

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



## Catch a Serial Offender (CATCH) Program Victim Info Sheet

The **CATCH Program** gives people making a Restricted Report an *opportunity to anonymously disclose suspect information* to help the Department of Defense identify serial offenders.

The **CATCH Program** allows sexual assault victims (who filed a Restricted Report with a DD Form 2910) to discover if the suspect in their Restricted Report may have also assaulted another person (a "match" in the CATCH website), and having that knowledge, decide whether to convert their Restricted Report to Unrestricted to initiate an investigation of the serial offender suspect. *Your participation in the CATCH Program is voluntary.* Your Restricted Report will not be converted based on the information you provided to the CATCH Program without your permission. *You may decline to participate in the process at any point, even after being notified that there was a potential match.* There shall be no adverse consequences if you do not agree to participate.

### CATCH PROGRAM

Submit an entry in the CATCH website

2 Military criminal investigators (NCIS, CID, AFOSI) at their Headquarters, not at your installation, analyze suspect information that victims submitted into the CATCH Program. If they get a "match," this means that one victim's submission on a suspect matches another victim's submission. Then, the investigators will notify Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) personnel of the match.

A specially trained CATCH Program representative – which could be the SARC – will contact you. Your identity will remain confidential The investigators working the CATCH Program do not know victim names and cannot contact you directly.

After being notified of a match, you can decide if you'd like to convert to an Unrestricted Report. If you decide to convert your report, tell your SARC. In addition, the SARC will check in with you in 30 days if you haven't contacted him or her before that.

(5a) If you decide to convert your report to an Unrestricted Report by re-signing the DD Form 2910, the investigator is given your name at this time. A criminal investigation is now started, and the suspect's commander and your commander are notified. If you choose not to participate, you will be asked if you want to be contacted if there is a future match. If you agree, you may be contacted over the next 10 years. If you do not agree, you will not be contacted again.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## QA

### How do I make a CATCH entry?

Visit the CATCH Program website on your computer or mobile device at a time that's convenient. Your SARC can provide you the web address and your personal, anonymous, secure log-in information.



#### Do I have to provide my name?

No, you cannot share your name; the process is anonymous.



#### What information do you need about the suspect?

You can provide as much information as you can remember and feel comfortable sharing (for example, name, rank, height, tattoos or other distinguishing factors), or any other information you think may be important in identifying the suspect, or linking the suspect to other crimes.



# How long do you keep my entry in the CATCH system?

Each entry is kept for 10 years. This means that you could be contacted at any time over the next 10 years if there is a potential match, as long as you don't opt out and your contact information doesn't change.



# What about my Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Kit?

The SAFE Kit corresponding to your Restricted Report will be retained for 10 years in order to avoid the unintended destruction of a Restricted Reporting SAFE Kit affiliated with a CATCH entry.

#### Q A How

How will I be contacted if there is a match? You will be contacted privately, using ONLY the information you provided. Your name and information will remain anonymous until you decide to participate in an investigation and convert your Restricted Report to Unrestricted. You can always say you don't want to participate.



What if I change my mind, can I opt out of the CATCH Program once I've made my entry? Yes, you can opt out at any time – just tell your SARC.



# I have more questions. Who can I speak with before deciding?

If you are eligible, your SARC or SAPR Victim Advocate can offer you a referral to a Special Victims' Counsel (Army, Air Force, National Guard) or Victims' Legal Counsel (Navy, USMC), who is your personal attorney (not a prosecutor or a defense attorney). They can help answer your legal questions about the CATCH Program.

For more information on the CATCH Program, visit the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office website at www.sapr.mil For confidential 24/7 crisis intervention, call or visit the DoD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247 or www.safehelpline.org