



## SAPR ARTICLE

### Why SAPR Belongs to All of Us

**The Air Force SAPR Program and Our Shared Duty.** Imagine waking up every day knowing that the uniform you wear, the team you trust, the mission you believe in, might be shattered by a betrayal no one talks about enough. Senior Airman “Jasmine” felt that pain firsthand. Having just arrived at her first base, she was eager and full of promise. She never imagined that someone she worked alongside would rob her of her safety and dignity. The silence that followed wasn’t just hers alone—it reverberated. Not just in her unit or installation, but through every corner of the Air Force. But Jasmine made a choice. She broke the silence. She found the courage to report. And in doing so, she became a beacon of hope for others trapped in their silence. Her story is a reminder: Sexual assault isn’t a problem “over there.” It’s not “someone else’s” fight. It is ours—each and every one of us.

**The Invisible Wounds That Threaten Our Force.** In 2024, over 8,000 service members came forward to say, “This happened to me.” And that number—shocking and painful—is only the tip of the iceberg (Department of Defense [DoD], 2024a). The Air Force alone saw its reports rise, a sign that survivors are beginning to trust the system more, but also that the problem is real and growing (Air & Space Forces Magazine, 2024). But numbers don’t tell the whole story. They don’t speak of the fear that keeps voices silent. The shame survivors carry. The loneliness of a mission disrupted by trauma. Jasmine’s courage—standing up despite fear of backlash—is what every Airman deserves. What every squadron needs.

**SAPR Is Not Someone Else’s Job. It’s Ours.** When we say “SAPR,” we’re talking about more than policies, mandatory briefings, or paperwork. We’re talking about a culture—a culture where Airmen look out for one another, where silence is replaced by action, where healing begins with belief. We cannot afford to be bystanders. A single assault fractures trust that binds a unit. It chips away at the strength of our force. When a survivor steps forward, it is our duty to protect them—not punish them. When someone makes a harmful joke, it is our duty to call it out. When someone feels alone, it is our duty to be their wingman.

**What We Must Do—Together, Every Day.** We must see the faces behind the reports. We must listen when survivors share their stories. We must build a force where no one fears reprisal. And we must remember: “Jasmine” could be anyone. It could be you, your teammate, your friend, your family. If SAPR only belongs to the SARCs and Victim Advocates that occupy the program building on your base, we lose. But if we all claim it as our own—if commanders, peers, civilians, and every Airman stand united—then we can break the cycle.

**A Call to Courage.** This is not just a policy. It’s a promise. The promise that no Airman will stand alone. That when trauma tries to tear us apart, we will come together. That our strength will be measured not just in weapons or missions, but in compassion, courage, and community. Because SAPR belongs to all of us. It is our fight, our mission, our responsibility. For Jasmine. For every survivor. For every Airman who deserves to serve with dignity.

Written by Rico Lingley



## UPCOMING ANNUAL TRAINING

August 5th: 0900  
@ Chapel  
August 19th: 1500  
@ Chapel

## GET UP AND MOVE!



Feeling sluggish at work behind your desk? Exercise can support your mental health by improving cognitive function, and reduce negative variables like anxiety, depression and low self-esteem. Take breaks when possible to move the body. Walk to the furthest restroom, take a sip of water at the water fountain or simply stand up and stretch for a quick second increases blood flow and moves the muscles.

By Mr. Ray Torres Health Promotions

## HELPING AGENCY CORNER

FACTual Information about Inspector General's Office

- IAW DAFI 90-301
- No process or person can stop individuals from talking to the IG
- RESTRICTION: Preventing or attempting to prevent members of the Armed Forces from making or preparing lawful communications to members of Congress and/or an IG
- REPRISAL: Occurs when a subject takes (or threatens to take) an unfavorable personnel action against an individual, or withholds (or threatens to withhold) a favorable personnel action that individual made or perceived to have made a protected communication or disclosure.
- Independent fact finders & confidential advisors IAW DAFI 90-302:
  - Conduct independent & objective audits and investigations
- \*\* Civilian Restriction & Reprisal cases are handled by DoD IG and filled at [www.dodig.mil/Components/Administrative-Investigations/DoD-Hotline/](http://www.dodig.mil/Components/Administrative-Investigations/DoD-Hotline/)

IG is located in Building 77 across from the Old Gas Station

## SAPR DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly 24.8% of men in the United States have experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime.