Sexual Violence Remains Pervasive

• 14,900 members (8,600 women and 6,300 men) were sexually assaulted in 2016. Rates of penetrative assault were unchanged from 2014.

• Most victims were sexually assaulted more than once, resulting in over 41,000 assaults in 2016 alone.

• Over 1 in 4 women and 1 in 3 men were assaulted by someone in their chain of command.

Vast Majority of Cases Go Un-Reported

• 83% of victims did not report the crime in 2016.

Retaliation Is the Norm

• 58% of women and 60% of men who reported a sexual assault face retaliation.

• 77% 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.1

• Victims received harsher discharges, with 24% separated under less than fully honorable conditions, compared to 15% of all service members.2

Low Trust and Satisfaction in System

• 1 in 10 victims dropped out of the justice process—a rate unchanged since 2013.

• 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.

• 1 in 3 women and over half of men were dissatisfied with their treatment by their chain of command.

Sexual Assault is More Common in a Military Context

• In 2014, rates were 50% higher among active-duty women, and over 100% higher among men, than in the Reserves.

Conviction and Prosecution Rates

• Prosecution and conviction rates fell dramatically from prior years.

• In 2016, of cases where the military could take action, only 13% (389) were prosecuted and just 4% (124) of offenders were convicted of a 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

• 1 in 4 female and 1 in 100 male veterans who use the VA screen positive for MST.iv

• 40% of woman homeless veterans have faced MST.v

Sexual Harassment is Alarmingly High

• 128,000 service members (1 in 4 women, 1 in 15 men) faced severe and persistent sexual harassment or gender discrimination in 2016.

• Most victims were harassed or discriminated against 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.

• 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.

1 Department of Defense (DoD) Inspector General, Evaluation of the Separation of Service Members Who Made a Report of Sexual Assault (2016), http://goo.gl/qUjZmm


3 Department of Veterans Affairs, Patient Care Services, Mental Health Services, MST Support Team, FY 2015 Summary of MST-Related Outpatient Care (2016)
