

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program



Victim Advocate Application and Credential Roadmap



Command Requirements

- Per the VA mandate, every command with more than 50 members requires two VAs



Populations Served

- Coast Guard workforce victims of sexual assault who have filed a report



Eligibility to Become a VA

- Active Duty
- Two years left at command
- No disqualifying criteria

What is a Victim Advocate (VA)?

A VA is a trained, credentialed volunteer advocate who can provide emotional support for a victim of sexual assault during interviews, medical procedures, and legal proceedings.

What are the VA's responsibilities?

A VA leads or assists Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) with prevention efforts, such as organizing awareness events; acts as a victim companion in navigating investigative, medical, and recovery processes, such as coordinating appointments as requested; explains the different reporting options; and avails themselves to the victim to provide support as needed, among other responsibilities.

How do I become a VA?

In accordance with the SAPR Program Policy, the below steps outline the VA application and approval process.

1. Complete the following prerequisites:

- Have at least two years remaining at current command.
- Receive a written recommendation from the CO or OIC, following your command's review of your Servicing Personnel Office (SPO) Personnel Data Record (PDR) for any disqualifying criteria. See the [SAPR TTP](#) for more information.
- Sign and acknowledge the Victim Advocate Statement of Understanding, Form CG-6095A.
- Obtain supervisor signature and acknowledgement of the Victim Advocate Supervisor Statement of Understanding, Form CG-6095B.
- Be interviewed and approved by the servicing SARC.

2. Clear the SECCEN screening process.

3. Complete all VA training requirements, including 40 hours of in-person and 10 hours of online training.

4. Complete the National Advocate Credentialing Program (NACP).

- NACP is a professional advocate credential requiring standardized, pre-approved training and continuing education.
5. Maintain the NACP credential through continuing education every two years.

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Volunteering to serve as a Coast Guard Victim Advocate is a rewarding opportunity to help your fellow shipmates. The Coast Guard has approximately 850 VAs. An application to become a VA does not guarantee credentials or placement. Placement depends on several factors, including overall command need, program management requirements, and costs (the Coast Guard covers all training and credentialing fees).

How long does the approval and credential process take?

The approval and credential process typically ranges from four to fifteen months and is dependent upon a number of factors, including command need for a VA, the security screening process, schedule of Coast Guard VA training courses, timing of the NACP cycle, and funding. Note—the NACP Board meetings twice per year to review VA applications for Coast Guard and DoD Services.



Can I attend a DoD VA training session in lieu of the required Coast Guard training?

No. [SAPR Program Policy](#) states that “VA training provided by one of the DoD Services is not an equivalent substitute for Coast Guard VA training.” The Coast Guard VA training is tailored to address the unique needs of the Coast Guard. There is no reciprocal VA training between Coast Guard and DoD, i.e. VAs must attend training for their respective Service.

Interested in becoming a VA?

Contact your District SARC for VA position information, including command and credential requirements.

Visit www.dcms.uscg.mil/sapr for a list of District SARCs.



Maintaining or Upgrading a VA Credential

VAs must renew their credentials every two years. SARCs and the SAPR Program track credentialing expiration dates for all VAs and will notify VAs 12 months before their credentials expire. The Coast Guard will pay all initial credential and maintenance fees.

VAs have the opportunity to raise their credentialing level according to their years of experience. The Coast Guard will not pay for upgraded credentials.

