

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS, GEORGIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
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18 January 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR See Distribution

FROM: GA ANG/CC

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program and Unit Victim Advocates

1. The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program reinforces the National Guard's commitment to eliminate incidents of sexual assault through a comprehensive policy that centers on awareness and prevention, training and education, victim advocacy, response, reporting, follow-up and accountability. The goals of the SAPR Program are to:

- a. Create a climate that minimizes sexual assault incidents, which impact Georgia National Guard personnel and, if an incident should occur, to ensure that victims and subjects are treated according to the National Guard Bureau policy.
- b. Create a climate that encourages victims to report incidents of sexual assault without fear.
- c. Establish sexual assault prevention training and awareness programs to educate airmen.
- d. Ensure sensitive and comprehensive treatment to restore victims' health and well-being.
- e. Ensure leaders at all levels understand their roles and responsibilities regarding response to sexual assault victims, thoroughly investigating allegations of sexual assault, and taking appropriate administrative and disciplinary action.

2. In talking about sexual assault we must first define what it entails. The Department of Defense definition is any 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, nonconsensual sodomy (oral or anal sex), indecent assault (unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact or fondling), or attempts to commit these acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, spousal relationship or age of the 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.

3. The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program utilizes Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) to administer the SAPR program and for system advocacy. The SARC provides oversight to the Victim Advocates when responding to a sexual assault case and is the primary contact for the Command and the "center of gravity" for the SAPR program. Along with Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC), unit commanders will appoint and utilize Victim Advocates (VA) for victim advocacy services.

4. The term Victim Advocate (VA) is used to describe an individual who is trained to respond to each report of sexual assault by providing advocacy support to victims. It is an Airman who is appointed, on collateral duty as a VA, at each wing and GA ANG HQ. The advocate can provide crisis intervention, referral and ongoing non-clinical support to the victim of sexual assault. This includes providing information on available options and resources so the victim can make informed decisions. The VA will make sure the information provided to the victim is accurate and comprehensive and will accompany the victim, at the victim's request, during investigative interviews and medical examinations.

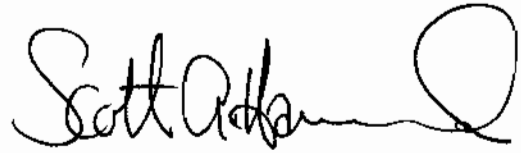
5. Wing Commanders and HQ GA ANG will appoint, on collateral duty, a minimum of one Victim Advocate (VA). Appointment letters will be forwarded to the ESSO within 30 days of this memorandum. Because of the sensitivity and complexity of working with sexual assault victims, the VA must be carefully selected. VAs are likely to become involved in highly charged, emotionally stressful situations in assisting victims of sexual assault. As a result, all candidates must be screened and complete the required UVA training. The VA must have completed the training prior to responding to any victim of sexual assault. The VA will be selected in accordance with the following requirements:

- a. Be recommended by the chain of command.
- b. Be able to respond to a sexual assault incident at anytime when on call.
- c. Have outstanding duty performance, as evidenced by a review of the individual's record.
- d. Demonstrate stability in personal affairs. The individual will not have a history of domestic violence, significant indebtedness, excessive use of alcohol, or any use of illegal drugs.
- e. Not been a victim or perpetrator of sexual assault.
- f. Must not have been punished under the provisions of the UCMJ.
- g. Must have a minimum of two years of service remaining.
- h. Must have the rank of Technical Sergeant (E-6) or higher, or First Lieutenant (O-2) or higher.
- i. Must be appointed on orders to the collateral duty of Victim Advocate.

6. Training for Victim Advocates (VA) will be conducted through the National Guard Bureau (dates and locations TBD). This training will cover topics ranging from policy definitions, types of sexual assault, prevention efforts, responding to victims, deployment issues, forensic protocols, victim safety, communication skills, judicial process, civilian agency relationships, data collection and the duties of the VA. Because of the approaching training dates, commanders should begin to identify VAs.

7. Duties of a VA will primarily include providing crisis intervention; support to the victim throughout the medical, investigative and judicial process; referral to civilian and military victim service agencies for assistance (i.e. local rape crisis center, Military One Source), communication and coordination with the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), attend and complete appropriate training, meet the standards for selection, and complete required reports on incidents of sexual assault that will include referrals to victim services.

8. The Georgia Air National Guard Sexual Assault Response Coordinator is Captain Elizabeth Baker at (678)569-3906; elizabeth.baker@garobi.ang.af.mil .



SCOTT A. HAMMOND, Maj Gen, GA ANG
Commander

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