

# Department of Defense – Released Today

- **Report to the President of the United States on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response**
- **Secretary of Defense Directive Memo:**
  - Provide Feedback to the Force
  - Engage Command to Prevent Retaliation
  - Enhance First Line Supervisor Skills and Knowledge
  - Installation Prevention Study



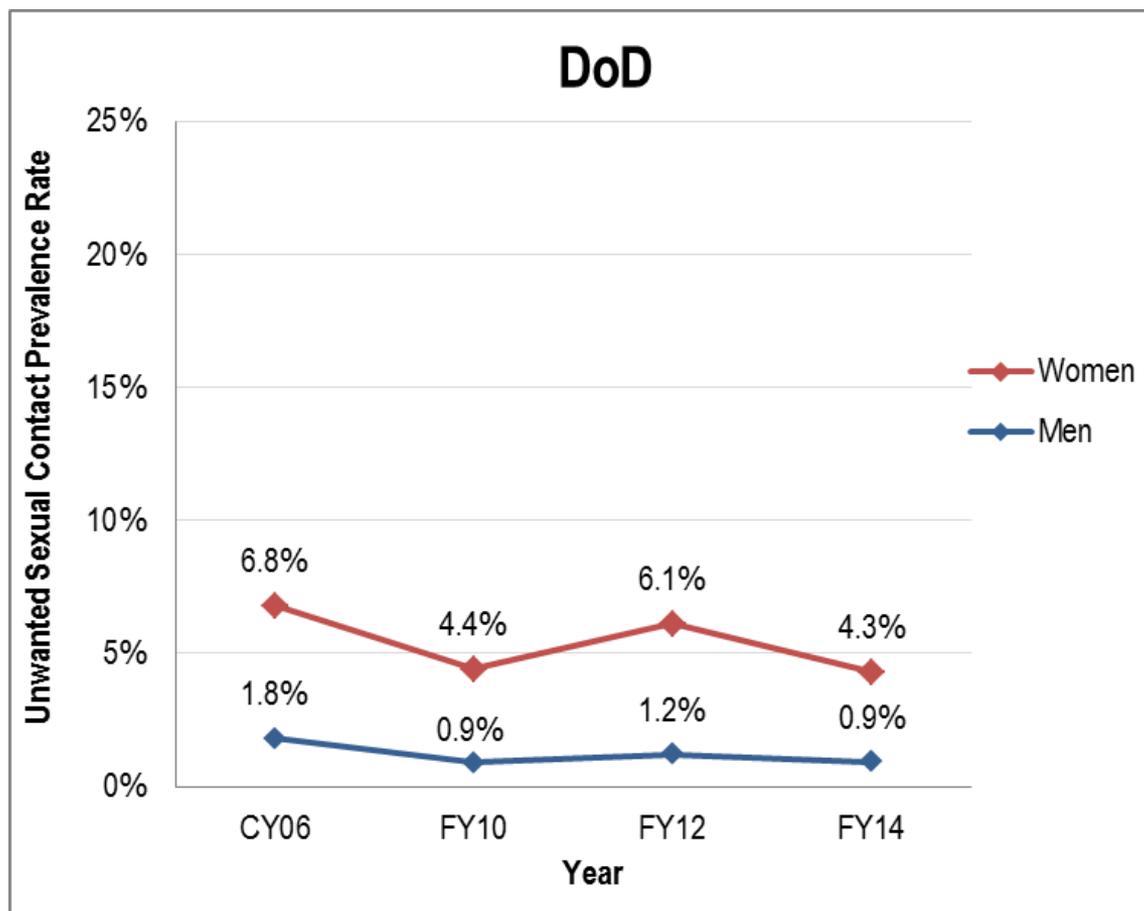
# Report Summary

- **Unprecedented leadership engagement** ignited more SAPR program progress in the past three years than in all prior years of the program combined
  - Evidence of **progress in 10 of 12 White House approved metrics**
- The Department SAPR program is **prevention focused with an uncompromising commitment to victim assistance**
- DoD's response system demonstrates an **unparalleled commitment to helping victims** heal and have a voice in the justice process
- **Prevalence of sexual assault is down across the DoD**, but we have more work to do
- Reporting continues to rise: estimates indicate **we now receive a report from 1 in 4 victims** – up from 1 in 10 in 2012

# Report Highlights by Line of Effort

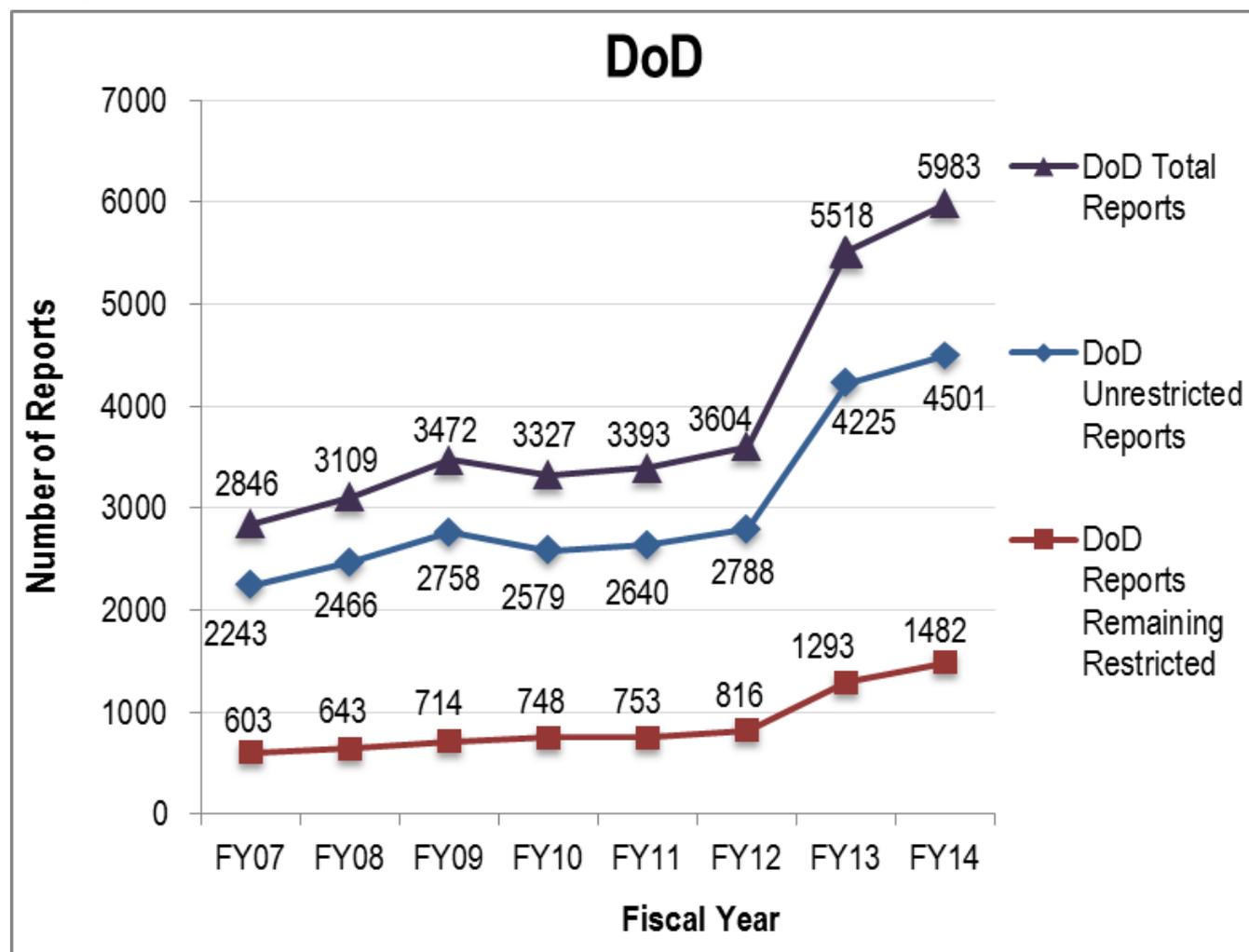
- **Prevention: *Climate assessment process***
  - A process to drive organizational change, employing Service member feedback to hold commanders accountable for a climate of dignity and respect
- **Investigation: *Special Victim Investigation and Prosecution Capability***
  - Fact finders with the knowledge and skills to conduct investigations that minimize the risk of re-traumatization and support victims' desire to stay engaged in the justice process
- **Accountability: *Special Victims' Counsel/Victims' Legal Counsel***
  - Groundbreaking legal resource provided to victims to help them navigate through the sexual assault response, to include advocating for the victims' rights in the military justice process when appropriate
- **Advocacy/Victim Assistance: *Certification of Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates***
  - National certification for SARCs and VAs signals professional, helpful victim advocacy
- **Assessment: *Multiple, robust sources of data on the SAPR Program***
  - Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database, Survivor Experience Survey, Defense Organizational Climate Survey, Focus Groups on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, SAPR Metrics and Non-metrics, RAND Military Workplace Study

# Past Year Prevalence of Unwanted Sexual Contact (USC) *Workplace and Gender Relations (WGRA) Measure*



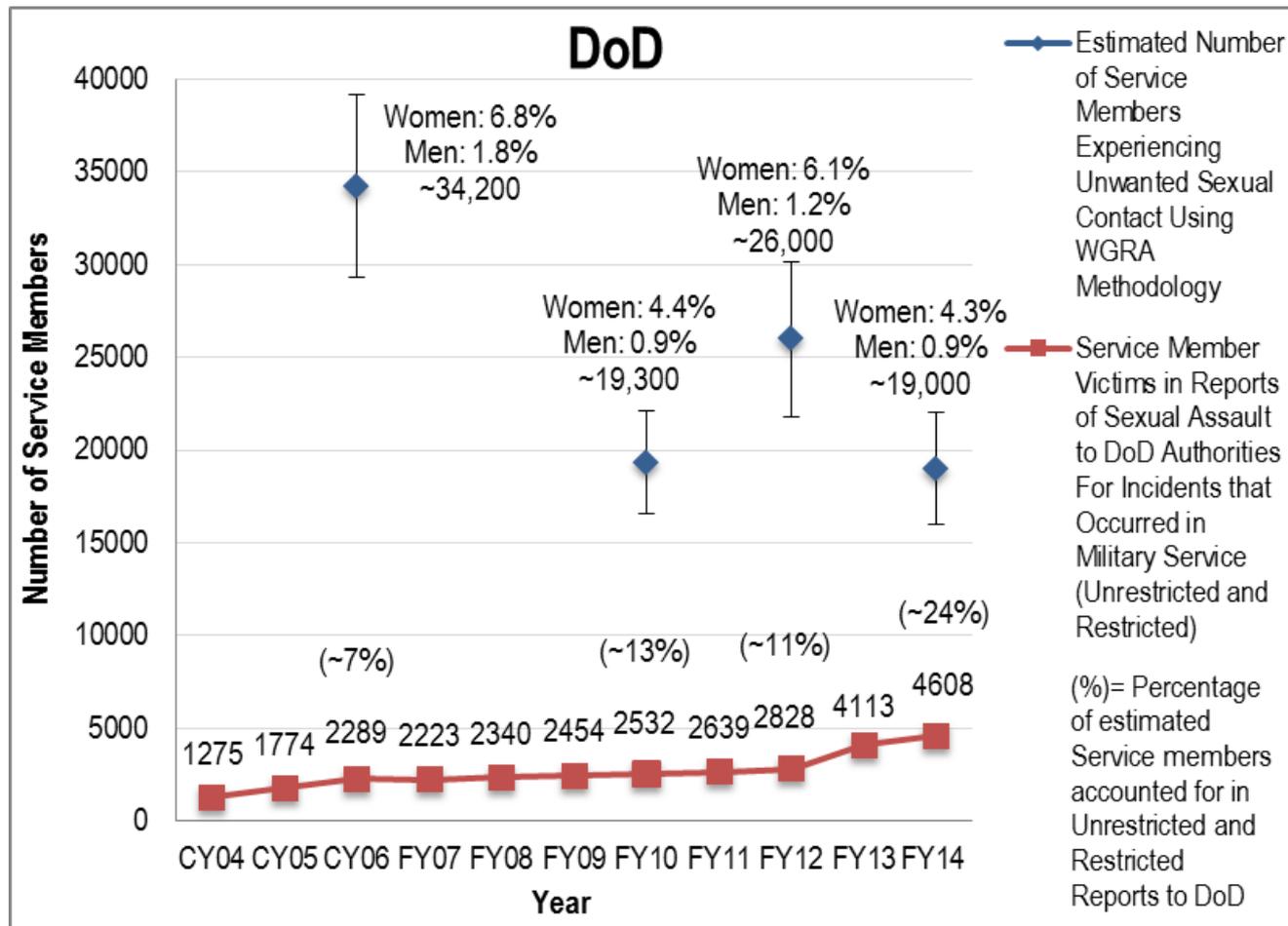
- Rates of Unwanted Sexual Contact decreased significantly for active duty women in FY14 (4.3%), compared to rates in FY12 (6.1%) and CY06 (6.8%)
- Rates of Unwanted Sexual Contact stayed statistically the same for men between FY14 (1.2%) and FY12 (0.9%), but the FY14 rate was significantly different from CY06 rate (1.8%)

# Reports of Sexual Assault: FY07- FY14



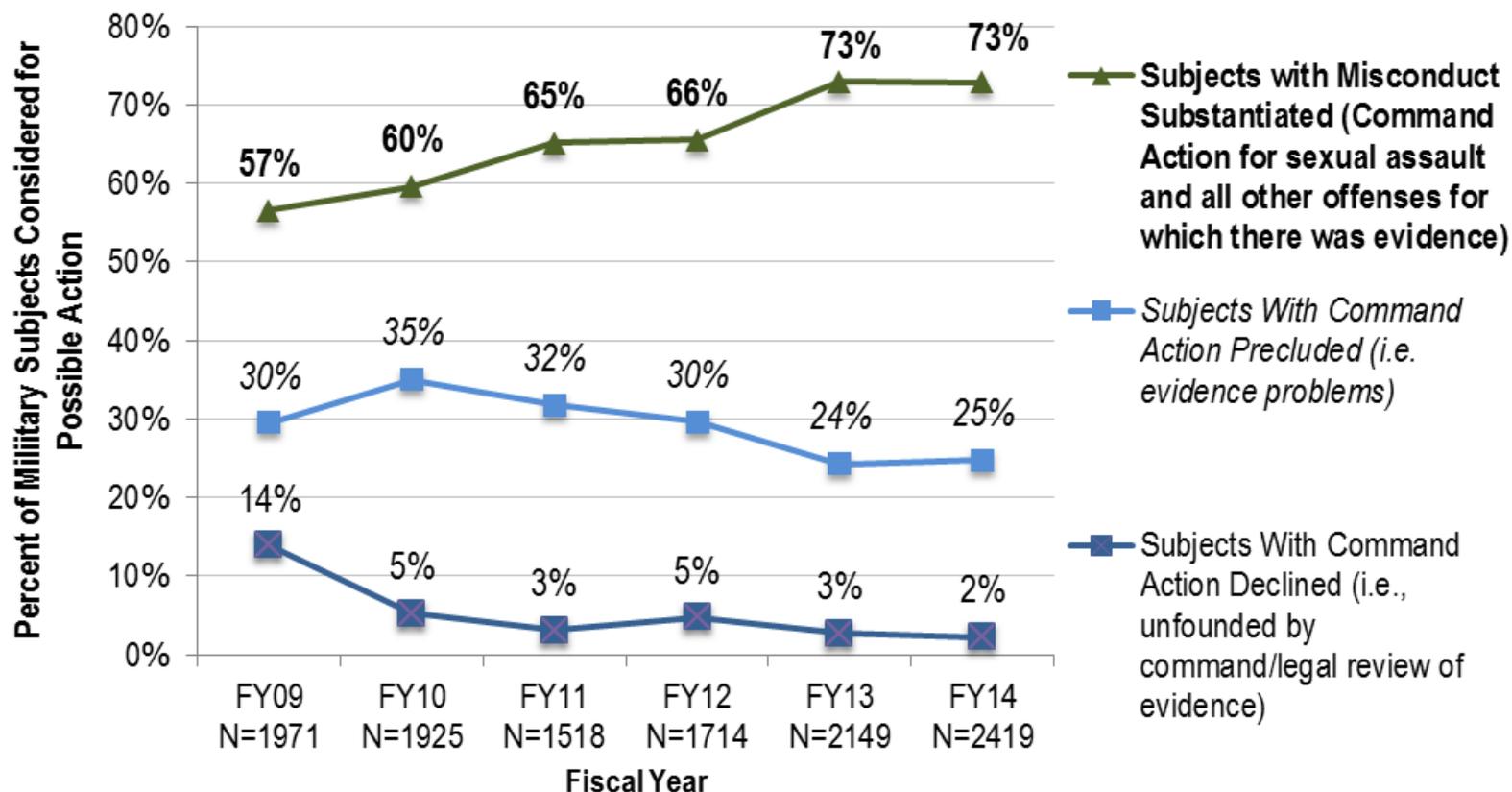
- Overall reporting increased **8%** from FY13
  - Unrestricted Reporting increased by **7%**
  - Reports remaining Restricted increased by **15%**
- **Nine percent** (513) of reports were for an incident occurring prior to military service

# Sexual Assault: Reporting Versus Prevalence Estimates



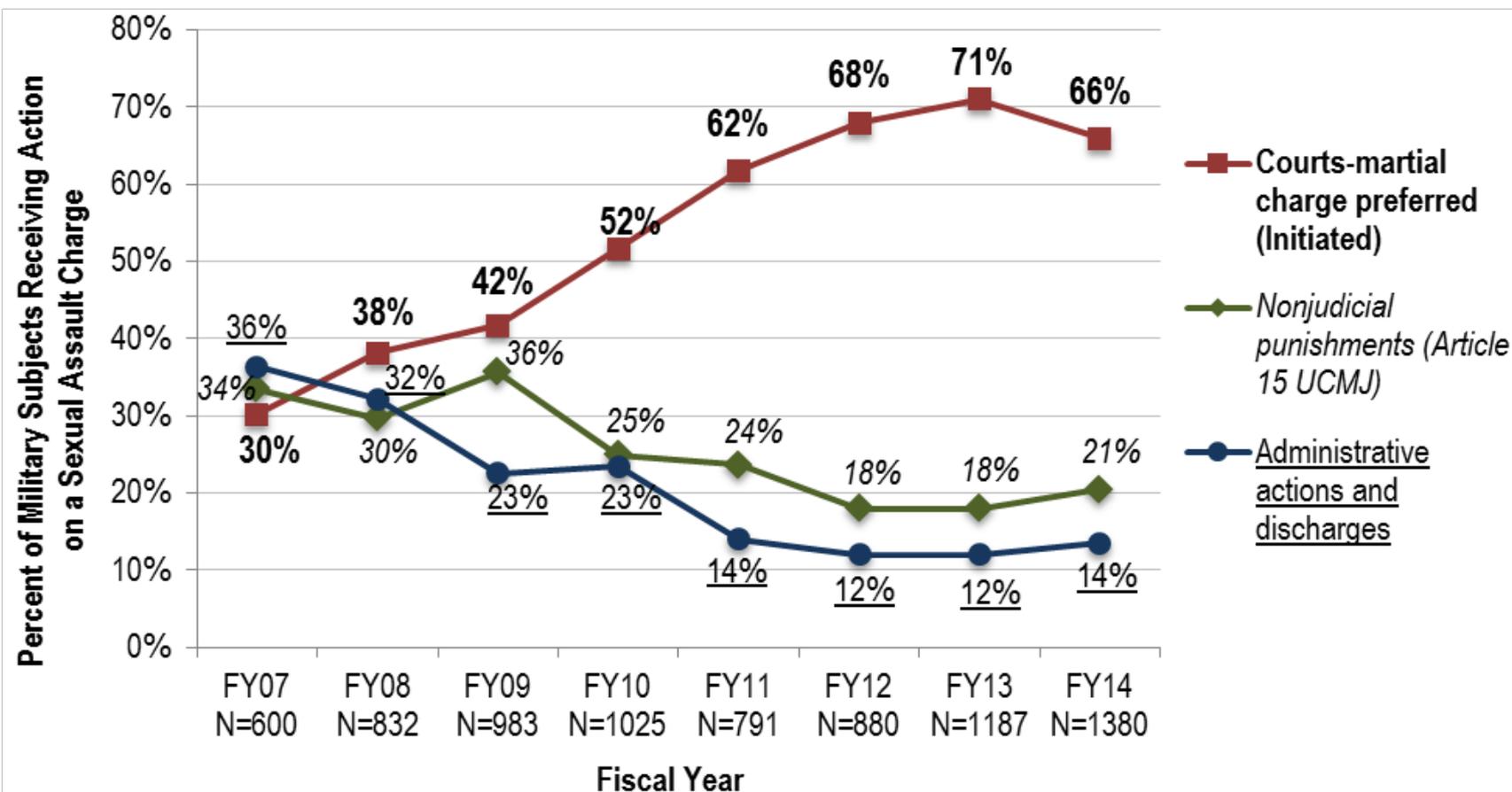
The Department’s approach illustrates both the magnitude of the problem, and the extent to which it is reported to DoD: In FY14, the Department received a report of sexual assault for 1 in 4 estimated victims. As shown above, 4,608 Service member victims in Unrestricted and Restricted Reports of sexual assault accounted for approximately 24% of the estimated number of Service members who may have experienced unwanted sexual contact.

# FY14 Military Subject Outcomes



- In FY14, DoD authorities considered 2,419 military subjects for possible action.
  - Nearly **three-quarters received some form of disciplinary action** for a sexual assault charge or for any other offense for which there was evidence.
- The other quarter of military subjects could not be disciplined because the evidence did not support action (25%) or because a review by legal and command authorities determined the allegations were unfounded (2%).

# Command Action in Sexual Assault Offenses



When the subject is under the legal authority of the Department and there is sufficient evidence to take action, commanders continue to address most allegations of sexual assault by preferring court-martial charges.

\*Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

# Additional Data Gathering Efforts

## *Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC)*

- **Survivor Experience Survey – *New for 2014***
  - Anonymous, non-probability sample of victims making a restricted or unrestricted report of sexual assault; responses from June to September; n=151
  - Most respondents aware of and satisfied with SAPR responders and service providers
  - Respondents highly rated Commanders' support, treatment, and response
  - For respondents making unrestricted reports:
    - 59% perceived some social\* retaliation and 40% perceived some professional\*\* retaliation
- **Focus Groups on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response – *New for 2014***
  - 57 focus groups involving 650 participants at 10 installations, conducted July to August; qualitative analysis of themes heard in groups; not generalized to full force
  - Overwhelmingly trained on SAPR resources/policy, with most effective training featuring guest speakers, small groups, videos, skits
  - Most knew how to contact SARC, VA and would trust them to handle a report properly
  - Indicated positive shift in DoD's handling of sexual assault and harassment, as well as leadership encouraging environment of dignity and respect
  - Still potential for reporters to perceive social and professional retaliation

\* Social retaliation includes being ignored by coworkers, blamed for the situation, made to feel responsible for changes in the unit

\*\* Professional retaliation Includes loss of privileges, denied promotion/training, transferred to less favorable job, unwanted increased supervision

# Military Justice Reform

- **The military justice system has been substantially reformed since April 2012**
  - Victims' rights have been expanded
  - Commanders' discretion over sexual assault cases has been limited, and decision making authority has been pushed to higher levels of command
- **The Services have enhanced their capacity to investigate and try sexual assault cases**
- **Further reform initiatives are under way:**
  - DoD is considering the Response Systems Panel's 132 recommendations
  - The Judicial Proceedings Panel is studying, among other things, the reforms that have been implemented
  - At the Secretary of Defense's direction, the Military Justice Review Group is conducting a comprehensive review of the military justice system. Although this initiative is not specifically focused on sexual assault, it will result in proposed UCMJ amendments

# Directives Released Today

- Engage Command to Prevent Retaliation
- Enhance First Line Supervisor Skills and Knowledge
- Launch Installation Prevention Study
- Provide Feedback to the Force

# Summary

- Over the past three years, senior leadership engagement has driven significant progress in preventing and responding to sexual assaults, as demonstrated in this report.
- We have more to do: Critical reforms continue to be implemented throughout the military as a way to reinforce a culture of honor, dignity, and respect.
- We envision DoD as a national leader in combatting the crime of sexual assault, which begins with unprecedented senior leadership, transparency in reporting, and collaboration with experts.

