

This guide is for responders aiding victims reporting sexual assault. Stay calm, respect the victim's rights, and convey the message that -- *"professional resources that care about you and what you have gone through are needed and are available to help you."*

Resources:

- The Victim's Unit Commander
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- Military Law Enforcement/
Local Authorities
(for emergencies, use 911)
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- Military Treatment Facility
www.tricare.osd.mil
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- Army's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Internet Resource
www.sexualassault.army.mil

Confidential Resources*:

- Chaplain's Office
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For Military and their family members:

- Military One Source, CONUS
(800) 655-4545, International Toll Free
(dial all 11 numbers) (800) 3429-6477,
and International Collect
(484) 530-5947

All others, please contact:

- Local Rape Crisis Center:
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**Additional confidential resources include psychotherapists and legal assistance attorneys.*

Aiding Victims of Sexual Assault



U.S. ARMY

The Army's commitment to victims of sexual assault:

- ❖ Encouraging victims to report all incidents of sexual assault
- ❖ Ensuring victims are properly treated
- ❖ Ensuring medical and psychological needs are properly met
- ❖ Providing effective policies and programs
- ❖ Prosecuting all crimes to the full extent of the law
- ❖ Consideration of all issues related to the incident

Response Guidelines:

Remember, you are not law enforcement or a healthcare provider. You are a companion to support the victim in a critical time of need.

- ❖ Remain calm, support the victim, and show respect. Offer to stay as long as needed/possible but explain that professional help is needed (see Resources). Also, ask if there is someone you should call.
- ❖ If the victim is in need of urgent medical attention, call 911 and apply first aid.
- ❖ To protect evidence, ask the victim not to shower, change clothes, comb hair, brush teeth, put on make up, eat, or drink.
- ❖ Report the crime to law enforcement and the victim's commander. If the victim does not feel comfortable reporting the crime, suggest speaking with a counselor to discuss concerns

and questions regarding the assault and reporting process. Call Military One Source 24hrs (see number in "Resources").

- ❖ Should the victim decide not to support the investigation, encourage him/her to seek medical attention due to potential injuries. This offers a safe and caring environment to discuss concerns (e.g., testing for STDs and birth control).
- ❖ Should the accused come to the same medical facility for forensics, take care to keep distance and help the victim feel safe.
- ❖ Refrain from asking for intimate details, making judgmental comments (e.g., "alleged" assault), promising to "get this person," and other similar statements. Instead, be a good listener and allow the victim to talk.

Crime Victims have the right to:

- ❖ Be treated with fairness and respect for one's dignity and privacy
- ❖ Be reasonably protected from the accused
- ❖ Be notified of court hearings
- ❖ Be present at public court hearings unless the court determines otherwise for fairness or other good cause
- ❖ Receive information regarding conviction, sentencing, imprisonment and release
- ❖ Confer with the attorney for the Government
- ❖ Restitution, if appropriate