



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

OCT 21 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

SUBJECT: Exception to Policy Allowing the Military Services the Option to Provide Expedited Transfers to Adult Sexual Assault Victims who File Restricted Reports

I support the Response Systems Panel Recommendation 69 to create a means by which sexual assault victims who file a Restricted Report may request an Expedited Transfer without having to make their report Unrestricted. Therefore, each of the Services may proceed with an exception to the current Expedited Transfer policy in Department of Defense Instruction 6495.02.

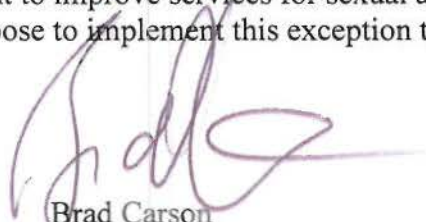
The nuances in handling an Expedited Transfer for someone who files a Restricted Report of sexual assault necessitate careful planning and implementing procedures. Therefore, prior to your implementation of this exception to policy, submit your detailed plan to me through the Director of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

This plan would:

- Detail a process that would address the concerns with confirming continuity of victim healthcare (medical and mental health) and advocacy services, processing the transfer of the victim's spouse and dependents (to include military spouses), and assuring confidentiality.
- Identify the "trusted agent" that would take the commander's role in assessing whether there is a credible report for the purposes of approving the requested Expedited Transfer.
- Identify the "trusted agent" that would take the commander's role in counseling the Service member on any potential career impacts. This assessment would include the victim's Service member spouse, if applicable.
- Address the victim's ability to appeal a disapproval of the Expedited Transfer request and the next level "trusted agent" to evaluate the appeal.
- Propose method of analysis to address observed shortfalls or deficiencies in the proposed plan.
- Exercise a planning effort that promotes collaboration among the Services during the process development.

Once I approve your plan, you may implement the exception to policy immediately. One year from the implementation of this exception to policy, report back to me through the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office on your selected metrics and provide me any recommendations that you may have.

I applaud your continued commitment to improve services for sexual assault victims and look forward to seeing your plans, if you choose to implement this exception to policy.



Brad Carson
Acting

cc:
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Chiefs of the Military Services
Commandant of the Coast Guard