

evacuated to the United States, such volunteer shall be provided, to the extent practicable, a choice of medical providers including a mechanism for such volunteers to evaluate the provider.

(8) An explanation to the volunteer of available law enforcement and prosecutorial options, and legal representation.

**(d) Training**

The President shall train all staff outside the United States regarding the sexual assault policy developed under subsection (a).

(Pub. L. 87-293, title I, §8B, as added Pub. L. 112-57, §2, Nov. 21, 2011, 125 Stat. 738; amended Pub. L. 115-256, title III, §303, Oct. 9, 2018, 132 Stat. 3657.)

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 115-256, §303(1), substituted “any employee of the Peace Corps” for “SARLs” and “Victim’s Advocate” for “Victim Advocate” and inserted “and require the Peace Corps to designate the staff at each post who shall be responsible for providing the services described in subsection (c)” before semicolon at end.

Subsec. (a)(7) to (10). Pub. L. 115-256, §303(2)–(4), added pars. (7) to (10).

**§ 2507c. Office of Victim Advocacy**

**(a) Establishment of Office of Victims<sup>1</sup> Advocacy**

**(1) In general**

The President shall establish an Office of Victim Advocacy in Peace Corps headquarters headed by a full-time Victim’s Advocate who shall report directly to the Director. The Office of Victim Advocacy may deploy personnel abroad when necessary to help assist victims.

**(2) Prohibition**

Peace Corps Medical Officers, Safety and Security Officers, and program staff may not serve as Victim’s Advocates. The Victim’s Advocate referred to in paragraph (1) may not have any other duties in the Peace Corps that are not reasonably connected to victim advocacy.

**(3) Exemption**

The Victim’s Advocate and any additional Victim’s Advocates shall be exempt from the limitations specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and paragraph (5) under section 2506(a) of this title.

**(b) Responsibilities**

**(1) Victims of sexual assault**

The Office of Victim Advocacy shall help develop and update the sexual assault risk-reduction and response training described in section 2507a of this title and the sexual assault policy described in section 2507b of this title, ensure that volunteers who are victims of sexual assault receive services specified in section 2507b(c) of this title, and facilitate their access to such services.

**(2) Other crimes**

In addition to assisting victims of sexual assault in accordance with paragraph (1), the Of-

fice of Victim Advocacy shall assist volunteers who are victims of crime by making such victims aware of the services available to them and facilitating their access to such services.

**(3) Priority**

The Office of Victim Advocacy shall give priority to cases involving serious crimes, including sexual assault and stalking.

**(c) Status updates**

The Office of Victim Advocacy shall provide to volunteers who are victims regular updates on the status of their cases if such volunteers have opted to pursue prosecution.

**(d) Transition**

The Office of Victim Advocacy shall assist volunteers who are victims of crime and whose service has terminated in receiving the services specified in section 2507b(c) of this title requested by such volunteer.

**(e) Policymaking**

The Director of the Peace Corps shall include the head of the Office of Victim Advocacy in agency-wide policymaking processes in the same manner and to the same extent as the directors or associate directors of other offices within the Peace Corps.

(Pub. L. 87-293, title I, §8C, as added Pub. L. 112-57, §2, Nov. 21, 2011, 125 Stat. 739; amended Pub. L. 115-256, title III, §304, Oct. 9, 2018, 132 Stat. 3658.)

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115-256, §304(1), (2), substituted “Victim’s Advocate” for “victim advocate” and “Victim’s Advocates” for “victim advocates” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 115-256, §304(3), amended subsec. (e) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “This section shall cease to be effective on October 1, 2018.”

**§ 2507d. Establishment of Sexual Assault Advisory Council**

**(a) Establishment**

There is established a Sexual Assault Advisory Council (in this section referred to as the “Council”).

**(b) Membership**

The Council shall be composed of not fewer than 8 and not more than 14 individuals selected by the President who are returned volunteers (including volunteers who were victims of sexual assault and volunteers who were not victims of sexual assault) and governmental and non-governmental experts and professionals in the sexual assault field. At least one member should be licensed in the field of mental health and have prior experience working as a counselor or therapist providing mental health care to survivors of sexual assault in a victim services agency or organization. No Peace Corps employee shall be a member of the Council. The number of governmental experts appointed to the Council shall not exceed the number of non-governmental experts.

**(c) Functions; meetings**

The Council shall meet not less often than annually to review the sexual assault risk-reduc-

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be “Victim”.