

Restricted vs. Unrestricted Reporting

Restricted Reporting

Under restricted reporting, no investigation of your assault will occur. Your command, law enforcement personnel, and other military authorities will not be notified that you are a victim of sexual assault.

Medical treatment, and even forensic evidence, can be collected without having to officially report the sexual assault. However, unless the report is made unrestricted, evidence collected is retained for only one year; it is then destroyed and no longer available for future prosecution efforts.

The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) will notify the victim's commander within 24-hours of receiving the report of the incident that a sexual assault in their command has occurred, but will not provide information by which the victim or the offender can be identified. The full range of protections that can be afforded to victims, such as separation from the offender or issuance of a military protective order prohibiting the offender from having any contact with you, may not be available.

Restricted reports can be made only to Victim Advocates (VAs), Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA), Healthcare Providers (HCP), Chaplains, and Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs). All other military members are required to report a sexual assault to law enforcement or to their command.

Unrestricted Reporting

An unrestricted report is one where you disclose that you were the victim of sexual assault for purposes of starting an official criminal investigation. Your command will be notified that you are a victim. This will allow your commander to initiate the full range of protections and rights available to you as a victim, in addition to all the services and assistance available in restricted reporting. Your report is not confidential; however, your privacy is a foremost consideration. The offender's command is responsible for deciding whether or not to prosecute the case.