



# SHARP™

SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT RESPONSE & PREVENTION

## ARMY SHARP FOCUS

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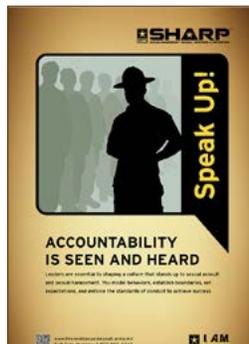
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### INSTALLATIONS TO OPEN SHARP RESOURCE CENTERS

— By Libby Howe



**WASHINGTON** — The Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program aims to synchronize and professionalize victim advocacy services by establishing SHARP Resource Centers on military installations across the globe.

The Army intends to launch 11 new pilot SHARP Resource Centers within the coming months, using the center already at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Wash. as a model, to analyze the effectiveness and assess costs needed to provide SHARP services in centers on other military installations.

SHARP Resource Centers will "bring together all of the response system proponents in the Army into one single location," said Lt. Col. Geoff Catlett, of the Army G-1 office. The centers,

Catlett said, will act as a "one-stop" consolidation of services. "You'll have lawyers, investigators, medical personnel, and advocates all working together as a community of practice in order to support each other professionally."

SHARP Resource Centers will house Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs). Each SART consists of four primary responders, including victim advocates from the military community's SHARP programs, medical providers from the military treatment facility, criminal investigators from the supporting Criminal Investigation Division, and military prosecutors from the supporting Staff Judge Advocate offices.

"Now you have one place to go where all [these resources] are brought together. They get a very seasoned, professional team to support them and they also don't have to go to a half dozen locations across the installation," said Catlett, of how the SHARP Resource Centers ease the process for victims. "Having that professional team all in one place working together is synchronizing our efforts to professionalize and expedite our response to victims."

Catlett expressed the Army's excitement about the new model of response systems. "If we, in any way, shape, or form, fail people who are dealing with this experience, we are failing as leaders across the Army. We just can't accept that," he said. "You can't legislate your way out of this problem; you can't regulate your way out of this problem; you can only lead your way out of this problem."

*Installations to Open SHARP Resource Centers,  
continued from page 1...*

The program is on schedule to launch the 11 pilot SHARP Resource Centers (RC), in addition to the one on JBLM, after the publication of the SHARP-RC "Tool Kit" in late July. These pilots will operate on installations such as Fort Hood, Tex.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; and seven other installations through February 2015. At that point, an assessment of effectiveness and recommendations for additional implementation will be presented to the chief of staff of the Army.

"What we're trying to do is put the systems in place and provide the tools to commanders, in order to change the culture and create an Army where everyone is treated with dignity and respect," Catlett said. "If the Army can't do it, then nobody can do it."

The origins of the SHARP Program date back to 2008, when the Army's leadership decided to focus prevention efforts on eliminating the behaviors that create an environment conducive to sexual assault.

Today's SHARP Program aligns with the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Strategy and the Strategic Direction to the Joint Force on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. Implementation of SHARP follows the five imperatives set forth by the chief of staff of the Army.

These imperatives focus on preventing offenders from committing crimes; reporting every allegation and ensuring it is professionally investigated; creating a positive climate and an environment of trust and respect; holding every individual, unit, organization and commander accountable for their actions; and maintaining a fully engaged chain of command.

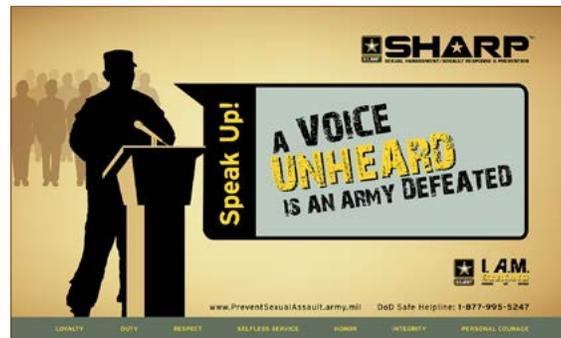
Despite fiscal hardships, SHARP continues to expand. "As we're reducing the Army staff due to budget constraints, this program is actually expanding," said Catlett.

"Our effort right now is about, in the simplest terms possible, professionalizing the force," he said. "We have world-class professional investigators, prosecutors, and medical personnel." Now, work is being done to bring advocacy services, Victim Advocates, and Sexual Assault Response Coordinators to the same level of professionalism.

Full story: [http://www.army.mil/article/129352/  
Installations\\_to\\_open\\_SHARP\\_Resource\\_Centers/](http://www.army.mil/article/129352/Installations_to_open_SHARP_Resource_Centers/)

## ARMY PUBLISHES SHARP CAMPAIGN PLAN

— By Lillian Boyd, Army News Service



The Army recently codified the goals of its Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program in a SHARP Campaign Plan. The Army SHARP Campaign Plan provides a road map that illustrates the Army's plans to synchronize actions across five lines of effort.

*Photo Credit: U.S. Army graphic*

**WASHINGTON** — "We must take conscious steps to understand and reduce environmental risks, identify predatory behaviors, and mitigate personal vulnerabilities associated with sexual assault and harassment," Lt. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg, G-1, said in the opening letter of the Army's first formal Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Campaign Plan.

The Army has seen a 50-percent increase in reports on sexual assault in fiscal year 2013 compared to fiscal year 2012, and officials believe it may be an indication of greater confidence in the Army's response systems and chain of command. In order to keep the momentum going by increasing awareness of SHARP services and encouraging victims to report, the SHARP Campaign Plan provides a road map of how the Army intends to synchronize actions across five lines of effort, enhancing prevention, investigation, accountability, advocacy and assessment capabilities.

The SHARP efforts are in alignment with the DOD's Sexual Assault Prevention Strategy to embed and integrate programs across the force. "To change the culture, to create an Army where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, where people understand boundaries — that takes time," said Lt. Col. Geoff Catlett of Army G-1. "I think what we're doing is setting the conditions to create culture change."

The Army has had a prevention strategy in effect since 2009, when it introduced "I. A.M. Strong" to the force, where the initials stand for "Intervene, Act and Motivate," which focused on the importance of bystander intervention. Although marketing

*Continued on page 3...*

*Army Publishes SHARP Campaign Plan, continued from page 2...*

materials and messaging were created to get the word out, it was the release of the Department of Defense Prevention Strategy that served as the impetus for a standalone SHARP Campaign Plan that operationalizes the lines of effort set forth in the Strategic Direction to the Joint Force on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, Catlett said.

The DOD Prevention Strategy gave Army leaders and the campaign team an opportunity to rethink how the program is discussed and to place greater emphasis on certain areas, Catlett said. The campaign emphasizes prevention as a priority out of the five SHARP objectives.

"A lot of our training is geared toward education. We get a lot of young people coming into the military who don't necessarily have a solid foundation on understanding boundaries between people," Catlett said. "We try to educate young men

and women of what it means to live in close proximity while treating each other with dignity and respect."

As for investigating assaults, the SHARP Program assures victims that world-class investigators and prosecutors will take their case seriously in order to hold perpetrators appropriately accountable. However, there's more to accountability than punishing offenders. Leaders are now being held to an even higher standard based on their actions or inactions with regard to SHARP.

"We are holding commanders responsible for their command climates and doing it in a way we've never done before," Catlett said.

In addition to a more stringent directive on command climate assessments that includes questions on SHARP, which are also administered more frequently at the company-level on up, commanders now have a 360-degree assessment tool that is used to evaluate performance. "The Army will use these surveys and metrics to gather data and track progress for the assessment

portion of the program," Catlett said.

The SHARP Program is improving, enhancing the advocacy line of effort through a pilot of 11 new SHARP Resource Centers, a study to determine the feasibility of a separate military occupational specialty code for SHARP, as well as a schoolhouse dedicated to professionalizing those who serve as Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates.

"It is a constantly evolving landscape," Catlett said about responding to numerous congressional mandates.

"I am constantly inspired by how much this means to the secretary of the Army and the chief of staff of the Army. They genuinely want to see an end to this horrible crime in our ranks," Catlett said. "And I think commanders want that too. We just have to continue to educate and be constantly vigilant."

Full story: [http://www.army.mil/article/129452/Army\\_publishes\\_SHARP\\_Campaign\\_Plan/](http://www.army.mil/article/129452/Army_publishes_SHARP_Campaign_Plan/)

## I'VE GOT YOUR BACK!

— By Sgt. Michael Reinsch



Soldiers in Europe get an educational new look at sexual assault awareness.

Photo Credit: Sgt. Michael Reinsch, U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

**WIESBADEN, GERMANY** — "Got Your Back," part of a program called Sex Signals, toured throughout bases in Europe, May 5 – June 27, to educate service members, Civilians and Family Members about the importance of bystander intervention.

"Instead of focusing on changing the behavior of rapists or predators, it's more important that the vast majority of people, who are doing the right thing, are much more effective if they recognize the situation," said Chris Sanders, a Got Your Back presenter. "Part of the point of 'Got Your Back' is bystander

intervention, but the crux of everything else before that is identifying the culture that provides cover to perpetrators."

"Got Your Back" is a group workshop that uses facilitated dialogue to explore the issues of sexual assault, predator profiling and bystander intervention strategies. The program has been presented approximately 1000 times to U.S. Soldiers around the world.

The program Sex Signals has been presented at hundreds of military installations across the world, as well as hundreds of colleges and schools. Approximately 95 percent of service members who attended this program in the last year said that they felt engaged, better understand the signs of a possible sexual assault, and would step in much sooner.

"For so long, we have only addressed the issue of what we are not supposed to be doing," said Sanders. "If the only frame you have is 'this is what you're supposed to do,' you're much less likely to do the thing you're not supposed to do. It's like land navigation, getting from point A to point B is exceedingly more easy if you know where point B is, rather than knowing everywhere point B isn't."

Full story: [http://www.army.mil/article/126446/I\\_ve\\_got\\_your\\_back/](http://www.army.mil/article/126446/I_ve_got_your_back/)

## ASSAULT, VIOLENCE EXPERTS SPEAK AT SHARP SUMMIT

— By Sgt. Leon Cook



Dr. Carolyn West, a psychology professor at the University of Washington, Tacoma, and a nationally renowned expert in the study of sexual violence, speaks at the JBLM SHARP Summit May 16 at the McChord Club.

Photo Credit: Sgt. Leon Cook

### JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD,

**Wash.** — The JBLM SHARP (Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention) Summit was held at the McChord Club, May 16. The ballroom was filled with Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC), Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Officers, Victim Advocates, and key leaders, who learned how they can help address the problem of sexual harassment and assault in our ranks. The theme was “Understanding the environment to change the culture.”

The summit featured Dr. Christine Altendorf, Director of the Army’s SHARP Program, as well as guest speaker Dr. Carolyn West, a professor of psychology at the University of Washington, Tacoma and a nationally renowned expert in the study of domestic violence and sexual assault.

West said victims of sexual violence often try to bury the traumatic experience, but it’s like sinking the Empire State Building in Crater Lake. If someone did, the building would be completely submerged and wouldn’t

be visible poking out from the surface.

“You think you’re coping fine, you’re functioning well, you’re getting to work and doing your job, and you think you’re doing a good job of hiding the trauma.” But Crater Lake is also a very clear lake and you can see a long way down in its waters. The Empire State Building would be plainly visible once you were up close. “So I explained to my students that trauma really is both visible and invisible. You think you’re doing a pretty good job of hiding it, and you may for a while, but in a lot of ways that trauma is still very visible,” West said.

**“...trauma really is both visible and invisible. You think you’re doing a pretty good job of hiding it, and you may for a while, but in a lot of ways that trauma is still very visible.”**

— Dr. Carolyn West, *University of Washington Professor*

In addition to two speakers, the summit featured three panels: the victim and the environment, the offender and the environment, and the prevention of sexual assault, best practices, and lessons learned.

In the first panel, attendees listened as a survivor of sexual assault shared her personal story, interspersed with frequent pauses as she wiped tears from her eyes. The survivor emphasized the message that not all traumas leave a mark. “I may not have a combat patch on my arm, but I’ve been fighting my own war against the culture of America and our Army for a long time,” the survivor said.

Understanding the victim of sexual assault is an effective way of ensuring a victim becomes a survivor, said Patti Jo McGill, a Victim Advocate with the Installation Management Command, who emphasized that the most important thing a Victim Advocate can do is believe the victim.

Having an approachable SARC or Victim Advocate is a huge advantage in addressing cases of sexual harassment and assault, said 7th Infantry Division SAPR Lt. Col. Celia FlorCruz, because the victim will feel more comfortable coming forward and may come forward when forensic evidence can still be gathered; a lack of forensic evidence is a recurring problem in the criminal investigations, said Special Agent Sarah Fonville, an agent with the JBLM Criminal Investigation Division.

Understanding the offender is also an important factor in prevention, as the

next panel made clear. Leaders learned to identify factors in the environment that could lead to sexual harassment and assault. One of the key factors that lead to sexual assault is an atmosphere of sexual harassment, Fonville said. Addressing an atmosphere of sexual harassment is also a key target in the Army’s strategy to prevent sexual assault.

One of the most effective ways of changing the culture is by working from the bottom up instead of the top down, said I Corps commander Lt. Gen. Stephen Lanza. “This is not a Beltway solution,” Lanza said. “This is about leadership. This is about leader development. This is about force protection. It’s about doing those right things that inculcate the values we want to have in our Soldiers.”

Full story: [http://www.army.mil/article/126361/McChord\\_club\\_hosts\\_SHARP\\_Summit](http://www.army.mil/article/126361/McChord_club_hosts_SHARP_Summit)

# TRAINING & CURRICULUM NEWS

## SHARP Recertification Course and DOD SAPRO Advance Military Sexual Assault Advocate Training (AMSAAT - 20 Hour) Available Online

Both the SHARP 24-Hour Recertification Course and the DOD SAPRO Advance Military Sexual Assault Advocate Training (AMSAAT - 20 Hour) are now available online. These trainings will help Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs)/Victim Advocates (VAs) meet the 32-hour requirement for their Department of Defense Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP) recertification.

The SHARP 24-Hour Recertification Course can be accessed through the Army Learning Management System (ALMS) at [www.lms.army.mil](http://www.lms.army.mil). If participants encounter any issues, assistance is available using the ALMS Help button at the top of the ALMS homepage, or by contacting the Army Training Help Desk at <https://athd-crm.csd.disa.mil>, 1-800-275-2872 (option 5), or by emailing [athd@mailds01.csd.disa.mil](mailto:athd@mailds01.csd.disa.mil).

To register for the AMSAAT, the participant must send an email to the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center at [ttac@ovcttac.org](mailto:ttac@ovcttac.org) requesting to be registered for the Advance Military Sexual Assault Advocate Training (AMSATT) course. In the body of the email, the participant

should also include their D-SAACP ID number. The approximate response time is up to one week, as each participant's D-SAACP number must be verified. Once participants are verified, they will be sent a link to the training.

## Revised SHARP Unit Refresher Training Now Available

The Army recently published a revised SHARP Unit Refresher Training (URT) course. The URT is now comprised of small-group facilitated, interactive training and an online self-study course and exam. The revised URT meets the Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno's intent to avoid training fatigue by reducing the use of slides and increasing the dialogue and interaction about the problem of sexual assault and sexual harassment. In accordance with this guidance, the use of slides in the URT was reduced by 32%, and the SHARP Program Office enhanced the training with two new videos. The curriculum is designed to reinforce behaviors consistent with the SHARP Program and Army Values. It addresses the basics, such as what's considered sexual harassment/sexual assault, the Army's policy on those two offenses, and the two types of sexual assault reporting options available to a victim — restricted and unrestricted, as well as victim rights.

For more information: [https://atn.army.mil/dsp\\_template.aspx?dpID=51](https://atn.army.mil/dsp_template.aspx?dpID=51)

## BYSTANDERS INTERVENTION EXECUTIVE SESSION

— By Capt. Chad Ashe

**HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD, Ga.** — Leaders gathered for an executive session focused on bystander intervention within the Army at 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade conference room May 16 to openly discuss the problems of sexual assault and other issues within unit formations.

Master Sgt. Jeff Fenlason, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division is part of the Raiders Initiative Group who conducted the class for leaders, which is designed to create an open dialogue about problems within units and how bystanders should involve themselves.

Fenlason explained the intent of the class for all Soldiers within the ranks.

"It's to introduce the command into what the Bystanders Intervention Program looks like, what the commanding general's intent is, and to give them an idea of what a seminar will feel like for their Soldiers as their Soldiers go through the process," said Fenlason.

Fenlason said there are three things his group is doing to initiate positive change within the organization. "We are trying to get [leaders] to engage their Soldiers in dialogue to focus on culture change inside of their organizations, and to look at developing trust mechanisms in their formations so the Soldiers who are suffering, or are victimized, or potentially need an intervention, move forward," said Fenlason.

Command Sgt. Maj. J.T. Hall, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment participated in the class and said that a bystander [who] does not intervene

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*Bystanders Intervention Executive Session, continued from page 5...*

when a situation warrants it, is as guilty as the aggressor. Hall added that the 3rd Infantry Division Bystanders Intervention Program will help our Army reduce any incident that can be prevented by a bystanders.

**“We are trying to get [leaders] to engage their Soldiers in dialogue to focus on culture change inside of their organizations, and to look at developing trust mechanisms in their formations so the Soldiers who are suffering, or are victimized, or potentially need an intervention, move forward.”**

— Master Sgt. Jeff Fenlason,  
1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

Hall said, because everyone is different in their own way, times to intervene are viewed differently as well, and that apologizing for intervening when it wasn't warranted is better than letting a wrong go unchallenged. “Once this program is inculcated in our units and our service members know that they are morally obligated to step in when things are going wrong, we will be a better Army and society,” said Hall.

Fenlason said that with an increase of trust from victim to supervisor, that sexual harassment and sexual assault are being properly handled at the unit level, the numbers will decrease.

Full story: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/130461/bystanders-intervention-executive-session#.U7SdrctOUdV#ixzz36MKefHZr>



Master Sgt. Jeff Fenlason, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, conducts a Bystanders Intervention Executive Session at 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade headquarters May 16. Fenlason is part of Raiders Initiative Group that conducts classes for leaders that create an open dialogue about problems with sexual assault within units.

Photo Credit: Capt. Chad Ashe

## POLICY NEWS & UPDATES

Access to this and other policy documents is available through the SHARP website: [http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil/Template-Policy.cfm?page=policy\\_changes.cfm](http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil/Template-Policy.cfm?page=policy_changes.cfm).

### SECDEF MEMO: Sexual Assault Prevention and Response - May 01

This memo directs the implementation of the 2014-2016 DOD Sexual Assault Prevention Strategy, which is attached to the memo and provides authoritative guidance on delivering consistent and effective prevention methods and programs. The plan builds on previous efforts and identifies leaders at all levels as critical components in prevention and integrates accountability, community involvement, communication, deterrence, incentives, training, education, and harm reduction.

The memo further directs the immediate implementation of six measures to further strengthen a shared approach to sexual assault prevention programs across DOD. The measures are to advance and sustain appropriate culture, evaluate commander SAPR training, review alcohol policies, improve reporting of male victims, develop a collaborative forum for sexual assault prevention methods, and develop a standardized and voluntary survey for victims/survivors.

## BY THE #'S 231

...of the 380 complainants (61%) in formal sexual harassment complaints in the Army during FY 2013 were junior enlisted personnel in pay grades E1-E4.

*Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2013  
Report on Substantiated Incidents of Sexual  
Harassment in the Armed Forces  
(May 2014)*

## NEW SPIN ON OLD TRAINING GIVES SHARP AN EDGE

— By Staff Sgt. Alexander Burnett



Pfc. Patrick D. Vanburen, a communications specialist with the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, listens to Chris Sanders, a presenter with Catharsis Productions, discuss negative language and stereotypes and their involvement in sexual assault and harassment during Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention training at the Hercules Theater, Ramstein Airbase May 14.

*Photo Credit: Staff Sgt. Alexander Burnett*

**KAISERSLAUTERN, GERMANY** — Soldiers from the 21st Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) and other tenant units from the Kaiserslautern Military Community saw a new spin on Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) training at Hercules Theater on Ramstein Airbase May 12-18.

The training, which was presented by Catharsis Productions, is part of a Department of the Army Personnel directive to change SHARP presentation methods and make them more effective. The Soldiers in attendance did not receive their normal two-hour slide presentation given by a senior noncommissioned officer. Instead, two civilian presenters delivered the message in a less conventional manner.

"Before we get started, I want to let you all know two things. First, we are going to try to have fun during SHARP training. I know! Crazy, right?" Chris Sanders, a Catharsis Productions presenter, said to the audience.

"The other is that not everything with two legs and a penis is a rapist."

From start to finish, the 80-minute-long block of interactive instruction was a flurry of stereotype crushing data, jokes and intervention techniques.

While members of the audience laughed during the presentation, the presenters reminded them that sexual harassment and assault are no laughing matter.

"Even though everyone laughs and we try to make the training enjoyable, it's important to remember the reason this training is necessary," Sanders said. "I wish I could get fired because there was no need for SHARP training anymore, but it is still happening."

The presenters walked Soldiers through negative sexual stereotypes and language that can create a difficult work environment; they discussed the basics of "hooking up" and demonstrated how these parts of today's culture can lead to sexual assault. They discussed how sexual predators can blend in and ways to identify their behavior. Finally, they emphasized some of the misconceptions when it comes to alcohol's involvement with the issue.

"Guys, do you remember the last time you had a few drinks and thought, 'Man I need to go out and rape?' No. That's because alcohol doesn't make us do anything, so why would we blame it for sexual assault," Sanders posed to the audience.

The session concluded with ways to intervene. The presenters recommended everything from personally stepping in to asking for help from bar staff or other patrons. As Soldiers left the auditorium, they expressed their opinions on the new SHARP training. "This was much better than the training we normally get on SHARP," said Pfc. Patrick D. Vanburen, a communications specialist assigned to the 21st TSC. "Instead of being bored to death by a slide show, this was interactive and interesting. We need more training like this."

Full story: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/130241/new-spin-old-training-gives-sharp-edge#.U7Ss9ctOUdW#ixzz36Mabzjj>

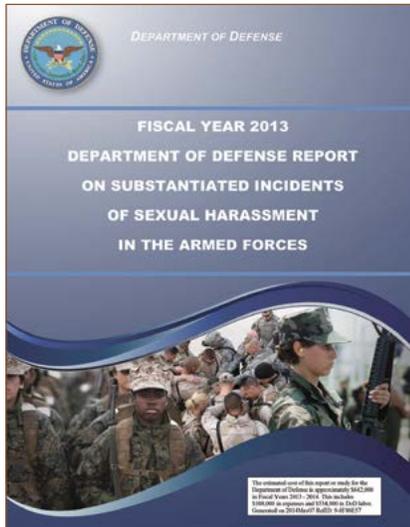
## REVISED DD FORM 2910 NOW AVAILABLE

The revised and updated DD Form 2910 is now available online from the Department of Defense (DOD) Forms Management website at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2910.pdf>. It can also be accessed from the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) website on the SAPR Policy Toolkit page at <http://www.sapr.mil/index.php/dod-policy/sapr-toolkit>.

The major revisions to the form include the addition of language regarding 50-year retention of the form in both Restricted and Unrestricted Report cases, as required by Sec. 1723 of the FY14 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA); notification to victims of the availability of a Special Victims Counsel, in accordance with Sec. 1716 of the FY14 NDAA; and the addition of the DOD Identification Number to be in compliance with DOD Instruction 1000.30.

# DOD RELEASES FIGURES ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN MILITARY

— By Nick Simeone, American Forces Press Service



Fiscal Year 2013 Department of Defense Report on Substantiated Incidents of Sexual Harassment in the Armed Forces

**WASHINGTON** — Emphasizing that the Defense Department (DOD) continues to encourage victims to come forward, Pentagon officials released a report May 15 that says just under 1,400 cases of sexual harassment occurred in the military last year.

The congressionally mandated report defines sexual harassment as an unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that can affect a career, job performance or create an [intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment].

Of the 1,366 cases reported, 59 percent were substantiated, the report says. The numbers of people who formally reported a case of harassment and those who made informal complaints

were split nearly evenly. Informal allegations are those that were not submitted through a service’s equal opportunity office, but reached commanders through other means.

In releasing the report, a senior DOD official told reporters those who alleged sexual harassment were predominately female enlisted members from the same unit as the alleged offender, with the majority holding the pay grades E-1 to E-4. The alleged offenders were predominantly male co-workers in pay grades from E-5 to E-9.

As with cases of sexual assault, DOD officials believe harassment in the military is often under-reported. “We want a climate where everybody reports whenever they’re offended,” one official said.

The reported harassment cases militarywide were significantly lower than the number of reported sexual assaults. Earlier this month, the department reported 5,061 cases of sexual assault for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2013, a 50-percent increase over the previous year. Defense officials said assaults often are preceded by harassment and that they are determined to stamp out both.

“We aren’t leaving any options off the table to prevent sexual harassment,” one DOD official said, with the department expected to place a greater emphasis on improving oversight and training, as well as putting stronger mechanisms in place for managing sexual harassment incidents.

Full story: <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=122270>

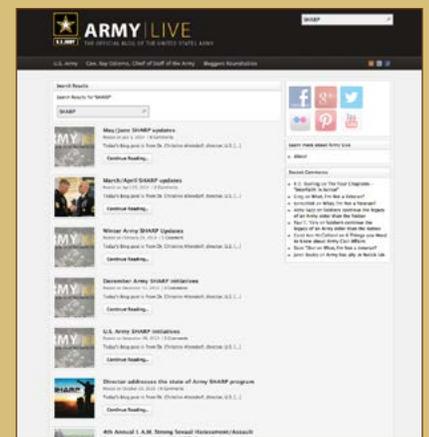
## SHARP PROGRAM OFFICE DIRECTOR’S BLOG POST



Christine T. Altendorf, Ph.D., PE, SES Director, Army SHARP Program Office

Christine T. Altendorf, Ph.D., Director of the Army SHARP Program Office, uses her monthly blog to offer informal updates on current SHARP activities and to keep the lines of communication open. The Army community is encouraged to raise topics of interest or concern during this forum.

See Dr. Altendorf’s posts here: <http://armylive.dodlive.mil/?s=SHARP>



## SMARTPHONE APP AIDS VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

— By David Vergun,  
Army News Service

**WASHINGTON** — U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) recently developed a “We Care” app that can be used by victims of sexual assault, someone who witnesses sexual harassment or sexual assault, and those in need of suicide prevention help.

“The app is aimed at empowering victims and bystanders to get help, intervene, and support those impacted by sexual harassment, sexual assault or suicide,” said Ellen Helmerson, in the Office of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1/4. She’s also TRADOC’s Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program representative.

**“The app is aimed at empowering victims and bystanders to get help, intervene, and support”**

— Ellen Helmerson,  
Office of the U.S. Army Training and  
Doctrine Command (TRADOC)

Instead of wondering, “What should I have done,” the app “lets you know, here’s what I should do,” she said. The app, designed for Soldiers at Joint Base Langley-Eustis (JBLE), Va., has buttons for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline, Department of Defense Safe Helpline, post chaplain, post medical treatment facility, and the SHARP hotlines for both Fort Eustis and Langley Air Force Base.

The best thing about the app, Helmerson said, is you just push the button to get help. No dialing

is involved. Besides that, it’s free. Additionally, there are options at the bottom to click for information on what to do if you witness an assault, or are assaulted, or are thinking about suicide. Manuals and links to a variety of the most useful sites are also clickable. Helmerson called it “a one-stop shop.”

The app can be used for Android and Apple smartphones, tablets and iPads. To find the app at the app store, search for “We Care JBLE.” The app was released April 30, and Helmerson said it’s TRADOC’s intent to get it distributed to other TRADOC installations. She thinks it could eventually go Army-wide, including to the Reserve Components.

Recently, TRADOC met with local area colleges near JBLE. She suggested to participants that this is something they may want to consider adopting and adapting for their own institutions. As she was talking, Helmerson said the participants were downloading the app. “We’re fighting the same fight as colleges,” she said. “We have the same vulnerable populations in our formations. We can all learn from each other how to address this issue.... If it helps one person, then our time and effort was really worth it,” Helmerson said.

The We Care app was created at the Sustainment Center of Excellence,



Persons interested in the “We Care” app can access it via smartphones like Androids and iPhone.

Photo Credit: David Vergun

Fort Lee, Va., under the guidance of Commanding General Maj. Gen. Larry Wyche and his Mobile Team, Technology Integration Branch, headed by Matt MacLaughler, Diane Jenkins, Tyler Gross and David Garrish. The app was initially piloted in 2012 at Fort Lee, then fielded for use in the summer of 2013. The same team also modified the app for use at JBLE and obtained the necessary security approvals to host the app at the Apple and Android app stores.

Full story: [http://www.army.mil/article/125731/Smartphone\\_app\\_aids\\_victims\\_of\\_sexual\\_assault/?from=RSS](http://www.army.mil/article/125731/Smartphone_app_aids_victims_of_sexual_assault/?from=RSS)

## SHARP “BEST PRACTICE”: SHARP COIN OF EXCELLENCE

The 1st Signal Brigade (SIG BDE) SHARP office recently held a contest for someone to design a SHARP Coin of Excellence for the brigade. Spc. Emily Rose Atkins from the 14th Signal Detachment, 1st SIG BDE created the winning design, pictured below. Headquarters, Department of the Army’s SHARP G-1 office recognized the contest and coin as a best practice.

Front Side



Back Side



## VICTIM ADVOCATES LEARN LEGAL PROCESS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULTS

— By Lisa Rhodes

### FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MD. —

Fort Meade's Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA) recently conducted a mock trial of the legal proceedings in a sexual assault case for nearly 80 Victim Advocates (VAs) and Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs). The daylong trial was held Apr. 24 at the Fort Meade courthouse in observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Stacey Hale, Fort Meade's SARC, approached the OSJA in February to educate VAs and SARCs about the adjudication process because there have been changes under the National Defense Authorization Acts (NDAA) for Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014 and many advocates have not been informed.

"I thought it would be beneficial for them to see an Article 32 and a court-martial so they can explain the process to their clients to lessen the stress that [the clients] experience as they go through the military justice system," Hale said. "I think it was invaluable to their experience."

Lt. Col. Roseanne Bennett, Fort Meade's staff judge advocate, said although the OSJA has conducted many hourly and lunch trainings for VAs and SARCs, "one of the consistent things that came up was that they did not have a full appreciation of the entire court-martial process."

The NDAA is a federal law that outlines the budget and expenditures of the Department of Defense. The law is usually renewed each year and recently included specific provisions that relate to sexual assault and how it is to be handled under the Uniform Military Code of Justice.



Capt. Erin MacCarthy and Capt. Tony Cardona, both trial counsels at Fort Meade's Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, participate in the mock trial of the United States vs. Sgt. Richard Archie, a fictional sexual assault case. The trial was held to educate Victim Advocates and Sexual Assault Response Coordinators about the legal process that is involved in a sexual assault case.

*Photo Credit: Stephen Ellmore*

Capt. Latisha Irwin, chief of Military Justice at the Fort Meade OSJA, came up with the idea of a mock trial and coordinated the effort. She said the mock trial was conducted to "pull the curtain back" on the entire legal process of a sexual assault. The OSJA decided to use elements of U.S. vs. Sgt. Richard Archie as an example of a military sexual assault case. The facts of the case are fictional and involve a male sergeant and a female private. The Army Judge Advocate General's Corps uses the case as a model to train military lawyers.

"It is a typical sexual assault scenario," Irwin said, noting that the case involves alcohol, barracks and a victim whose sexual history is called into question. "[The case] tries to pull in a lot of the facts that you see in a lot of sexual assault cases." The mock trial illustrated the sexual assault case from start to finish, including the report of the assault, the investigation, the charging decision, the Article 32 hearing, the victim's testimony, discovery, arraignment and the guilty plea.

Participants included military lawyers from OSJA, the Military District of Washington, First Army Division East, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade and the U.S. Claims Service.

Irwin said that the NDAA has changed the Article 32 to a preliminary investigation. Congress also has provided victims with legal representation and certain rights. Victims are now represented by a special victim's counsel who can argue in front of the court on their behalf.

There also is a special victims prosecutor who is considered a subject matter expert and has experience prosecuting sexual assaults. After the convicted perpetrator is sentenced, victims can submit matters to the convening authority in the case on what impact the crime has had on their lives.

Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley is the convening authority for many of the sexual assault cases at Fort Meade.

Sgt. 1st Class Jill Easton, a VA with the 310th Military Intelligence Battalion, said the mock trial was informative. "It gave us a good idea as to what to expect and how to prepare victims for the process," she said. Easton said the process of reporting, investigating and testifying in a sexual assault case can be difficult and emotionally intensive for victims. For example, victims must repeatedly tell the details of an alleged assault, and if the case goes to trial, they face their alleged attacker in the court room, and their character and sexual history are often called into question by the defense.

"One of the comments made by one of our players [in the mock trial] is 'misinformation is so much worse than no information,'" Bennett said. "So if you're telling a victim [about the process and] they have some expectations but that's not what happens, [the] victim lacks trust in the system.... So it's really important to have them [victim advocates] understand what we do."

*Continued on page 11...*

*Victim Advocates Learn Legal Process for Sexual Assaults, continued from page 10...*

Fort Meade's Public Affairs Office videotaped the trial so it can be used as a teaching tool in future trainings.

Irwin said the VAs and SARCs who attended the mock trial "are better equipped to do their job and will be better able to provide the necessary support to victims who are going through the judicial process."

Full story: [http://www.army.mil/article/126135/Victim\\_advocates\\_learn\\_legal\\_process\\_for\\_sexual\\_assaults/](http://www.army.mil/article/126135/Victim_advocates_learn_legal_process_for_sexual_assaults/)

## SOLDIER SHOW 'STANDS STRONG'

— By Staff Sgt. Katie Ward

**FORT EUSTIS, VA.** — The U.S. Army is known for loyalty, honor, courage and integrity — values that each and every Soldier must possess to "Stand Strong" and help create a more resilient force. That was the encompassing message portrayed to the more than 250 Fort Eustis service members, Civilians and Families who attended the afternoon performance of the 2014 U.S. Army Soldier Show held at Jacobs Theater, June 23. There was a second performance June 24.

The Soldier Show is the Army's Broadway-style touring entertainment troupe, and the shows at Fort Eustis were just two of 56 scheduled performances for the 2014 season. The performances included tributes to 9/11, the Army Birthday and Gold Star families who lost family members during conflicts.

Through this year's theme, "Stand Strong," the performers aim to highlight pertinent Army topics, said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Carter, Soldier Show advanced logistics coordinator.



Cast members of the 2014 U.S. Army Soldier Show perform during a Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response and Prevention scene at Fort Eustis, Va., June 24. The Soldier Show is the Army's Broadway-style touring entertainment troupe, with shows highlighting various aspects of military culture. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Katie Gar Ward/Released)(Image was cropped to enhance subject)

Photo Credit: Staff Sgt. Katie Ward

### "The performances send a message regarding things that impact Soldiers today."

— Sgt. 1st Class Michael Carter, Soldier Show Advanced Logistics Coordinator

"The performances send a message regarding things that impact Soldiers today," said Carter. "Sexual assault and suicide are destroying families and the military. We hope Soldiers can take away that important message as they experience the show, and how those things impact family and friends."

For Spc. Enjolee Williams, a Soldier Show performer, the various performances communicate insights to issues and circumstances people may experience as a result of the military lifestyle. "The Soldier Show has evolved to really highlight how life is as a Soldier and what it's like to be in the Army," she said. "There's obviously the military side, but there's also a human side as well. It's a musical production of life in the military, whether it's the Soldier or

their Family members, and people who may not have an idea of the Army life can walk away knowing some of what Soldiers and their Families go through."

Staff Sgt. Antoine Buckner, a wounded Soldier with Fort Eustis' Warrior Transition Unit, said he attended the show because he greatly enjoyed a previous season's performance. "This is the second [Soldier Show] I've seen, and it makes it easier to hear those types of messages when it's said through song," said Buckner. "You can relate to it better because they're Soldiers like you. The show was outstanding; who knew there were so many talented, musically gifted people within the Army?"

The intent of the show is centered on the idea of "Entertainment for the Soldier, by the Soldier," and Carter said he feels the music and dance can help fellow service members spread the message of "Stand Strong" and continue to support a resilient Army. "We hope when Soldiers see the show, the message touches

them and they are able to see how serious some of these issues are," said Carter. "We also want them to go back to their units and express these same messages, because the military is small, and if these messages are taken from location to location, they can reach the whole force."

For more information on the U.S. Army Soldier Show and the remaining 2014 tour schedule, visit <http://www.armymwr.com/soldier-show.aspx>.

Full story: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/134362/soldier-show-stands-strong-eustis#.U73ksMtOUdV#ixzz371Wysfp3>

## SHARP COMMUNITY OUTLOOK

*DISCLAIMER: This information is provided for awareness and does not constitute endorsement of the groups and their activities by the United States Army or the SHARP Program Office.*

### AUGUST

7-10

#### American Psychological Association Conference

Washington, D.C.

Host: American Psychological Association

For additional information: <http://www.apa.org/convention/future.aspx>

16-19

#### American Sociological Association Annual Conference

San Francisco, Calif.

Host: American Sociological Association

For additional information: <http://www.asanet.org/am2014/am2014.cfm>

17-20

#### 40th National Organization of Victim Assistance Conference

Chicago, Ill.

Host: National Organization of Victim Assistance

For additional information: <http://www.trynova.org/40thnovaconf/overview/>

20-22

#### National Sexual Assault Conference

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Host: Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape & National Sexual Violence Resource Center

For additional information:

<https://www.signup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=20141598E&OID=50>

### OCTOBER

6-10

#### Trauma to Trial: Investigating and Prosecuting Adult Non-stranger Sexual Assaults

Staunton, Va.

Host: Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council

For additional information: <http://www.cas.state.va.us/trainingprograms.htm>

## RESOURCES

### How to Book "Got Your Back" HQDA G1 Funded, No Cost to Your Unit Training

"Got Your Back" Bystander Intervention Training is a dynamic, interactive lecture that utilizes PowerPoint and audience interaction to explore scenarios where bystander intervention is warranted to stop potential sexual violence and challenge victim blaming attitudes.

Contact: Jim Boughner,  
[james.r.boughner.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:james.r.boughner.ctr@mail.mil),  
703-571-7323, C: 703-298-6673

And have the following: classroom (theater or auditorium may work with approval), participant cap of 350 Soldiers per class, three trainings per day (ideal 0900/1130/1400, if same classroom), 90 to 120 minutes of classroom time, whiteboard or poster paper and wall space to place paper projector screen and onsite computer with CD/DVD Drive from which to run PowerPoint, two cordless lapel (worn on shirt) microphones with sound system, schedule SHARP SARC/VA to be at presentation, and 60-minute set-up time prior to training (systems check, with POC).

**SHARP Program Office Sexual Harassment Helpline**  
1-800-267-9964

#### SHARP Website



[www.preventsexualassault.army.mil](http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil)

[www.army.mil/sharp](http://www.army.mil/sharp)

#### DOD Safe Helpline:

call 877-995-5247;

text 55-247 (inside the U.S.)

or 202-470-5546 (outside the U.S.); or go to:

[www.SafeHelpline.org](http://www.SafeHelpline.org) or download mobile

app at <https://SafeHelpline.org/about-mobile>.

This is a crisis support service for members of the DOD community who are victims of sexual assault. Available 24/7 worldwide, users can "click, call or text" for anonymous and confidential support.

## TELL US ...

Please share success stories about the positive impact SHARP has had on you or within your community, including events and outreach activities. We'd like to include your stories in future issues of the SHARP newsletter. Please send submissions to: [usarmy.pentagon.hqda-dcs-g-1.list.sharp-newsletter-npe-mgt@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.pentagon.hqda-dcs-g-1.list.sharp-newsletter-npe-mgt@mail.mil). Thank you!