Debunking Claims of Progress on Military Sexual Assault

The data is clear: despite efforts to argue the contrary, research shows that the military has failed to address the sexual assault crisis.

**The sexual assault rate remains the same as 2010**

20,300 service members were sexually assaulted in 2014. 76% of male and 56% of female victims were assaulted at least twice, resulting in over **47,000 assaults** against service members.¹ 1 in 7 victims were assaulted by someone **in their chain of command**.

**The retaliation rate remains the same as 2012**

62% of victims who reported sexual assault still faced retaliation.

**Victims don’t trust the system**

86% of victims did not report the crime in 2014. 1 in 3 victims still believed that reporting would hurt their career; the process would be unfair; or that nothing would be done. 1 in 4 feared retaliation from their chain of command or coworkers.

**Sexual harassment rate is alarmingly high**

134,500 service members experienced severe and persistent sexual harassment or career-harming gender discrimination.² 60% of these victims were harassed by someone **in their chain of command**.

RAND concludes: “At such high rates, sexual harassment... could affect cohesion within military units [and] degrade mission effectiveness.”

**Reliance on unscientific survey**

The DoD says victims are satisfied based on their Survivor Experience Survey, which even the Pentagon admits is **not representative** of all active-duty survivors. **To the contrary:** According to RAND, **nearly half** of survivors (45%) were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their treatment by their supervisor or chain of command.

**Sexual harassment often mishandled by chain of command**

44% of sexual harassment victims were encouraged to drop the issue. 41% said the person to whom they reported took no action.

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¹ The majority of victims are assaulted more than once over the course of a year. In 2014, there were 3.57 sexual assaults per 100 active-duty service members, out of a total 1,317,561 members. This translates to 47,000 sexual assaults against active-duty service members in 2014.

² In 2014, 10.21% of the active-duty population experienced sexual harassment or gender discrimination.

[Read the full report: http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR870z2.html](http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR870z2.html)