

military offenses under section 1565(d) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall be made not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 19, 2000].”

COMMENCEMENT OF COLLECTION

Pub. L. 106-546, §5(c), Dec. 19, 2000, 114 Stat. 2733, provided that: “Collection of DNA samples under section 1565(a) of such title, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, commence not later than the date that is 60 days after the date of the initial determination referred to in subsection (b) [set out above].”

§ 1565a. DNA samples maintained for identification of human remains: use for law enforcement purposes

(a) COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDER.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), if a valid order of a Federal court (or military judge) so requires, an element of the Department of Defense that maintains a repository of DNA samples for the purpose of identification of human remains shall make available, for the purpose specified in subsection (b), such DNA samples on such terms and conditions as such court (or military judge) directs.

(2) A DNA sample with respect to an individual shall be provided under paragraph (1) in a manner that does not compromise the ability of the Department of Defense to maintain a sample with respect to that individual for the purpose of identification of human remains.

(b) COVERED PURPOSE.—The purpose referred to in subsection (a) is the purpose of an investigation or prosecution of a felony, or any sexual offense, for which no other source of DNA information is reasonably available.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “DNA sample” has the meaning given such term in section 1565(c) of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 107-314, div. A, title X, §1063(a), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2653.)

§ 1565b. Victims of sexual assault: access to legal assistance and services of Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Sexual Assault Victim Advocates

(a) AVAILABILITY OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND VICTIM ADVOCATE SERVICES.—(1) A member of the armed forces, or a dependent of a member, who is the victim of a sexual assault may be provided the following:

(A) Legal assistance provided by military or civilian legal assistance counsel pursuant to sections 1044 and 1044e of this title.

(B) Assistance provided by a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.

(C) Assistance provided by a Sexual Assault Victim Advocate.

(2) A member of the armed forces or dependent who is the victim of sexual assault shall be informed of the availability of assistance under paragraph (1) as soon as the member or dependent seeks assistance from a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, a Sexual Assault Victim Advocate, a military criminal investigator, a victim/witness liaison, or a trial counsel. The member or dependent shall also be informed that the legal assistance and the services of a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator or a Sex-

ual Assault Victim Advocate under paragraph (1) are optional and may be declined, in whole or in part, at any time.

(3) Subject to such exceptions for exigent circumstances as the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating may prescribe, notice of the availability of a Special Victims’ Counsel under section 1044e of this title shall be provided to a member of the armed forces or dependent who is the victim of sexual assault before any military criminal investigator or trial counsel interviews, or requests any statement from, the member or dependent regarding the alleged sexual assault.

(4) Legal assistance and the services of Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Sexual Assault Victim Advocates under paragraph (1) shall be available to a member or dependent regardless of whether the member or dependent elects unrestricted or restricted (confidential) reporting of the sexual assault.

(b) RESTRICTED REPORTING.—(1) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, a member of the armed forces, or an adult dependent of a member, who is the victim of a sexual assault may elect to confidentially disclose the details of the assault to an individual specified in paragraph (2) and receive medical treatment, legal assistance under section 1044 of this title, or counseling, without initiating an official investigation of the allegations.

(2) The individuals specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) A Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.

(B) A Sexual Assault Victim Advocate.

(C) Healthcare personnel specifically identified in the regulations required by paragraph (1).

(3) In the case of information disclosed pursuant to paragraph (1), any State law or regulation that would require an individual specified in paragraph (2) to disclose the personally identifiable information of the adult victim or alleged perpetrator of the sexual assault to a State or local law enforcement agency shall not apply, except when reporting is necessary to prevent or mitigate a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SEXUAL ASSAULT.—The term “sexual assault” includes the offenses of rape, sexual assault, forcible sodomy, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, and attempts to commit such offenses, as punishable under applicable Federal or State law.

(2) STATE.—The term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any territory or possession of the United States.

(Added Pub. L. 112-81, div. A, title V, §581(b)(1), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1431; amended Pub. L. 113-66, div. A, title XVII, §1716(a)(3)(C), Dec. 26, 2013, 127 Stat. 969; Pub. L. 114-92, div. A, title V, §§534(b), 536, Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 816, 817.)

AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (a)(3), (4). Pub. L. 114-92, §534(b), added par. (3) and redesignated former par. (3) as (4).

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 114-92, § 536(b), substituted “an adult dependent” for “a dependent”.

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 114-92, § 536(a), added par. (3).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 114-92, § 536(c), added subsec. (c). 2013—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 113-66 substituted “sections 1044 and 1044e” for “section 1044”.

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RELATING TO SEXUAL TRAUMA

Pub. L. 116-92, div. A, title V, § 599, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1421, provided that:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall inform members of the Armed Forces, using mechanisms available to the Secretary, of the eligibility of such members for services of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to sexual trauma.

“(b) **INFORMATION FROM SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATORS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure—

“(1) that Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and uniformed victims advocates of the Department of Defense advise members of the Armed Forces who report instances of sexual trauma regarding the eligibility of such members for services at the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

“(2) that such information is included in mandatory training materials.

“(c) **SEXUAL TRAUMA DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘sexual trauma’ means psychological trauma described in section 1720D(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code.”

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Pub. L. 112-81, div. A, title V, § 581(a), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1430, provided that: “Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 31, 2011], the Secretaries of the military departments shall prescribe regulations on the provision of legal assistance to victims of sexual assault. Such regulations shall require that legal assistance be provided by military or civilian legal assistance counsel pursuant to section 1044 of title 10, United States Code.”

§ 1566. Voting assistance: compliance assessments; assistance

(a) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to require that the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps ensure their compliance with any directives issued by the Secretary of Defense in implementing any voting assistance program.

(b) **VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “voting assistance programs” means—

(1) the Federal Voting Assistance Program carried out under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff et seq.);¹ and

(2) any similar program.

(c) **ANNUAL EFFECTIVENESS AND COMPLIANCE REVIEWS.**—(1) The Inspector General of each of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps shall conduct—

(A) an annual review of the effectiveness of voting assistance programs; and

(B) an annual review of the compliance with voting assistance programs of that armed force.

(2) Upon the completion of each annual review under paragraph (1), each Inspector General specified in that paragraph shall submit to the

Inspector General of the Department of Defense a report on the results of each such review. Such report shall be submitted in time each year to be reflected in the report of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense under paragraph (3).

(3) Not later than March 31 each year, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on—

(A) the effectiveness during the preceding calendar year of voting assistance programs; and

(B) the level of compliance during the preceding calendar year with voting assistance programs of each of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

[(d) Repealed. Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title V, § 596(a), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2235.]

(e) **REGULAR MILITARY DEPARTMENT ASSESSMENTS.**—The Secretary of each military department shall include in the set of issues and programs to be reviewed during any management effectiveness review or inspection at the installation level an assessment of compliance with the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff et seq.)¹ and with Department of Defense regulations regarding the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

(f) **VOTING ASSISTANCE OFFICERS.**—(1) Voting assistance officers shall be appointed or assigned under Department of Defense regulations. Commanders at all levels are responsible for ensuring that unit voting officers are trained and equipped to provide information and assistance to members of the armed forces on voting matters. Performance evaluation reports pertaining to a member who has been assigned to serve as a voting assistance officer shall comment on the performance of the member as a voting assistance officer.

(2) Under regulations and procedures (including directives) prescribed by the Secretary, a member of the armed forces appointed or assigned to duty as a voting assistance officer shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be given the time and resources needed to perform the member’s duties as a voting assistance officer during the period in advance of a general election when members and their dependents are preparing and submitting absentee ballots.

(g) **DELIVERY OF MAIL FROM OVERSEAS PRECEDING FEDERAL ELECTIONS.**—(1) During the four months preceding a general Federal election month, the Secretary of Defense shall periodically conduct surveys of all overseas locations and vessels at sea with military units responsible for collecting mail for return shipment to the United States and all port facilities in the United States and overseas where military-related mail is collected for shipment to overseas locations or to the United States. The purpose of each survey shall be to determine if voting materials are awaiting shipment at any such location and, if so, the length of time that such materials have been held at that location. During the fourth and third months before a general Federal election month, such surveys shall be conducted biweekly. During the second and first months before a general Federal election month, such surveys shall be conducted weekly.

(2) The Secretary shall ensure that voting materials are transmitted expeditiously by mili-

¹ See References in Text note below.