

## Department of Defense Definitions<sup>247</sup>

**Sexual Assault:** For the purpose of Department of Defense policy and SAPR awareness training and education, the term “Sexual Assault” is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. It includes rape, forcible sodomy (oral or anal sex), indecent assault (unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact or fondling), or attempts to commit these acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender or spousal relationship or the age of the victim. “Consent” will not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion, or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious.

**Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):** Military personnel, DoD civilian employees, or DoD contractors under the senior commander’s supervision, who:

1. Serves as the central point of contact at an installation or within a geographic area to oversee sexual assault awareness, prevention and response training.
2. Ensures appropriate care is coordinated and provided to a victim of sexual assault from the initial report through final disposition and resolution.

**Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE):** The medical examination of a sexual assault victim under circumstances and controlled procedures to ensure the physical examination process, and the collection, handling, analysis, testing, and safekeeping of any bodily specimens, meet the requirements necessary for use as evidence in criminal proceedings.

**Sexual Harassment:** Sexual Harassment is a form of sex discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when submission to or rejection of such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a person's job, pay or career; or submission to or rejection of such conduct by a person is used as a basis for career or employment decisions affecting that person; or such conduct interferes with an individual's performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

**Restricted Reporting:** A process used by a Service member to report or disclose that he or she is a victim of a sexual assault to specified individuals on a requested confidential basis. Under these circumstances, the victim’s report and any details provided to a healthcare provider, the SARC, or a VA will not be reported to law enforcement to initiate the official investigative

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<sup>247</sup> These definitions, with the exception of the definition of Sexual Harassment, are found in DoDD 6495.01, “Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program,” 6 October 2005. The definition of Sexual Harassment is found in DoDD 1350.2 “Department of Defense Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) Program,” 18 August 1995.

process unless the victim consents or an established exception is exercised under this Directive. Additional explanation and guidance is provided in DoDD 6495.01, October 6, 2005, enclosure 3.

Unrestricted Reporting: A process a Service member uses to disclose, without requesting confidentiality or restricted reporting, that he or she is the victim of a sexual assault. Under these circumstances, the victim's report and any details provided to healthcare providers, the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), a Victim Advocate (VA), command authorities, or other persons are reportable to law enforcement and may be used to initiate the official investigative process. Additional explanation and guidance is provided in DoDD 6495.01, October 6, 2005, enclosure 3.

Victim Advocate (VA): Military Personnel, DoD civilian employees, DoD contractors, or volunteers who facilitate care for victims of sexual assault under the SAPR Program, and who, on the behalf of the sexual assault victim, provide liaison assistance with other organizations and agencies on victim care matters, and report directly to the SARC when performing victim advocacy duties.