

**Fort Belvoir
Army Sexual Assault
Prevention and Response Program**

This program applies to current active duty Soldiers only.

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator:
Phone 1: 703-805-4718
Phone 2: 703-740-6016
24/7 HOTLINE: 703-740-7029

Domestic Violence:
Phone 1: 703-805-1832
24/7 Crisis HOTLINE: 703-229-2374

Chaplain:
Phone 1: 703-805-2742
Phone 2: 703-805-2741
After Duty: 703-805-4002

Judge advocate General:
Phone 1: 703-805-2856
Phone2: 703-805-4411

Hospital, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital:
Ambulance Emergency (Off post) 911
Ambulance Emergency (On post) 703-781-1800
Emergency Room 571-231-3162

Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Hotline (703) 740-7029

ARMY SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM

Sexual Assault is Incompatible with Army Values and the Warrior Ethos. Sexual assault can reduce the strength of your entire unit. You have a responsibility as a soldier to work to prevent sexual assault from occurring in your unit.

Policy and Regulations

[Chapter 8, AR 600-20 \(Revised Final Draft - 7 July 2005\)](#)

[MEDCOM Regulation AR 40-36- Medical Facility Management of Sexual Assault \(Dec 2004\)](#)

[Regulation 27-10 - Rights of Crime Victims](#)

[Interim Guidance-Army Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program \(12 NOV 04\)](#)

Helpful Links:

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[What are the myths associated with sexual assault?](#)

[Sexual Assault Awareness Info Sheet](#)

[Sexual Assault Prevention Response Guidance for Leaders](#)

[Army Sexual Assault Prevention Response Program - Help, Resources and Information](#)

[Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Unit Victim Advocate \(UVA\) Training Schedule](#)

What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is a crime. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes:

Rape - Sexual intercourse by force and without consent.

Nonconsensual Sodomy - Oral or anal sex by force and without consent.

Indecent Assault - Unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact or fondling.

Carnal Knowledge - Sexual intercourse with a child under the age 16.

Attempts to commit these acts

Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender or spousal relationship or age of victim.

"Consent" shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance.

Consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious. Other sex-related offenses are defined as all other sexual acts or acts in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice that do not meet the above definition of sexual assault, or the definition of sexual harassment as promulgated in DoD Directive 1350.2, Department of Defense Military Equal Opportunity. Examples of other sex-related offenses could include indecent acts with another and adultery. For the specific articles of sexual assault offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), see the Manual for Courts-Martial (MCM).

What is the difference between sexual assault and sexual harassment?

Sexual assault and sexual harassment are not the same, although they are related to each other.

Sexual harassment is a form of gender discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances,

requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. For more information on sexual harassment, see Army Regulation 600-20.

There are two types of sexual harassment:

Quid Pro Quo sexual harassment refers to conditions placed on a person's career or terms of employment in return for sexual favors. It involves threats of adverse actions if the victim does not submit or promises of favorable actions if the person does submit.

Hostile Environment sexual harassment occurs when a person is subjected to offensive, unwanted, and unsolicited comments and behavior of a sexual nature that interferes with that person's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Sexual assault refers specifically to rape, forcible sodomy, indecent assault, or carnal knowledge as defined by the UCMJ.

Sexual assault must involve physical contact. While sexual harassment can involve physical contact, it can also refer to verbal or other forms of gender discrimination of a sexual nature. Sexual assault is a crime punishable by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Neither sexual assault nor sexual harassment has a place in our Army.

Sexual assault and sexual harassment can victimize males as well as females and can occur at any time.

Both sexual assault and sexual harassment detract from a positive unit climate and can have detrimental effects on individual growth and teamwork. Teamwork is vital to combat readiness.

Both sexual assault and sexual harassment are incompatible with Army Values.

Both sexual assault and sexual harassment are incompatible with the Warrior Ethos.

What is the Army's policy on sexual assault?

The Army policy on sexual assault is as follows:

Sexual assault is a criminal offense that has no place in the Army. It degrades mission readiness by devastating the Army's ability to work effectively as a team.

Sexual assault is incompatible with Army Values and the Warrior Ethos and is punishable under the Uniform Codes of Military Justice (UCMJ) and other federal and local civilian laws.

The Army will use training, education, and awareness to:

Prevent sexual assault

Promote the sensitive handling of victims of sexual assault

Offer confidential counseling

Hold those who commit sexual assault offenses accountable Reinforce a commitment to Army Values

The Army will treat all victims of sexual assault with dignity, fairness, and respect

The Army will treat every sexual assault incident seriously, thoroughly investigate the incident, and hold those who commit offenses accountable.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is sexual assault?

Sexual Assault is a crime. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Consent should not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Additionally, consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious. Sexual assault includes rape, nonconsensual sodomy (oral or anal sex), indecent assault (e.g., unwanted and inappropriate sexual contact or fondling), or attempts to commits these acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, spousal relationship, or age of victim.* Other sex-related offenses are defined as all other sexual acts or acts in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) that do not meet the above definition of sexual assault, or the definition of sexual harassment as promulgated in DoD Directive 1350.2, Department of Defense Military Equal Opportunity, para E2.1.15. For the specific articles of sexual assault offenses under the UCMJ, see the Manual for Courts-Martial (MCM). (*Reference- the DoD definition for sexual assault and other sex-related offenses for all training and education purposes).

2. What is the difference between sexual assault and sexual harassment?

Sexual assault is defined above in question 1. Sexual harassment differs in that it is a form of gender discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. There are two types of sexual harassment:

Quid Pro Quo sexual harassment refers to conditions placed on a person's career or terms of employment in return for sexual favors. It involves threats of adverse actions if the victim does not submit or promises of favorable actions if the person does submit.

Hostile Environment sexual harassment occurs when a person is subjected to offensive, unwanted, and unsolicited comments and behavior of a sexual nature that interferes with that person's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

As an example, an unsolicited backrub is a form of physical conduct of a sexual nature and can be considered sexual harassment. Once the individual is told to stop but continues the behavior, it may become indecent assault (a form of sexual assault). However, it would only be sexual assault if unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact or fondling is associated with the unsolicited backrub. For more information on sexual harassment, see Army Regulation 600-20, Chapter 7.

3. If I am sexually assaulted, what should I do?

First, get to a safe place. If you are in need of urgent medical attention, call 911. If you are not injured, you still need medical assistance to protect your health. The medical treatment facility (MTF) offers you a safe and caring environment. To protect evidence, it is important that you do not shower, brush your teeth, put on make-up, eat, drink, or change your clothes until advised to do so. You or the MTF may report the crime to law enforcement, criminal investigation agencies, or to your chain of command. If you feel uncomfortable reporting the crime, consider calling a confidential counseling resource available to you. Here you may discuss your concerns and questions regarding the assault and the reporting process. (See the list of resources in Item #8 of this document).

4. Where are victims of sexual assault referred?

Victims of sexual assault should be referred to a MTF as soon as possible and encouraged to contact Army law enforcement (MPs or CID). A list of resources may be found in item # 8 of this document.

5. Can a person who has been sexually assaulted a year ago still report it?

Sexual assault can be reported at any time. Once CID or medical is notified of a sexual assault, the procedures are the same regardless of the amount of time since the assault. Soldiers should be encouraged to come forward as soon as possible, so that all possible evidence is collected and preserved before it is lost, destroyed or altered. Early reporting also provides the best opportunity to gather testimony from possible witnesses before their memories fade or they move to other locations. Delayed reporting makes it more difficult to investigate the incident and reduces the ability to prosecute the case. However, victims are strongly encouraged to report crimes, no matter how long after an assault occurred, and CID agents will do their best to investigate the incident and provide a factual and actionable report to the appropriate judicial authority. Even late reporting can impact other investigations and may assist in identifying and prosecuting a criminal.

6. What resources are available to care for victims of sexual assault?

Military One Source offers real help, anytime, anywhere. A master's level consultant will speak to victims who are eligible for this service at no charge, 24/7/365. CONUS call 1.800.655.4545, internationally toll free at 800.3429.6477 or internationally dialed collect at 484.530.5947. Other resources are the local Medical Treatment Facility; Military Police/Criminal Investigation Division; your commander, supervisor, or First Sergeant; the chaplain, social services, family advocacy, and legal services. Military One Source, Army psychiatric counselors, and chaplains are confidential counseling channels.

7. When recovering from a sexual assault, what may a victim expect?

Every person reacts differently to sexual assault. There are five stages of recovery, which most victims will experience to some degree. It is not unusual for different people to experience the stages in different orders or even to repeat stages several times. These stages are:

Stage 1: Initial Shock - Shock following an assault can take on many forms. Victims may experience emotional as well as physical shock, which in turn could be expressed as very controlled, and/or withdrawn, or, highly expressive, including crying, screaming or shaking. Victims may or may not feel comfortable communicating these feelings to others.

Stage 2: Denial - This stage may find victims attempting to go on with a normal routine and wanting to forget about the assault. This denial or rationalization of what happened is an attempt to deal with inner turmoil.

Stage 3: Reactivation - This stage involves a re-experiencing of the feelings from Stage 1, usually brought on by the triggering of memories of the assault. Feelings of depression, anxiety and shame increase. Other symptoms can include nightmares, flashbacks, and a sense of vulnerability, mistrust and physical complaints.

Stage 4: Anger - Victims may experience feelings of anger - often toward themselves, friends, significant others, society, the legal system, all men/women, etc. Sometimes through counseling, this anger can be dispelled.

Stage 5: Integration (Closure) - As victims integrate the thoughts and feelings stemming from the assault into their life experience victims will begin to feel "back on track." As a result of support, education and the passage of time, victims may feel strengthened.

8. Are there resources available on sexual assault?

Yes, visit <http://www.sexualassault.army.mil> for available resources.

9. Can men be sexually assaulted?

Yes, men may be victims of forcible sodomy or indecent assault. Therefore, all resources for sexual assault are available, regardless of gender.

10. How should I respond if a man tells me he has been assaulted?

The response is the same for any victim, regardless of gender. Reference the information in item 3 and follow the guidance listed.

11. What legal representation and/or assistance does a Soldier have when he or she is sexually assaulted?

A Soldier victim will be assigned a Victim Witness Liaison (VWL) who will explain the rights of victims and will keep the Soldier informed of all of the steps in the legal proceedings involving his/her case. However, victims of sexual assault are not represented by a criminal, military attorney. A military attorney can answer questions about the legal process and related proceedings but will not represent the victim. See AR 27-10, Military Justice, chapter 18 for more details on victim's rights and the role of the VWL. A victim may also seek legal advice from a military or civilian attorney at their installation legal assistance office.

12. What happens when sexual assault occurs across the services?

When sexual assault occurs across Services, CID works together with their counterparts in the US Air Force Office of Special Investigations and/or the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. There is often a joint investigation with each Service's criminal investigation agency conducting complimentary investigative tasks to prepare a complete final report that can be provided to the appropriate Service's action commander and corresponding Staff Judge Advocate (lawyer).

13. What happens when a soldier is sexually assaulted by someone outside the military (civilians) or by someone from another country (military or civilian)?

CID will be involved in sexual assault cases that involve an Army victim or that affect the Army. Typically, CID conducts joint investigations with civilian police authorities (US or foreign) or with foreign military law enforcement agencies in these types of cases. Each investigative agency conducts complimentary investigative tasks to prepare a complete final report that can be provided to the appropriate judicial authority (military or civilian). CID routinely conducts many joint investigations with civilian and other military law enforcement agencies on a variety of felony crimes. Joint investigations are a normal business practice within the criminal investigative field.

14. As a soldier, what are my obligations to report a sexual assault if I am aware of it as a third party?

Anytime there is knowledge of a crime, or a crime to be committed in the future, the individual should report it to the MP, CID, or the chain of command.

15. Will military sex offenders be registered in state and federal authorities?

Yes, all military sex offenders must register with the state sex offender register and the installation provost marshal as required by federal and state statutes.

What are the myths associated with sexual assault?

Myth: Strangers commit most sexual assaults.

Fact: Victims usually know their assailant. In nearly 70 percent of sexual assaults on women, the assailant was someone the victim knew i.e., a coworker, boyfriend, neighbor, family member, and friend.

Myth: Rape is about sexual desire.

Fact: Sex has little to do with it. Sex becomes the weapon, the vehicle to accomplish the desired end result, which is to overwhelm, overpower, embarrass, and humiliate another person. Also, looking at typical victims shows clearly that this crime is not about sex: Children and the elderly are at high risk of being raped because of their vulnerability. An attacker can easily overpower these victims.

Myth: Rapist are psychotic or sick men.

Fact: Less than 5% of convicted rapist are clinically diagnosed as psychotic. The media presents these cases to the public because of the bizarre nature of the rapes, but the rapist can be anyone.

Myth: Men cannot be sexually assaulted.

Fact: Men can be sexually assaulted, and they are often assaulted by heterosexual males. Male rape occurs in the public sector, and in the Army, not just in jail. It is very rarely reported. Male sexual assaults often happen when the victim is a child. 5% of all sexual assault victims are men.

Myth: Rape is rare and will never happen to me.

Fact: A rape occurs every 6 minutes. The FBI estimates that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. Most rapes are not even reported. 20% of women across America have been sexually assaulted. According to a recent study, up to 28% of military females are sexually assaulted during their military career.

Sexual Assault Awareness Information Sheet

Awareness

What is Sexual Assault?

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There are two types of sexual harassment:

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- The Army will use training, education, and awareness to -

- o Prevent sexual assault

- o Promote the sensitive handling of victims of sexual assault

- o Offer confidential counseling

- o Hold those who commit sexual assault offenses accountable Reinforce a commitment to Army Values

- The Army will treat all victims of sexual assault with dignity, fairness, and respect

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Sexual Assault is Incompatible with Army Values and the Warrior Ethos

Sexual assault can reduce the strength of your entire unit. You have a responsibility as a Soldier to work to prevent sexual assault from occurring in your unit.

**For more information, please contact the Fort Belvoir Sexual Assault Response Coordinator & Victim Advocacy Program,
Office: 703-805-1832
DSN: 655-1832
Afterhours: 703-229-2374
24 hours daily, 7 days per week
Help is only a phone call away.....**

Prevention

How can I reduce my risk of being sexually assaulted?

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), someone is sexually assaulted in the United States every two minutes (RAINN calculation based on USDOJ NCVS data). By being **prepared, alert and assertive**, you can reduce your risk of being sexually assaulted.



Be Assertive

- Being assertive means that you **state what you want**.
- Remember: **"No" means "No."** If you do not want to be intimate with another person, tell him or her clearly. Use a confident voice and body posture.

Be Prepared

- **Travel with a buddy.**
- Stay in groups, as there is safety in numbers.
- Plan your outings and avoid getting into a bad situation.
- Stay sober. Studies indicate that about half of all U.S. sexual assaults involve the use of alcohol by the offender, the victim, or both.
- Never leave a drink unattended. Educate yourself about date rape drugs.
- Walk only in lighted areas after dark.
- Keep the doors to homes, barracks, and cars locked.
- Know where the phone is located.
- Don't go anywhere alone with someone unless you know the person very well and trust him or her.

Be Alert

- Match your body language to your words - don't laugh and smile while saying "No."
- Do not just "go along" for the wrong reasons.
- Watch out for warning signs or **"red flags"** from your partner in intimate situations.
- **Trust your instincts**; if a place or person feels unsafe, it probably is.
- Watch for signs of trouble such as strangers in private areas or persons loitering in places where they shouldn't be.

- If you sense trouble, **get to a safe place** as soon as possible.
- If you feel you are in danger, **attract help any way you can**.
- Don't dress in view of a window.
- According to **The Acting Secretary of the Army's Task Force Report on Sexual Assault Policies**, from 1999 to 2004, 67% of the sexual assaults involving Army personnel occurred on post. **Report any unauthorized or suspicious males or females in the barracks.**

Reducing your risk in a deployed environment

Be especially prepared and alert in deployed environments. Deployed environments can present special risks for Army personnel:

- Sleeping areas (tents, bunkers, and other buildings) may be less secure in a deployed environment. Report any unauthorized males or females in sleeping areas
- Many non-Army personnel are present in deployed unit and working areas
- Be alert and aware of your surroundings. Deployed environments may have different lighting conditions and facilities than those in garrison.
- Different cultures may treat females differently than they are treated in the U.S. Be assertive and clearly state if you feel uncomfortable with how someone is treating you. To reduce your risk in a deployed environment, **travel with a buddy.**

What is acquaintance or "date" rape?

"Acquaintance rape," which includes date rape, refers to those rapes that occur between people that know one another. "Date rape" refers to situations in which one person has consented to go on a date with another person and that person then rapes him or her. According to RAINN, about two-thirds of sexual assault victims in the United States knew their assailants. According to the Sexual Assault Risk Reduction Curriculum, produced by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and the City of San Diego, to reduce your risk of acquaintance or date rape:

- **Set sexual limits.** Stop or slow down before you get to your sexual limit. It is your body and no one has the right to force, harass, or coerce you into doing anything that you don't want to do.
- **Trust your instincts.** If you feel you are being forced into unwanted sex, you probably are.
- Decide before you are alone with someone what your sexual limits with the person are.
- Don't do anything that you don't want to do just to avoid disagreement, unpleasantness, or embarrassment.
- **Practice being assertive:** state what you want. Use a confident voice and body posture. Look directly at him or her and say "No" in a firm, serious voice. Match your body language to your words - don't laugh and smile while saying "No."
- Avoid alcohol and drugs. Your best defense is having a clear mind.
- Always have extra money to get home. Have a plan for someone you can call if you need help.
- If you feel uncomfortable, scared, or pressured, act quickly to end the situation. Say, "Stop it" and leave or call for help.
- Remember that **you have the right to say "No"** even if you:
 - o Say yes, but change your mind
 - o Have been kissing or "making out"
 - o Have had sex with this partner before
 - o Have been drinking alcohol
 - o Are wearing provocative clothing

Remember: these tips can help reduce your risk of sexual assault, but they will never completely eliminate the risk.

If you say "No" and still feel threatened, leave immediately or call for help.

If you are sexually assaulted, it's not your fault. **Sexual assault is a crime**, and nothing you do, or do not do, makes you responsible for the crime.



Look for "red flags"



The Sexual Assault Risk Reduction Curriculum emphasizes looking for "red flags" when you are in intimate situations. **Red flags** are things that are said or done that may make you feel like the person you are with is not safe. Trusting your instincts can mean paying attention to these red flags.



Red Flags to Watch Out For



You should be especially alert if the person you are with:

- Ignores, interrupts, or makes fun of you
- Sits or stands too close to you or stares at you
- Has a reputation for being a "player"
- Drinks too much or uses drugs; tries to get you to use drugs or alcohol
- Tries to touch or kiss you or gets into your "personal space" when you barely know him or her
- Wants to be alone with you before getting to know you, or pressures you to be alone together
- Does what he or she wants without asking what you want
- Gets angry or sulks if he or she doesn't get what he or she wants
- Pressures you to have sex, or tries to make you feel guilty for saying "no."

Be aware of "date rape drugs" and how they are used

The Department of Health and Human Services' National Women's Health Center offers the following information about date rape drugs:

- There are at least three date rape drugs:
 - o GHB (gamma hydroxybutyric acid). GHB has a few forms: a liquid with no odor or color, a white powder, and a pill
 - o Rohypnol (flunitrazepam). Rohypnol is a pill and dissolves in liquid.
 - o Ketamine (ketamine hydrochloride). Ketamine is a white powder.
 - Date rape drugs are meant to **leave the victim helpless** to stop a sexual assault. Victims may be physically helpless, unable to refuse sex, and unable to remember what happened.
 - The drugs often have no color, smell, or taste and are easily added to flavored drinks without the victim's knowledge
 - **Alcohol can worsen the drug's effects**
 - How can I protect myself from being a victim of a date rape drug?
 - o Don't accept drinks from other people, except trusted friends.
 - o Open containers yourself.
 - o Keep your drink with you at all times, even when you go to the bathroom.
 - o Don't share drinks.
 - o Don't drink from punch bowls or other large, common, open containers. They may already have drugs in them.
 - o Don't drink anything that tastes or smells strange. Sometimes, GHB tastes salty.
 - o Have a non-drinking friend with you to make sure nothing happens.
- Remember that alcohol can also be used by offenders to incapacitate a potential victim. Alcohol is also relatively easy for an offender to obtain. Stay alert and aware of your surroundings.

How can I reduce my risk of becoming a sexual assault offender?

Sexual assault involves two or more people. To reduce your risk of being accused of sexual assault:

- Remember: **sexual assault is a crime**. You will be held responsible for your actions.
- Ensure that your partner consents to sexual activity. You must have consent from your partner before you can legally engage in sexual activity. If someone is passed out, unconscious, or asleep from alcohol, drugs, or fatigue, **they are legally unable to give their consent**.
- Ensure a potential partner is of legal age...ignorance is no excuse. The "age of consent", or the age at which someone can legally give consent for sexual activity, varies by state. It is as high as 18 years of age in some states.
- Communicate your expectations to a potential partner. Misunderstandings and lack of communication,

especially between people who don't know each other very well, can lead to dangerous and career-threatening situations.

- Avoid using drugs or excessive alcohol. People under the influence of alcohol or drugs often have different memories of how an event occurs.

- Remember that **No means No** even if the other person:

- o Says yes, but changes his or her mind
- o Has been kissing you or "making out" with you
- o Has had sex with you before
- o Has been drinking alcohol
- o Wears provocative clothing.

If you're not sure how your partner feels about your actions, ask the question!

Remember: No means No

What can I do to help prevent others from being sexually assaulted?

Dr. David Lisak, a professor of psychology at the University of Massachusetts Boston and director of the Men's Sexual Trauma Research Project, has conducted extensive **research** on men who commit sexual assaults. His research has shown that most sexual assaults are committed by a small number of men who commit multiple offenses against victims with whom they have some degree of acquaintance. As an Army soldier, you should report immediately any activity that indicates a sexual assault may take place or has taken place.

Report any of the following activities immediately to your commander, Military Police, or another authority:

- Someone planning to commit a sexual assault
- Conversations with others about getting another person drunk or stoned to make them less inhibited or easier to force into sexual relations
- Someone describing or bragging about a situation in which they physically forced another person into sex
- Conversations where someone brags that their partner didn't want to have sex but they did so anyway
- Evidence or conversation about the use of date rape drugs.

Remember: The safety of your fellow soldiers, your unit, and your community may depend on your reporting of these incidents. You should report any suspicious behavior immediately.

Guidance for Leaders

[Interim Guidance-Army Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program \(12 NOV 04\)- ALARACT.doc](#)

As an Army leader, what can I do to help prevent sexual assault in my unit?

Commanders have a responsibility to establish a command climate where safety is promoted, where soldiers and Army civilian employees are educated on sexual assault risk reduction techniques, and where soldiers and Army civilians feel free to report incidents.

Sexual assault is a unit readiness and safety risk

Sexual assault is a crime that is incompatible with Army Values and the Warrior Ethos. Sexual assault directly and negatively impacts readiness across the force. Take the following actions to help reduce the risk of sexual assault in your unit:

- **Educate and train your unit on sexual assault prevention**

- o Educate soldiers and Army civilian employees about the definition of sexual assault, the Army policy regarding sexual assault, and prevention measures they can take to reduce their risk of sexual assault.
- o Conduct **Considerations of Others training** in your unit to increase the unit's understanding of the risks of sexual assault and the steps they can take to reduce the risk.
- o Conduct unit refresher training on sexual assault prevention in your unit. Soldiers will receive sexual assault prevention training in Initial Entry Training.
- o Consider the risk of sexual assault and conduct unit safety briefs during high-risk periods such as holidays and deployments.

- **Monitor the command climate to ensure that it is supportive of victims**

- o Ensure that soldiers and Army civilian employees feel comfortable in reporting sexual assault to the chain of command. You can do this by communicating your intention to protect and treat victims of sexual assault and by making it clear that you will follow Army policy in fully investigating all incidents of sexual assault.
- o Communicate to soldiers and Army civilian employees that you and your chain of command will provide caring assistance to victims of sexual assault.
- o Make sure soldiers and Army civilian employees know that the chain of command will take appropriate disciplinary action.
- o Continually assess the command climate regarding the risk of sexual assault in your unit.
- o Demonstrate, through your words and actions, that sexual assault is unacceptable and is incompatible with Army Values and the Warrior Ethos.

Reducing the risk of acquaintance or date rape in your unit

"Acquaintance rape," which includes date rape, refers to those rapes that occur between two or more people that know one another. "Date rape" refers to situations in which the one person has consented to go on a date with another person and that person then rapes him or her. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), about two-thirds of sexual assault victims in the United States knew their assailants. To help prevent acquaintance or date rape:

- Educate soldiers and Army civilian employees on the importance of maintaining alertness by avoiding alcohol and drug use
- Encourage assertiveness and communication in dating and other intimate situations
- Educate soldiers and Army civilian employees on the dangers of "date rape drugs."

Deployed unit risk reduction considerations

Be especially prepared and alert in deployed environments. Deployed environments can present special risks for Army personnel:

- Sleeping areas (tents, bunkers, and other buildings) may be less secure in deployed environments.
- Encourage soldiers to report any unauthorized males or females in sleeping areas.
- Implement security measures around sleeping areas, especially at night.
- Many non-Army personnel are present in deployed unit and working areas. Encourage soldiers to be alert and aware of their surroundings.
- Different cultures may treat females differently than they are treated in the U.S. Encourage soldiers and civilians, especially women, to be assertive and clearly state if they feel uncomfortable with how someone is treating them. Encourage them to report any inappropriate behavior to you immediately.
- Minimize your soldier's risk by recommending they travel with a buddy.

As an Army leader, what are my responsibilities when a sexual assault occurs in my unit?

Army leaders play a key role in the response to sexual assault in the Army. These leaders include commanders, supervisors, law enforcement personnel, legal and social services, and health-care personnel.

If you are in a position of authority:

- Enforce the Army policy on sexual assault and make sure subordinates enforce it, too.
- **Treat each incident seriously by following the proper guidelines.** The victim should never be blamed based on past history, nor should it be assumed that the victim instigated the incident.
- Inform each party of the Victim's Rights under **AR 27-10**.
- Report the allegations to law enforcement for a thorough investigation.
- Keep all information confidential and disclose information only to those who have an official need to know - it's the right of the accuser and the accused.
- Notify the chaplain if the victim wants pastoral counseling or assistance.
- Ensure that the needs of the victim's family are considered.
- Make sure victims are aware of the military and civilian resources that are available to them under the Victim and Witness Assistance Program (VWAP).

- Encourage the victim to get a medical examination, even if the incident occurred prior to the past 72 hours. It is important for the victim to seek medical attention to assess possible injury, sexually transmitted diseases, and pregnancy.

Your first priority: care for the victim

As a commander, you have a responsibility to ensure that victims of sexual assault receive sensitive care and support and are not re-victimized as a result of reporting the incident. You have a range of command options available to help you fulfill your responsibility to protect sexual assault victims. As a commander, you should seek the assistance of your servicing judge advocate.

- In order to protect sexual assault victims, you have the option of **geographically separating** the victim and the alleged offender. Commanders should determine whether the victim wants to be transferred to another unit. By considering the victim's preferences and all relevant facts and circumstances of the case, commanders can avoid subjecting the victim to the "double victimization" that is sometimes perceived when a victim is transferred from the unit.
- **Military Protective Orders** (MPOs), DD Form 2873, referred to as "no contact orders," are also an effective tool for commanders to maintain the safety of the victim.
- Some Army sexual victims report being hesitant to report sexual assaults when they feel they will open themselves up for disciplinary action for related offenses, such as drug or alcohol use, that are related to the assault. As a commander, you have the **option to delay action on any victim misconduct related to an assault** until after the investigation and prosecution for the assault is complete.

Your reporting and other responsibilities

Unit Commanders must implement and support the Army's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program. Commanders must:

- Report all disciplinary action taken against soldiers involved in the assault by using form **DA Form 4833**, Commander's Report of Disciplinary or Administrative Action.
- Report incidents of sexual assault to the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) per AR 195-1, paragraph 6.
- Support participation by soldiers and Army civilians in sexual assault prevention and awareness training.
- Continually assess the command climate through various methods (e.g., focus groups, surveys, talking with soldiers).

For Help, Resources, and Information:

Fort Belvoir Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Building 247, Suite 1701-2

Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Hotline: 1-703-740-7029, 24 hours, 7 days per week

Office: 703-805-4718

DSN: 655-4718

Fort Belvoir Victim Advocacy Program Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program

5820 21st Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Hotline: 1-703-229-2374, 24 hours, 7 days per week

Office: 703-805-1832

DSN: 655-1832

DC Rape Crisis Center

24 Hour Hotline 202-333-RAPE

The Office on Women's Sexual Assault Response and Awareness (SARA) Program

110 N. Royal Street, Suite 201

Alexandria, VA 22314

703- 838-5030

Sexual Assault Crisis Center

13928 Jefferson Davis Hwy, (703) 497-1192

Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board Victim Assistance Network Hotline 703.360.7273

Rappanock Area Council on Sexual Assault

P.O. Box 1276 Fredericksburg, Va 22402
540-371-1666

National Sexual Assault Hotline:

Toll Free 1-800-656-HOPE, 24 hours, 7 days per week

National Domestic Violence Hotline:

Toll Free 1-800-799-SAFE, 24 hours, 7 days per week

Army Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Website: www.sexualassault.army.mil

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Unit Victim Advocate (UVA) Training Schedule

The dates are as follows: 2-5-Sept (Intl. UVA Training), 6-Nov (Refresher Training), 27-Jan-2009 (Refresher Training).