

**Question #8:** (ALL) Please describe your Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA) program, including:

**Answer:**

Policy and procedures for SAPR Victim Advocate (civilian or uniformed) are outlined in DoD Directive 6495.01 and Instruction 6495.02.

- Per DoDD 6495.01, the SAPR Victim Advocate (civilian or uniformed) is a person who, as a victim advocate, shall provide non-clinical crisis intervention, referral, and ongoing non-clinical support to adult sexual assault victims. Support will include providing information on available options and resources to victims. The SAPR VA, on behalf of the sexual assault victim, provides liaison assistance with other organizations and agencies on victim care matters and reports directly to the SARC when performing victim advocacy duties. Personnel who are interested in serving as a SAPR VA are encouraged to volunteer for this duty assignment.
- Per *DoDI 6495.02 SAPR Program Procedures*, on page 49, Enc. 6, the SAPR VA shall:
  - Comply with DoD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification requirements.
  - Be trained in and understand the confidentiality requirements of Restricted Reporting and MRE 514. Training must include exceptions to Restricted Reporting and MRE 514.
  - Facilitate care and provide referrals and non-clinical support to adult victims of sexual assault. Support will include providing information on available options and resources so the victim can make informed decisions about his/her case. The SAPR VA will be directly accountable to the SARC in adult sexual assault cases (not under the FAP jurisdiction) and shall provide victim advocacy for adult victims of sexual assault.
  - Acknowledge their understanding of their advocacy roles and responsibilities using DD Form 2909, *Victim Advocate and Supervisor Statements of Understanding*.
  - Report directly to the SARC while carrying out sexual assault advocacy responsibilities.
- Questions 8(a), (b), and (d) thru (i) are specific to the Military Services and National Guard Bureau SAPR program policies.

**Question #8(c):** Training (curriculum, duration, certification, and continuing education);

**Answer:**

Training standards are outlined in DoD Instruction 6495.02 (pp66-70, Enc. 10). Minimum training standards for SAPR Victim Advocates include, but are not limited to:

- The range of victim responses to sexual assault;
- Deployment issues, including remote location assistance;
- Possible outcomes of investigations of sexual assault;
- Possible flow of a sexual assault investigation;
- Safety and self care;
- Scenario-based and interactive training;
- Restricted and Unrestricted Reporting options as well as MRE 514;

- Critical advocacy skills;
- Basic interpersonal and assessment skills;
- Appropriate relationship and rapport building;
- Sensitivity training to prevent re-victimization;
- Crisis intervention;
- Roles and limitations, to include: command relationship, rights and responsibilities of SAPR VAs, reporting to the SARC, and recognizing personal biases and issues;
- Document retention in Restricted and Unrestricted cases;
- Expedited transfer and MPO/CPO procedures;
- Record keeping rules for protected disclosures relating to a sexual assault;
- A discussion of ethical issues when working with sexual assault victims as a victim advocate;
- A discussion of individual versus system advocacy;
- A review of the military justice process and adverse administrative actions;
- Overview of criminal investigative process and military judicial requirements;
- A review of the issues in victimology;
- Health consequences such as mental and physical health;
- Victims' rights and the victim's role in holding offenders appropriately accountable and limitations on offender accountability when the victim elects Restricted Reporting;
- Healthcare management ;
- Identification of safety issues and their immediate report to the SARC or law enforcement, as appropriate;
- Identification of reprisal and retaliation actions against the victim;
- An explanation of the roles and responsibilities of the VWAP and DD Form 2701.

The Department in coordination with the Services developed consistent SAPR training standards that include core competencies and learning objectives (see attached for a complete listing of core competencies and learning objectives).

- Per USD (P&R) memo dated September 9, 2013, enhancements to SAPR training for SAPR VAs will be implemented across DoD for FY 2014.
- These enhancements include overarching core competencies which are relevant across the spectrum of SAPR prevention, training and education, and response to sexual assault. They include successfully applying the SAPR program to aid victims of sexual assault, demonstrating awareness of the impact of sexual assault, communicating effectively, and upholding the highest of ethical standards.

Certification standards are outlined in the Defense Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP)

- D-SAACP is a certification program which professionalizes the victim advocacy roles in alignment with national certification standards.
- D-SAACP standardizes the requirements for SAPR VAs across the Services. After October 1, 2013, all SAPR VAs must be certified under this program.
- Applications consist of two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from the

SARC's Commanding Officer -- which must include a completed National Agency Check; the SARC/SAPR VA Code of Ethics; and a certificate of completion of 40 hours of victim advocacy training.

- SAPR VAs must also obtain 32 hours of additional training and re-certify every two years.
- The National Organization for Victim Assistance administers the D-SAACP through a contract with the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

**Question #9:** (ALL) Please describe your (civilian) Victim Advocate program, including:

**Answer:**

Per DoD policy, there is no distinction in training or certification for a uniformed or government civilian SAPR VA and considerations relevant to questions 8 and 8(c). Questions 9(a), (b), and (d) thru (i) are specific to the Military Services and National Guard Bureau SAPR program policies.

**Question #10:** (ALL) Please describe your Uniformed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator program, including:

**Answer:**

Policy and procedures for SARCs (civilian or uniformed) are outlined in DoD Directive 6495.01 and Instruction 6495.02.

- Per DoDD 6495.01, the SARC (civilian or uniformed) is a person who, as a victim advocate, shall provide non-clinical crisis intervention, referral, and ongoing non-clinical support to adult sexual assault victims. Support will include providing information on available options and resources to victims. The SARC, on behalf of the sexual assault victim, provides liaison assistance with other organizations and agencies on victim care matters and reports directly to the SARC when performing victim advocacy duties. Personnel who are interested in serving as a SARC are encouraged to volunteer for this duty assignment.
- Per *DoDI 6495.02 SAPR Program Procedures* (p49, Enc. 6), the SARC shall:
  - Comply with DoD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification requirements.
  - Be trained in and understand the confidentiality requirements of Restricted Reporting and MRE 514. Training must include exceptions to Restricted Reporting and MRE 514.
  - Facilitate care and provide referrals and non-clinical support to adult victims of sexual assault. Support will include providing information on available options and resources so the victim can make informed decisions about his/her case. The SAPR VA will be directly accountable to the SARC in adult sexual assault cases (not under the FAP jurisdiction) and shall provide victim advocacy for adult victims of sexual assault.
  - Acknowledge understanding of their advocacy roles and responsibilities using DD Form 2909, *Victim Advocate and Supervisor Statements of Understanding*.
- Questions 10 (a), (b), and (d) thru (i) are specific to the Military Services and National Guard Bureau SAPR program policies.

**Question #10 (c): Training (curriculum, duration, certification, and continuing education);**

**Answer:**

Training standards are outlined in DoD Instruction 6495.02. Minimum training standards for SARCs includes (pp 66-69, Enc. 10):

- The range of victim responses to sexual assault;
- Deployment issues, including remote location assistance;
- Possible outcomes of investigations of sexual assault;
- Possible flow of a sexual assault investigation;
- Safety and self care;
- Scenario-based and interactive training;
- Restricted and Unrestricted Reporting options as well as MRE 514;
- Critical advocacy skills;
- Basic interpersonal and assessment skills;
- Appropriate relationship and rapport building;
- Sensitivity training to prevent re-victimization;
- Crisis intervention;
- Roles and limitations, to include: command relationship, rights and responsibilities of SARCs, reporting to the SARC, and recognizing personal biases and issues;
- Document retention in Restricted and Unrestricted cases;
- Expedited transfer and MPO/CPO procedures;
- Record keeping rules for protected disclosures relating to a sexual assault
- A discussion of ethical issues when working with sexual assault victims as a victim advocate;
- A discussion of individual versus system advocacy;
- A review of the military justice process and adverse administrative actions;
- Overview of criminal investigative process and military judicial requirements;
- A review of the issues in victimology;
- Health consequences such as mental and physical health
- Victims' rights and the victim's role in holding offenders appropriately accountable and limitations on offender accountability when the victim elects Restricted Reporting;
- Healthcare management;
- Identification of safety issues and their immediate report to the SARC or law enforcement, as appropriate;
- Identification of reprisal and retaliation actions against the victim;
- An explanation of the roles and responsibilities of the VWAP and DD Form 2701.

The Department in coordination with the Services developed consistent SAPR training standards that include core competencies and learning objectives.

- Per USD (P&R) memo dated September 9, 2013, all enhancements to SAPR training for SARCs will be implemented across DoD for FY 2014.
- These enhancements include overarching core competencies which are relevant across the spectrum of SAPR prevention, training and education, and response to sexual

assault. They include successfully applying the SAPR program to aid victims of sexual assault, demonstrating awareness of the impact of sexual assault, communicating effectively, and upholding the highest of ethical standards.

- Certification standards are outlined in the Defense Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP)
  - D-SAACP is a certification program which professionalizes the victim advocacy roles in alignment with national certification standards.
  - D-SAACP standardizes the requirements for SARCs across the Services. After October 1, 2013, all SARCs must be certified.
  - Applications consist of two letters of recommendation, the SARC/SAPR VA Code of Ethics, and a certificate of completion of 40 hours of victim advocacy training.
  - SARCs must also obtain 32 hours of additional training and re-certify every two years.
- The National Organization for Victim Assistance administers the D-SAACP through a contract with the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

**Question #11:** (ALL) Please describe your civilian Sexual Assault Response Coordinator program, including:

**Answer:**

Per DoD policy, there is no distinction in training or certification for a uniformed or government civilian SARC and considerations relevant to questions 10 and 10(c). Questions 10 (a), (b), and (d) thru (i) are specific to the Military Services and National Guard Bureau.