

personnel to notify law enforcement. Upon notification of a reported sexual assault, the SARC will immediately assign a Victim Advocate (VA). At the victim's discretion or request, healthcare personnel shall conduct a sexual assault forensic examination (SAFE), which may include the collection of evidence. Details regarding the incident will be limited to only those personnel who have a legitimate need to know.

### **Sexual Assault Response Coordinator**

The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) is considered the center of gravity when it comes to ensuring that victims of sexual assault receive appropriate and responsive care. They serve as the single point of contact to coordinate sexual assault victim care. The term Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) is a standardized term utilized throughout the Department of Defense and the Services to facilitate communication and transparency regarding sexual assault response capability.

### **Victim Advocate**

The Victim Advocate (VA) provides essential support and care to the victim to include providing non-clinical information on available options and resources to assist the victim in making informed decisions as they progress through resolution and healing. The VA maintains communications and contact with victim as needed for continued victim support.

### **Contacts**

- Sexual Assault Response Coordinator or Victim Advocate at Aviano AB  
632-7272
- DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Office:  
<http://www.sapr.mil>

- Hotline Number to reach: Military One Source 24/7, Local SARC Point of Contact, and Established DoD Sexual Assault Services.  
Stateside: 1-800-342-9647  
Overseas: 00-800-3429-6477  
Overseas Collect: 1-484-530-5908
- The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN):  
<http://www.rainn.org>  
1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center:  
<http://www.nsvrc.org>  
1-877-739-3895 or 717-909-0715 (TTY)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline:  
<http://www.ndvh.org>  
1-800-799-SAFE or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)
- For more information see this site:  
<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/library/sapr/report.asp>



### **31st FW Legal Office**

Unit 6140 Box 115 APO AE 09604-0015  
Aviano Air Base, Italy (Bldg 1403, 2nd floor)  
Commercial Telephone 0434-30-7843 or DSN 632-7843

### **Walk-In for Legal Assistance**

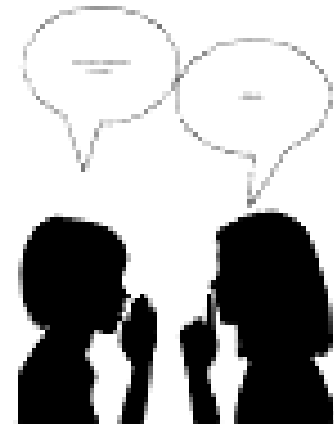
*Monday & Wednesday: 1530 – 1630*  
*Friday: 0900 – 1000*

### **Powers of Attorney/Notary Services/Claims (Walk-In)**

*Monday through Friday 0730 – 1630*  
<https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>

---

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT**



**31st FW Legal Office**

## What is Sexual Assault?

"Sexual assault" is intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, forcible sodomy (oral or anal sex), and other unwanted sexual contact that is aggravated, abusive, or wrongful (to include unwanted and inappropriate sexual contact), or attempts to commit these acts.

## What is Consent?

"Consent" is words or overt acts indicating a freely given agreement to the sexual conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent. Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the accused's use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent. A current or previous dating relationship by itself or the manner of dress of the person involved with the accused in the sexual conduct at issue shall not constitute consent.

## What do I do if I think I have been sexually assaulted?

- Go to a safe location.
- Contact your local Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), or healthcare personnel. You may also contact your chain of command or law enforcement (military or civilian), however if you do, an investigation will occur and you will not have the option of making a Restricted Report (see next page).
- Seek medical care as soon as possible. Even if you do not have any visible physical injuries, you may be at risk of becoming pregnant or acquiring a sexually transmitted disease.
- Ask healthcare personnel to conduct a sexual assault forensic examination (SAFE) to preserve forensic evidence.

- Preserve all evidence of the assault. Do not bathe, wash your hands or brush your teeth. Do not clean or straighten up the crime scene.
- Write down, tape or record by any other means all the details you can recall about the assault and your assailant

## Who should I report the assault to?

You have two basic options for reporting a sexual assault: (1) Restricted Reporting and (2) Unrestricted Reporting.

### (1) Restricted Reporting

This option is for victims of sexual assault who wish to confidentially disclose the crime to specifically identified individuals and receive medical treatment and services without triggering the official investigative process. Service members who are sexually assaulted and desire restricted reporting under this policy must report the assault to a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Victim Advocate (VA), or healthcare personnel.

Healthcare personnel will initiate the appropriate care and treatment, and report the sexual assault to the SARC in lieu of reporting the assault to law enforcement or the chain of command. Upon notification of a reported sexual assault, the SARC will immediately assign an advocate to the victim. The assigned Victim Advocate will provide accurate information on the process of restricted and/or unrestricted reporting.

At the victim's discretion/request an appropriately trained healthcare personnel shall conduct a sexual assault forensic examination (SAFE), which may include the collection of evidence. In the absence of a Department of Defense provider, the Service member will be referred to an appropriate civilian facility for the SAFE.

## *Who May Make A Restricted Report?*

Restricted reporting is available at this time only to military personnel of the Armed Forces and the Coast Guard. Military personnel include members on active duty and members of the Reserve component (Reserve and National Guard) provided they are performing federal duty (active duty training or inactive duty training and members of the National Guard in Federal (Title 10) status). Members of the Reserve Component not performing Federal duty are not eligible. Retired members of any component are not eligible. Dependents are not eligible. Department of Defense civilian employees are not eligible.

## *Considerations when Electing a Restricted Report*

- You receive appropriate medical treatment, advocacy, and counseling.
- Provides some personal space and time to consider your options and to begin the healing process.
- Empowers you to seek relevant information and support to make more informed decisions about participating in the criminal investigation.
- You control the release and management of your personal information.
- You decide whether and when to move forward with initiating an investigation.

### (2) Unrestricted Reporting

This option is for victims of sexual assault who desire medical treatment, referral services and an official investigation of the crime. When selecting unrestricted reporting, you should use current reporting channels, e.g. chain of command, law enforcement or report the incident to the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), or request healthcare