



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE






Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military (IRC-SAM)

About the IRC-SAM



Sexual assault is a crime that harms our Service members, erodes our readiness, and hinders our ability to field the lethal, resilient, and agile Joint Force that the National Defense Strategy requires. To drive meaningful change, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III established the 90-Day IRC-SAM in February 2021 to conduct an impartial assessment of the military’s response to sexual assault and sexual harassment. The IRC-SAM gathered input from key stakeholders across the DoD and external organizations. The IRC-SAM also sought feedback from the individuals who would be most impacted by its recommendations: commanders, enlisted Service members, and victims of sexual assault. The IRC-SAM made 82 recommendations to the DoD across four lines of effort: accountability, prevention, climate and culture, and victim care and support. The DoD is currently working to implement the IRC-SAM recommendations, as approved by the Secretary.

There is a strong commitment across the DoD and the Services to implement these changes, which are crucial for taking care of our people and ensuring force readiness. Real progress will be made through substantive revisions to the military justice system, investments in prevention, enhancements to climate and culture, and improvements in victim care.

DOD SAPRO’S ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION

-  Restructuring the Sexual Assault Response Workforce to move DoD and the Services closer to developing, fielding, and sustaining a high-quality victim assistance workforce
-  Creating the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Training and Education Center of Excellence (SAPRTEC) to provide oversight on training and education requirements
-  Tracking implementation by fielding an automated system to capture stakeholder input

OTHER MAJOR IRC-SAM IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS

-  Establishing Offices of Special Trial Counsel (OSTCs) in the Military Departments to make prosecutorial decisions for covered offenses occurring after December 27, 2023
-  Fielding the Integrated Primary Prevention Workforce (IPPW) to reduce and stop harmful behaviors before they occur



For details on implementation progress of the approved IRC-SAM recommendations, please review the FY22 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military, Annex 2.