



## Appendix A: Additional Accomplishments, Activities, and Outreach



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This appendix highlights additional significant accomplishment, activities, and outreach undertaken by the Department of Defense (DoD) during Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), which were not covered in the main body of the Annual Report. The activities are organized as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) Activities**

Activity	Goal Description
Prevention	Deliver consistent and effective prevention methods and programs
Victim Assistance and Advocacy	Deliver consistent and effective victim support, response, and reporting options
Accountability and Investigation	Achieve high competence in the investigation of sexual assault and holding offenders appropriately accountable
Assessment	Conduct comprehensive sexual assault assessments and issue reports

## Prevention

### Promoted Excellence in Prevention

In FY23, the Department and Military Services selected the following individuals to receive the Promoting Excellence in Prevention Award:

- **Army:** Ms. Elizabeth Campbell; Ms. Jessica Green; Ms. Elsa Jansen; Ms. Christine Paul; Sergeant First Class Sara Diehl; and SSG Marcus Palmeri
- **Navy:** Ms. Tina Vaughan-Wardle and Ms. Lauren Portal
- **Marine Corps:** Ms. Carissa Tourtelot
- **Air Force:** Mrs. Scottie Hampton; Ms. DeAndea Hayes; Mrs. Pamela Adams; Dr. Lindsey Henderson; and First Lieutenant Zachary Rausch
- **Space Force:** Mrs. Emily Dreiling, Mrs. Jennifer Vasquez, and Ms. Pauline Chui
- **National Guard:** Sergeant First Class Kortney Hornberger

## Victim Assistance and Advocacy

### Credentialing Update

FY23 marked a significant milestone in the evolution of our credentialing process. In a major overhaul of the DoD-Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP) certification process, DoD SAPRO introduced eight submission deadlines throughout the year for both new applications and renewals allowing additional opportunities to obtain or renew certifications.

### NOVA 49<sup>th</sup> Training Event

DoD SAPRO participated in the NOVA 49th Annual Training Event. The DoD SAPRO Acting Director led a Military Monday event, wherein he provided critical updates to DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) personnel and Service members regarding implementation of the Secretary of Defense-approved recommendations from the Independent Review Commission (IRC) on Sexual Assault in the Military. The DoD SAPRO Acting Director

was also a guest speaker at the Opening Ceremony. DoD SAPRO personnel provided five briefings to include DoD Safe Helpline, Advanced Ethics for Military Advocates, Response Workforce Listening Session, and a Men’s Survivor Panel. The NOVA Annual Training Event was attended by approximately 1,100 DoD SAPR personnel and over 2,000 community stakeholders. This event provides an opportunity for DoD SAPRO to share vital updates with the field related to the implementation of the approved IRC recommendations.

### Veterans’ Affairs / DoD Sexual Trauma Working Group

DoD SAPRO provided a SAPRO 101 brief at the 2023 Veterans’ Benefits Administration (VBA) Military Sexual Trauma (MST) National Training Symposium for VBA staff. This year’s theme was “Resiliency Through Collaboration: Expanding Knowledge – MST & PACT Act.” Attendees included MST Outreach Coordinators, MST Claims Processors, Senior Leaders with equity in the MST space and other VBA employees designated to perform MST-related outreach.

### Continued Partnership with Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime (DOJ OVC)

The Department partners with the DOJ OVC Technical Training Assistance Center to support the Strengthening Military Civilian Community Partnerships (SMCCP). In FY23, the program held three in-person training events for approximately 120 participants from the military and civilian response communities of Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek (Virginia Beach, Virginia), Fort Drum (Fort Drum, New York), Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans (New Orleans, Louisiana), and Irwin Army Community Hospital (Fort Riley, Kansas). Additionally, the SMCCP also held a virtual, nation-wide SAPR Virtual Learning Event attended by approximately 479 participants. These in-person and virtual trainings help participants establish partnerships with local military installations to respond effectively to the needs of sexual assault victims in the military.

### Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM). Launched in FY22, the Department’s theme – “Step Forward, Prevent. Report. Advocate.” – continued in FY23, as this theme encompasses IRC initiatives and growth of the program. The “Step Forward” theme is a call to action for individuals at all levels of the Department to use their personal strength to advance positive change in preventing sexual violence, highlighting the power of acts that can bolster prevention, increase reporting, and promote advocacy for a safer DoD community.

### Liz Blanc Exceptional SARC and SAPR VA of the Year

Since 2009, DoD has annually recognized one SARC from each Military Service and the National Guard for the Exceptional SARC and SAPR VA of the Year Award for innovative achievements contributing to unique and exceptional victim response within the military community. The Award was renamed for DoD SAPRO’s Senior Victim Assistance Advisor, Liz Blanc, who passed away in 2020 after a battle with cancer.



Liz Blanc

This year, the Department is honored to recognize the following awardees of the Liz Blanc Exceptional SARC and SAPR VA of the Year Award:

- **Army SARC:** Sergeant First Class Philena Perdue
- **Army SAPR VA:** Staff Sergeant Erika Feliciano
- **Navy SARC:** Ms. Katie Stratchko
- **Navy SAPR VA:** Ms. LaTresa Henderson
- **Marine Corps SARC:** Major Sharon Rollins
- **Marine Corps SAPR VA:** Second Lieutenant Jason Hanna
- **Air Force SARC:** Captain Brittaney Garner
- **Air Force SAPR VA:** Ms. Lahella Jones
- **Space Force SARC:** Ms. Christine Pendon Hayes
- **National Guard SARC:** Ms. Katherine Morsch
- **National Guard SAPR VA:** Mrs. Erin Leigh Saylor
- **Coast Guard SAPR VA:** Ms. Christina Morabito

## Accountability and Investigation

### Special Victims' Counsel/Victims' Legal Counsel (SVC/MLC) and Special Victim Investigation and Prosecution Capability

The Department worked with the Military Departments and the National Guard Bureau (NGB) to identify requirements for the congressional budget appropriation of \$47 million for the Special Victims Counsel program expansion. Appropriations were then re-programmed to the Military Services and the NGB for execution.

## Assessment

### Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (DSAID) Update

DSAID is the Department's authoritative, centralized case-level database used to collect and maintain information on adult sexual assaults involving members of the Armed Forces, including tracking and reporting on sexual assault-related retaliation data. DoD SAPRO operates DSAID and works collaboratively with the Military Services to implement and sustain the system.

SARCs use DSAID to provide comprehensive and standardized victim case management. Additionally, DoD uses DSAID to conduct oversight and comply with Congressional reporting requirements.

Highlights of DSAID improvements in FY23 include:

- Deployment of DSAID version 5.6 to capture additional data relating to a victim's decision not to participate in their sexual assault investigation;
- Quality assurance improvements to data collection efforts enhanced data quality used in preparing the Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies;
- Establishing a DSAID capability for SAPR Related Inquiry (SRI) Entries in cases where a victim has not filed an official report of sexual assault; and

- Adding a meeting occurrence feature drop down list to distinguish between the Monthly SAPR Case Management Group (CMG) Meeting, Quarterly SAPR CMG Meeting, and High-Risk Response Team Meeting.

### Oversight Update

In FY23, two Commissioned Officers from the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) were detailed to SAPRO to support oversight efforts. To date, four USPHS officers have participated in the DoD-directed On-Site Installation Evaluations (OSIEs).

### Government Accountability Office (GAO) Update

#### *GAO 22-103973 Report, Sexual Assault DoD and Coast Guard Should Ensure Laws Are Implemented to Improve Oversight of Key Prevention and Response Efforts*

In response to the above-referenced GAO report, the Department concurred with the GAO recommendation to develop an evaluation plan and mechanisms for assessing the effectiveness of the SAPR program and related activities—such as policies and training—in achieving its intended outcomes, as required by section 1602(c) and 1612(a) and (b) of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY11 and section 545(a) of the NDAA for FY17.

#### *GAO Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Updates*

CAPs provide GAO with a status update on GAO recommendations with which the Department concurred or partially concurred. Throughout FY23, the Department provided CAP updates for GAO 15-284 (Male Service members) and GAO 21-113 (Consistent Tracking, Response, and Training for DoD Civilians). Additionally, GAO 16-61 (Actions Needed to Improve DOD's Prevention Strategy and to Help Ensure It Is Effectively Implemented) was closed in FY23, with all recommendations being implemented.