Sexual Violence Remains Pervasive

- **20,500** members (13,000 women and 7,500 men) were sexually assaulted in 2018. Rates of penetrative assault increased from 2016.
- Of **women** who reported a penetrative sexual assault, 59% were assaulted by someone with a higher rank than them, and 24% were assaulted by someone in their chain of command.

Vast Majority of Cases Go Un-Reported

- **76.1%** of victims did not report the crime in 2018.

Retaliation Is the Norm

- **64%** of women who reported a sexual assault face retaliation.
- **66%** 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.11

Low Trust and Satisfaction in System

- 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.
- Less than half of female survivors felt well supported by their chain of command.

Conviction and Prosecution Rates

- Despite a 22% increase in unrestricted sexual assault reports since 2015, convictions have plummeted by almost 60% in the same timeframe.
- In FY 2018, of the **5,805** unrestricted reports of sexual assault, 307 (5.3%) cases were tried by court martial, and 108 (1.9%) 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

- **6.3%** active duty men and **24.2%** active duty women were sexually harassed in FY 2018.
- **1 in 5** women who experienced sexual harassment were also sexually assaulted.
- DoD concluded that “sexual harassment is a leading factor affecting the unit climate on sexual assault.”
- 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.
- More than **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.

1i DoD IG report; Veterans Legal Clinic, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, Underserved: How the VA Wrongfully Excludes Veterans with Bad Paper (2016), https://www.vetsprobono.org/library/item.655363-
ii Department of Veterans Affairs, Patient Care Services, Mental Health Services, MST Support Team, FY 2015 Summary of MST-Related Outpatient Care (2016).