



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



**AUGUST 17, 2018 UPDATE: RAND MILITARY WORKPLACE STUDY**

*Estimates for Installation- and Command-Level Risk of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment*

**Background:** In January 2014, the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) selected The RAND Corporation to update the Department's survey approach for sexual assault, sexual harassment, and gender discrimination within the U.S. military. In the summer of 2014, RAND fielded the survey as part of the *RAND Military Workplace Study (RMWS)*. Since that time, the Department has commissioned a number of follow-on studies using the 2014 RMWS results to enhance sexual assault prevention and response in the military. The full set of RMWS study volumes are available at: <https://www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/rmws.html>. To inform the public and Congress – and provide actionable resources to military leaders and Service members – SAPRO routinely provides links to final studies, reports, and other resources on its website at: <http://www.sapr.mil/>

**Project Description:** In July 2015, DoD asked RAND to start a new study: *RMWS Volume 5 Estimates for Installation- and Command-Level Risk of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment*. This study employs 2014 survey data to estimate risk of sexual assault and sexual harassment across U.S. military installations, ships, and major commands. (Prior RMWS Volumes contained the 2014 survey results and additional follow-on analyses.)

**Status:** Due to the complex statistical methodology, and after meeting with DoD data scientists and SAPR program leaders, RAND agreed to create supplemental products which will help clarify their results for our end users while maintaining the integrity of their original methods and results. On August 9, 2018, RAND provided the Department with the most recent updated draft of the installation study. The draft addressed mutually agreed-upon changes to clarify and communicate the study's results. The Department is currently working to communicate the study's findings to military leadership at installations throughout the United States and the world.

**Joint DoD-RAND Statement:** DoD values the innovative approaches that RAND takes to cutting-edge research. To that end, the Department and RAND recently developed a joint statement regarding this report: *"The Department of Defense and The RAND Corporation have been working together to estimate the risk of sexual assault at individual installations using survey data from 2014. We are finalizing the forthcoming report now, and believe this valuable analysis makes important strides toward better understanding the distribution of sexual assault risk across the military. The analyses, which required the development of a new approach to risk estimation, involve complex statistics. To clarify the results for military leaders and stakeholders, we are developing explanatory materials which we will distribute throughout the military community. We expect to release the report publicly in September, and we look forward to continuing to work together toward our mutual goal of seeing a military free from sexual assault."*

**Key Project Dates:**

- **July 2015:** The Department contracts a study with RAND to use 2014 survey responses to determine if localized estimations of sexual assault and sexual harassment could be developed.
- **January 2018:** The Department reviews and returns RAND's first study draft submitted for review and requests additional editing and clarification.
- **January - July 2018:** RAND and DoD work to address and resolve the items identified for action and identify opportunities to improve the utility of the study results for military commanders who are accountable for preventing and responding to sexual assault.
- **July 2018:** RAND provides an updated draft study to DoD on July 24, 2018. DoD reviews the report and found that RAND addressed the vast majority of Department's concerns and made appropriate clarifications. The Department asks for a few final clarifications.
- **August 2018:** RAND provides the most recent updated version of the study to DoD on August 9, 2018, addressing the last few remaining items. SAPRO coordinates with the Office of Secretary of Defense and Military Services to explain findings.
- **September 2018:** The RAND *Estimates for Installation- and Command-Level Risk of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment* report is scheduled to be released to DoD and military installation leaders, Congress, and the public.