

PROTECT OUR DEFENDERS
SASC Hearing, June 4, 2013

A female soldier's story: January, 2013 Case 62009

"I was medically discharged on Dec 27, 2012. I was on my second deployment doing missions in Iraq when I was initially harassed and finally raped...He was from reserve unit and I was Active Duty...I had noticed that a tire on my trailer needed changing and I pulled out the required tools when he appears...I crawled into the back of my cab to grab a bottle of water out of my cooler[in the back seat]...he asked me to wait a few because he wanted to talk to me...thought nothing of it. Right up until he combat locks the door and out comes a knife at me. My weapon was in front, otherwise he would be dead. He had his though but the knife is what he used...I got raped by this bastard, to this day I play it over in my head...wondering why I didn't do enough to protect myself...When I tried to talk to my squad leader I got shut down and reminded that he was a Senior NCO and I was NOT to be talking sh.t about him like that...I waited til we got back down to [location] and spoke with my platoon SFC and Lt., I thought for sure they had my back. I then got told if I say another word to ANYONE about it than I was going to be charged with Adultery and get an AR 15 for it...I shut down inside, I was lead Vic in Convoy and kept hoping to hit an IED after that.... (I told my roommate, she got moved away after speaking out) Again I get shut down with threats...started getting put on BS details...they won. I got injured when I was raped, I have a scar on my left breast to remind me of it daily. Can't miss it, size of a 50 cent piece. In May, 2012 I was sent back to the states over injuries sustained on a mission and tried to pursue it then, I told my squad leader at the time... and the next thing ya know I get told they are chaptering me on an adjustment disorder...I write all this to you so that you can attempt change. I am one of the 'Unreported statistics' but not without trying....He is free and able to do it again as long as he wears the Uniform, the Uniform represents a Protective Shield if you're a rapist with rank."

Request from a commander, 2012

Mrs Parrish.

I have a young female Soldier that will be filing a Congressional complaint on the investigation conducted regarding an incident. She lives in [town] and I live on the [name] Coast. I was wondering if there is any specific Congressional Representative that has been key in your efforts and would give more than lip service to her issue.

As her Commander I have supported and encouraged her reporting, but have been disappointed in the way it has been handled and the lack of support given to her by her command (higher than me).

I would appreciate any direction you could advise. As I am still in the Command discretion would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

[name]