The prevention of sexual assault is everyone’s responsibility. It doesn’t just hurt one, it affects ALL.

As leaders, your primary task is to create and affirm a command climate intolerant to sexual misconduct, encouraging of reporting, and supportive of both victims and alleged offenders.

What you can do at your Command:

- Connect with your installation SARC on a regular basis.
- Ensure your command positions (SARC and VA) have met current and recurring training requirements. Know who can take Restricted Reports: SARC, VA, and Medical Officer. Although Chaplains and RPs cannot accept restricted reports, victims maintain their restricted reporting option if information regarding a sexual assault is communicated to either of them.
- Test the system. Conduct SAPR drills to assess command response and take corrective action so you are ready should the need arise.
- Attend your command training about sexual harassment and sexual assault. Let your followers know you are committed to eliminating sexual violence in the Navy.
- Listen closely to conversations and activities where respect is broken, where sexist comments or fraternization surface. These are leading indicators of underlying climate issues.
- Promote active Bystander Intervention; talk about it and provide your command examples of intervention you expect to see.
- Regularly conduct your Command Climate Survey and include questions that target possible unreported activities.
- Do not fear an increase in reports – this is an indication that your command trusts you to do the right thing. A decreasing or static rate may indicate you are not doing all you can do to make reporting safe and without reprisal.
Components of Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention and Response in the US Navy

Awareness

Facts
The Navy’s FY2011 report to Congress reported:
• 408 unrestricted reports
• 174 restricted reports of sexual assault – of all types.
• Over 65% of those unrestricted reports were Service Member on Service Member – “Blue on Blue” incidents.
• One third of these Blue on Blue reports were superiors assaulting subordinates.
• Investigations indicated that subjects included Sailors of all ranks.
• Victims were both female – and male.

Definitions

Assault - The use of unlawful force or violence either as an overt act with the intent of inflicting bodily harm, or as an unlawful demonstration of violence, through an intentional or culpably negligent act or omission, either of which creates in the mind of another a reasonable apprehension of receiving immediate bodily harm.

Consent - Words or overt acts indicating a freely given agreement to the sexual conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent. Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent. A current or previous dating or social or sexual relationship by itself or the manner of dress of the person involved in the sexual conduct at issue shall not constitute consent. There is no consent where the person is sleeping or incapacitated (due to age, alcohol or drugs, or mental incapacity). A person cannot consent to force causing or likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm or to being rendered unconscious.

Sexual Violence Offences – Sexual violence offenses include rape, sexual assault, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, and attempts to commit these offenses.

Why this crime is your problem
Sexual assault is a crime. It is contrary to the Navy’s core tenets of leadership, values and mission readiness. It undermines unit cohesion; it diminishes team trust; it impacts manning and workloads. It is incompatible with today’s military mission.

Prevention

Your most powerful tool in stopping sexual violence offenses is **Bystander Intervention (BI)**.

As of January 2012, your newest Sailors coming out of their technical training have been taught BI tactics and tools intended to keep their Shipmates safe. The BI process includes the following:

- Notice the event
- Interpret it as an emergency
- Take responsibility
- Decide how to act
- Make an informed choice and Act

Bystander Intervention Tactics:
- Direct: Talk to the person who is acting inappropriately, or to the potential victim.
- Indirect: Suggest that someone observing the situation might be concerned about the person’s conduct.
- Distraction: Utilize creative options to distract the people involved in order to de-escalate the situation. This may involve humor or appealing to other interests of those involved.
- Protocol: Report what you observed “up the chain” and seek guidance on how best to respond.

Response

Know the response system. The time to pull out the guidance is NOT at the time of an incident. Know your SAPR team members and who to call. Encourage reporting; establish trust in the system. Support victims; ensure alleged offenders rights are upheld; initiate an investigation.

- **Maintain Good Order and Discipline:**
  - After an assault, we need to ensure that we address and disallow rumors, gossip, speculations, and side-taking. We should not disclose any information about the alleged incident with those who are outside of the SAPR Response Team.

- **Treat the Victim and the Alleged Offender with Fairness:**
  - Commands should not focus on the reputations of the victim or perpetrator. It is not your job to provide a judgment as to what happened.
  - Commands are not there to determine facts – they should support the individuals in the capacity they need.

MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMAND SAPR TEAM

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)

Victim Advocate (VA)

Medical officer

(All the above can take Restricted Reports)