

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION,
RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY
STRATEGIC PLAN



MARCH 2026



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27 Jan 2026

MEMORANDUM


From: K. E. Lunday, ADM
Commandant

To: All Hands

Subj: ACTION ORDER 26-01: COMBATING SEXUAL ASSAULT

1. This order sets forth Coast Guard direction on combating sexual assault.
2. Sexual assault is a violent crime that causes devastating trauma to individuals. It also destroys unit readiness. Coast Guard men and women work in teams and crews where trust and the need to depend on one another is vital to our mission and the safety of our people. All of our people are worthy of a Coast Guard where they never fear their own teammates.
3. We will aggressively combat sexual assault. We will also combat the criminal behaviors that enable it, especially sexual harassment.
 - We will strengthen prevention by enforcing clear standards of discipline and conduct, improving training and resources, and increasing leader focus and action at all levels.
 - We will improve reporting options and honor the decisions victims and survivors make. We will ensure all personnel know their options to enable informed decisions with ready access to expert support for reporting and trauma-informed care.
 - We will respond immediately and appropriately to every report while safeguarding and caring for victims and survivors, employing the best trained professionals in criminal investigation and trauma-informed care.
 - We will safeguard the privacy and dignity of victims and survivors.
 - We will support long-term recovery by providing access to expert Coast Guard, other Federal, and external resources for as long as needed.
 - We will hold those who commit these crimes accountable under the law and policy, ensuring care and protection for victims and survivors and due process under the law for those accused. We will also hold accountable those who fail in their duty to combat sexual assault.

4. Leaders at every level, myself included, are responsible and accountable for combating sexual assault. That starts with discipline—setting and upholding the highest standards across the Service. Together with the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, I have personally charged every Commander, Commanding Officer, Officer-in-Charge and Command Senior Enlisted Leader with this responsibility in writing, and will continuously reinforce that imperative. All other leaders, especially Chief Petty Officers, commissioned officers, and civilian supervisors, shall set and enforce these standards, including through regular communications across the force.

5. Every Coast Guard man and woman (Active, Reserve, Civilian, Auxiliary) has a duty to meet those high standards, including their own official duty and personal responsibility to take action to prevent and respond to sexual assault. We will act with the same courage and bias for action expected of us in rescuing someone in peril at sea.

6. We will continue to fully implement 33 ongoing major actions to combat sexual assault, 24 of which have already been completed. We will complete the remaining actions in 2026. That is only the start.

a. Within 30 days, I will begin monthly meetings with Coast Guard senior leadership and expert advisor participation focused on assessing the status of our efforts to combat sexual assault, including review of trends and underlying data, progress on actions to address, identification of gaps and issues for action, and strategies for decision and action to resolve them.

b. Within 45 days, issue the updated Coast Guard Sexual Assault, Prevention, Response, and Recovery (SAPRR) Strategic Plan.

c. Within 90 days, issue a detailed Coast Guard SAPRR Strategic Plan implementation effort with specific actions, responsibilities, resourcing, and timelines for completion.

d. Strengthen Coast Guard SAPRR policy and update relevant directives in 2026.

e. Implement the statutory provisions of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025.

f. Continue to cooperate in external oversight investigations into prior Coast Guard actions to address sexual assault prevention, response, recovery, and accountability.

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I.

Introduction

A Mission Imperative and a Moral Duty

Sexual assault is a violent crime. It causes devastating trauma, shatters the sacred trust between teammates, and destroys unit readiness. We will aggressively combat sexual assault and the behaviors that enable it, especially sexual harassment. This is a leadership responsibility and duty for each of us.

This is our plan for decisive, service-wide action. It provides the framework for a comprehensive approach built upon four interconnected Lines of Effort:

Prevention: Aggressively enforcing clear standards of conduct to achieve a disciplined, safe environment.

Response: Responding immediately and appropriately to every reported sexual assault with survivor-centered support that honors the decisions of victims and survivors.

Recovery: Ensuring our people have access to expert care and resources for as long as needed to support their long-term recovery.

Accountability: Holding those who commit these crimes accountable under the law and ensuring leaders at every level are doing their duty to combat sexual assault.

Its success is defined by action, not just words. To provide full transparency on both our historical progress and our current efforts, the following resources are available:

- SAPRR Program Evolution: For a comprehensive overview of the foundational policies, programs, and survivor-centered initiatives developed over the last two decades, visit: <https://media.defense.gov/2026/Mar/12/2003898434/-1/-1/1/EVOLUTION%20OF%20THE%20SAPRR%20PROGRAM.PDF>
- Commandant Directed Actions: For a detailed and continuously updated list of the specific, current actions the Coast Guard is taking to combat sexual assault and harassment, visit: <https://www.uscg.mil/Addressing-Sexual-Assault-and-Sexual-Harassment/Actions/>

Combating sexual assault requires a bias for action from every member of the Coast Guard. From the most senior officer to the newest recruit, each of us has an unconditional duty to meet and enforce the highest standards and to intervene to protect our teammates. That duty demands courage.

II.

Workforce Expectations

A Standard of Action

Semper Paratus is more than our motto. It is our duty to be Always Ready. Coast Guard readiness starts with the readiness of every Coast Guard man and woman, and there is no greater threat to our readiness than the violent crime of sexual assault. It destroys the sacred trust between teammates and degrades our ability to execute our missions.

Therefore, our service-wide effort to combat sexual assault will be guided by the following truths:

Readiness Starts With Trust. A ready force is one where every member trusts and can depend on their teammates. This begins with our personal duty to foster an environment built on dignity and respect. We will accomplish our missions by ensuring our teams are free from the destructive effects of sexual assault and the behaviors that enable it.

We Will Demonstrate Courage. Courage—both physical and moral—is central to our character. We will have the courage to intervene when we see misconduct, to hold our peers and leaders accountable to standards, and to support those who come forward to report. There are no bystanders in our Service.

We Are a Disciplined Force. We conduct disciplined operations to get the mission done and safely return. This same discipline must guide our daily conduct. We will proactively uphold the highest standards of behavior and address any deviation immediately and fairly.

Our People Are Our Greatest Treasure. We have a sacred duty to take the very best care of our teammates. This means responding with compassion to survivors, protecting their dignity and privacy, and ensuring they receive enduring care and support. By taking care of our people, we preserve the readiness of our crews and the entire force.

III.

Lines of Effort and End States

LINE OF EFFORT 1 – PREVENTION

Enforcing a Climate of Dignity and Respect

Prevention is our main effort to stop the harm before a sexual assault occurs. We will aggressively combat the threat of sexual assault by enforcing a service-wide climate of respect. Leadership at every level is responsible and accountable for building and sustaining a professional environment grounded in discipline, dignity, and mutual respect. Leaders set the tone, and every every member of the Coast Guard has an unconditional duty to uphold our standards, protect our teammates, and actively intervene to stop harmful behaviors. We will arm our workforce with the skills and courage to act decisively to stop sexual assault before it occurs.

END STATE:

A professional Service where every member is respected, trusts and relies on their teammates, and is free from sexual assault.

OBJECTIVES:

1.1: Foster a Climate of Dignity and Respect: Leaders will intentionally build and sustain environments that combat sexual assault and the behaviors that enable it, especially sexual harassment. This will also reduce the stigma associated with reporting sexual assault and seeking help.

1.2: Execute a Data-Driven Prevention Strategy: Employ a proactive, public health-based approach to prevention, using data to identify and address shared risk factors across the full spectrum of harm, starting with sexual assault.

1.3: Deliver Mission-Essential Prevention Training: Provide the right training that equips every Coast Guard member with the skills and courage to intervene and stop sexual assault before it occurs.

1.4: Drive Prevention with Actionable Data: Leverage enhanced data collection and analysis to drive targeted prevention efforts. This will allow leaders at all levels to measure the effectiveness of our actions and ensure resources are directed against the most significant risks.

LINE OF EFFORT 2 – RESPONSE

Immediate Survivor-Centered Support

Our response to sexual assault will be immediate, uncompromising, and centered on the survivor. A failure in our response is a failure of leadership that deepens trauma, deters reporting, and further harms our people. Every survivor who comes forward will be met with expert, trauma-informed care, and their voice will guide our actions. We will honor the decisions of survivors, providing them with clear, unobstructed access to all reporting options and expert support.

END STATE:

A trusted, integrated, and fully resourced response system based on data-informed analysis that delivers immediate, coordinated, and trauma-informed support to every survivor, honoring their voice and decisions at every step.

OBJECTIVES:

2.1: Deliver a Coordinated, Survivor-Driven Response: Execute an integrated response uniting Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC), SAPRR Victim Advocates (VA), specially trained criminal investigators, Special Victim's Counsel (SVC), and prosecutors. The survivor's needs and choices will guide the process.

2.2: Provide Clear and Unobstructed Reporting Options: Ensure every survivor understands their right to an Unrestricted or Restricted Report. They will have immediate and unimpeded access to expert support to help them make an informed decision.

2.3: Field the Most Qualified SAPRR Professionals: Ensure our SARCs, VAs, SVCs, and criminal investigators are the most highly trained and properly resourced professionals. We will select personnel for these duties with the same rigor as any other mission-critical specialty.

2.4: Rigorously Protect Survivor Dignity and Privacy: Safeguard the privacy and dignity of every survivor. All personnel will be held strictly accountable for protecting a survivor's personal information throughout the response, investigation, and any subsequent military justice proceedings.

LINE OF EFFORT 3 – RECOVERY

Enduring Support for Long-Term Healing

Our commitment to a survivor's well-being is enduring. We will provide a sustained, barrier-free network of expert care for as long as it is needed. Recovery is a personal journey, and we will empower survivors to direct their own path to healing. We will deliver seamless access to trauma-informed resources, including confidential medical and mental healthcare, dedicated advocacy services, and legal support. The survivor's pace and preferences will dictate the process, and we will protect their dignity at every step.

END STATE:

A trusted and enduring system of care that provides seamless, survivor-driven support for long-term healing and recovery.

OBJECTIVES:

3.1: Deliver Comprehensive, Trauma-Informed Care: Provide expert medical and mental healthcare tailored to the unique trauma of sexual assault.

3.2: Guarantee Enduring Access to a Network of Support: Facilitate seamless transitions between Coast Guard, Department of War (DoW), and Department of Veterans Affairs resources to ensure continuous, uninterrupted care.

3.3: Empower Survivor-Driven Recovery: Ensure the recovery process is directed by the survivor, honoring their personal choices on the path and pace of their healing, with steadfast advocacy at every step.

3.4: Rigorously Protect Survivor Privacy: Enforce policies that protect the confidentiality of a survivor's recovery and safeguard their dignity at all times.

3.5: Provide Flexible Administrative Support for Recovery: Use all administrative means, including flexible assignment options, to support a survivor's well-being, ensure continuity of care, and promote long-term stability.

LINE OF EFFORT 4 – ACCOUNTABILITY

Delivering Justice Through Accountability Under the Law

A military justice system that is not trusted is a system that has failed. We will ensure accountability under the law. Every report of sexual assault will be investigated thoroughly and professionally, protecting the rights of survivors while ensuring due process under the law for the accused. We will hold offenders accountable, and we will hold leaders accountable who fail in their duty to combat sexual assault.

END STATE:

A trusted military justice system with accountability under the law and protection for victims and survivors.

OBJECTIVES:

4.1: Ensure Timely, Thorough, and Impartial Investigations: Fully-trained law enforcement professionals will execute high-quality investigations that protect the rights of the survivor while ensuring due process for the accused.

4.2: Execute Timely and Professional Criminal Prosecutions: Conduct timely, professional criminal prosecutions under the military justice system to achieve accountability, deter sexual assault, and ensure good order and discipline.

4.3: Ensure Timely and Effective Administrative Actions: Take timely, effective administrative actions, to achieve accountability, deter sexual assault, and ensure good order and discipline.

4.4: Stop Retaliation: Enforce laws and policy prohibiting acts of retaliation. Those who engage in or tolerate retaliatory behavior will be held accountable under the law.

V.

Conclusion

The readiness of the Coast Guard depends on our ability to trust and depend on one another. Sexual assault is a profound betrayal of the trust that binds us as teammates and the trust of the American people we serve.

Through disciplined execution of this plan, we will live our Core Values, and ensure our readiness to protect the American people. This is our duty to the nation we serve.

Appendix A. Acronyms

CATCH Catch a Serial Offender Program

CGIS Coast Guard Investigative Service

DoW Department of War

LOE Line of Effort

OCP Office of the Chief Prosecutor

SARC Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

SAPRR Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery

STC Special Trial Counsel

SVC Special Victims' Counsel

UCMJ Uniform Code of Military Justice

VAPS Victim Advocate Program Specialist

VA Victim Advocate

Appendix B. Resources

KEY PREVENTION RESOURCES:

- [DoDI 6400.11, DoD Integrated Primary Prevention Policy for Prevention Workforce and Leaders](#)
- [DoDI 6495.02, Volume 2: Sexual Assault Prevention and Response: Education and Training](#)
- [DoD Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy](#)
- [DoD Instruction 6495.02, Volume 2: SAPR Education and Training](#)
- [SAPRR Support and Information for Personnel, Victims, and Commanders](#)

KEY RESPONSE, CARE, AND RECOVERY RESOURCES

- [DoD Safe Helpline](#)
- [SAPRR COMDTINST 1754.10 \(series\)](#)
- [SAPRR Information for Victims](#)
- [Coast Guard Special Victims' Counsel Program](#)
- [Coast Guard SAPRR Home Page](#)
- [SAPRR Information for Leadership](#)
- [CATCH Victim Information Sheet](#)
- [Convalescent Leave MyCG Article](#)
- [Connect to Care MyCG Article](#)
- [Men's SAPR Campaign Overview](#)

KEY ACCOUNTABILITY RESOURCES

- [DoDI 5505.19, Military Criminal Investigative Organizations' Special Victim Investigation and Prosecution Capability](#)
- [Good Order and Discipline Reports](#)
- [Sexual Assault Accountability and Investigation Task Force Report](#)
- [Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces Overview](#)



U.S. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY (SAPRR) PROGRAM

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