



# MWSS 271

## Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA)

DoD is committed to eliminating sexual assault from the ranks of the military. Sexual assault is a crime. It inflicts incalculable harm on victims and their families, it tears at the very fabric of civilian and military communities and it destroys trust among individuals and faith in our institutions.

### Dedicated Support

Each military service maintains a comprehensive victim support network on every major installation and vessel. Coordinating this efforts are:

**Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC).** The SARC is the single point of contact to coordinate sexual assault victim care and to tract the services provided from initial report of a sexual assault through disposition and resolution of the victim's healthcare and support service needs.

**Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA) and Victim Advocates (VA)** provide 24/7 direct response to victims. they are not counselors, therapists, or investigators. Instead, UVA/VAs help the victim navigate the system and understand options and resources available. Advocate services normally continue as long as needed.

### Reporting Options

Under DoD's confidentiality Policy, **MILITARY VICTIMS** of sexual assault have a choice of two reporting options.

**UNRESTRICTED REPORTING** is the preferred reporting option. This option enable victims to receive medical treatment, advocacy, and counseling in addition to notifying command authorities and initiating a criminal investigation.

**RESTRICTED REPORTING** allows victims to receive medical treatment and support without triggering a criminal investigation. This affords victims additional time to weight their options and seek guidance about whether or not to participate in a criminal investigation at a later time.

### Confidentiality Exceptions

The prohibition on disclosing confidential communications shall be waived when the following reasons apply:

- Disclosure to command officials or law enforcement is authorized by the victim in writing.
- Disclosure to command officials or law enforcement is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of victim or another.
- Disclosure by a healthcare provider to the Disability Retirement Boards and officials is required for fitness for duty for disability retirement determinations, limited to only that information which is necessary to process disability retirement determination.
- Disclosure to the SARC, victim advocates or healthcare provider is required for the supervision of direct victim services.
- Disclosure to military or civilian courts of competent jurisdiction when ordered or required by federal or state statue.



**2ndLt Brendan Spealman**  
**Assistant Operations Officer**  
**S-3, MWSS 271**  
**Building 4563**

**UVA Contact Info**  
During Working Hours  
252.466.4614

**Victim Advocate**  
24/7 Response Line  
Cherry Point: 252.665.4713