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
• 81% 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.ii

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 FY 2017, of the 5,110 unrestricted reports of sexual assault and rape, only 406 (7.9%) cases were tried by court-martial and only 166 (3.2%) 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 Alarming High
• 129,000 service members (1 in 4 women, 1 in 15 men) faced severe and persistent sexual harassment or gender discrimination in 2016. vi
• 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.
• 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://go.usa.gov/x3Zan
3 Department of Veterans Affairs, Patient Care Services, Mental Health Services, MST Support Team, FY 2015 Summary of MST-Related Outpatient Care (2016)