



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



September 9, 2008

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

"As we institutionalize and refine each facet of our prevention and response program, we continue to create a climate of confidence and trust where all service members are afforded respect and dignity and every service member will have the courage to make a difference..."

– Dr. David S. C. Chu, Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness)

In August, the U.S. Government Accountability Office released a report to Congress, [MILITARY PERSONNEL: DoD's and the Coast Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Programs Face Implementation and Oversight Challenges](#) that made recommendations to which DoD has either already implemented or is addressing.

GAO Report Findings

- DoD has taken positive steps to develop and implement policies and programs, including oversight offices, to prevent, respond to, and resolve reported sexual assault incidents involving service members.
- The military services have established and staffed key positions to manage programs at installations and require service members to receive periodic training on sexual assault prevention and response.
- DoD's guidance may not adequately address some important issues, such as how to implement the program when operating in deployed or joint environments. Additionally, several factors hindered program implementation including:
 - Although, most commanders support the programs, some do not.
 - Training is not consistently effective.
 - Access to mental health services may be limited.

Navy Sexual Assault Victim Intervention (SAVI)

- The U.S. Navy has a 'zero-tolerance' policy for sexual assault. Our goal is to eliminate sexual assault perpetrated by Navy personnel. We work toward this goal by:
 - Sustaining a robust SAVI policy.
 - Identifying and eliminating barriers to reporting.
 - Ensuring care is available and accessible to victims of sexual assault and service members know how and where to access it.
 - Providing continuous, relevant, and effective training and education to all service members.
- SAVI offers a standardized, victim-sensitive system to prevent and respond to sexual assaults Navy-wide.
- All Navy Commands have a 24/7 sexual assault response capability focused on victim support and offender accountability. Commanders ensure that sexual assault victims have access to the assistance and resources to meet their needs.
- Commander, Navy Installations Command resources, oversees and executes the Navy SAVI program. More information is available on the [SAVI website](https://www.nffsp.org) (<https://www.nffsp.org>).

Key Messages

- The Navy welcomes outside analysis of the SAVI program and is reviewing GAO recommendations to determine appropriate actions.
- The Navy's core values, high standards of professionalism and personal discipline, demand 'zero tolerance' for sexual assault.
- Reporting the crime and holding perpetrators accountable can help reduce crime and make our Navy safer, but ensuring the well-being of our Navy personnel is our main concern.

Facts & Figures

- A SAVI Quick Poll will soon be released for FY08 to provide information that will enhance our ability to improve SAVI training and victim response for all Navy service members and their families.
- This fall, the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services will begin site visits to installations around the globe. These visits will examine how all of the services, including the Navy, implement DoD SAPR policy on the ground level.