FACTS ON UNITED STATES MILITARY SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Statistics from the 2016 – 2019 DoD SAPRO Reports and their appendices/annexes, unless otherwise noted.
https://www.sapr.mil/reports
Updated July 2019

Sexual Violence Remains Pervasive

- **20,500** members (13,000 women and 7,500 men) were sexually assaulted in 2018. Rates of penetrative assault increased from 2016.
- Of **women** who reported a penetrative sexual assault, **59%** were assaulted by someone with a **higher rank than them**, and **24%** were assaulted by someone in their **chain of command**.

Vast Majority of Cases Go Un-Reported

- **76.1%** of victims did **not** report the crime in 2018.

Retaliation Is the Norm

- **64% of women** who reported a sexual assault face retaliation.
- **66%** of retaliation reports alleged that retaliators were in the reporter's chain of command.
- A **third** of victims are discharged after reporting, typically **within 7 months** of making a report.[i]
- Victims received **harsher discharges**, with 24% separated under less than fully honorable conditions, compared to 15% of all service members.[ii]

Low Trust and Satisfaction in System

- Over **1 in 4** victims who did not report feared retaliation from their command or coworkers.
- Nearly **1 in 3** victims who did not report feared the process would be unfair or nothing would be done.
- **Less than half of female survivors felt well supported by their chain of command.**

Conviction and Prosecution Rates

- Despite a **22% increase** in unrestricted sexual assault reports since 2015, **convictions** have plummeted by almost **60%** in the same timeframe.
- In FY 2018, of the **5,805 unrestricted reports** of sexual assault, 307 (**5.3%**) cases were tried by court martial, and 108 (**1.9%**) offenders were **convicted of a nonconsensual sex offense**.

High Demand for VA Care

- **1,307,781** outpatient visits took place at the VA for Military Sexual Trauma (MST)-related care in 2015.[iii]
- Approximately **38% of female** and **4% of male** military personnel and veterans have experienced MST.[iv]
- **40%** of women homeless veterans have faced MST.[v] Veterans with an MST history are **over twice as likely** to experience homelessness.

Sexual Harassment is Alarmingly High

- **6.3% active duty men** and **24.2% active duty women** were **sexually harassed** in FY 2018.
- **1 in 5 women** who experienced **sexual harassment** were also **sexually assaulted.**
- DoD concluded that **"sexual harassment is a leading factor affecting the unit climate on sexual assault."**
- **The majority** of victims were harassed by someone in their chain of command.

Good Order and Discipline at Risk

- Service members who are sexually harassed are at **significantly greater risk** of sexual assault.
- **More than 1 in 4** survivors of either sexual assault or sexual harassment/discrimination took steps to leave the military as a result.

Definitions: **Sexual assault** *in the survey corresponds to crimes defined by Uniform Code of Justice (UCMJ) Article 120 (rape & sexual assault) and Article 80 (attempts).* **Sexual harassment** *is defined in federal law and military regulations, and includes a pervasive and severe sexually hostile work environment that interferes with the ability to do one's job and/or sexual quid pro quo.* **Gender discrimination**, *also defined in law and regulations, refers to gender-based mistreatment that results in harm to one's career.*

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[i] Department of Defense (DoD) Inspector General, *Evaluation of the Separation of Service Members Who Made a Report of Sexual Assault* (2016), https://media.defense.gov/2016/May/09/2001714241/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2016-088.pdf.

[ii] DoD IG report; Veterans Legal Clinic, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, *Underserved: How the VA Wrongfully Excludes Veterans with Bad Paper* (2016), https://www.vetsprobono.org/library/item.655363-Underserved_How_the_VA_Wrongfully_Excludes_Veterans_with_Bad_Paper.

[iii] Department of Veterans Affairs, Patient Care Services, Mental Health Services, MST Support Team, *FY 2015 Summary of MST-Related Outpatient Care* (2016).

[iv] L Wilson, "The Prevalence of Military Sexual Trauma: A Meta-Analysis," *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* (2016).

[v] J Pavao, JA Turchik, JK Hyun, et al., "Military Sexual Trauma Among Homeless Veterans," *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 28 Suppl 2 (2013).