

# Debunking Claims of Progress on Military Sexual Assault

Fact Sheet

November 2015

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

## Assault Rate Unimproved From 2010

### 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.<sup>1</sup> **1 in 7** victims were assaulted by someone **in their chain of command**.

## Retaliation Remains the Norm

### The retaliation rate remains the same as 2012

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

## Harassment Cases Often Mishandled

### 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.

## Unit Cohesion is at Risk

### Sexual harassment rate is alarmingly high

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

## Low Trust and Satisfaction

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.

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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