



Sexual Assault and Harassment Prevention and Response (SAHPR) Task Force Update

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Overview

- Operational Updates
- USAP Accountability Framework
- Key Elements for the 2023-24 Season
- SAHPR Program – Beyond Antarctica



Operational Updates – Community Support

- **NSF Antarctic Helpline (Launched April 2023)**

- Services

- Supplements Victim Advocate, Counselor, Chaplain, Deputy US Marshal.
- Provides live, confidential, one-on-one crisis intervention and emotional support, as well as guidance for reporting and finding additional support resources.
- Anonymous, secure, and available to USAP community members both on and off the ice via chat, phone, or text.

- Updates

- Needed to optimize response times for the chat and text features.
- NSF Antarctic Helpline Usage



Operational Updates – Climate and Culture Surveys

- **Launch First USAP Climate Survey – Fall 2023**

- Awaiting approval from OMB to begin data collection.
- Establish robust baseline data on SA/SH incidence rate and culture/environment measures.

- **NSF Major Multi-User Facilities**

- NSF has canvassed all major facilities for which NSF provides support.
- All have conducted at least one climate or culture survey since 2020.
- Progress demonstrated for those organizations that have conducted multiple surveys.



USAP Accountability Framework

- **Federal Partners**

- Met with Federal USAP partners to introduce the accountability framework and set the tone for the upcoming austral summer season.
- Coordinating with the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

- **Academic Partners**

- Meeting with institutions on individual SAHPR reports.

- **Contractors**

- OECR, DACS, and OPP are coordinating to ensure clear expectations and consistent ASC reporting, monitoring, and closure.



Key Activities for the 2023-24 Season

- **Morale Initiatives**

- Starlink
 - Available at the McMurdo and Palmer Stations for morale use
 - Future AIR project will expand use of Starlink
- Improvements to recreational spaces:
 - Designated alcohol-free space at McMurdo; other recreation spaces will no longer sell alcohol (but will be BYO).
 - Drink/snack options are being considered for recreational spaces.

- **Enhanced Training**

- New training resources for supervisors and staff
- Prevention Toolkit for USAP
- Safety Planning Template Resource for Supervisors
- SAHPR-related training on “How to Receive/Respond to a Disclosure”



Key Activities for the 2023-2024 Season (Continued)

- **On-ice Presence – OECR/SAHPR Program Office**

- Visit all three Antarctic Stations
 - In-person outreach and education
 - Build trust and understanding
 - Evaluate current services and resources
 - Consider opportunities to strengthen supportive service

- **On-ice Support – Victim Advocate**

- At McMurdo for the austral summer season; scheduled in-person visits to the South Pole.
- Travel to Palmer Station with OECR to provide in-person services during Station Open; available for virtual services throughout the rest of the season.

- **Office of Inspector General – Coordination with NSF**

- Update from OIG



SAHPR Program Office – Beyond Antarctica

- **Engagement with Academic Institutions**
 - Engaging with students, staff, and faculty on current gaps and promising practices in field research.
- **SAHPR Strategies for Enterprise-wide Application**
 - Evaluating USAP support services (e.g., Helpline, Victim’s Advocate) for broader use.
 - Collaborating with Directorates on Dear Colleague Letter - explicitly encourages proposals that address harassment.
- **Partnering**
 - Meeting and working with the Interagency Working Group on Sexual Misconduct.
 - Collaborating with federal agencies and international organizations that support field research.

