



SHARP

SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT RESPONSE & PREVENTION

TM

ARMY SHARP FOCUS

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ARMY'S SPECIAL VICTIMS PROSECUTORS BRING ENHANCED EXPERTISE TO COURTROOM

—By C. Todd Lopez, Army News Service

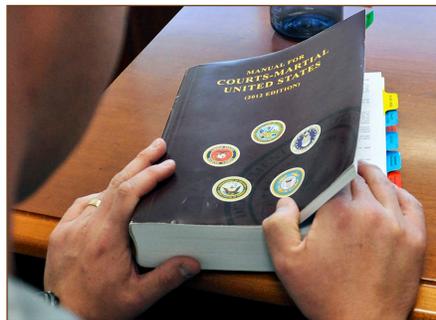


Photo Credit: Air Force Staff Sgt. Nicholas Rau, www.army.mil

WASHINGTON—IN 2009, The Secretary of the Army directed the creation of 15 slots for “special victim prosecutors.” Last summer, that number grew to 24. These Army lawyers enhance the prosecution of offenders with increased expertise, unique training, and specialization.

There are between 400 and 500 unit trial counselors across the Army. These are the lawyers at brigade level and above who prosecute offenders at courts-martial on behalf of their commanders. These Army lawyers are expected to prosecute any offense in their unit, including thefts, physical violence, malingering and even murder, said Lt. Col. Alexander N. Pickands, deputy, Trial Counsel Assistance Program.

Many of these lawyers, however, may be on their first stint as a prosecutor, Pickands said.

“Those trial counsel have anywhere between zero and 18 to 24 months being a prosecutor—which isn’t a great deal,” he said.

The Army’s special victim prosecutors, or SVPs, managed by the Trial Council Assistance Program, augment the sometimes limited expertise of unit trial counselors in prosecuting a more narrow range of crimes, including sexual assault, child abuse, child sexual exploitation, and serious domestic violence.

“They differ from the trial counsel in that all the SVPs are much more senior and experienced; they are nominated for the positions, and then they go through specialized training in addition to that,” Pickands said.

The Army’s cadre of SVPs don’t serve particular installations or commands, as do unit trial counselors. Instead, they serve regions that may have multiple Army installations and commands.

Of the 24 SVPs in the Army now, two serve in Germany, with one assigned specifically to that country, and the other also serving units in U.S. Central Command. There is also an SVP in Korea who serves units there and in Japan. Additionally, there is an SVP in both Hawaii and Alaska. The remaining SVPs serve in the United States, with one being assigned to the Judge Advocate General School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Pickands said currently there are now no jurisdictions in the Army without SVP coverage. That coverage has resulted in a “better focus” on offender behavior, instead of victim behavior, “which was for many years kind of the thing that discouraged

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*Army's Special Victims Prosecutors,
continued from page 1...*

most victims from reporting.”

With the increased expertise of SVPs, investigations now look at histories of subjects — perpetrators — more closely, Pickands said.

“A lot of our cases are benefiting from a more thorough investigation that is focused on the accused rather than the victim...”

“We’re looking at making connections with previous victims of sexual assault, out of a recognition that usually if the behavior is predatory, there are other people in the past who might be identified as victims, which tremendously strengthens the evidence at trial,” he said.

“A lot of our cases are benefiting from a more thorough investigation that is focused on the accused rather than the victim,” he said.

Pickands also said Army prosecutors are now doing “a lot better in communicating with victims than we did in the past.”

Now there is “almost continuous communication with the victim over the course of the prosecution, and that makes a huge difference because it improves the relationship between the prosecutor and the victim,” Pickands said.

“It increases victim awareness of the process moving forward, and confidence that there are many people working on the prosecution, and championing [his or her] account in court. And victims are better involved in decisions.”

If the defense offers a guilty plea, or another stipulation, for instance, victims are made aware of that.

Success of the SVP program is also measured in the cases that come to trial. Those cases, he said, have “much more detailed corroboration of reports.”

“You can see over time somebody who is more experienced at prosecuting these types of cases will have many more points of intersection between other people’s testimony and evidence and the victim’s account of what happened,” he said. “I’ve seen that improve dramatically over the years.”

—Lt. Col. Alexander N. Pickands,
Deputy for Trial Counsel Assistance Program

Pickands said that SVPs perform two functions for the Army. One is to help represent the government in prosecuting offenders for breaking the law. The other function they serve is to help “improve the pool of competence in trial counsel in their area.”

The SVPs, being more experienced prosecutors, help trial counselors improve their skills.

“They do a lot of training,” Pickands said. “Some of that training is training by doing, by prosecuting these cases with more experienced SVPs. Some is formal training. I would create classes for trial counsel and for unit Victim Advocates and so forth. And some is informal training. If I saw a particular issue that kept coming up in cases in that jurisdiction, I would put my arms around the trial counsel there and give them a quick class on whatever that issue is.”

BECOMING AN SVP

Pickands said SVPs are nominated for their positions and end up being interviewed by the Army’s Judge Advocate General before being assigned. Afterward, there is a significant amount of work involved before starting in their new position.

One of those requirements, Pickands said, included on-the-job training with a civilian prosecution office, “usually in their functional equivalent to a sex crimes division or special victim unit.”

Pickands did time with the Los Angeles County, Calif., District Attorney’s office. “I wanted to go for the biggest city, the business city I could arrange to do on-the-job training with,” he said.

“The crimes I saw prosecuted there looked the same as those I have prosecuted for years in the Army,” he said. “It makes sense; we are, after all, an all-volunteer force drawn from all of the same communities across the nation, who face these troubles every day. I do believe in the transformative power of the uniform, but it does not change people overnight, and it does not change all people.”

Army SVPs must also participate in:

- The Sexual Assault Trial Advocacy Course
- Civilian sector training
- TCAP-provided SVP conference
- The annual National District Attorney’s Association’s Career Prosecutor Course
- The TCAP’s New Prosecutor’s Course and Essential Strategies for Sexual Assault Prosecution training

“Many SVPs also have other advanced, specialized training, such as child forensic interviewing, advanced victim interviewing techniques, behavioral health issues in the criminal justice system, capital and complex litigation, and more,” he said.

Full Story: http://www.army.mil/article/113253/Army_s_special_victims_prosecutors_bring_enhanced_expertise_to_courtroom/

BY THE #'S 13,042

The number of Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and Victim Advocates (VAs) who have credentials through the DOD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP).

(As of Nov. 21, 2013)

ARMY SHARP DIRECTOR VISITS REDSTONE ARSENAL

—Army News Service



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

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — Soldiers and Civilians on the frontline of the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program here heard firsthand about the Army program's latest initiatives.

"It helps us on a smaller scale, to know what the Army is doing to come down to zero sexual assaults... This is so tough. It's a secret crime that's hard to stop."

—Capt. Dimitri Facaros,
Chief of Military Justice, Redstone Arsenal's Staff Judge Advocate

"A lot of this is about a culture change," said Army SHARP Program Office Director Dr. Christine Altendorf on Nov. 15 as she met with Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates from Redstone organizations. Representatives from the Judge Advocate General's office and the Criminal Investigations Division also attended.

Altendorf said the meeting, which was part of a day-long visit to Army Materiel Command headquarters, gave her a chance to impart the

headquarters viewpoint of the SHARP Program and help those on the frontlines understand how it trickles down. She emphasized the program's primary lines of effort, which include prevention, investigation, accountability, advocacy and assessment.

Altendorf highlighted several recently completed initiatives, including a directive calling for all officers and non-commissioned officers to be assessed on their commitment to the SHARP Program with remarks on their evaluation reports.

Ongoing initiatives include a new SHARP schoolhouse with an eight-week pilot course set for January. Altendorf said she also is committed to a monthly blog highlighting the program's primary lines of effort on armylive.dodlive.mil.

From the Secretary of Defense to the White House, Altendorf said the SHARP Program has received a high level of focus and attention. But she was cautious about the way ahead.

"We need to worry about resources," Altendorf said. "With

the Army downsizing... we need to build a sustainable program that is effective for the future."

Capt. Dimitri Facaros, Chief of Military Justice from Redstone Arsenal's Staff Judge Advocate, said he was interested to hear about what is happening at the Army level. "It helps us on a smaller scale, to know what the Army is doing to come down to zero sexual assaults," Facaros said. "This is so tough. It's a secret crime that's hard to stop."

Full story: http://www.army.mil/article/115359/Army_SHARP_director_visits_Redstone_Arsenal

7TH SHARP SUMMIT WILL BE JAN. 28-29

The 7th Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Summit will be held Jan. 28-29 at Joint Base Andrews, MD. This year's theme is "Achieving Cultural Change: Restoring the Trust" with a special focus on victim advocacy.

THIS SUMMIT WILL:

- » Continue with the execution of Phase III - Achieving Cultural Change - of the I. A.M. Strong Campaign by focusing efforts on Brigade and Battalion Leaders and their SHARP proponents to be DOD Retention Leaders. The goal is to eliminate incidents of sexual harassment and assault through a comprehensive program that centers on awareness and prevention, training and education, reporting options, timely responses, and victim support services and accountability.
- » Provide forums for commanders to learn best practices from each other.
- » Engage the commanders in an open discussion about the strategic future direction of the SHARP Program and how to meet our goals.

If there are topics, lessons learned and best practices that you believe should be discussed in this forum, please submit your suggestions to LTC Geoffrey Catlett, SHARP Plans and Operations, at geoffrey.a.catlett@mail.mil. Phone: 703-695-5512.

For more information, including registration information:

http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil/Summit_2014.cfm

TRAINING & CURRICULUM CORNER

SHARP Schoolhouse Pilot Set to Kick Off January

The SHARP Schoolhouse Pilot, a new eight (8)-week course designed to train SHARP trainers on how to teach SHARP's 80-Hour Certification Course, is scheduled for Jan. 27 – Mar. 28, 2014 at Fort Belvoir, VA. These new trainers will replace the SHARP Mobile Training Team contracted instructors and assume the role of training the 80-Hour Certification Course for Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and Victim Advocates (VAs). The cohort will consist of 32 participants, including a block of 20 active component SHARP trainers, with the addition of two trainers each from U.S. Army Pacific Command, National Guard and the Reserves, and six brigade-level SARCs and VAs.

The pilot is a result of input from SARCs and VAs throughout the Army who participated in a Jul. 31 discussion with

the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA), Gen. Ray Odierno on how to improve or eliminate sexual assault from the ranks. Additionally, the Army SHARP Program Office received feedback from program managers on areas that require more specific training to prepare SARCs and VAs for the various situations they traditionally encounter.

The Secretary of the Army (SECARMY)/CSA-directed centralized SHARP Schoolhouse course lengthens the current 80-Hour SHARP Certification Course and incorporates some modules that are similar to the curriculum from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), the Inspector General (IG) School, and the Army Management Staff College (AMSC). These blocks of instruction, although outside the SHARP-specific Program of Instruction, should provide more tools for SHARP professionals to use in their critical positions.

The pilot will be used to assess and fine tune the SHARP Schoolhouse course for future trainers; thus, paving the way for a permanent schoolhouse that will standardize and formalize the SHARP curriculum and help achieve cultural change in the Army.

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS NOW ENTITLED TO THEIR OWN LAWYER

— By C. Todd Lopez,
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Victims of sexual assault now have the option to have legal representation following a sexual assault.

During criminal proceedings in a courtroom, the defendant has a lawyer. The state is also represented by their own lawyer, the prosecuting attorney. But the victims of sexual assault have historically not had the benefit of a state-provided advocate as they are interviewed, as they testify on the witness stand, and as they move through the other complexities of the criminal justice system.

This is no longer the case. As of Nov. 1, 2013, Soldiers who report that they have been the victim of a sexual assault can elect to have a Special Victim Counsel assigned to them. An SVC is an active duty Army attorney, provided at no charge to the victim, who will represent the victim's interest throughout the course of the legal proceedings that might follow the report of a sexual assault.

Col. Jay McKee, an Army lawyer with the Army's Office of the Judge Advocate General, serves as the program manager for the Army's Special Victim Counsel program.

"Once the crime happens, or alleged crime happens, and the victim is

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NOMINATE AN EXCEPTIONAL SARC FOR THE 2014 DOD AWARD

SARC OF THE YEAR nominations are currently being accepted, so be sure to submit your nominations. The deadline for submission of nominations to the Army SHARP Program Office is Jan. 13, 2014. Remember, nominees must be D-SAACP credentialed. The Army Board is scheduled to meet in January, when they will select the next Army SARC

of the Year nominee and submit their selection to DCS, G-1 LTG Bromberg for approval. Submission guidance is available at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/doc/41060606>. SGM Pamela K. Williams (pamela.k.williams.mil@mail.mil), SHARP Senior Enlisted Advisor, is the POC. Phone: 703-571-7350.

*Sexual Assault Victims Now
Entitled to Their Own Lawyer,
continued from page 4...*

seen by a victim advocate, or at the hospital or by Victim Witness Liaison — however the victim is taken into the system — they are notified that they have a right to an SVC.”

It is a misconception, McKee said, that the prosecuting attorney in a criminal case represents the victim of a crime. The prosecutor represents the government’s interests or society’s. But McKee added that in

with the victim’s. They want the same thing.” But sometimes, McKee said, the victim might have concerns that require the assistance of an attorney.

For example, the defense attorneys might also want to bring into the trial a victim’s medical records or past sexual history. That might possibly damage a victim’s reputation or embarrass him or her.

“They can try to get that introduced on the record,” McKee said. “The defense is there to represent the defendant, the accused, they are going to put on the

help the victim understand what will happen. McKee also said that while the SVC will not participate in the “adversarial portion” of a trial — in that there will not be a third table in the courtroom for the SVC and the victim — the SVC will be able to make motions on behalf of the victim, talk to the Special Victim Prosecutor, the trial council, trial defense attorney, and the staff judge advocate “in terms of what justice looks like for the victim.”

Right now, there are about 53 SVCs in the Army, across the United States, and in Europe. There will soon be an SVC in Afghanistan as well. The total number of SVCs the Army will ultimately need will be determined after a year of evaluating manpower needs for SVCs, McKee said.

Special Victim Counsel are nominated for service out of the existing pool of Army lawyers, and serve for no more than two years. They are chosen after an evaluation based on their military justice experience, maturity, and judgment. Those chosen for the program undergo three days of training, which includes classes on professional responsibility, military rules of evidence, the Army’s parole system, forensic medical exams, rules for practicing as an SVC, and classes from professionals who teach about how to treat and talk with a victim of a sexual assault.

Sometimes a sexual assault case is not tried in a military criminal court, but instead in a civilian criminal court. McKee said in those cases, the Army will also provide an SVC to Soldiers who are victims of sexual assault. The SVC cannot appear in the local civil court, but can help explain the process and provide victims with legal assistance advice, such as helping them get a civilian restraining order against the accused.

Full story: http://www.army.mil/article/114268/Sexual_assault_victims_now_entitled_to_their_own_lawyer/

“The prosecutor wants justice. He [or she] is serving the community, he [or she] is serving the military justice system for good order and discipline of the force, and 99 percent of the time, that interest is aligned with the victim’s.”

—Col. Jay McKee, Army lawyer with the Army’s Office of the Judge Advocate General Redstone Arsenal’s Staff Judge Advocate

almost all cases those governmental interests are the same as the victim’s: to see that justice is done.

“The prosecutor wants justice. He [or she] is serving the community, he [or she] is serving the military justice system for good order and discipline of the force,” McKee said. “And 99 percent of the time, that interest is aligned

best case for the accused. Sometimes that is not in the best interest of the victim to undergo cross examination in a public trial about [the victim’s] past sexual history or to have [the victim’s] personal medical records be reviewed by parties to a courts-martial..”

The SVC can help the victim make sense of the ramifications of trial, and

As of Nov. 1, 2013, Soldiers who report they have been the victim of a sexual assault can elect to have a Special Victim Counsel assigned to them. An SVC is an Army attorney, provided at no charge to the victim, who will represent the victim’s needs throughout the course of the legal proceedings that might follow the report of a sexual assault.

Photo Credit: Air Force Staff Sgt. Nicholas Rau, www.army.mil



DEFENSE DEPARTMENT BOLSTERS VICTIM ADVOCACY WITH NEW INITIATIVES

— By Army Sgt. 1st Class
Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.,
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department continues to take steps to improve victims' confidence in sexual assault advocacy through a multi-pronged approach, said the deputy director for DOD's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

Air Force Col. Alan R. Metzler, SAPRO's deputy director, emphasized that the first step to stopping sexual assault in the military is through prevention and working to reinforce cultural imperatives of mutual trust and respect, team commitment, and professional values.

When prevention fails, he said, we have taken steps to improve victims' confidence and combat underreporting through new measures that went into effect Oct. 1. Metzler outlined the DOD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP) and the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (DSAID), two initiatives set to improve the advocacy services provided to victims of sexual assault.

D-SAACP is a training and certification program for Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Victim Advocates (VAs). The D-SAACP professionalizes the victim advocacy roles in alignment with national certification standards and standardizes many of the requirements for SARCs and SAPR VAs across the Services. SARCs and VAs play a vital role in supporting victims of sexual assault and are central to commanders' efforts in building rapport and trust needed to create a cohesive team within every unit.

"Proper training for SARCs and SAPR VAs is critical to ensuring that all SAPR

responders are equipped to provide professional and informed advocacy services," said Metzler. "Victims can be confident they have access to professional victim advocates and will be treated with dignity and respect throughout their recovery."

In order to apply, SARCs and VAs must submit an application, which requires signing the SARC/SAPR VA Code of Ethics, submitting two letters of recommendation, and completing 32 hours of victim advocacy continuing education training. SARCs and SAPR VAs must re-certify to continue providing victim assistance services every two years.

Also, on Oct. 1, the Department met Congressional requirements to implement a standardized, centralized, case-level database that maintains information on sexual assaults. DSAID will serve as the database of record for future reporting. DSAID provides SARCs the enhanced ability to provide comprehensive and standardized victim case management. DSAID will help each Service to more thoroughly assess the effectiveness of their response efforts by providing a better tool to manage cases and track referral services for victims of sexual assault. Privacy rules for the database comply with DOD and federal regulations regarding information assurance, privacy, and records management.

"Our sexual assault prevention and response program is focused on the concerns and needs of victims and we have worked diligently to improve our system of response," said Metzler. "We encourage victims to seek help, and we value their decisions and respect their privacy."

The Defense Department, recognizing that increased victim confidence and reporting is "a bridge to greater victim care and offender accountability," remains committed to prevention of sexual assault, and providing comprehensive care to victims of this crime.

"The Defense Department, and its leaders, take the crime of sexual assault very seriously," he said. "We are leading change to create an environment where everyone is safe and victims do not experience retaliation."

Full story: <http://www.defense.gov/News/NewsArticle.aspx?ID=120903>



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

DIRECTOR OF SHARP PROGRAM OFFICE STARTS MONTHLY BLOG

Christine T. Altendorf, Ph.D., Director of the Army SHARP Program Office, has started a monthly blog post. Dr. Altendorf intends to offer informal updates to keep the Army community posted 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 blog posts here:
<http://arylive.dodlive.mil/index.php/2013/10/director-addresses-the-state-of-army-sharp-program/>

COMMITMENT TO SHARP INCORPORATED INTO OER, NCOER

—By U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

WIESBADEN, GERMANY — Effective immediately, all officers and noncommissioned officers (NCOs) will include goals and objectives that adhere to the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program on their Officer Evaluation Report (OER) or NCO Evaluation Report (NCOER).

According to Milper message 13-306, Changes to the Evaluation Reporting System in Response to Army Directive 2013-20, officers and NCOs must commit themselves to eliminating sexual harassment and assault to foster a climate of dignity and respect in their units.

The Army is taking important steps to provide new training for its leaders and strengthen its training for all Soldiers by improving its investigative and military justice capabilities and furthering the professionalism of its first responders.

As of Sept. 27, OERs and NCOERs should identify, as appropriate, any significant actions or contributions the rated officer or NCO made toward:

- Promoting the personal and professional development of his or her subordinates
- Ensuring the fair, respectful treatment of assigned personnel
- Establishing a workplace and overall command climate that fosters dignity and respect for all members of the group

Assessments should also identify, as appropriate, any failures by the officer or NCO to foster a climate

NEW SHARP COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH MATERIALS

New SHARP marketing materials have been shipped to units throughout the Army. If your unit requires additional materials, you may order them from the SHARP Products on Demand website at: www.sharpmaterials.com.

of dignity, respect and adherence to the SHARP Program.

Additionally, if the rated officer or NCO had a substantiated incident of sexual harassment or sexual assault in their unit, the assessment must note the incident and explain how the officer or NCO addressed it.

Raters and senior raters are now required to document any substantiated finding in an Army or Department of Defense investigation or inquiry that an officer or NCO:

- Committed an act of sexual harassment or sexual assault
- Failed to report a sexual harassment or assault
- Failed to respond to

a complaint or report of sexual harassment or sexual assault

- Retaliated against a person making a complaint or report of sexual harassment or sexual assault

For more information about the Milper message 13-306, visit the milsuite website: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-122074>

Full story: http://www.army.mil/article/113756/Commitment_to_SHARP_incorporated_into_OER__NCOER/



Effective immediately, all officers and noncommissioned officers will include goals and objectives that adhere to the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program on their Officer Evaluation Report or NCO Evaluation Report.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of U.S. Army, www.army.mil

MANAGING TIME, COMMUNICATION IS KEY FOR HUSBAND-WIFE SHARP TEAM

— By Staff Sgt. Christopher McCullough



Staff Sgt. Ronald Hale, of San Diego, Calif., and Sgt. 1st Class Shamon Hale, a native of Gastonia, NC. Both are Army SHARP advocates.

Photo Credit: (Courtesy Photo)

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD,

Wash.— The Army's Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program was designed to prevent incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault before they occur. The program would not exist without the noncommissioned officers (NCOs) who serve a Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs), Victim Advocates (VAs) and SHARP representatives.

"It takes more than somebody who's just willing to get out there and take care of Soldiers to be in this program because it can be mentally draining, and we have to learn how to put that aside and put that Soldier first and learn how to not become emotionally involved," said Sgt. 1st Class Shamon Hale, a SARC with the 62nd Medical Brigade, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and a native of Gastonia, N.C.

Hale and her husband, Staff Sgt. Ronald E. Hale II, a San Diego native and VA at 3-2 SBCT, 7th Infantry Division, are both SHARP advocates whose passion for the program is undeniable. "[The SHARP Program] is really important to both of us," said Shamon Hale. "When it comes to taking care of Soldiers, we're kind of on the same wave length with that."

Both NCOs have been in their respective positions for more than a year now. That's notable given the time that is often required of advocates and representatives in the SHARP Program, and also that Ronald Hale only returned from Afghanistan in November 2012. It is even more noteworthy given the Hales are also parents whose time is divided between the Army, SHARP and their Family. "We have one child, 11 years old. She's grown up in the military all her life so she's familiar with mom or dad deploying, going to school or coming home late," Ronald Hale said.

Even so, the job of a SHARP representative can seem boundless. Both Hales are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "There's no time of the night when you don't respond. You can get a call at any given time. When you take this job you have to realize you're on call. You're there for the Soldiers, NCOs and officers," Ronald Hale said.

That kind of dedication to duty requires a family to adapt in order to stay together, which is exactly what the Hales have done. "We've been doing it for the past 15 years, so it took a whole lot of practice, a whole lot of making sure we have the right plans in place," Shamon Hale said. "We have had instances where we both had to deploy, or one parent had to deploy, or [one of us] got a call and had to go off and do something, but we make sure we have our plans in place."

Even with plans in place it is not easy, but Ronald Hale states that "so far as personal affairs, you have to just manage your time wisely and communicate between the two of you." Be that as it may, having a strong family background, strong family support and a family care plan in place are key to their Family staying strong, said Ronald Hale.

So what is it about such a taxing job that would entice not just one, but both parents to become involved?

"It's important to me because my number one priority is taking care of Soldiers," Shamon Hale said. "I think that if you can volunteer to be in a program to take care of Soldiers when they're at one of the lowest points in their life, and to be in that process to help rehabilitate them, that is a feat in itself. For me, it's about making sure that I can help these Soldiers in any way that I can get back to where they need to be."

Ronald Hale concurred; stating that he wanted to make a difference within the ranks where sexual assault and harassment is concerned.

"Just getting out there and being a tool for the Army to promote the SHARP Program or campaign is a big step in tomorrow's option, because now you have sharper Soldiers who know their options, who know [who] to go to, who not to talk to, who know whether they can get counseling or medical services," Ronald Hale said. "You're helping (educate) the chain of command ... as well as your Soldiers."

Given the emotional and mental intensity of helping victims of sexual crimes, it takes a person of strong character and conviction to be a SHARP representative. The fact that both NCOs exhibit those traits, and manage to keep their marriage strong and their Family intact, is testament to their dedication to the victims of such acts as sexual assault and sexual harassment.

"SHARP does work," Shamon Hale said. "We just have to make sure we have the right people in place."

With NCOs like the Hales available to help those who have been victimized, it sounds like the right people are already in place.

Full story: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/114348/managing-time-communication-key-husband-wife-sharp-team#.UoU8cWx3tz>

NEW CENTER PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE CARE TO ASSAULT VICTIMS

— By David Vergun, Army News Service

WASHINGTON — A first-of-its-kind Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Resource Center opened recently at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Already, about 40 victims have visited the center, said Lt. Col. Robert Stelle, director of the center's Sexual Assault Response Team. He added that although the center is still an Army pilot project, it is already fully functioning as a sanctuary for victims, where they can get a full range of assistance from trained, caring professionals.

Representatives from the Criminal Investigation Command, Madigan Army Medical Center, and the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, or JBLM, are all available at the center, as are the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program (SHARP) victim advocates.

This "community of providers" is one of the key features of the center, he explained. Victims can go to a one-stop, consolidated facility.

Stelle said he borrowed the idea from the best practices approach to business, which is a model that relies on a structure to take multiple agencies — four in this case — and get them to function as one efficient and effective organization.

Previously, he explained, victims would need to visit each of the four agencies in separate locations and in the process they would get shuttled around from one building to another, adding to their already high levels of "stress and turmoil."

"Because of the hassles and runarounds, many victims would just say 'forget it, it's already embarrassing and humiliating. This is too much,' and they would give up," he said.

HOW IT WORKS

Typically, victims of sexual assault or harassment would first visit their unit victim advocate representative, Stelle said. A representative is typically a Soldier from the company

level on up. Although their duty is collateral, all such advocates have received specialized training and are competent and professional.

Once they've seen their unit advocate, they'll typically be brought to the center, he said, noting that the process doesn't preclude victims from walking into the center on their own.

Once the victim enters the center, he or she is received by a trained victim advocate who will inform them how best to proceed.

The process at the center differs from how things are normally done. At the center, because everything is under one roof, victims can easily move from one care provider to the next without difficulty. If those functions were in separate buildings, in different areas of an installation, then victims might have to make multiple appointments and travel to different locations. The efficiency at the center makes for a more comfortable process for the victims, Stelle said.

There is one important distinction at the center involving the pathway victims choose, he continued. A Soldier who is a victim of sexual assault has an option to make a "restricted" or "unrestricted" report.

Unrestricted reporting involves law enforcement, medical care, the legal community and counseling; it is the traditional form of reporting.

Restricted reporting means no investigation and involves only counseling and medical attention, he explained. About one in four victims choose this option. Nevertheless, the care they receive is still the same quality received with the unrestricted option.

The Army started offering the restricted option for victims around eight years ago, he said. That's also around the same time that Soldiers in CID and JAG, Army-wide, started receiving formal training in sexual assault cases.



Lt. Col. Celia FlorCruz, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program manager, 7th Infantry Division, addresses a group of peer-to-peer trainees at a course on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Photo Credit: Sgt. Alexis Weise, www.army.mil

Continued on page 10...

New Center Provides Comprehensive Care to Assault Victims, continued from page 9...

Stelle, who has a military prosecution background and has served in the Army for about 20 years, called the training “revolutionary.”

Insights into the psychology, trauma and all the dynamics of what a sexual assault victim goes through were explained in detail, he said.

For example, he said, a victim’s story may change several times or be confused and chaotic because he or she may have been drinking or because of the intense trauma. Traditionally, that would have resulted in law enforcement or medical becoming suspicious of the victim’s version of events.

Now, investigators and medical personnel are sensitive, empathic and open-minded and they are trained not to jump to conclusions, he said. The change in attitude from then to now “is like night and day,” he said.

Stelle termed their training “fantastic” and added that law enforcement and medical staff in the Army are probably some of the best trained in the country.

FUTURE ENDEAVORS

In the future, Stelle said center leadership would like to interface with other agencies in the Army, like some of the ready and resilience initiatives, to

explore ways some of their programs could be used in prevention and treatment, including long-term.

“But we’ll always be victim-focused, victim-centered,” he said.

As time passes, the center will amass more and more data and have a better knowledge base, Stelle said.

“Through trend analysis, we’ll be able to spot more quickly where preventative type programs might be needed at particular units,” he explained. “We’ll also see patterns in the types of assault cases and serve as eyes and ears for the commanders.”

Within the center itself, personnel from the four agencies meet regularly to discuss trends and cases and compare notes on how their services can be delivered even more effectively. There’s a “synergy” that develops from that type of teamwork, Stelle said.

Stelle said he hopes the center will serve as a model for the Army and the rest of the Department of Defense. He added that he and his team have a lot of passion invested in the effort and want to see it succeed and help victims get the care and justice they deserve.

Full story: http://www.army.mil/article/112161/New_center_provides_comprehensive_care_to_assault_victims/



Photo Credit: Staff Sgt. Mark Miranda, 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, www.dvidshub.net

SHARP VIDEOS

The following SHARP videos, downloadable from the SHARP Dec./ Jan. 2014. Newsletter folder (<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/folder/41688733>), are available for use in communications and outreach. These are useful tools when partnering with other organizations and to highlight SHARP as part of the Ready & Resilient campaign.

Sexual Assault/ Sexual Harassment

- » *Backstage Pass*, 2012
- » *Be a Hero*, 2012
- » *Deceived*, 2013
- » *Deception Detection*, 2013
- » *Leader Accountability*, 2013
- » *Male Victimization*, 2013
- » *Power of the Senses*, 2013
- » *Silhouettes*, 2012
- » *Special Victim Legal Support*, 2013
- » *Stomp*, 2012
- » *Three Personas*, 2013
- » *Victim Advocacy*, 2013

Substance Abuse

- » *Beer*, 2013
- » *Fight the Fog*, 2013
- » *Spice*, 2013

Suicide

- » *Body Bags*, 2013
- » *Suicide*, 2012

SAAM Vignettes

- » *Duty to Report*, 2013
- » *I.A.M. STRONG*, 2013
- » *Investigation and Prosecution (FETI)*, 2013
- » *Team & Leadership*, 2013

CSF Family Fitness

- » *Comprehensive Family Fitness*, 2012
- » *CSF Family Fitness - A Wife's Tale*, 2013

Other

- » *Bully*, 2012
- » *The Candidates, (PTSD)* 2013
- » *Command Climate*, 2013
- » *Hazing*, 2012
- » *Neutrality, (Ready & Resilient)* 2013
- » *Strong Bonds - Chaplain's Program*, 2013
- » *View Master, (Military)* 2012

POLICY NEWS & UPDATES

Access to these and other policy documents is available through the SHARP website: http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil/policy_reg_recent_changes.cfm.

SECARMY/CSA MEMOS/ DIRECTIVES

MILPER MESSAGE NUMBER 13-306, PROPONENT AHRC- PDV-E: Changes to the Evaluation Reporting System in Response to Army Directive 2013-20 – Oct. 22

Provides guidance and procedures in support of Army Directive 2013-20: Assessing Officers and Noncommissioned Officers on Fostering Climates of Dignity and Respect and Adhering to the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program.

Establishes that all officers and noncommissioned officers (NCOs) will include goals and objectives that adhere to the principles of the SHARP Program on their Officer Evaluation Reports (OERs) or NCO Evaluation Reports (NCOERs).

NOTE: See article *Commitment to SHARP Incorporated into OER, NCOER* on page 7 for more information.

ARMY DIRECTIVE 2013-20: Assessing Officers and Noncommissioned Officers on Fostering Climates of Dignity and Respect and on Adhering to the Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response and Prevention Program – Sept. 27

Directs enhancements to the Evaluation Reporting System to assess how officers and noncommissioned officers (NCOs) are meeting their commitments to the SHARP Program and hold

them appropriately accountable.

- Effective immediately, both officers and NCOs will include goals and objectives pertaining to their commitment to the SHARP Program and be rated on them.
- Any failures will be documented along with explanations and any substantiated findings will be documented in an Army or Department of Defense investigation or inquiry that an officer or NCO:
 - Committed an act of sexual harassment or sexual assault;
 - Failed to report a sexual harassment or sexual assault;
 - Failed to respond to a complaint or report of sexual harassment or sexual assault; or
 - Retaliated against a person making a complaint or report of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

POLICY

OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL POLICY MEMORANDUM # 14-01: Special Victim Counsel – Nov. 1

Addresses judge advocates as special victim counsel (SVC) in accordance with SECDEF direction that each service stand-up a special victim advocacy program, effective immediately.

SVCs provide professional advice to their clients in a responsive and timely manner and represent them throughout the military justice process.

NOTE: See article *Sexual Assault Victims Now Entitled to Their Own Lawyer* on page 4 for more information.

DA MEMORANDUM: Guidelines and Process for Critical Command Information Requirements (CCIR) Regarding Sexual Harassment and Assault Incidents – Oct. 11

Effective immediately, sexual harassment and sexual assault allegations and offenses involving certain incident

types will be reported within 24 hours through ACOM, ASCC, and DRU organizations to the Army Operations Center (AOC) and Headquarters, Department of the Army (HGDA) G-1 Personnel Contingency Cell (PCC).

Explains process and procedures, including the required follow-up information for supplemental reporting of Sexual Assault Incident Types.

DOD GENERAL COUNSEL INFORMATION MEMO: Proposed Manual for Courts-Martial (MCM) Amendment to Provide Crime Victims the Right to Comment Before the Convening Authority Acts on the Findings and Sentence – Oct. 8

Acting General Counsel memo to SECDEF, which includes draft language for an EO to amend the MCM to provide victims of crime the opportunity to provide input to the post-trial action phase of courts-martial.

- Proposes amending the MCM to provide crime victims the right to submit written comments to convening authority before he or she acts on a court-martial's findings and sentence.
- Proposes a new Rule for Courts-Martial 1105A to establish that right. It would also provide discussion accompanying the new Rule 1105A and make conforming amendments to Rules 1106, 1107, and 1306 and Rule 1106's discussion.
- This would be a part of a larger proposed EO that has been coordinated with the Services, which includes several provisions expanding victims' rights in the courts-martial process and implements a provision of the NDAA for FY12 authorizing the issuance of subpoenas duces tecum during Article 32 investigations.

SHARP COMMUNITY OUTLOOK

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

DECEMBER

3-6

National Institute of Crime Prevention Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Training

Las Vegas, NV

Host: National Institute of Crime Prevention

For information: <http://nicp.net/flyers/Flyer%20Dec%202013.pdf>

10

A Day of Transforming Trauma

Seattle, WA

Host: The Trauma Stewardship Institute

For information: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e82ba8lp9fa9294d&llr=ehhej5iab>

11-13

Louisiana's 10th Annual Conference on Sexual Assault and Family Violence

Baton Rouge, LA

Host: Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault

For information: <http://www.lafasa.org/upcoming-events.html>

JANUARY

27-Mar. 28

SHARP Schoolhouse Pilot Course

Fort Belvoir, VA

For additional information contact: Mark Joyner, Branch Chief, SHARP Prevention and Training at 703-571-7341 or mark.a.joyner.civ@mail.mil

28-29

7th Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Summit

Joint Base Andrews, MD

For information: http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil/Summit_2014.cfm

RESOURCES

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

Contact: Jim Boughner,
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

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

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. Thank you!