must be willing and able to intervene, act, and motivate others to stop sexual assault, sexual harassment and the behaviors that create a culture leading to sexual violence. The ability to practice in the virtual world will heighten Soldier and civilian intervention skills, further motivating their willingness to take action in the real world."

Check out more details about Army SHARP at www.preventsexualassault.army.mil.

National Action Plan on "Women, Peace and Security"

In 2000, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1325, recognizing the importance women play in the prevention and resolution of conflict and in building stable and lasting peace. In war-torn areas, women and their children are often the most vulnerable populations. However, in areas where women can work and thrive, studies show they will pour 90% of their income back into the local economy, thus playing a key role in economic development.

This resolution, commonly referred to as "Women, Peace and Security," seeks to guide member nations in increasing women's participation in the peace process, protecting women from sexual and gender-based violence, and ensuring that women have equal access to relief and recovery efforts.

Member nations have committed to develop a national action plan laying out steps and timeline for their implementation efforts. The White House National Security Staff is heading up the effort for the U.S. government with input provided by the Departments of Defense and State, along with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Led by OSD Policy, the DoD-wide working group on Women, Peace, and Security is answering the tough questions of "What more can we do?" "What can we do better?" and "How or what can we share with others?" The result will be a robust list of new initiatives as well as opportunities to build on existing efforts.

"We are looking inside and outside DoD for how we can help," said Maj Gen Mary Kay Hertog. "There are efforts – like our sexual assault prevention and response programs – we are already doing which could be shared. Also, I am sure we will learn from others on how to continue to improve our programs." This effort will look to other government agencies as well as to our multilateral partners, such as NATO and the African Union.

The next step is for DoD to finalize our commitments to the National Action Plan and the DoD-specific implementation plan. Then the actual implementation begins, starting with identifying resources and staff to support this important initiative, and ensuring the plan's components are reflected throughout the documents the Department uses to lay out its path for the future.

For more information on Resolution 1325, please contact Regina Waugh, Rule of Law and Detainee Policy Office, 703-614-3051, regina.waugh@osd.mil.
