

13. (ALL) How does the chain of command affect reporting of incidents of sexual assault?

DOD	<p>DOD SAPRO: Commanders and leaders create the climate in which victims choose to report. Victims tell us that they are concerned with a variety of factors in determining when to report a sexual assault crime, including protecting their privacy, obtaining care and counseling of their choice, ensuring they are protected from real or perceived professional or personal retaliation, and ensuring their complaints will be addressed with the utmost seriousness, among others. Commanders and leaders facilitate the reporting of sexual assaults by gaining victims’ confidence in our response system when they understand these issues and provide supportive climates.</p> <p>Victims have a variety of people to whom they can make reports of sexual assault. SARCs, VAs, health care professionals, law enforcement officers, and judge advocates, among others, are empowered and responsible for receiving reports of sexual assault. DoD policy clearly articulates the duties of commanders and requires their support (DoDI 6495.02):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Commander SAPR Response Procedures” (p 34, in Enc. 5): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A unit commander who receives an Unrestricted Report of a sexual assault shall immediately refer the matter to the appropriate military criminal investigative organization, to include any offense identified by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. ○ A unit commander shall not conduct internal command directed investigations on sexual assault (i.e. no referrals to appointed command investigators or inquiry officers) or delay immediately contacting the MCIOs while attempting to assess the credibility of the report.
CJCS	<p>Commanders are the cornerstone of unit mission success and discipline and are held responsible for the climate within the unit. The unit climate impacts whether or not a victim feels comfortable and confident in unrestricted reporting. Without exception, DoD policy requires commanders to forward all unrestricted sexual assault allegations to the Military Criminal Investigative Organization for independent investigation. When reports are made outside the chain of command, either in a restricted or unrestricted capacity, the commander of the victim is informed. For a restricted report, the commander does not know the details of the report or the identity of the victim, but encourages the SARC to ensure that he or she is receiving the appropriate treatment and care. If the report is unrestricted, the commanders of both the victim and the accused are informed of the allegation, and provide oversight for the investigation process and in ensuring that the interests of both the victim and the accused are upheld. A respectful command climate encourages reporting from victims—all commanders are well aware that the onus is on them to create the type of command climate that is intolerant of service members who commit these heinous acts, and reassures victims that they will be respected.</p>

Narrative responses have been consolidated by the Response Systems Panel (RSP). Please forgive formatting errors in text and data. Source documents for narrative responses can be obtained by contacting the RSP.

USA	<p>The chain of command is critical to setting the appropriate climate in which victims feel comfortable reporting assaults. In June 2013, the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Raymond Odierno, held a summit with his four star, three star, and select two star-command teams to spend two days talking only about sexual assault and making clear that his number one priority is the elimination of sexual assault in our ranks. Amid conflicts world-wide, General Odierno remains committed to this effort, not only directing multiple new initiatives including a victim advisory panel and an in-depth examination of the training and selection of Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) personnel, but by personally holding sensing sessions with Soldiers and victims on the issue of sexual assault at every installation he visits.</p> <p>This “commander focus” on all aspects of sexual assault – prevention, response and accountability – has had success that can be objectively measured and evaluated. Although the unique aspects of Army culture, the range of tools available in our system, and the scope and scale of our cumulative efforts are unmatched in any community, we can look to civilian society and to our allied forces for benchmarks in our progress. The Army compares very favorably, and has made substantial progress, in reporting and prosecution of sexual assault crimes, while protecting the rights of the accused.</p> <p>For reporting, command emphasis has generated a steady rise in the “propensity to report” calculated by the Army Research Institute Gender and Relations Survey. This Army survey, administered in 2012 to a larger population using an accepted gender survey, concludes that female Soldiers reported penetrative sexual assaults (rape, sexual assault, forcible sodomy and attempts to commit) at a rate of 54% and contact offenses (abusive sexual contact, aggravated sexual contact) at a rate of 42%. Due to our sustained efforts, this represents a dramatic increase from the 2009 survey propensity to report of 28%. The survey data is corroborated by a corresponding increase in the raw number of reports. Fiscal Year 2013 data indicates that all the Services, including the Army, will see unprecedented rises in reporting by over 40% from the 2012 rates.</p> <p>Data taken from the DMDC 2012 WGRA Survey corroborates the finding that the vast majority of service members believe that their command has set an appropriate climate for reporting. When asked about their unit leadership’s efforts to prevent sexual assault, 94% of male service members and 88% of female service members indicated that their leadership makes it clear that sexual assault has no place in the military. When asked about a climate conducive to reporting, 85% of male service members and 73% of female service members reported that their command did well to create an environment where victims would feel comfortable reporting.</p>
USAF	<p>Sexual assault allegations (rape, sexual assault, forcible sodomy and attempts thereof) may only be disposed of by someone designated as a sexual assault initial disposition authority (SA-IDA). As defined by SecDef’s 20 April 2012 SA-IDA withhold policy memorandum (Tab 12), a SA-IDA must be an O-6 and designated as a special court-martial convening authority.</p>

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	<p>Sexual assault victims may report to law enforcement, anyone in their chain of command, legal office personnel, a chaplain, a SARC, a victim advocate, or, in the Air Force, a special victims' counsel. With the exception of a SARC receiving a restricted report, any of these people receiving a report of any sexual assault (not just those covered by SecDef's SA-IDA withhold policy) must immediately refer the report to the appropriate military criminal investigative organization (MCIO).</p> <p>Once the investigation is complete, it is referred to the accused's commander and the servicing SJA, who consult to determine the commander's recommendation as to disposition of the case. The commander forwards the case to the SA-IDA with a recommendation as to disposition. As the disposition authority for sexual assault cases, the SA-IDA may act on the case or send the case back to the lower commander to take action within that commander's authority. Once the case is returned to the lower commander, he may prefer charges against the accused and forward the case to the SA-IDA with a recommendation as to disposition (i.e. referral to special court-martial, appointment of an investigating officer (IO) to conduct an Article 32 investigation). Once any Art. 32 investigation is complete, the Art. 32 IO makes his recommendation, and the SJA provides Art. 34 advice, the SA-IDA may forward the case to the General Court Martial Convening Authority (GCMCA), the first general officer in the chain of command, with recommendation that the case be referred to a general court-martial. The GCMCA, with the advice of his own SJA, then makes the decision as to whether to refer the case to GCM.</p> <p>Under a new Air Force policy signed by the Acting SecAF on 17 June 2013, regardless of the SA-IDA's disposition decision, she must inform the GCMCA within 30 days of her initial disposition decision. Additionally, once final disposition of the case is complete, the GCMCA must sign the written report of command action required for AFOSI to close out the investigation.</p>
USN	<p>In the Navy, there are two reporting options for victims of sexual assault: restricted and unrestricted. There are multiple means available for Sailors to make reports at all commands – afloat or ashore. Sexual assault reports can be made to personnel as described below inside or outside the victim's command and can be confidential, as desired by the victim.</p> <p>Restricted reports are kept confidential; an investigation is not initiated, and the command is notified that an assault has occurred with no identifying information on the victim or suspect. Victims can make restricted reports to Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs), Victim Advocates (VAs), medical personnel, or by contacting the DoD SafeHelpline (877-995-5247) or online (https://www.safehelpline.org/), 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. SARCs, VAs, and SafeHelpline personnel ensure victims understand their reporting options and available resources. Victims who make restricted reports will still receive medical treatment, including a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination, counseling services, victim advocacy support, chaplain support, and legal assistance.</p> <p>Unrestricted reports provide victims the same support services as restricted reports.</p>

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	<p>These reports are fully investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and, in the most egregious cases (involving rape, sodomy, sexual assault, and attempts thereof), are reviewed for prosecution by an O-6 or above commander with disposition authority for sexual assault cases. Victims who desire to make an unrestricted report are encouraged to report sexual assaults to a SARC or VA, medical personnel, command leadership, judge advocate, base police, master at arms, NCIS or civilian law enforcement as soon as possible after the incident. The decision to make a restricted or unrestricted report rests with the victim; a victim can make a restricted report and later change to an unrestricted report. Once a victim files an unrestricted report, investigation and reporting requirements are mandated. The Navy trained every Sailor on reporting procedures during our Sexual Assault Prevention and Response for Leaders and Fleet training. This training was completed in April 2013. The Navy also implemented policies to ensure victim safety and support following an unrestricted report of a sexual assault. For example, victims may request an expedited transfer to another command or duty station. Additionally, commanders may issue military protective orders to order a military suspect to have no contact with the victim, temporarily transfer the accused pending resolution of the case, or place the accused in pretrial confinement.</p>
USMC	<p>Commanding Officers and Senior Enlisted Advisors play critical roles in prevention and response, as they are charged with setting a climate of trust and confidence in which sexual assault will be taken seriously and victims will be treated with dignity and respect. Last year the Marine Corps saw a 31% increase in reporting (FY12 Annual Report), which speaks directly to the growing confidence Marines have in their Commanding Officers and the Marine Corps regarding this crime. This year, we have approximately an 85% increase in reporting, further demonstrating increased trust and a positive climate of dignity and respect.</p> <p>Once they are made aware of an unrestricted report, Commanders are required to release a Serious Incident Report within six hours of notification. Additionally, they are required to complete a SAPR 8-Day Brief, which is submitted to HQMC SAPR and briefed to the first General Officer in the chain of command. The 8-Day Brief serves as a victim services checklist, ensuring commanders provide all required services to victims.</p> <p>Commanding Officers and Senior Enlisted Advisors set a climate that promotes reporting by establishing conditions that are non-permissive to all misconduct. By setting a professional climate in the unit and work space, leadership puts preventative measures in place and instills trust for potential victims that leadership will not tolerate misconduct and will take complaints seriously.</p>
USCG	<p>Commanders are often in the front-lines of reacting to an allegation of sexual assault. Their ability to instill trust in the system depends on their fair, impartial, and timely reaction to reports of sexual violence and application of service policy. Overall, the chain of command doesn't evaluate reports, it takes them, ensures victims receive help/assistance, and, in accordance with policy, those reports are given to CGIS for investigation in an objective and timely fashion.</p>

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The first response and continuous obligation by unit commanders will always be ensuring the safety and security of a victim. Commanders will determine if the victim desires or needs any emergency medical care. If underway and a feasible port destination is not readily available, arrangements will be made to MEDEVAC the victim. Commanders will also determine if the victim desires or needs protection. While in port, commanders will determine whether the victim needs a military protective order or if the accused should be placed to pretrial confinement or other forms of military restraint. If the incident occurs underway, commanders have the inherent authority to restrict or confine the offender until such time as the offender can be transferred off the ship.

Like any other unrestricted report of sexual assault, unit commanders must immediately report the incident to the Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS) and the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC). It is Coast Guard policy that only CGIS may conduct a formal criminal investigation involving sexual assault allegations. Agency policy prohibits command field-level investigation into allegations of sexual assault.

While most cutters in the Coast Guard are less than a day's trip from the nearest port call, some High Endurance Cutters or Polar Icebreakers may be underway in remote localities. Because CGIS agents are not assigned to Coast Guard cutters, there may be situations where providing a CGIS agent will pose logistical challenges. The SARC, CGIS and the servicing legal office will work closely with the cutter's command to provide an agent to the cutter as quickly as possible.

In addition to addressing safety concerns and complying with CG reporting requirements, a commander is responsible for ensuring the victim understands the availability and benefits to having a Victim Advocate and facilitating the temporary or permanent reassignment to another unit or duty location. Support of the victim by the command is paramount in assisting victims in their recovery process, and is often the reason stated as to why victims report at all.

The majority of the sexual assaults reported to CGIS are reported by either the victims or the subjects (accused members) chains-of-command. By in large, CGIS has seen a willingness by commands to engage CGIS if there are incidents that are believed to fall within the UCMJ Articles 120 or 125 (rape/sexual assault, other sexual misconduct or forcible sodomy).CGIS has also seen the willingness for commands, CGIS and servicing legal offices to work together in order to properly respond to those reported attempts or completed acts of sexual assault/misconduct. If situations arise that indicate a failure of a command to act or report a sexual assault, CGIS documents that information and it, too, is provided to the servicing legal office for potential action (administrative or punitive, as necessary).

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-----Original Message-----

From: General Officer Management Office (GOMO) [<mailto:gomo@us.army.mil>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2013 3:18 PM
To: General Officer Management Office (GOMO)
Subject: CSA Sends - SHARP Top 10, dtd 3 July 2013
Importance: High

Leaders,

We recently concluded one of the most effective leader development opportunities I have seen in my career. The Army I. A.M. Strong Sexual Harassment/Assault Prevention Summit, conducted 10-11 June 2013, provided the platform for 142 Army MG Commanders and above and their Command Sergeants Major to discuss our Army's #1 priority - the prevention of Sexual Harassment and Assault. At the summit, leaders presented their intent and participated in extensive dialog. Our discussions, supported by an exceptional group of speakers, helped to increase Army leaders' awareness of the scope of the problem within our military, and provided a foundation for our way ahead for resolving this threat.

In alignment with the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Strategy, the following five imperatives will drive Army actions:

1. Prevent offenders from committing crimes, provide compassionate care for victims, and protect the rights and privacy of survivors;
2. Report every allegation and ensure it is thoroughly and professionally investigated; take appropriate action based on the investigation;
3. Create a positive climate and an environment of trust and respect in which every person can thrive and achieve their full potential;
4. Hold every individual, every unit and organization, and every Commander appropriately accountable for their behavior, actions and inactions; and
5. The chain of command must remain fully engaged - they are centrally responsible and accountable for solving the problems of sexual assault and harassment within our ranks and for restoring the trust of our Soldiers, Civilians, and Families.

During the Summit, our collective efforts yielded my SHARP Top 10 to further individuals' and leaders' understanding and guide leader actions:

1. Sexual assault and harassment represent an insider threat with the potential to cause significant, irreparable harm to our Army.
2. The Army Profession demands leaders of high competence and high character.
3. Standards and discipline are the cornerstones of a positive unit climate.

4. We must consistently enforce all policies related to sexual assault and harassment.
5. We need to clearly "see" ourselves; leaders must continually assess the command climate and environment within their units or organizations.
6. We must execute prevention policies, training initiatives, and education programs in order to get to the left of any incident.
7. The chain of command is obligated to protect and advocate for victims, beginning with an initial report and until the victim decides he or she no longer requires assistance.
8. We must thoroughly and professionally investigate each report and take appropriate action.
9. Commanders must create and maintain a positive command climate with trust and respect as the foundation.
10. The crimes of sexual assault and harassment can only be solved by a committed chain of command led by dedicated Commanders and Command Sergeants Major.

In reviewing the SHARP program, we have identified a number of metrics to keep us informed and on track. Some of these metrics are readily available, but some will require new reporting procedures. At the minimum, we identified the need to collect more detailed information on each sexual harassment and assault incident. We are working to finalize a complete list, but some of the measurements under consideration include:

- * Manning, training and credentialing of SARCs and VAs
- * Time required for approval and processing of victim requests for expedited transfer from a unit
- * Timeliness of command action following the receipt of investigation findings
- * Propensity for and frequency of restricted reporting, especially when the stated reason is fear of reprisal
- * Compliance with directed command climate surveys, including review at the next higher level

To help me further assess our progress and efforts, when I or the Vice Chief of Staff visit your formations or installations, ensure that you provide a detailed SHARP update and the option to conduct small group sensing sessions. I am interested in your progress, best practices, and the challenges you face in implementation. Additionally, we may hold a mid-year SHARP Summit in January of 2014 that will focus on the progress we are making to date and key updates.

As I communicate the Army's intent to execute these actions to the Secretary of Defense, I will also articulate that Army Commanders are on track to complete the requirements outlined in the Secretary of Defense's 17 May 2013 Stand-down Directive. Your leadership on this issue is critical and we work

to regain America's trust in our ability to successfully address this issue.

Ensure this memo is distributed and understood down to the company level of every formation.

Army Strong!

Raymond T. Odierno
General, 38th Chief of Staff
United States Army

The Strength of our Nation is our Army,
The Strength of our Army is our Soldiers, The Strength of our Soldiers is
our Families, This is what makes us Army Strong!

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SUBJ/EXPEDITED TRANSFER PROCEDURES FOR SERVICE MEMBERS WHO FILE
UNRESTRICTED REPORTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT//

REF/A/DOC/DOD/16DEC11//
REF/B/DOC/SECNAV/04APR12//
REF/C/DOC/NPC/20FEB07//
REF/D/DOC/DOD/23JAN12//

NARR/REF A IS DIRECTIVE-TYPE MEMORANDUM 11-063, EXPEDITED TRANSFER OF
MILITARY

SERVICE MEMBERS WHO FILE UNRESTRICTED REPORTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT. REF B IS
GUIDANCE FOR EXPEDITED TRANSFER OR REASSIGNMENT OF MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS
WHO FILE UNRESTRICTED REPORTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT. REF C IS MILPERSMAN 1300-
1200 CH-18, SAFETY TRANSFERS. REF D IS DODD 6495.01, SEXUAL ASSAULT
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR) PROGRAM.//

RMKS/1. THIS NAVADMIN IMPLEMENTS THE GUIDANCE AND EXPLAINS THE PROCEDURES TO
EXECUTE THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REFS A AND B. CIRCUMSTANCES MAY EXIST
THAT WARRANT THE TRANSFER OF A SERVICE MEMBER WHO MAKES AN UNRESTRICTED
REPORT

OF SEXUAL ASSAULT BUT MAY NOT OTHERWISE MEET ESTABLISHED CRITERIA FOR
EFFECTING THE IMMEDIATE TRANSFER OF SERVICE MEMBERS. THOSE SERVICE MEMBERS
MAY NOW REQUEST AN EXPEDITED TRANSFER PER REFS A AND B. REF C WILL BE
UPDATED

TO CONTAIN PROVISIONS REGARDING EXPEDITED TRANSFER AND SHALL BE THE GOVERNING
INSTRUCTION FOR PROCESSES OF EXPEDITED TRANSFER. ANY THREAT TO LIFE OR
SAFETY

OF A SERVICE MEMBER, HIS/HER DEPENDENTS, OR MILITARY SPOUSE SHOULD CONTINUE
TO
BE PROCESSED UNDER THE SAFETY
TRANSFER PROVISION OF REF C.

2. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE EXPEDITED TRANSFER POLICY, A TRANSFER OR
REASSIGNMENT INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT MOVEMENT
TO A UNIT WITHIN THE SAME COMMAND, TO A UNIT ON THE SAME INSTALLATION, OR TO
A
UNIT IN A DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION. A REQUEST FOR A PERMANENT CHANGE OF
STATION TRANSFER OUT OF THE AREA OF THE PERMANENT DUTY STATION IS TO BE
GRANTED ON AN EXCEPTIONAL BASIS. FOR RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS, THE COMMAND
SHOULD ALLOW FOR SEPARATE TRAINING ON DIFFERENT WEEKENDS OR TIMES FROM THE
ALLEGED OFFENDER OR WITH A DIFFERENT UNIT IN THE HOME DRILLING LOCATION TO
ENSURE UNDUE BURDEN IS NOT PLACED ON THE SERVICE MEMBER AND HIS OR HER FAMILY
BY THE TRANSFER.

3. PROCEDURES. PER REF D, MEMBERS WHO HAVE FILED AN UNRESTRICTED REPORT OF
SEXUAL ASSAULT MUST BE ADVISED OF THEIR OPTION TO REQUEST TRANSFER FROM THE

COMMAND TO WHICH THEY ARE ASSIGNED.

A. A REQUEST FOR AN EXPEDITED TRANSFER MUST COME FROM THE SERVICE MEMBER.

THE REQUEST MUST BE IN WRITING AND INCLUDE THE REASON(S) FOR THE REQUEST.

B. UPON RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST, AND WITHIN 72 HOURS, THE COMMANDING OFFICER (CO) MUST APPROVE OR RECOMMEND DISAPPROVAL OF AN EXPEDITED TRANSFER.

C. IN MAKING THE DECISION ON WHETHER TO RECOMMEND TRANSFER, THE CO MUST DETERMINE IF THE UNRESTRICTED REPORT IS CREDIBLE. (I.E., REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT AN OFFENSE CONSTITUTING SEXUAL ASSAULT DID OCCUR BASED ON ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE AND THE ADVICE OF THE SUPPORTING JUDGE ADVOCATE OR OTHER LEGAL ADVISOR OR COUNSEL CONCERNED.)

D. A PRESUMPTION SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN FAVOR OF TRANSFERRING A SERVICE MEMBER (WHO INITIATED THE TRANSFER REQUEST) FOLLOWING A CREDIBLE REPORT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT. THE CO SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FACTORS WHEN MAKING THE TRANSFER DECISION:

- (1) THE CREDIBLE REPORT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT;
- (2) THE SERVICE MEMBER'S WRITTEN REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OR REASSIGNMENT;
- (3) OPERATIONAL NECESSITY, INCLUDING SITUATIONAL UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS IN DEPLOYED AREAS;
- (4) THE NATURE AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE OFFENSE;
- (5) THE LOCATION OF THE ALLEGED OFFENDER;
- (6) POTENTIAL TRANSFER OR REASSIGNMENT OF THE ALLEGED OFFENDER

INSTEAD

OF THE SERVICE MEMBER;

- (7) THE ALLEGED OFFENDER'S STATUS (MILITARY OR CIVILIAN);
- (8) AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE INVESTIGATING MILITARY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE ORGANIZATION AND THE SUPPORTING JUDGE ADVOCATE OR OTHER LEGAL ADVISOR OR COUNSEL CONCERNED, THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE SERVICE MEMBER'S TRANSFER OR REASSIGNMENT ON THE INVESTIGATION AND FUTURE DISPOSITION OF THE ALLEGATION;
- (9) TRAINING STATUS OF THE SERVICE MEMBER REQUESTING THE TRANSFER OR REASSIGNMENT; AND
- (10) OTHER PERTINENT CIRCUMSTANCES OR FACTS.

4. APPROVAL. THE CO'S APPROVAL OF AN EXPEDITED TRANSFER REQUEST, ALONG WITH THEIR RECOMMENDATION AS TO WHERE THE MEMBER SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED, SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY FORWARDED TO THE NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND (NPC) POST SELECTION BOARD MATTERS (PERS-833) FOR PROCESSING AND RETAINED ON FILE FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS. NPC CAREER MANAGEMENT (PERS-4) WILL ADJUDICATE TRANSFER OF THE SERVICE MEMBER.

5. DISAPPROVAL. THE COMMANDING OFFICER MUST IMMEDIATELY FORWARD ANY RECOMMENDATION FOR DISAPPROVAL OF AN EXPEDITED TRANSFER REQUEST, AND THE REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION, IN WRITING, TO THE FIRSTFLAG OFFICER IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND, OR SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE (SES) EQUIVALENT (IF APPLICABLE).

A. A MEMBER'S REQUEST MAY ONLY BE DISAPPROVED BY THE FIRST FLAG OFFICER IN THE MEMBER'S CHAIN OF COMMAND, OR AN SES EQUIVALENT (IF APPLICABLE).

B. THE FLAG OFFICER/SES MEMBER SHALL CONSIDER:

- (1) FACTORS (1) THROUGH (10) WHICH ARE DELINEATED FOR COMMANDERS ABOVE;
- (2) THE WRITTEN RECOMMENDATION FROM THE COMMANDER DISAPPROVING OF THE REQUEST; AND

(3) ANY OTHER PERTINENT CIRCUMSTANCE(S) FROM THE FLAG OFFICER COMMAND PERSPECTIVE.

C. THE FLAG OFFICER/SES LEVEL DECISION MUST BE MADE WITHIN 72 HOURS OF RECEIPT OF THE COMMAND-LEVEL DISAPPROVAL RECOMMENDATION.

D. FLAG OFFICER/SES LEVEL APPROVED EXPEDITED TRANSFER REQUESTS SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY FORWARDED TO NPC PERS-833 FOR PROCESSING AND RETAINED ON FILE FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS.

E. FLAG OFFICER/SES LEVEL DISAPPROVED EXPEDITED TRANSFER REQUESTS SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY FORWARDED TO NPC PERS-833 AND RETAINED ON FILE FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS.

6. IF AT ANY TIME THE REQUESTING SERVICE MEMBER ELECTS NOT TO PROCEED WITH AN EXPEDITED TRANSFER REQUEST, HE OR SHE SHALL FORMALLY WITHDRAW THE REQUEST IN WRITING TO THE CO.

7. THESE PROCEDURES ARE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNLESS SUPERSEDED BY REVISIONS TO OPNAVINST 1752.1B AND THE MILPERSMAN. AMPLIFYING INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN MILPERSMAN ARTICLE 1300-1200.

8. SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE IS A KEY COMPONENT OF THE READINESS FOCUS AREA OF SECNAV'S 21ST CENTURY SAILOR AND MARINE INITIATIVE, WHICH IS DESIGNED TO MAXIMIZE SAILOR AND MARINE PERSONAL READINESS, MAINTAIN THE RESILIENCY OF THE FORCE, AND TO HONE THE MOST COMBAT EFFECTIVE FORCE.

9. POINT OF CONTACT: PERS-833 AT COMM (901) 874-4412 OR DSN 882-4438.

10. RELEASED BY VICE ADMIRAL S. R. VAN BUSKIRK, N1.//

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