

RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Incidents of rape and sexual assault are acts of violence which leave the victims psychologically and physically traumatized. The assailant's motive, in the majority of cases, is not to achieve sexual gratification but rather to terrorize, humiliate and exert control over the victim. Directly following an incident of rape or sexual assault, the victim, who feels powerless to exert control in his or her situation, can experience shock, anxiety, a fearful lack of trust in anyone and sometimes will deny that the rape or sexual assault ever occurred. A victim requires immediate help to make him or her feel physically safe, to notify the proper law enforcement authorities, and to obtain medical attention and rape counseling. The victim's physical, psychological and emotional rehabilitation depends upon a coordinated plan of medical and mental health intervention. The legal question of whether or not a crime has occurred is a matter of determination for the proper jurisdictional law enforcement authorities. Mental health intervention must also be offered to a person who makes a false report of rape or sexual assault.

WHAT DO YOU DO

If the victim is an active duty service member:

- The victim should be accompanied by a member of same gender to a military medical treatment facility or nearest emergency room if no military facility is available.
- Encourage victim not to remove any evidence from their person such as clothing, or washing.
- Remain supportive, note what victim says, and maintain confidentiality.
- Victim advocate information is available through most hospitals, police departments or by contacting the EAPC at
- (757) 686-4028. After hours call the Atlantic Area Command Operations Center at (757) 398-6231. If the EAPC is not available, contact the Work-Life Staff Supervisor at (757) 686-4020.
- Notify the member's Commanding Officer.
- Notify Coast Guard Investigative Services at (757) 398-6293 or after hours through Atlantic Area Command Center Operations (757) 398-6231.

If the victim is a coast guard family member:

- The victim should be encouraged to go, accompanied if possible, to a medical facility for immediate assistance with trauma.
- Encourage victim not to remove any evidence from their person such as clothing, or washing.
- Immediately report the incident to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- Contact the EAPC at (757) 686-4028 or after hours through Atlantic Area Command Operations at (757) 398-6231 (if EAPC unavailable, contact Work-Life Staff Supervisor at (757) 686-4020).

Any and all allegations must be reported. The goal is to help individuals obtain the most appropriate care in the most expeditious manner.