

2010

Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault in the Military System

*A chapter update to the “Support
for Survivors” Training Manual*



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Preface

This publication is a recent chapter update to the Support for Survivors Training Manual, which was first published in 2001 by the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA). The Support for Survivors manual was developed as a comprehensive training tool for staff and volunteers working with sexual assault and/or rape survivors. The training manual contains several chapters written by numerous experts from the sexual and gender violence fields. Collectively, these experts generously imparted their wisdom, knowledge and experience by writing specific chapters in the training manual. As a result, hundreds of staff and volunteers at local rape crisis centers have benefited from the manual's information and have positively changed the life of a sexual assault and/or rape survivor.

But as Marybeth Carter, CALCASA's Executive Director in 2001, noted in the manual's introduction, it is CALCASA's goal to ensure the Support for Survivors Training Manual remains "a fluid, living document that continues to evolve." As the 10th anniversary of the manual's original publication approaches, CALCASA has begun updating various chapters of the manual to acknowledge the many changes that have occurred in the field and in our society since 2001. Updating these chapters will also ensure crisis counselors and advocates receive the most current and accurate information. CALCASA will make these new chapter updates available online through its website at www.calcasa.org.

CALCASA is deeply grateful to the many people who contributed to the original Support for Survivors Training Manual and championed its creation, as well as to those who are now contributing their time, knowledge and expertise to update the manual's various chapters. CALCASA also wishes to thank the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) for their leadership, guidance and financial support for this chapter revision process and for their continued support of California rape crisis centers to provide critical services to sexual assault and rape survivors.

With gratitude,

Sandra Henriquez
Executive Director
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About the chapter authors:

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After attending law school, Ms. Labertew developed the first of its kind Legal Advocacy Project in her work at the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women. This program provided civil legal assistance to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence with particular focus in the areas of family law and immigration. Ms. Labertew also serves on the board of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence and is the chair of the Policy and Governmental Affairs Committee. She is a member of the Partnerships Public Policy and Research Committee and heads up the Immigration Sub-Committee whose work is focused on bettering the lives of undocumented domestic violence survivors. She has also served as a member of the Steering Committee for the Los Angeles County Sexual Assault Coordinating Council.

In addition to her work in non-profit management, legal work and women's organizing, Ms. Labertew has a background in advertising and marketing, is a college professor and works with several non-profit organizations, coalitions and individuals as a program advisor and consultant. She has been an advocate and trainer locally, statewide, nationally and internationally on violence against women issues. She has recently become an advocate for female veterans who have been sexually assaulted in the military, and continues to work with organizations that help them to get access to services and benefits.

Since 2001, **Kimberly C. Wong, LCSW** has maintained a private psychotherapy practice in South Pasadena, California, where she provides therapy to both individuals and couples. Ms. Wong specializes in working with survivors of sexual assault, sexual abuse, domestic violence, and other trauma. She also specializes in substance and behavioral addictions, relationships, women's issues, and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) affirmative psychotherapy. Ms. Wong received her Master in Social Welfare from UCLA in 1993 and has been licensed since 1997.

Ms. Wong's extensive experience working with survivors of sexual violence and interpersonal violence comes from having worked as the Director of Counseling Services for the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (now Peace Over Violence), Ms. Wong has conducted multiple trainings on crisis intervention and counseling, sexual assault, domestic violence, PTSD, and cross-cultural awareness related to the Asian Pacific Islander community and the LGBT community. She has implemented and trained on alternative approaches to trauma recovery utilizing art and meditation.

CALCASA also wishes to recognize and thank **Kay Buck** for writing the original chapter in the 2001 Support for Survivors Training Manual regarding *Survivors in the Military System*, some portions of which are included in this update. Kay is currently serving as the Executive Director of the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) in Los Angeles, CA.

Introduction to Survivors in the Military System

This chapter is designed to introduce you to the military environment and provide you with a guide to understanding its structure and the military justice system as it relates to sexual assault. In addition, it will address what options may be available for sexual assault survivors in the military and give you ideas about how to develop allies within the military system to provide accessible services to military personnel and their families.

The military consists of four uniformed services: Navy, Marines, Army, and Air Force, all organized under the Department of Defense. Additionally, while the U.S. Coast Guard is organized under the Department of Homeland Security, not the Department of Defense, it becomes an arm of the military service during times of war and at the will of the President, so its members follow the same law and code as the four other services mentioned above. Although there are differences among them, the military justice system for all services, including the Coast Guard, is based on the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). In addition, the Department of Defense issues various “directives” to ensure conformity and clarification when necessary. In general, the military is a system with its own set of laws. Procedures and survivor rights differ from those in the civilian system.

The military system is based on a model of patriarchy and hierarchical order. Trained to function within this hierarchy, or “chain of command,” members exist in a system of institutionalized oppression. In addition, service members are bound by a set of principles emphasizing selfless service, courage, honor, respect, discipline, strength and a willingness to react to fear and danger without retreat. Not only is the nature of military service conducive to an environment where abuse can thrive, but these factors can lead to a culture where the reporting of that abuse is seen as a violation of military norms. While currently military policy has made attempts to address this culture, rape and sexual assault, sexual harassment and gender based bullying is still a part of daily life for service members.

Active duty personnel and their families are subject to military rules at all times, even when they are off duty. Unlike civilians, who may separate their work from their personal lives, members of the military live as the military dictates. It is not uncommon to hear military personnel voice feelings of powerlessness and lack of control over their own lives. Rank, too, plays an important role in the military. Members quickly learn to be submissive to their superiors, tolerant, and controlled - even to the point of suffering humiliation and abuse. The chain of command power is absolute, and individual needs are secondary to the command.

A military base resembles a small city or town that stands isolated from the outside community. Seeking services from civilian sources is uncommon, and many times impossible, depending on its location.

When something traumatic such as a rape occurs, the barrier between the military and civilian communities often leaves the service member and his or her dependents not knowing where to turn for help. It is equally difficult for rape crisis centers to provide services to military members without some kind of formal relationship with the military system. Understanding the military culture is the beginning of bridging this gap in providing services for military personnel and their families.

Military Sexual Assault Policies and Justice Procedures

When a crime occurs, including sexual assault, jurisdiction plays a very important role in determining whether the military justice system will be involved. If the crime occurs on military or federal ground, the military will handle the case; however, if it occurs on common jurisdiction, the military may hand over the investigation to local law enforcement. If this occurred, state law would apply and Rape Crisis Centers would be involved in the process. Also, the military and the district attorney may negotiate to determine which justice system will handle the case. Depending on the result, a Rape Crisis Center may or may not be involved. It is even possible that both justice systems will prosecute the case. Once jurisdiction is determined and it is decided that the military will handle the case, the commanding officer (CO) is given a great deal of decision-making power.

When a sexual assault occurs in the military, the regulating legal authority is the Uniform Code of Military Justice, specifically Articles 120 (Rape, Sexual Assault, and other Sexual Misconduct), Article 125 (Sodomy) and Article 134 (Conduct Unbecoming an Officer and a Gentleman). These portions of the UCMJ have been and are used currently to respond to sexual assault as it occurs on military bases. Based on these codes, for a rape to occur in the military it must be by “force and without consent”.

Collateral Misconduct

One of the most significant barriers to reporting sexual assault for survivor’s of military sexual assault are the potential reports of the survivor’s own behavior that may violate a regulation or military law. Fear of charges of underage drinking, adultery, fraternization or other related offenses, may prevent survivors from coming forward about their sexual assault, if they engaged in one of these activities. This is called “collateral misconduct” and could result in sanctions for the survivor.

Recent Changes in Military Response to Sexual Assault

Much has changed over the past ten years regarding how the military responds to sexual assault. In the early 2000’s, as a result of a great deal of media attention and pressure from Congress to address reports of high incidents of rape, sexual assaults and sexual harassment in military academies and on military bases, then Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld ordered a report on sexual assault in the military. The results of that report found, not only that there were extremely high incidents of rape throughout the military and that these incidents were likely to go unreported, but also

that the military had a very inconsistent response, both in treatment and investigation, to these reports.

Sexual Assault and Prevention Response Office (SAPRO)

As a result of this report, the Department of Defense undertook the task of developing a consistent sexual assault response policy throughout all of its branches. The Department of Defense commissioned the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO). It was SAPRO's responsibility to develop and implement a policy that would address sexual assault consistently throughout all branches. That policy was developed and instituted via Department of Defense Directives 6495.01 and 6495.02 in 2005. It continues to be updated and revised and the oversight of its implementation remains with the Sexual Assault and Prevention Response Office (www.sapr.mil).

New Department of Defense Sexual Assault Policies

The Sexual Assault and Prevention Response Office developed policies that have been implemented and are being used by all four military branches and the Coast Guard. In addition, each branch has adopted policies of their own (see www.sapr.mil for the specific sexual assault policies of each branch). While there have been many changes instituted via these policies including required training for first responders and investigators, sexual assault prevention guidelines, issues regarding collateral misconduct, encouragement of collaboration with civilian authorities and implementation policies to address sexual assault resources in deployed units, probably the most important change for enlisted survivors is the military's inclusion of a restricted reporting option for survivors.

Reporting Options

Unrestricted Report: Prior to the development of the new sexual assault policies, when a service member reported a sexual assault to anyone (healthcare provider, Victim Advocate (VA), Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), or anyone in command authority), an immediate investigation was triggered automatically. This meant that if the survivor was seeking any kind of assistance including health care or counseling, an immediate report was required to the CO and investigative authorities. This reporting option still exists under the new policies. It provides for some protections not available under Restricted reporting including access to a Military Protection Order that requires the offender to stay away from the survivor. When a survivor reports using the Unrestricted reporting option the CO is notified of the incident, as well as investigative authorities. The survivor will receive a sexual assault forensic examination (SAFE) and the military SARC (Sexual Assault Response Coordinator) will be notified.

Restricted Report: Unfortunately, due to military culture, many survivors were unwilling to come forward to receive services after being assaulted because of fear of reprisal from their peers or command, because of the shame associated with the assault or because of a mistrust of the system, since they knew that their report would

launch an investigation. This is why the Department of Defense included what is identified as a “restricted report” of the assault in the new Sexual Assault Policy Directive. When a survivor comes forward to seek counseling or healthcare due to the assault, they can request a Restricted report. This Restricted report provides some level of confidentiality for the survivor. By requesting a Restricted report the survivor can get access to services, but any personally identifying information, remains confidential. While the SARC must report to the CO that an assault occurred, they are prohibited from disclosing the identity of the survivor or other identifying information.

In addition, the Restricted reporting option does not launch an investigation. It only provides the option for the survivor to get access to services. The survivor can also request a rape kit, but it will not be tested until, and unless, they change their reporting option to Unrestricted. The survivor must, however, limit who she reports to. She may only report to a health care provider, a Victim Advocate, a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator or Chaplain. She cannot report to her CO or any other service member. This may trigger an Unrestricted report. There are some circumstances in which the sexual assault will be investigated regardless of the survivor’s request. If there is the potential of harm to the survivor or someone else, or if the disclosure is required to determine fitness for duty the CO may initiate an investigation regardless of the requested reporting option. Additionally, if the CO is given outside information regarding the assault an Unrestricted report may be initiated, but the option of having some information kept confidential has led to more survivors being willing to seek out services.

As a civilian sexual assault counselor, it is important for you to work with the Family Support Service Center staff, the Chaplain and the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator to advocate on behalf of the survivor.

Other Confidentiality

It is possible, despite these policies, that much of the command will be aware of the assault. The offender may have told other members or there may have been someone present when the assault occurred. While the military has made great strides in protecting survivors, there is a long way to go. As a civilian sexual assault counselor, you can work with the SARC and, in many cases, chaplains to mitigate any potential problems for the survivor. PLEASE NOTE THAT IF THE SURVIVOR HAS CHOSEN RESTRICTED REPORTING, ANY POTENTIAL DISCLOSURE TO ANYONE OUTSIDE THE DESIGNATED CHAIN COULD RESULT IN THE REPORT BEING CATEGORIZED AS UNRESTRICTED REPORTING, WHICH COULD THEREBY LAUNCH AN INVESTIGATION.

While the SARC and VA are specially trained in confidentiality and related policies, it is possible that the survivor or the suspect may know either or both of them prior to the assault. The issue of confidentiality is complex in such circumstances. And because both survivor and suspect may be from the same command or unit, the entire command may be aware of the assault and the pending charges on their peer. As in any case, it

should not be assumed that the survivor's peers will be supportive. As a sexual assault counselor and advocate, you must work within the system, realizing that confidentiality in the military is limited. Because you can offer confidential services as a civilian agency, the survivor may choose to seek rape crisis center services.

Survivor Rights and Services

In theory, active duty and dependent survivors have rights, which are outlined in the Victim's Bill of Rights. Survivors do have the right to be informed of and to be present at proceedings. They also have the right to be notified of the case outcome and sentence.

They also have the right to be informed of the offender's release. All active duty survivors who have been sexually assaulted, as well as their dependents, have the right to services from the Family Support Service Center and advocacy programs through the SARC. Still, actual attitudes toward and consequently treatment of survivors by the military will differ in each command, although now they are more consistent due to the implementation of these sexual assault policies.

In situations where a superior is the perpetrator, rank may be favored by the command. In these cases, the assault may be swept under the rug. The survivor may be pressured to recant, or she may be assigned to another command. A civilian rape crisis center can help by advocating for Family Support Service Center staff or SARC to facilitate action within the command. Remember that the advocacy law (Penal Code Sec. 697.04) is not valid in federal jurisdiction; survivors in the military do not have the right to an advocate as provided by this law to civilians.

Another issue arises when a gay service member is assaulted. If the investigation reveals this information, administrative separation procedures for the survivor will follow completion of the sexual assault investigation or case. Unfortunately, rights and services are not the same for all service members. Additionally, due to current Don't Ask, Don't Tell policies serious repercussions can exist for service members who are identified as gay, and immediate discharge procedures may be implemented.¹ It is important to inform the survivor of this reality.

Yet another issue surfaces when an active duty member sexually assaults a military dependent. Remember that the assailant may be her spouse, an acquaintance, or a

¹ On December 22, 2010, President Barack Obama signed a new law repealing the 17-year old "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that forced gay men and women to hide their sexual orientation or face dismissal. Its repeal comes as the American public has become more tolerant on such issues as gay marriage and gay rights in general. However, at the time of this publication, it is still unclear on how the new law will be implemented by the Pentagon and what new procedures will take place. CALCASA will update this publication when clearer details are provided by the Pentagon, hopefully in 2011.

stranger. Ultimately, it is the command of the active duty assailant that has decision-making authority regarding any disciplinary action against the assailant. If the service member is in good standing with the command, it is even more difficult to have the assailant held accountable. In these cases, dependents may access services through the Family Support Service Center, which can maneuver up the chain of command in order to advocate for action on the case. The survivor may also seek support at the rape crisis center for confidential services. Just as you would advocate for a survivor in a nonmilitary case, the sexual assault counselor may also advocate on the dependent's behalf so that action in these cases is taken seriously by the command.

Military Sexual Trauma and Veterans

As a veteran, a sexual assault survivor who was assaulted in their military service may be eligible for certain benefits. Military Sexual Trauma (MST) is a term that is used by the Veteran's Administration to identify what benefits a veteran may qualify for if they experienced sexual trauma while serving. This term is not used by the Department of Defense and only applies in the area of Veteran's benefits. Military Sexual Trauma refers to sexual harassment or sexual assault that occurred while the veteran was in the military. It includes sexual activity that is forced and coerced including activities that the survivor may have been pressured into (for example, by use of negative consequences for refusing to engage in sexual activity or implied expedited promotions or preferential treatment). It can also include unwanted sexual touching or grabbing, threatening, offensive remarks about a person's body or sexual activities and/or threatening and unwelcome sexual advances.

It is important to understand that Military Sexual Trauma specifically requires a diagnosis of certain symptoms in order for a veteran to qualify for benefits. The "symptoms" of Military Sexual Trauma are diagnosed as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and must reflect the responses to sexual assault outlined in Rape Trauma Syndrome. In order to qualify for benefits as a result of Military Sexual Trauma the survivor veteran must have experienced the sexual contact while "in the line of duty" and have a current diagnosis of PTSD, MST or other disability as a result.

All survivors of Military Sexual Trauma can receive free confidential counseling and treatment for all related physical and mental health conditions. Depending on the effects of the experience the survivor can also qualify for disability compensation.

Rape Crisis Centers (RCC) should develop contacts in their local Veteran's Assistance Programs to ensure that survivors of sexual assault are getting effective and comprehensive services. In addition, many legal programs provide Veteran's Benefits Assistance, but may not be aware of the availability of these options for survivors of Military Sexual Trauma. By developing collaborations with these organizations RCC's can provide important training, advocacy and counseling to support survivors.

Considerations for Counselors

Understand your own feelings. Many anti-violence advocates have specific negative feelings around war and/or the military. Pay attention to your own feelings and judgments about these issues so that it does not impact how you work with survivors in the military. Additionally, focus on the survivor's needs and feelings without getting caught up in your own curiosity about her/his war experiences or war actions unless it is important to her/his healing.

Understand and acknowledge military culture. Survivors may feel "weak" because they were vulnerable to sexual assault, particularly because within the context of the military, vulnerability is often viewed as weakness and this is looked down upon as a quality in combat. Also, showing fear can cause a great deal of shame for the survivor who experiences sexual assault in the military. Military culture emphasizes the importance of the "group" over the "individual". In addition to dealing with their own sexual assault, survivors may have a great deal of guilt about the impact of the assault or its disclosure upon their peers.

Your first meeting with the survivor may be your last. Start with the assumption that this may be the only opportunity for you to meet with the survivor. There are many reasons why they may not be able to return to counseling. They may be deployed, they may not feel able to deal with the trauma, or they may be ashamed. Take this first meeting as an opportunity to ease any suffering related to the trauma and to provide information and resources.

Understand their relationship to death and violence. Military in combat are confronted with death, violence, and pain and can become desensitized to it. They typically have access to guns as well as the training to use it. It is important to assess for suicidal and homicidal thoughts and take them seriously. Some service members may have indirect suicidal feelings by continuing to go on another tour of duty.

Recognize the rank rape may hold on the trauma scale. When service members are faced with the line between life and death daily, they may view sexual assault as low on the scale of the traumas that they are facing. They may see their peers killed and/or severely wounded in the line of duty and may understandably minimize their experience.

Understand the nature of their training. The military is a very structured and formal environment. The terms they use to address you may be very formalized as a result (use of "Ma'am", "Sir", "Doctor", your last name, etc.). Because neatness and orderliness is a value in the military, it can be helpful to maintain a neat counseling environment to help build trust.

Use of action-oriented practices is important. Military training is action-oriented, which means that it is helpful to use action-oriented practices when working with military sexual assault survivors. Help identify the problems, issues and feelings, and then come

up with a plan to address them that includes concrete tasks and homework. This helps empower the survivor and reduce pain and anxiety.

Anger is a common reaction. When faced with a threat, humans respond in one of three ways: *Fight* (immediate reaction to the crisis through fighting back), *Flight* (running from the crisis) or *Freeze* (not being able to respond immediately to the crisis). However, service members are trained to have the “Fight” response only. Their immediate response has been automatically reconditioned to become anger. This response can create problems in civilian life. As a counselor, it is important to be prepared for this response and provide tools to manage anger.

Explore other underlying emotions. While anger may be the initial response, it is important to also focus on emotional pain, grief and loss. Vulnerability can be particularly difficult for people in the military to tolerate since it can connect them to the vulnerability and fear in combat.

Normalizing is important. Like in many other situations, normalizing the experience is important to reduce shame and the feeling of being “crazy”. However, you should ensure that they understand the importance of caring for the emotional pain as they would the physical pain.

Their military experience requires them to take on conflicting roles. When working with sexual assault survivors, counselors often hear their feelings of being “preyed on”. However, service members have a uniquely difficult role in their combat experience of being “prey” to the enemy, “predator” of the enemy, and “witness” to the violence against their peers. This can create some confusion when they are sexually assaulted and impact their reactions to the assault.

Understand confidentiality. Know the effects of who the survivor reports to within the chain of command. You may be the only person with whom she/he can experience confidentiality. This is the one service that may be most valuable to a military survivor. Due to the nature of confidentiality in the services, and the “talk on base” the survivor already may feel as though her/his privacy has been violated.

Be flexible. Service members have erratic work schedules. Some may have extra duty after hours or on the weekends. They may be attached to a ship and be deployed for weeks at a time or on a WESPAC for six months. Scheduling appointments to meet their needs is important.

Listen. Remember that the service member knows the military system better than you do. In fact, some of your best advice will come from the survivor herself/himself. Because military procedures progress without many interactions with the survivor, it is important to her /him that her/his voice is heard and her/his words mean something.

Build partnerships. You will gain much by creating positive working relationships inside the military system. At the same time, you have the opportunity to educate and train the individuals you come into contact with. Changing attitudes is part of your work. You can do this and respect the chain of command at the same time. By creating partnerships with Family Support Service Center staff, SARC, chaplains, and other important members of the military community, you will be able to advocate better within the military system. Initiate and participate in military-related training and in-services, or offer your crisis intervention training to Family Support Service Center staff, SARC and volunteers. If possible, get involved on a board or advisory committee with a military component.

Be careful not to generalize. You will not have the same experience with the military every time. All commands have different leadership, and therefore attitudes and relationships vary greatly between commands. You will find military professionals with a similar philosophy to your own, just as you will encounter others that challenge your values and beliefs.

Be aware of other options. If the military justice system fails your client, there are other options. Informing your client of her/his right to write a letter to their member of Congress or getting the media involved can be a useful tool when all other avenues have been explored and exhausted. Remember that change in the military system is difficult and rare. Putting pressure on the military at this level should be used as a last resort. Also be aware of the possibility of negative consequences or backlash for your client, as well as your relationship with the military.

GLOSSARY

Active duty personnel: Service members who work full-time in the military.

Administrative separation: Discharge of active duty personnel for misconduct. This separation process from the military is merely administrative, not judicial, and does not determine whether a crime has occurred. There are different degrees of administrative separation: general, honorable, and other than honorable.

Article 32: An investigation in which enough evidence is presented to show that a crime was committed. This process can be compared to a civilian preliminary investigation.

Captain's Mast: The forum for nonjudicial punishment for active duty personnel.

Chaplain: The clergyperson attached to a ship or a base chapel. Chaplains are a good contact for rape crisis centers because they can advocate for survivors within a command.

Commanding Officer: The officer who supervises a unit or command, also known as the CO. This individual has a lot of decision-making power and has the authority to order nonjudicial punishment when a case does not go to court-martial.

Court-martial: The system of military justice. There are three different forms: **general court-martial**, **special court-martial**, and **summary court-martial**.

Dependents: The family members of military personnel.

Discharge: The processing out of an active duty person from the military. There are different levels of discharge: dishonorable after a conviction by a general court-martial and bad conduct by either a general or special court-martial. A dishonorable discharge is the more serious of the two.

Family Support Service Center: A social service agency for military personnel and their families. This is a good point of contact for civilian social service agencies in initiating collaboration.

General court-martial: The military court for felony crimes. Punishments range from a dishonorable discharge to death. It is important to know that a conviction in this court is a federal conviction.

FOB (Forward Operating Base): A military base in a forward (or front line) military position. Typically used for an extended amount of time.

IED (Improvised Explosive Device): Often referenced by military personnel, an IED is a homemade bomb constructed and deployed in ways other than in conventional military action

Military Sexual Trauma: Term used by Veteran's Administration to qualify military survivors of unwanted sexual behaviors, sexual harassment and sexual assault for benefits.

Restricted Reporting: The reporting option that allows a Service member to report or disclose to specified officials that he or she has been the victim of a sexual assault. This reporting option gives the member access to medical care, counseling, and victim advocacy, without requiring those specific officials to automatically report the matter to law enforcement or initiate an official investigation.

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC): Specially trained military member who is appointed by the CO to have the authority and responsibility to deal with sexual assault reports according to the current Department of Defense Sexual Assault Policies. May have other duties.

Sexual Assault Victim Intervention Program: A specialized advocacy program for survivors in the Navy, also known as SAVI. It is similar to SART (Sexual Assault Response Teams) in the civilian world. Other branches of the military have similar services, usually under the Family Advocacy Program.

Special court-martial: The military court for misdemeanor crimes. Punishment usually consists of a bad-conduct discharge, which is a federal conviction.

Summary court-martial: A military court for noncapital offenses. Maximum sentence is thirty days' confinement; however, the accused can refuse this kind of trial.

Temporary active duty: Temporary assignment of an active duty member to another part of the command; also known as TAD.

Uniform Code of Military Justice: The basis for the military justice system.

Unrestricted Reporting: The level of sexual assault reporting in the military that initiates an investigation of the charges. Survivor confidentiality is limited, however may have access to a Military Protection Order to prevent harm from the offender.

Victim Advocate (VA): Military member designated to advocate on behalf of crime victim within the military judicial system.

VBID (Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device): Explosive devices packaged in a vehicle.

Victim Witness Assistance Program: A program in each of the services that provides assistance to all military survivors.

WESPAC: A six-month period of deployment for active duty personnel.