



Department of Defense
Overview of Military Service Academies
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
Programs



United States Military Academy (USMA): Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Overview

The USMA Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program continues to implement program oversight, sexual assault prevention and response training and victim care at all levels. These fundamental principles are used to address the crime of sexual assault; promote the sensitive handling of victims; offer victim assistance and counseling; hold offenders accountable; provide confidential avenues for reporting; and reinforce a commitment to Army values.

SAPR Program Overview

The USMA Sexual Assault Response Policy for the U.S. Corps of Cadets (USCC) is centered on the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and has established a number of resources for cadets. The SART is headed by the Special Assistant to the Superintendent for Human Relations (SAS-HR) for the USCC. The USMA has a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) that is responsible for ensuring that victims of sexual assault receive appropriate and responsive care and serve as the single point of contact to coordinate sexual assault victim care. A Victim Advocate (VA) program provides 24 hours a day, seven days a week access for cadets who are victims of sexual assault in garrison or in deployed or field training environments. The USMA also utilizes a Sexual Assault Advisory Board (SARB) which consists of a multi-disciplinary case management group to review individual cases, monitor victim progress, assist in the management and oversight of SAPR programs, recommends changes to policy and procedures to the strengthen the SAPR program, and ensures all parts of the USMA SAPR system are coordinated and accountable.

Prevention and Response Training

The USMA has made great efforts to develop a comprehensive SAPR training program for leadership, staff, and cadets. The training program promotes an understanding of Officership and the development of a professional self-concept within the USCC. The USCC requires periodic, mandatory education for SAPR training is required for all military Service members and civilian personnel who supervise cadets. Training content includes the definition of sexual assault, reporting options, exceptions and limitations, and crimes that violate the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The content and format for sexual assault awareness training includes the nature of sexual assaults in the military environment; the use of realistic, scenario-based situations (i.e., bystander intervention techniques, demonstrating the cycle of reporting, response and accountability procedures); and group participation and interaction. They also utilize guest lecturers such as “Sex Signals” (Blending a unique combination of improvisational comedy, education and audience participation, provides provocative, in-your-face look at issues surrounding dating, sex and acquaintance rape), and are consistent with the US Army wide prevention campaign “I AM STRONG.” For more information on the campaign visit <http://www.sexualassault.army.mil/>.

Support for Victims

Excellent resources are established at the USMA to support victims of sexual assault. The program is fully institutionalized in policy and practice. SAPR personnel have a thorough knowledge of the relevant program components and are actively engaged in the DoD SAPR Program mission. A victim-centered approach is in place that is immediate, coordinated and fully supported by USMA leadership. The USMA has focused on reducing the stigma associated with seeking mental health counseling through individual contact. This is an innovative approach to increasing service utilization. Off-base resources also exist, should cadets not feel comfortable seeking counseling within the confines of USMA.

The USMA has made progress in refining its SAPR program and continues to demonstrate its commitment to work towards a military culture free of sexual assault.



United States Naval Academy (USNA): Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Overview

The USNA Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPR) has continuously refined and improved its policies, procedures and processes designed to prevent and respond to sexual assault. The result of these efforts is an outstanding program that strives to incorporate evidence-based best practices to improve victim support, increase reporting, and hold offenders accountable through a fair judicial process. The USNA SAPR Program continues to implement program oversight, sexual assault prevention and response training, and victim care at all levels.

SAPR Program Overview

The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) supervises the SAPR Program, including coordination of victim care, case management, prevention, response and training for the USNA and the Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS). The SARC reports directly to the USNA Superintendent while simultaneously working closely with and being physically located near the USNA Commandant of Midshipmen and his staff. The USNA SAPR Program also includes a Deputy SARC; Director of Sexual Assault Education and Clinical Services; Sexual Assault Training Specialist; Legal Representative and Brigade SAVI (Sexual Assault Victim Intervention) Liaison. In addition to its full-time staff, the SAPR Program also incorporates SAVI Faculty Liaisons, Victim Advocates and SAVI Guides, all of which serve as additional points of contact for midshipmen.

Prevention and Response Training

The cornerstone of the SAPR Program's training initiatives is the Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Education (SHAPE) Program, which focuses on broadening midshipmen awareness of sexual harassment and assault. The SHAPE Program approaches the subject-matter as both a cultural and leadership issue and utilizes a small-group, discussion-based, peer-educator led format. The SHAPE Program employs a tiered approach; is explicitly aligned with the four-year USNA leadership curriculum; and reinforces established victim response protocols and supportive approaches. To ensure that the SHAPE Program is achieving its desired outcomes, the USNA has performed anonymous surveys of midshipmen to gauge their retention of training materials. In addition, the Leadership, Ethics, and Law Department recently hired a faculty member who oversees the development of an empirical evaluation of the SHAPE Program's effectiveness.

Support for Victims

Outstanding resources for victim care are available and accessible on base and exceed DoD policy. Information outlining the USNA's SAPR program and available resources (on base and off) are displayed prominently and advertised in training materials. The SAPR Program also incorporates SAVI Faculty Liaisons into its SAPR program model, who serve as additional points of contact for midshipmen. SAVI Faculty Liaisons are fully trained as victim advocates and can discuss the SAPR Program with midshipmen, staff, or faculty who seek information about reporting sexual assault. Finally, the USNA has implemented the SAVI Guide Program. SAVI Guides are midshipmen who volunteer to receive victim advocate training and to serve as a peer resource for the SAPR program and provide program information, explain reporting options, conduct training and participate in the planning and execution of USNA sexual assault awareness activities. SAVI Guides must alert USNA SAPR Program personnel when a victim makes a report.

The USNA has made progress in refining its SAPR program and continues to demonstrate its commitment for a military culture free of sexual assault.



United States Air Force Academy (USAFA): Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Overview

The USAFA SAPR Program's stated mission is to develop officers, airmen and civilians of character through victim support, prevention, education and training as well as to motivate and foster a character-based, wingman culture that promotes the Air Force's core values. The USAFA aggressively and strategically promotes a victim-centered, integrated response to reports of sexual assault, and the program benefits from command awareness, engagement, and support. The USAFA Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program has been involved in a number of efforts to implement program oversight, sexual assault prevention and response training, and victim care at all levels.

SAPR Program Overview

The USAFA SAPR Program is administered by the USAFA Vice Commandant of Cadets for Culture and Climate on behalf of the Superintendent of the USAFA. The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) responds to all allegations of sexual assault involving any USAFA personnel and ensures appropriate agencies are notified for appropriate action. SARC services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week via the sexual assault response hotline. An Academy Response Team (ART) provides immediate support to victims of sexual assault. At USAFA, the ART is divided into two tiers: Tier 1 is for immediate responders and Tier 2 is for consultation and long-term case management.

Prevention and Response Training

The USAFA administers ongoing SAPR training to all cadets and ART members based on a recurring annual training plan. The SARC assists the Commander in meeting annual training requirements, conducting newcomer and orientation briefings, and providing community education about available SAPR services.

The requirement for annual and periodic mandatory sexual assault prevention and response education and training at the USAFA is implemented through the SARC, with assistance from the Peak Performance Center. Training events are structured using a four-year, developmental plan and are delivered throughout the academic program year. The training plan describes topics to be given to each of the four cadet classes, all faculty and Commandant's staff members who interact with cadets. The training program is continually reviewed for improvements and has recently included the development of a "Cultural Change Campaign." The objective of this initiative is to create and embed a culture of respect for human dignity that does not tolerate sexual assault at USAFA.

Support for Victims

USAFA is in full compliance with DoD policy requirements and has taken clear steps to address obstacles in reporting in a manner that is consistent with optimal victim care standards. Excellent resources exist and are readily available to victims of sexual assault both on campus at USAFA and in the surrounding community. The ART is based on a civilian community best practice called the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) model. The ART clearly strengthens the support received by victims at the USAFA.

USAFA has made excellent progress in refining its SAPR program and continues to demonstrate its commitment for a military culture free of sexual assault.