



Picatinny Arsenal SHARP Newsletter

A monthly newsletter providing information to the Picatinny Community.

Connecting and Communicating SHARP Policy News, Updates and more...



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- INTRODUCTION • P.1
- WHAT IS NJCASA • P.2
- GOOD NEWS FOR THE STATE • P.2
OF NEW JERSEY
- CHANGING UCMJ • P.3
- RESOURCES • P.4



“I do not think that most rapes are the result of a miscommunication. I think they are intentional acts in which the criminal knows what he is doing.”

**-RAINN’s President
Scott Berkowitz**

HOW EVERYONE CAN GET INVOLVED

- Support all survivors regardless of their gender or identity.
- Listen to their stories without judging or blaming.
- Speak up if you hear comments that promote violence.
- Be aware of language that degrades women and survivors of other identities.
- Do not be afraid to be an active bystander and intervene if you believe violence is occurring and it is safe for you to do so.
- Be a role model for healthy relationships. Always treat others with respect and expect the same from others.
- Mentor and teach other people to also act as role models.



Good News for The State of New Jersey



NEW JERSEY COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault is the statewide advocacy and training organization that represents the twenty-one county-based rape crisis centers, and the Rutgers University Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance.

NJCASA elevates the voice of sexual violence survivors and service providers by advocating for survivor-centered legislation, training allied professionals, and supporting statewide prevention strategies that work to address and defy the socio-cultural norms that permit and promote rape culture.

The New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety announced that, in response to a recent survey conducted of local evidence retention policies and practices, it is issuing a new directive that significantly expands the current minimum **90-day timeline** for the retention of evidence, including DNA evidence, from sexual assault forensic examinations or sexual assault medical examination.

The new policy directs that the destruction of evidence will only be authorized after providing the victim with a **minimum of (5) years** within which to decide whether to report the crime and release the evidence to law enforcement. The changes will be implemented by amending both the Attorney General Standards for Providing Services to Victims of Sexual Assault and the Attorney General Guidelines for the retention of evidence.

In March 2014, New Jersey Coalition against Sexual Assault sent a letter to the Attorney General's office requesting an evaluation of the existing policy and urging amendments be made to be

consistent with the strong, survivor-centered polices for which New Jersey is known.

"The Attorney General and the Department of Law and Public Safety should be commended for swiftly taking this decisive, informed step to protect the rights of sexual assault victims by ensuring that no prosecution of a sex offender is foreclosed because relevant evidence was destroyed," said Patricia Teffenhart, Executive Director of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA). "NJCASA has long believed that retaining evidence beyond 90 days is in the best interests of both victims and law enforcement." "For other crimes in New Jersey without a statute of limitations, there is not limit on the retention of evidence. This new policy directive is survivor-centered, consistent with professionals best practices, and sends a clear message that in our state, sexual assault is no less important than other heinous crimes," Teffenhart added.

Some National Numbers to Consider!

- 44% of victims are under age 18.
- 80% are under age 30.
- Approximately 2/3 of assaults are committed by someone known to the victim.
- 38% of rapists are a friend or acquaintance.
- 60% of sexual assaults are not reported to police.
- 97% of rapists will never spend a day in jail.
- Every 2 minutes, another American is sexually assaulted.
- Each year, there are about 237,868 victims of sexual assault.



See more info at <https://www.rainn.org/>



Changing UCMJ Especially for Sex Crimes New Update

Articles 120 & 125

Key provisions of the UCMJ that were rewritten under the [National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014](#), or NDAA14 signed December 26 by President Obama.

Under Articles 120 and 125 there are now mandatory minimum punishments. The minimum punishment for the Soldier convicted is dishonorable discharge for enlisted and dismissal for an officer. Article 120 deals with rape and sexual assault upon adults or children and other sex crimes and Article 125 deals with forcible sodomy. Now, the accused must appear before a general court-martial with no opportunity to be tried at a summary or special court-martial.

A summary court-martial is for relative minor misconduct and a special-court-martial is for an intermediate-level offense.

Furthermore, Congress highly encouraged the services not to dispose of sexual assault cases with adverse administrative action or an Article 15, which involves non-judicial punishment usually reserved for minor disciplinary offenses. Rather, Congress desires those cases to be tried at a general court-martial and has mandated that all sexual assault and rape cases be tried only by general courts-martial. And finally, prior NDAA14, there was a five-year statute of limitations on a rape and sexual assault on adults and children under Article 120 cases. Now, there is **NOT** a statute of limitations.



What's Ahead

Congress could make even more changes that address sexual assaults in the military as soon as they are back in session. And this year, changes to the Manual for Courts-Martial should be signed by the President once it is been reviewed by the services, the national security staff, Defense Department and other agencies. The updated manual would codify all the changes, although some are already in effect.

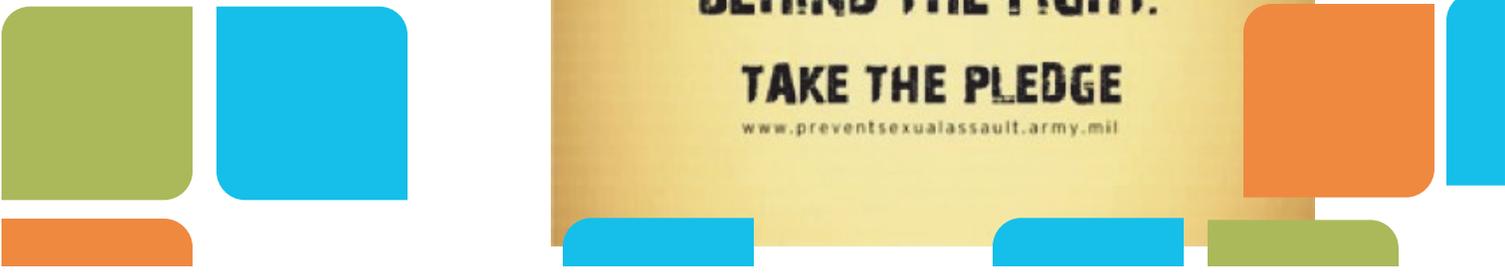
- By David Vergun
(Army News Service)



ACHIEVING CULTURAL CHANGE THROUGH DIGNITY AND RESPECT

I AM THE FORCE BEHIND THE FIGHT.

TAKE THE PLEDGE
www.preventsexualassault.army.mil





Installation SARC

John M. Stahlschmidt
(973) 724-4180

Installation VA

Maria M. Correa
(973) 724-3463

PEO Ammo Coordinator

Brenda K. Eiseman
(703) 704-1719

PEO Ammo Victim Advocate

Veronica A. Morgante
(973) 724-2533

ARDEC Victim Advocate

Stephanie M. James
(973) 724-7030

**BE
PART
OF
SHARP**

**THANK
YOU
FOR
YOUR
SUPPORT**

**Picatinny Arsenal SHARP
Army Community Service
Bldg 119 Buffington Rd.
Picatinny Arsenal, NJ 07806
[http://www.pica.army.mil/Garrison/
Directorates/ACS/SHARP.aspx](http://www.pica.army.mil/Garrison/Directorates/ACS/SHARP.aspx)
24/7 Hotline: (862) 210-0296**

Check out our new resource!



**<https://rainn.org/>
1-800-565-hope
online.rainn.org**

The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network is an American anti-sexual assault organization, the largest in the United States. RAINN operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline and carries out programs to prevent sexual assault, help victims, and to ensure that rapists are brought to justice.

DoD
Safe Helpline
.....
Sexual Assault Support for the DoD Community

Call: (877) 995-5247

**Texting:
Inside U.S.
(55-247)**

**Outside U.S.
(202) 470-5546**

www.SafeHelpline.org