When your co-worker/friend/peer has been Sexually Assaulted, what do you do?

What is sexual assault?

Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. Falling under the definition of sexual assault are sexual activities as forced sexual intercourse, forcible sodomy, fondling or groping, and attempted rape. This is not all inclusive and said actions may not meet elements of the local criminal statute. Support and advocacy will be provided for these offenses.

- ☐ **Contact the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) - 24/7**
  DLA SAPR Hotline 1-800-841-0937 or DSN 427-1133
- ☐ **Encourage your co-worker to seek help and information from the SARC.**
- ☐ **DLA employees are strongly encouraged to report all incidents of sexual assault to the SARC.**

☐ **Take Care of the Victim's Needs**

- Ensure the SARC speaks with the victim (allow privacy to protect confidentiality).
- Do not question the victim.
- Remind the victim not to eat, drink, use the restroom or do anything that may disrupt evidence collection.
- Please remember the medical well-being and safety of the victim are priority. A victim can get medical treatment and still maintain their confidential options.

☐ **Remember the following:**

- No two people respond to or cope with sexual assault in the same way. How a person presents to you is not an indication of whether or not a sexual assault has occurred.
- Be aware of your own moral/personal biases and keep them in check. Comments related to victim's style of dress, drinking activities or personal choices are irrelevant and may severely impair the healing process.
- What you say/how you act may make the difference in whether or not the victim proceeds with the case and may have a significant impact on how the victim continues with recovery.

Communication Guidelines for Dealing with Victims of Sexual Assault

If you are approached by someone and you believe they may disclose a sexual assault to you, it's okay to stop them and make them aware of the options available to them. For example, you can say the following:

"Let me stop you for a moment. I want you to know I'm here for you and ready to listen if you need help, but I don't want you to lose any options that may be available to you by disclosing too much information to me at this time. If you think you might like to speak with the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator before we continue this discussion, I can put you in touch with him/her immediately. Just know that if you disclose a sexual assault to me, I may have to report that assault to a supervisor or law enforcement."