



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
**SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION  
AND RESPONSE OFFICE**



## **Current State of Sexual Assault in the Military: After a decade of new policies and programs has anything really changed?**

August 15, 2017

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[www.sapr.mil](http://www.sapr.mil)

## Objectives



- Objective 1: Describe the military's progress over time and identify areas needing more work.
- Objective 2: Identify the military's practices in prevention and response that may be adaptable to other populations.
- Objective 3: Formulate new ways of attacking this crime within your environment, based on the DoD's lessons learned.

## Agenda

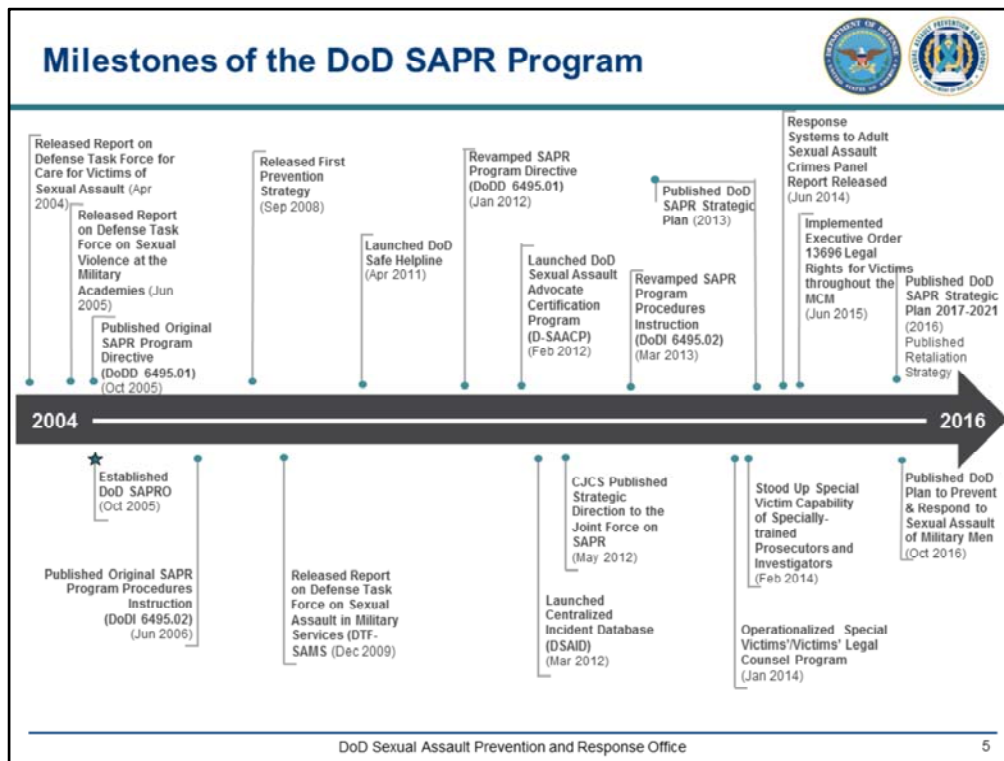


- Background
- Milestones of DoD SAPR Program
- State of SAPR in DOD
- Sustaining and Effective SAPR Program
- Current Initiatives
- Case Studies
- Lessons Learned

## Background of SAPRO



- Established in 2005
- Serves as single point of authority for accountability and oversight, except:
  - Criminal investigations (DoD Inspector General)
  - Legal processes (Judge Advocates General of the Military Departments)
- SAPROs mission is to reduce, with the goal to eliminate, sexual assault
- Comprehensive Prevention and Response System across 5 Lines of Effort:
  - Prevention
  - Victim Assistance/Advocacy
  - Investigation
  - Accountability
  - Assessment



At the end of 2003, Service member victims of sexual assault testified before congress about the lack of prevention and response while deployed to Iraq. Based on this testimony, then Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld established the Defense Task Force on the Care for Victims of Sexual Assault. This 90 day TF produced a report recommending the establishment of SAPRO to be the single point of authority over sexual assault policy in the Department.

Additional recommendations were generated by two more Defense Task Forces – Sexual Violence at the Military Academies and then Sexual Assault within the military.

Major policy initiatives include:

2005 – Restricted reporting;

2011- Expedited transfer option

2011 – Victim Reports and SAFE reports retained for 50 years

2015 EO 13696: implements Article 6b rights throughout MCM on notice, not to be excluded and heard.; new Art 32 procedures; depositions, pre-sentencing and victim impact statements, “in camera” review of matters

EO 13730 May 2016: Implements RCM: ratings for SVC/VLC; victim preference on jurisdiction, victim consultation on PTAs, vacation hearing procedures; procedures for victim writs of mandamus and mandatory punitive discharge for attempts of certain SA

crime.

MJA16: submitted in Dec 2015 37 new arts and 68+ revisions

## The State of SAPR in DoD



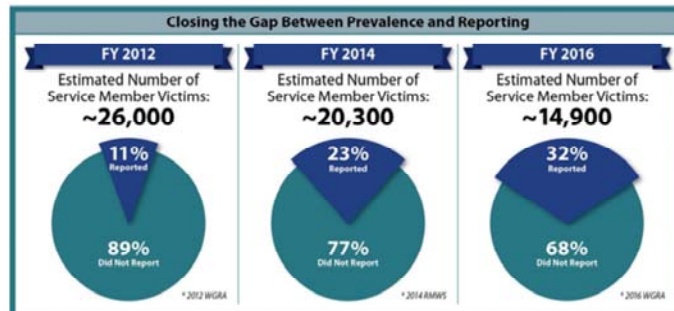
- **Evolving, Data-driven Program**
- **Significant Investment in Advocacy/Response Resources**
- **Dedicated Representation for Victims**
- **Best Practice Sharing**
- **Demonstrable Progress – *but more to do!***

## Top Line Results



- **Past-year Prevalence of Sexual Assault is on the Decline**

- DoD's scientific surveys found:
  - 4.3% of military women and 0.6% of military men indicated experiencing some form of sexual assault in the year prior to being surveyed
  - Rates in 2016 are down significantly for men and women from 2014 and 2012



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### Prevalence Decreased:

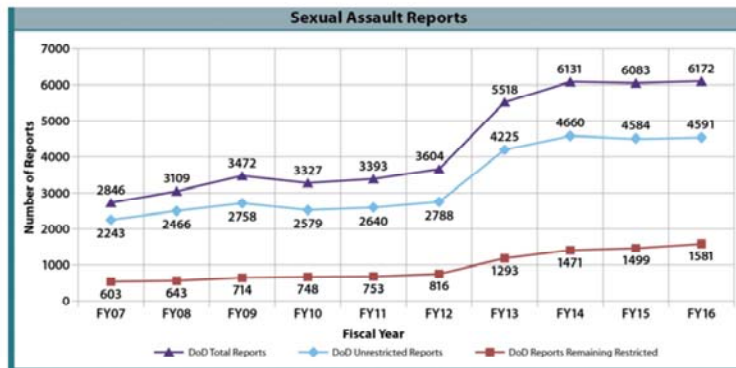
- Prevalence is down from 2014, where rates for women and men were 4.9% and 0.9% respectively in 2014
- Based on these rates, the Department estimates that about 14,900 Service members experienced some kind of sexual assault in 2016 – down from the 20,300 active duty members estimated to have experienced a sexual assault in 2014
- All services showed downward trends in past-year rates of sexual assault
- Two groups showed statistically significant decreases: Navy women and Army men
- Lower rates reflect a decrease in sexual contact crimes since 2014; penetrating crimes remained about the same



## Top Line Results



- **Sexual Assault Reporting continues to increase**
  - In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, the Department received 6,172 reports of sexual assault involving Service members as either victims or subjects
  - Sustained high levels of reporting since FY12

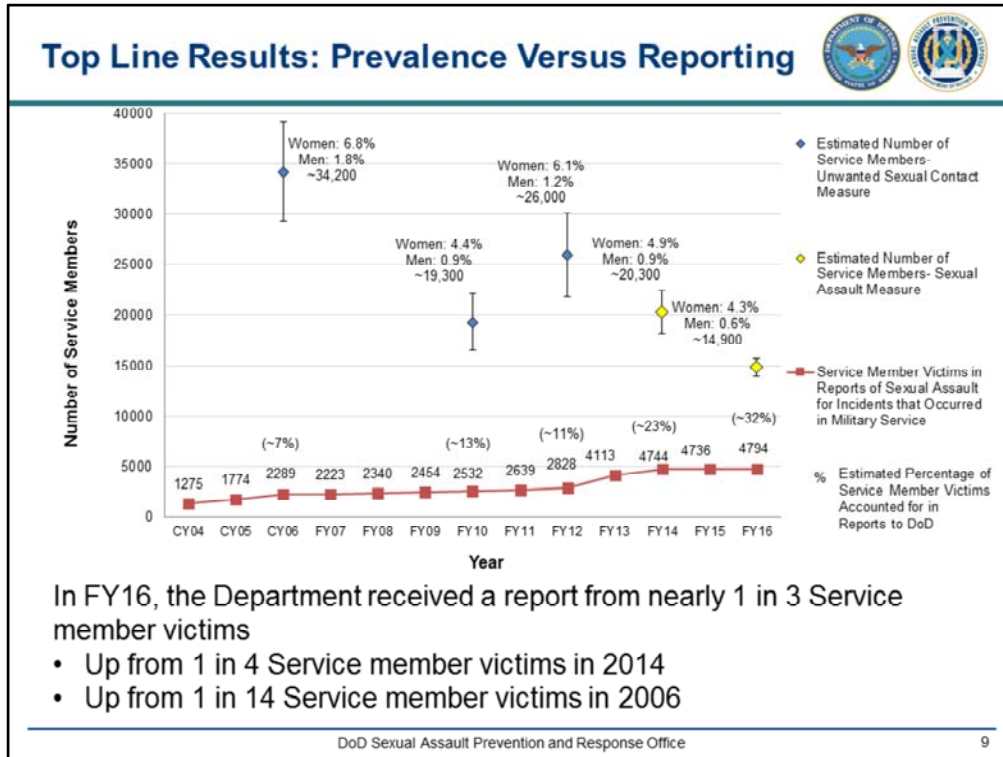


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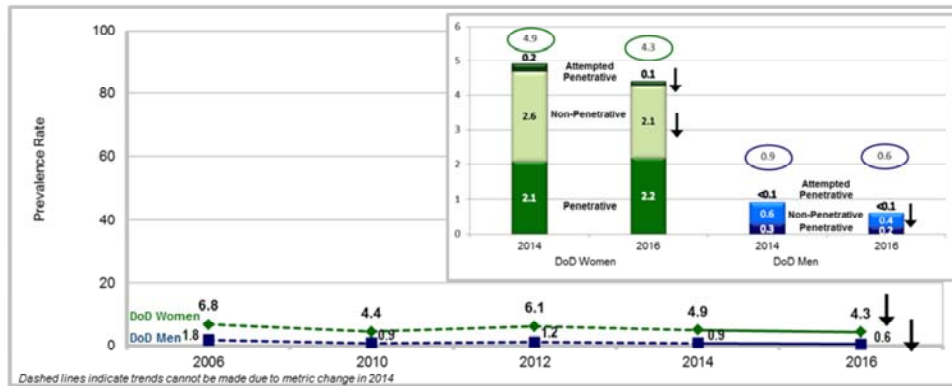


Overall reporting rate: ~1/3 (32%)

Male reporting rate: ~1/6 (17%); point estimate: ~6,300

Female reporting rate: A little less than 1/2 (43%); point estimate: ~8,600

## WGRA: Sexual Assault Past-Year Prevalence Rate



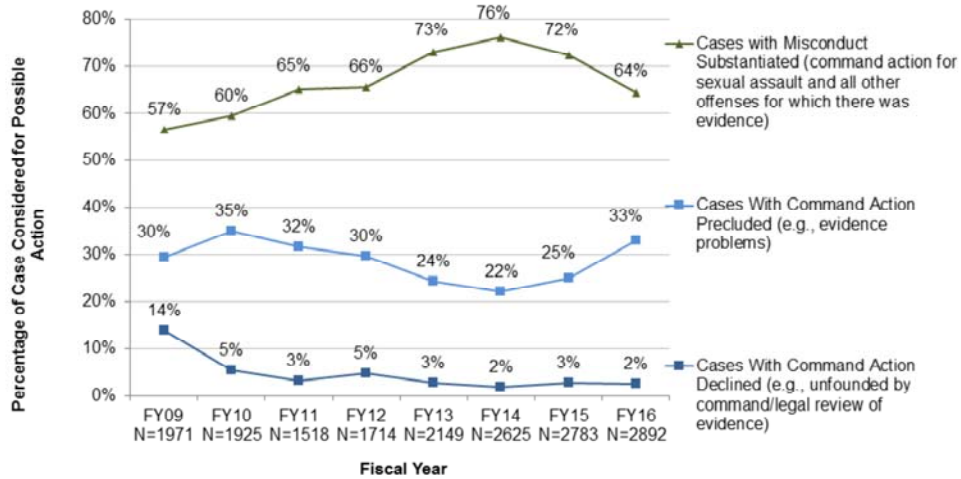
- There was a decrease in past-year prevalence (occurrence) of sexual assault for both active duty women and men in 2016
- There was a decrease in contact sexual crimes experienced by both women and men; penetrative crimes stayed largely the same

## Top Line Results



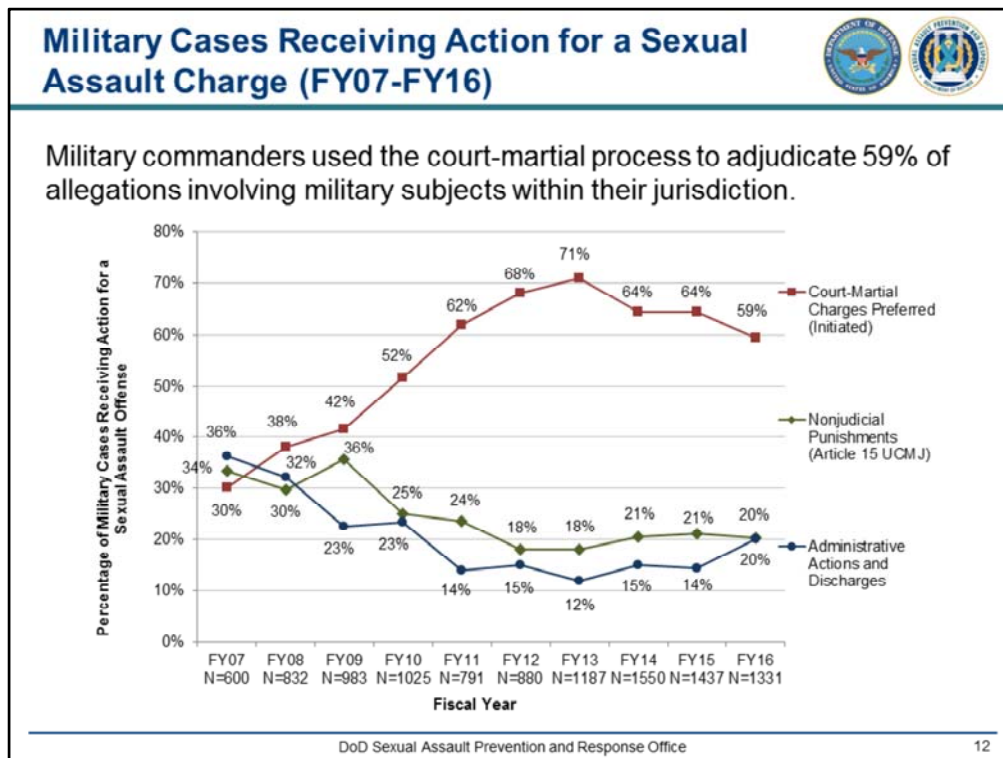
- Commanders Had Sufficient Evidence to Take Action Against a Majority of Alleged Offenders**

- DoD authorities had sufficient evidence to take some kind of disciplinary action on 64% of military subjects (1,865 of 2,892 military subjects)



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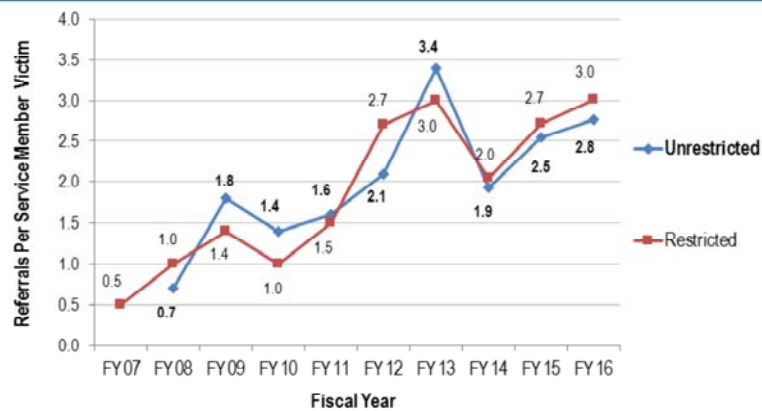


Once the investigation of an unrestricted report is complete, the Department requires the Services to provide the outcome of the cases against each subject named in an investigation.

- The Department takes appropriate action against those subjects over whom it has jurisdiction and when it has sufficient evidence to do so.
  - Jurisdiction for the DoD is limited to just Service members who are subject to military law.
  - Each year, the Department does not have jurisdiction over several hundred offenders in its investigations. These are civilians, foreign nationals, or unidentified subjects who sexually assault Service members.
    - Local authorities in the United States and our host nations are responsible for prosecuting US civilians and foreign nationals, respectively.
- The subject's commander is responsible for reviewing the investigation and taking appropriate action when appropriate.
  - Commanders can send cases forward for action, or a commander may decline or be precluded from taking action for a variety of reasons.
    - Examples of when cases may be precluded or declined for action are:
      - insufficient evidence to prosecute,
      - the victim declines to participate in the justice system
      - The subject deserts or dies

- When commanders take action against offenders, they may do so by
  - Preferring court-martial charges
  - Administering nonjudicial punishment
  - Taking administrative actions or discharging the offender
- The percentages on this chart is the percentage of subjects considered for action each year that had court-martial charges preferred against them. This is, in effect a prosecution rate. However, nonjudicial punishments allow the Department to take action on misconduct that would never be heard in a civilian court. When nonjudicial punishments are considered an additional form of “prosecution”, then these rates increase several percentage points. For example, in FY11 our court-martial charge preferral rate was 31%, but if you consider nonjudicial punishments, then our effective prosecution rate was 43%.

## Referrals to Service Member Victims



This year, SARCs and SAPR VAs made an average of 2.8 service referrals per Service member victim submitting an Unrestricted Report and 3.0 service referrals per Service members submitting a Restricted Report.

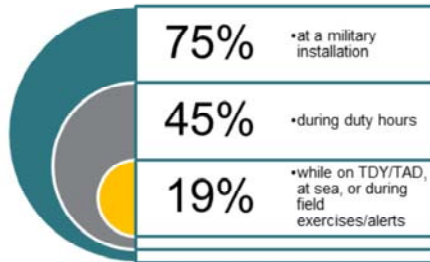
Source: Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database and Prior Annual Reports

## Women's Circumstances of the One Situation of Sexual Assault: When and Where

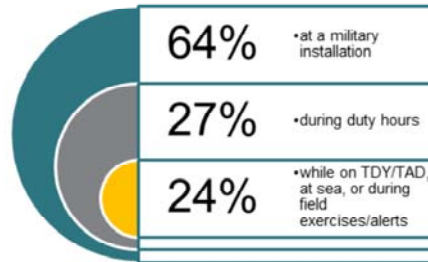


- In both the 2006 and 2016 surveys, members were asked to think about the one situation of unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault that had the biggest effect on them.
- Thinking about this situation, they were asked to provide details about when and where the one situation occurred.
- Please note, members could select multiple reasons.

**2006**



**2016**



N.B. Direct statistical comparisons cannot be made between the 2006 WGRA and the 2016 WGRA due to measurement and survey content changes.

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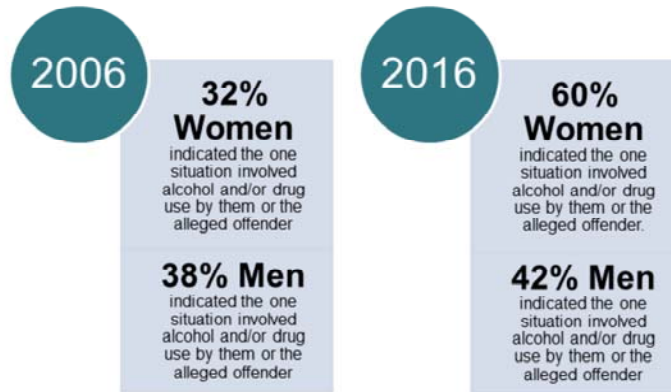


## The Role of Alcohol and/or Drugs



The role of alcohol and/or drugs in the one situation that had the most impact on the victim appeared to become more prominent between 2006 and 2016.

- In sum, drug and alcohol facilitated crime accounts for a larger proportion of those incidents that had the greatest impact on Service members.



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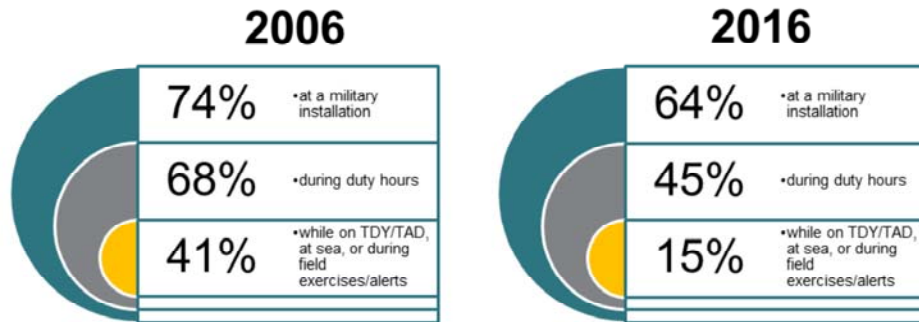
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## Men's Circumstances of the One Situation of Sexual Assault: When and Where



- In both the 2006 and 2016 WGRA, members were asked to think about the one situation of unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault that had the biggest effect on them.
- Thinking about this situation, they were asked to provide details about when and where the one situation occurred.
- Please note, members could select multiple reasons.



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## Women's Circumstances of the One Situation of Sexual Assault: Gender



- In both the 2006 and 2016 WGRA, members were asked to think about the one situation of unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault that had the biggest effect on them.
- Thinking about this situation, they were asked to provide details about the alleged offender
- Please note, members could select multiple reasons.



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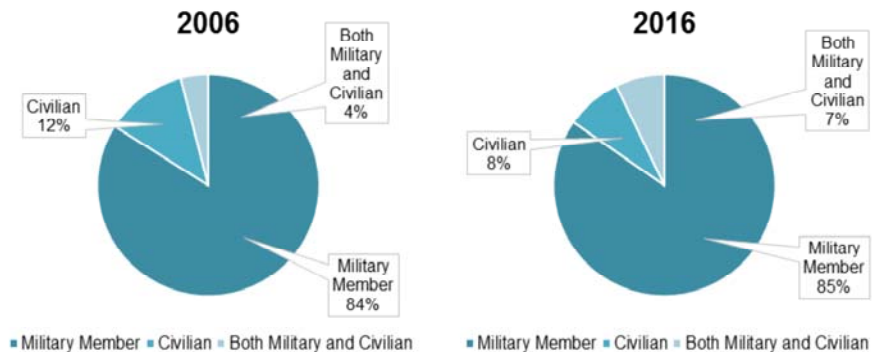
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## Women's Circumstances of the One Situation of Sexual Assault



- In both the 2006 and 2016 WGRA, members were asked to think about the one situation of unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault that had the biggest effect on them.
- Thinking about this situation, they were asked to provide details if the alleged offender was military or civilian
- Note: members could select multiple reasons.



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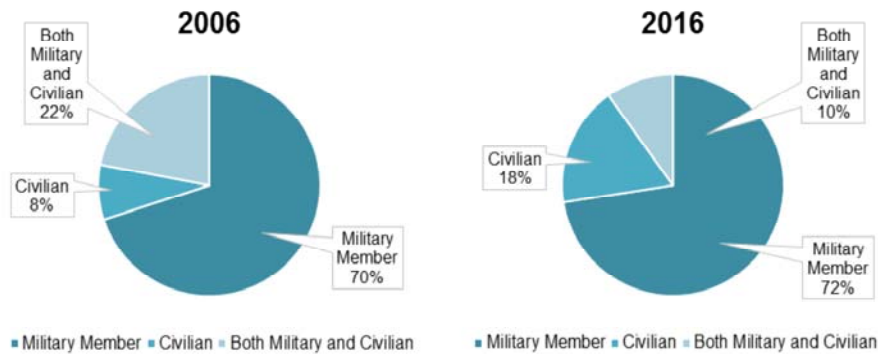
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## Women's Reasons for Reporting – 2016 and 2014 WGRA



- In both the 2006 and 2016 WGRA, members were asked to think about the one situation of unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault that had the biggest effect on them.
- Please note, members could select multiple reasons.

### 2016 Top reasons for reporting Women:



53%	To stop the offender from hurting others
44%	Someone they told encouraged them to report
42%	To stop the offender(s) from hurting them again

### 2014 Top reasons for reporting Women:



54%	To stop the offender from hurting others
54%	Someone they told encouraged them to report
41%	To stop the offender(s) from hurting them again

## Men's Reasons for Reporting – 2016 and 2014 WGRA



- In both the 2006 and 2016 WGRA, members were asked to think about the one situation of unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault that had the biggest effect on them.
- Please note, members could select multiple reasons.

### 2016 Top reasons for reporting Men:



47% To stop the offender(s) from hurting them again

45% Stop the offender(s) from hurting others

41% It was their civic or military duty to report it

### 2014 Top reasons for reporting Men:



N/A

*Not reportable due to small number of male respondents who indicated experiencing sexual assault and reporting the incident*



## Men's Reasons for Not Reporting – 2016 and 2014 WGRA



- In both the 2006 and 2016 WGRA, members were asked to think about the one situation of unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault that had the biggest effect on them.
- Please note, members could select multiple reasons.

### 2016 Top reasons for **not reporting** men:



47%	Wanted to forget about it and move on
37%	Did not want more people to know
37%	Felt shamed or embarrassed

### 2014 Top reasons for **not reporting** men:



64%	Wanted to forget about it and move on
51%	Did not want more people to know
49%	Thought it was not serious enough to report

## Women's Reasons for Not Reporting – 2016 and 2014 WGRA



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### 2016 Top reasons for not reporting Women:

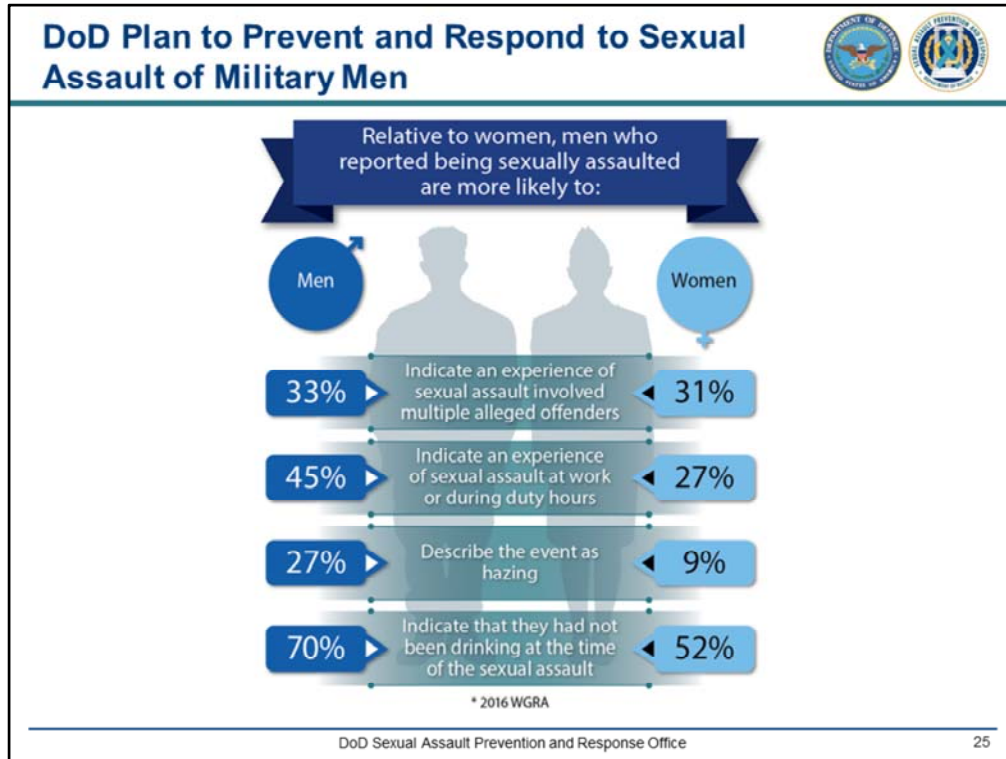


68%	Wanted to forget about it and move on
58%	Did not want more people to know
52%	Felt shamed or embarrassed

### 2014 Top reasons for not reporting Women:



73%	Wanted to forget about it and move on
63%	Did not want more people to know
46%	Thought it was not serious enough to report



## Sustaining an Effective SAPR Program



- *DoD SAPR Strategic Plan, 2017-2021* charts course for next five years
- Strategic goals are to continue advancing capabilities in:
  - Prevention
  - Victim Assistance and Advocacy
  - Investigation
  - Accountability
  - Assessment
- Programs and initiatives will be operationalized through three supplemental plans:
  - *DoD Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy*
  - *DoD Plan to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Assault of Military Men*
  - *Sexual Assault Prevention Plan of Action*

## DoD Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy (DRPRS)



- Strategy Released in May 2016
- Intended to improve support and protection of individuals who allege experiencing retaliatory behavior after reporting through:
  - Standardizing definitions
  - Improving data collection and analysis
  - Streamlining investigation and accountability efforts
  - Strengthening reporter protections
  - Creating a culture intolerant of retaliation
- Applies to Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard Service members
  - Also applies to Service member bystanders/witnesses and first responders
- Implementation actions through 2019



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### Working Groups:

- WG 1: (Definitions) Office of General Counsel (OGC) and Navy
- WG 2: (XXX) SAPRO and Marine Corps
- WG 3/4: (XXXX) Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity (ODMEO), Army, SAPRO, and Department of Navy (DON) (combined)
- WG 5: (XXXX) Office of the Senior Advisor for Military Professionalism (SAMP) and Air Force

## DoD Plan to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Assault of Military Men

- Just less than half of sexual assault victims in the military are men
- Military men experience sexual assault differently than military women
- The *DoD Plan to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Assault of Military Men* was released in December 2016 to:
  - Develop a unified communications plan to speak to military men
  - Improve Service member understanding of sexual assault against men
  - Ensure existing support services meet the needs of male Service members who experience sexual assault
  - Develop metrics to assess prevention and response efforts pertaining to men who experience sexual assault

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The Male SAPR Plan outlines four objectives to address military sexual assault against men:

**Objective 1.** Develop unified communications plan that encourages men to seek supportive services

Improve Service member understanding of sexual assault against men to prevent the crime and increase male engagement with the response system

Ensure support services are patient-centered and meet the needs of military men who experience sexual assault

Develop metrics to assess the effectiveness of male outreach, prevention, and response efforts

## A Working Group was launched to achieve the objectives of the *Male SAPR Plan*

Working Group participants include SAPR subject matter experts and research specialists from the DoD, the Services, and military medical/behavioral care communities

The efforts and activities of the Working Group include:

Delivering milestones and a timeline for each objective

Performing **systematic** reviews of **existing** research and data

Developing evidence-based approaches to operationalize each objective  
Evaluating Service-specific efforts and addressing associated gaps (e.g. outreach, prevention, response, etc.)

The *Male SAPR Plan* Working Group will continue to meet throughout FY17

## Sexual Assault Prevention Plan of Action

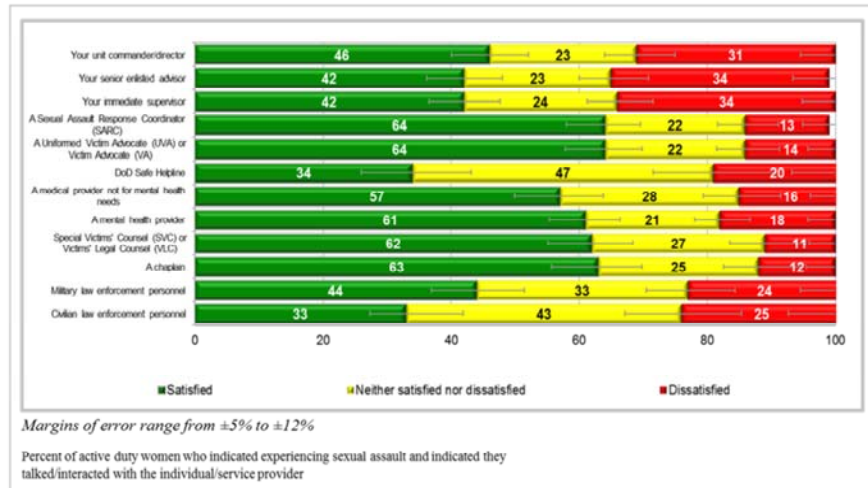


- DoD working to apply advice from Center for Disease Control and Prevention technical assistance package: "STOP-SV"
- The plan is expected to be released in 2018

ADD sub bullets that give examples of "advice" to first bullet



## WGRA: Satisfaction With Responses/Services Received for DoD Women

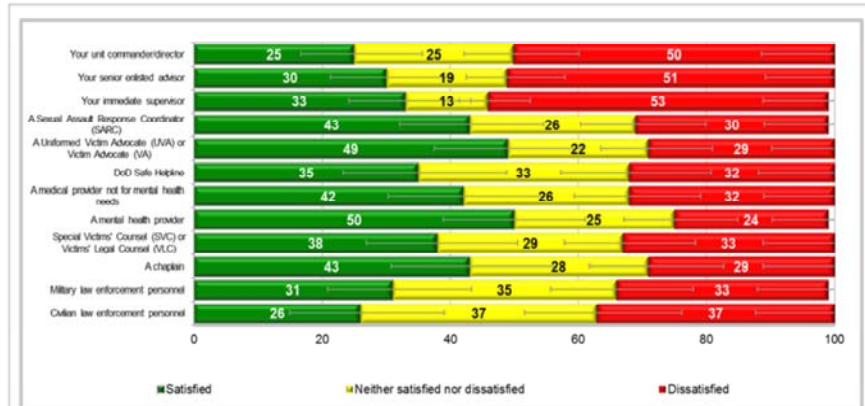


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For SHL – this was the first time we asked this question about SHL and based on our feedback from users, we believe the dissatisfaction is coming from the fact that SHL does not take reports of SA.

## WGRA: Satisfaction With Responses/Services Received for DoD Men



Margins of error range from  $\pm 7\%$  to  $\pm 15\%$

Percent of active duty men who indicated experiencing sexual assault and indicated they talked/interacted with the individual/service provider

## Case Study



## Lessons Learned



- ✓ Objective 1: Describe the military's progress over time and identify areas needing more work.
  - Decreased prevalence
  - Increased reporting needed
  - Satisfaction with services
  - SA still a problem
- ✓ Objective 2: Identify the military's best practices in prevention and response that may be adaptable to other populations.
  - Awareness & Training
  - Restricted Reporting
  - Safe Helpline
  - Certification
  - Victim's Lawyer
- ✓ Objective 3: Formulate new ways of attacking this crime within your environment, based on the DoD's lesson's learned.

Objective 3: Engage the audience - Major lessons learned by DoD you may want to consider



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