



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

# **A Victim-Focused Response: Fielding and Enhancing the Military System**

**EVAWI Conference on Sexual Assault,  
Domestic Violence, and Trafficking  
April 23, 2014**

**Colonel Alan Metzler  
Deputy Director, DoD SAPRO**



**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION  
AND RESPONSE OFFICE**

## **Agenda**

- Nature of the Problem
- Department of Defense Strategic Approach

# Nature of the Problem

## “Sexual Assault” Defined

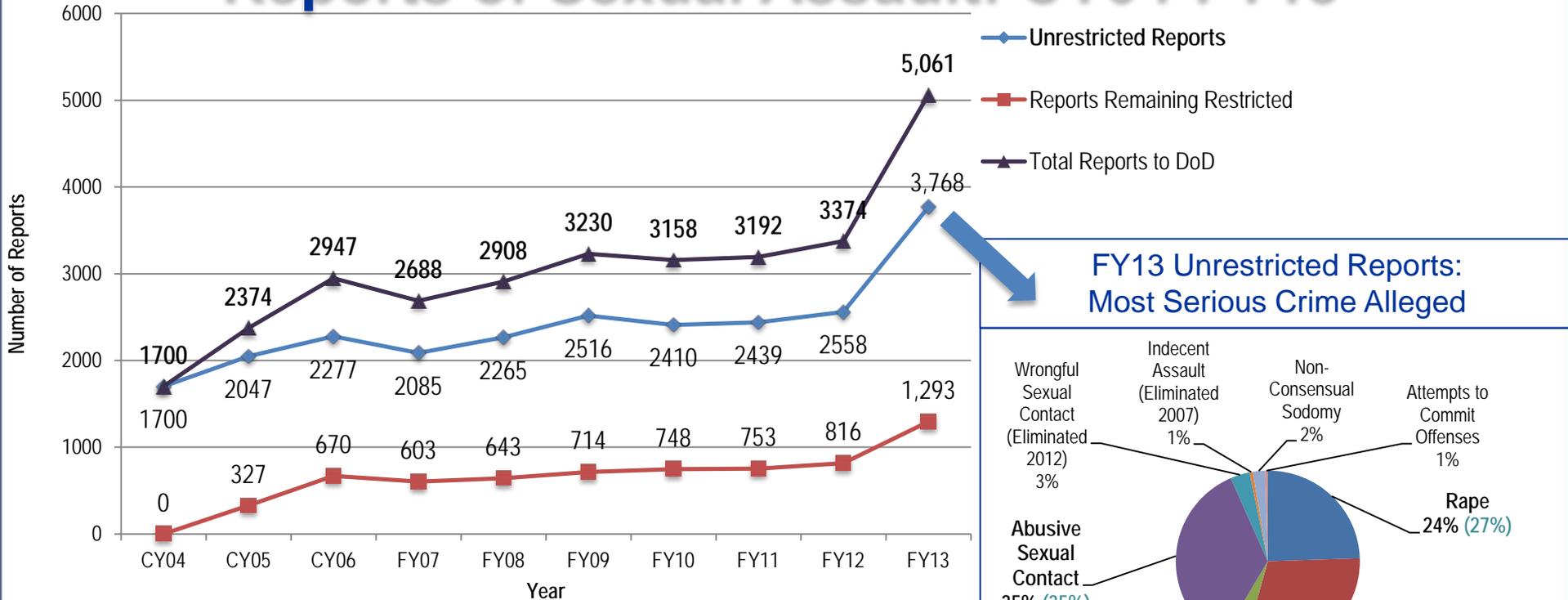
- In the DoD, sexual assault is an overarching term that encompasses a range of contact sexual assault offenses between adults, prohibited by the Uniform Code of Military Justice
- Offenses are charged based on the act perpetrated, the level of force used, and the ability of the victim to consent
- Includes the UCMJ offenses of:
  - Rape (Art 120)
  - Sexual Assault (Art 120)
  - Forcible Sodomy (Art 125)
  - Attempts to Commit (Art 80)
  - Aggravated Sexual Contact (Art 120)
  - Abusive Sexual Contact (Art 120)

“Sexual assault” is not the same as “Military Sexual Trauma” (MST), a term used by Department of Veteran’s Affairs for documenting medical conditions and Service-connected disabilities, which includes experiencing sexual harassment and/or sexual assault at any point during one’s military career.

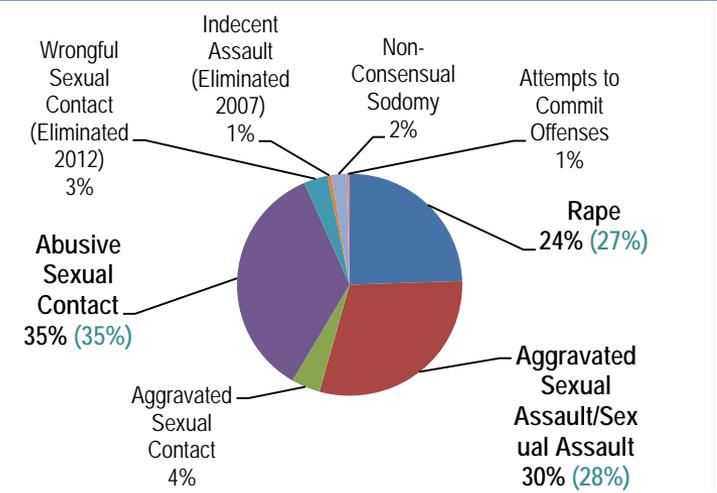
## Nature of the Problem

- In FY13, DoD received 5,061 reports of sexual assault (up from 3,374 in FY12) -- which included at least one service member victim or perpetrator
- In FY12, DoD estimated, based on surveys, more than 26,000 active duty men and women were victims of unwanted sexual contact (rape to unwanted touching)
- Underreporting is significant problem due to fear, stigma or shame -- which complicates victim care and holding offenders accountable
- Incident Profile: Victim and perpetrator 18-24 yrs old; peer or near peers; non-stranger; off duty, but on the installation; significant alcohol involvement
- Victim's perceive high levels of ostracization and retaliation after reporting – of the women in FY12 who reported unwanted sexual contact, 62% perceived some form of social, administrative, and/or professional retaliation
- Frontline leaders are critical to leading the culture change necessary to prevent sexist behaviors, sexual harassment and assault, and in establishing an environment of dignity, respect, and trust

# Reports of Sexual Assault: CY04-FY13



## FY13 Unrestricted Reports: Most Serious Crime Alleged



Denotes FY12 Percentages

- Overall reporting increased 50% from FY13
  - Unrestricted Reporting increased by 47%
  - Reports remaining Restricted increased by 58%
- 492 reports were for an incident occurring prior to military service
  - Accounted for 10% of FY13 reporting
  - Prior years' pre-service reports never exceeded 4%

Increased reporting leads to greater opportunities for victim care and accountability.

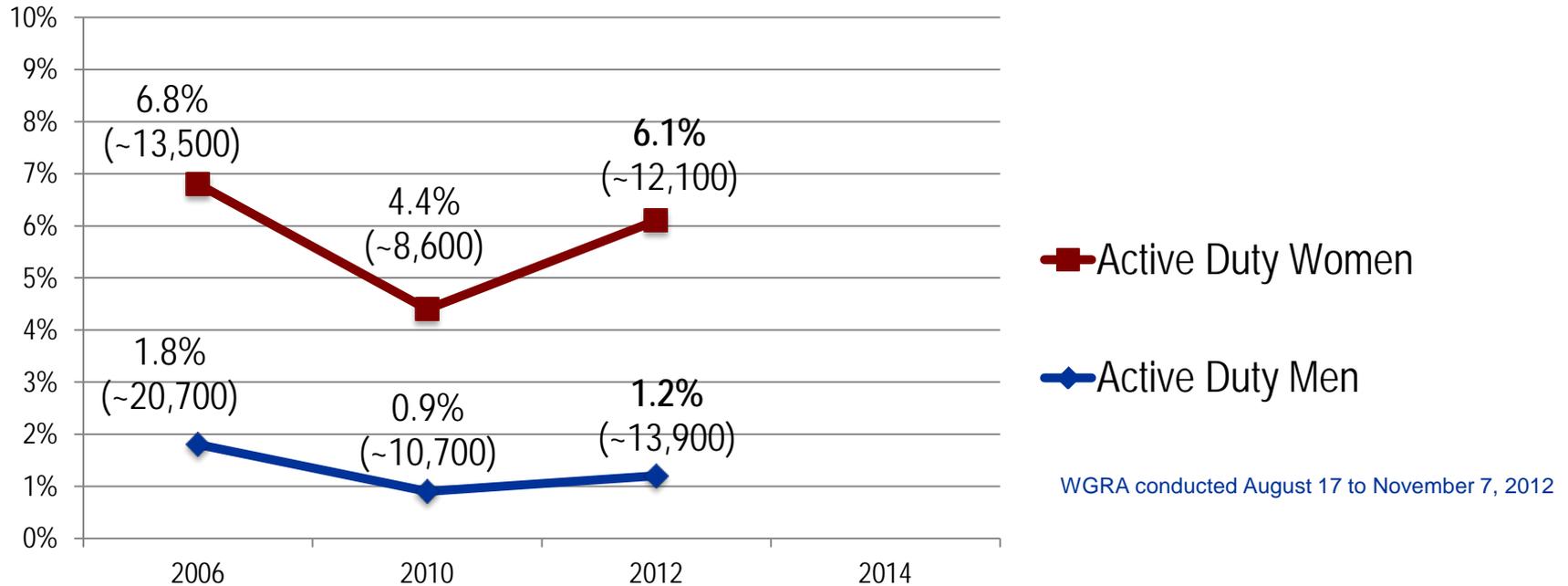
## FY13: Demographics in Majority of Unrestricted Reports

- **Victims**
  - Female (86%)(-2)
  - 18-24 years old (65%)(-4)
  - Junior enlisted (E1 – E4) (80%)(+7)
  - Generally occurring off duty at a military installation
- **Subjects**
  - Male (89%)(-1)
  - Females (3%)(-1)
  - Unidentified (8%)
  - Enlisted Military (91%)(+12)
  - 18-24 years old (73%)(+2)
    - Trend toward slightly higher rank than victim
    - Not a stranger to victim
    - Alcohol commonly the only “weapon”
- **Relationships**
  - Service member on Service Member (61%)(-1)
  - Service member on Non-Service member (21%)(-1)
  - Non-Service member on Service member (6%)(+1)
  - Unidentified subject on Service member (12%)(+1)

Denotes change from FY12

# Past-Year Prevalence of Unwanted Sexual Contact

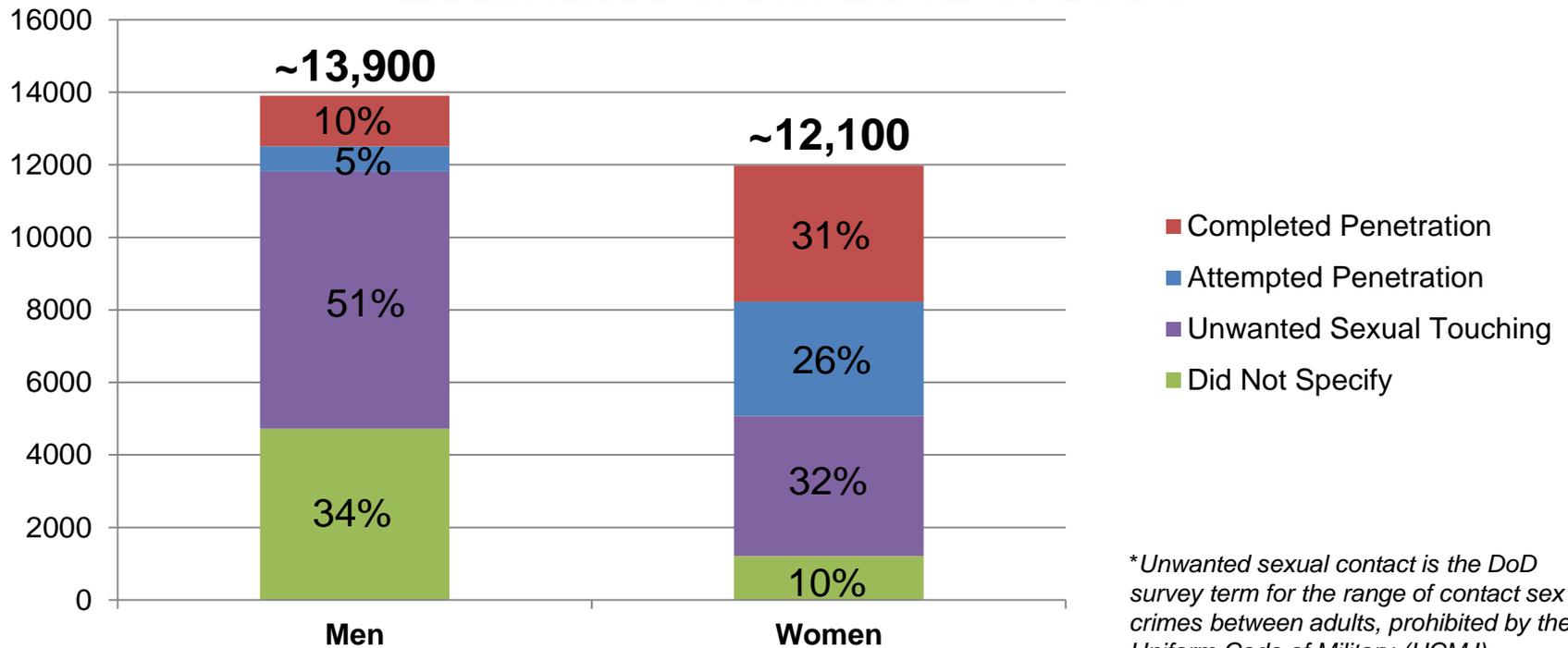
## Percent of Active Duty Members, by Gender



### Key Findings:

- In 2012, 6.1% of women and 1.2% of men indicated experiencing USC
- For women, the 2012 percentage is statistically significantly higher than 2010; there are no statistically significant differences for men between 2012 and 2010
- Of the women and men who experienced USC in the past 12 months, 45% of these women and 19% of these men also experienced USC prior to entering the military

# Unwanted Sexual Contacts\* Experienced Estimates from 2012 WGRA

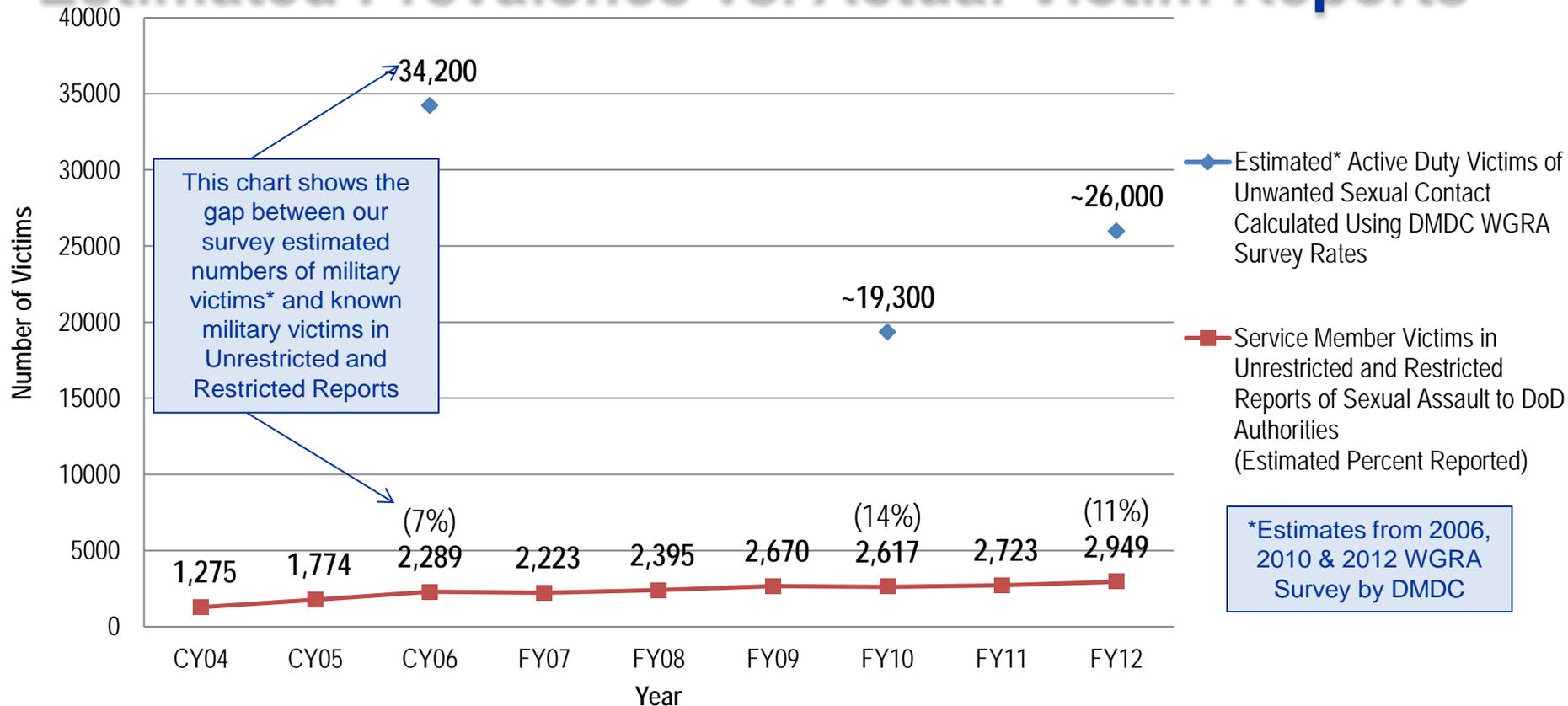


\*Unwanted sexual contact is the DoD survey term for the range of contact sex crimes between adults, prohibited by the Uniform Code of Military (UCMJ).

### Key Findings:

- Of active duty members who indicated USC via the WGRA, about 31% of women and 10% of men experienced a completed oral, anal, or vaginal penetration
- The proportions of behavior shown are statistically unchanged from 2010

# Key Program Metrics: Estimated Prevalence vs. Actual Victim Reports

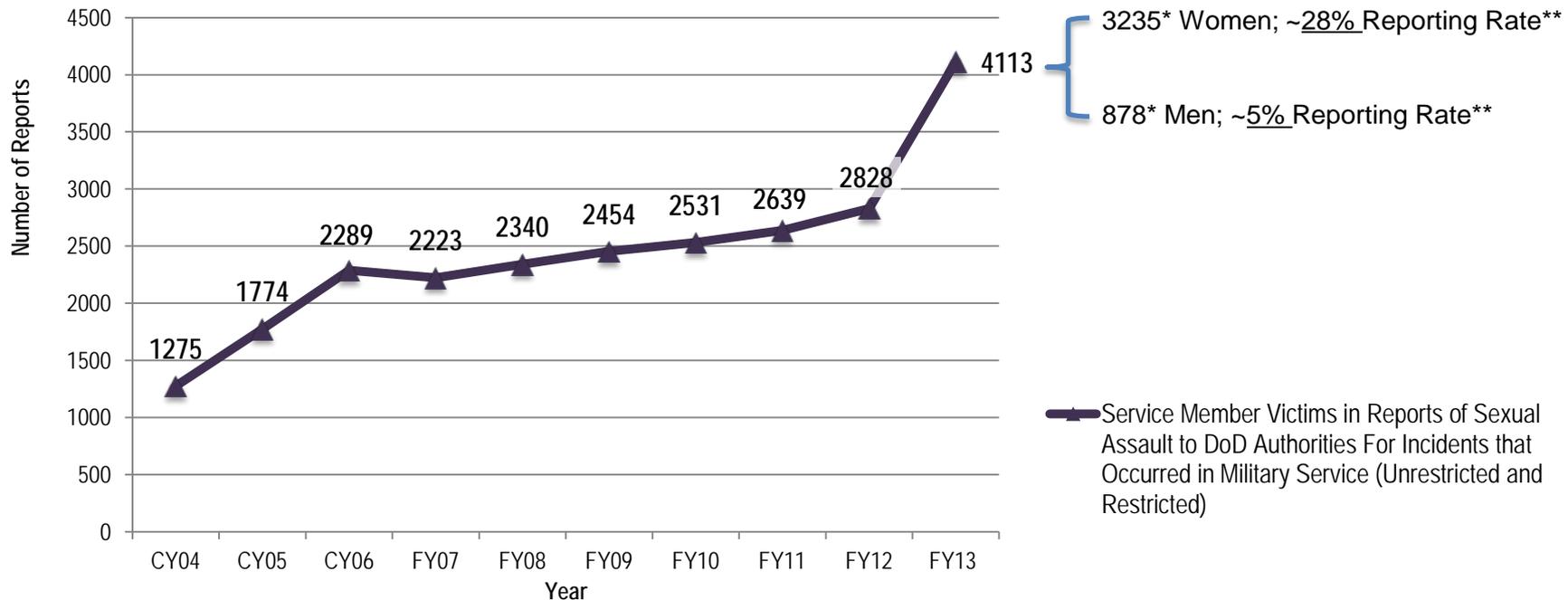


**Sexual Assault is an Underreported Crime**

Increased reporting provides primary means for improving victim care and accountability of offenders

# Service Member Reporting

## Service Member Victims in Reports of Sexual Assault to DoD, For Incidents that Occurred in Military Service, CY04–FY13



- Sexual assault is an underreported crime – meaning that reports to authorities fall far short of the actual number of incidents estimated to exist via confidential surveys.
- For as long as sexual assault remains significantly underreported, increased reporting is beneficial.
- Reporting behavior differs by gender:
  - Women: About 28% female Service members report an incident of unwanted sexual contact\*\*
  - Men: About 5% male Service members report an incident of unwanted sexual contact\*\*

\* Estimated; gender data not available for all military victims in Restricted Reports

\*\*Estimated Using 2012 WGRA Past-year Prevalence of Unwanted Sexual Contact and FY13 reporting data

# Department of Defense Strategic Approach

## DoD SAPR Program

- **Sustain multi-pronged approach – no single “silver bullet” solution**
  - Requires sustained progress, persistence, innovation, and multi-disciplinary approach in prevention, investigation, accountability, victim assistance & assessment
- **Expand prevention efforts to reinforce cultural imperatives of mutual respect and trust, team commitment, and professional values**
  - Recognize that sexual harassment is strongly correlated with sexual assault
- **Continue to educate frontline commanders and leaders at all levels and hold them accountable in establishing and sustaining a culture of dignity and respect**
  - Must include programs on healthy relationships, bystander intervention, and peer leadership/social courage
- **Continue to ensure victim focus and control to help overcome vast underreporting**
  - Treat every case with utmost seriousness, protect privacy, allow victims to choose the manner in which they heal, and provide professional advocacy
  - Reporting is an essential bridge to victim care and accountability
- **Sustain commitment to holding offenders appropriately accountable – we are improving investigative and accountability efforts through Special Victims Capability, UCMJ Panels, and comprehensive oversight actions**

# SAPR Mission, Lines of Effort, and Objectives

**Mission:** The Department of Defense prevents and responds to the crime of sexual assault in order to enable military readiness and reduce—with a goal to eliminate—sexual assault from the military.

## Lines of Effort

## Objectives

**Communication** – Communicate DoD's efforts to support victim recovery, enable military readiness, and reduce—with a goal to eliminate—sexual assault from the military.

**Prevention** - Deliver consistent and effective prevention methods and programs.

**Investigation** - Achieve high competence in the investigation of sexual assault.

**Accountability** - Achieve high competence in holding offenders appropriately accountable.

**Advocacy** – Deliver consistent and effective victim support, response, and reporting options.

**Assessment** – Effectively standardize, measure, analyze, and assess program progress.

Cultural imperatives of mutual respect and trust, professional values, and team commitment are reinforced to create an environment where sexual assault is not tolerated.

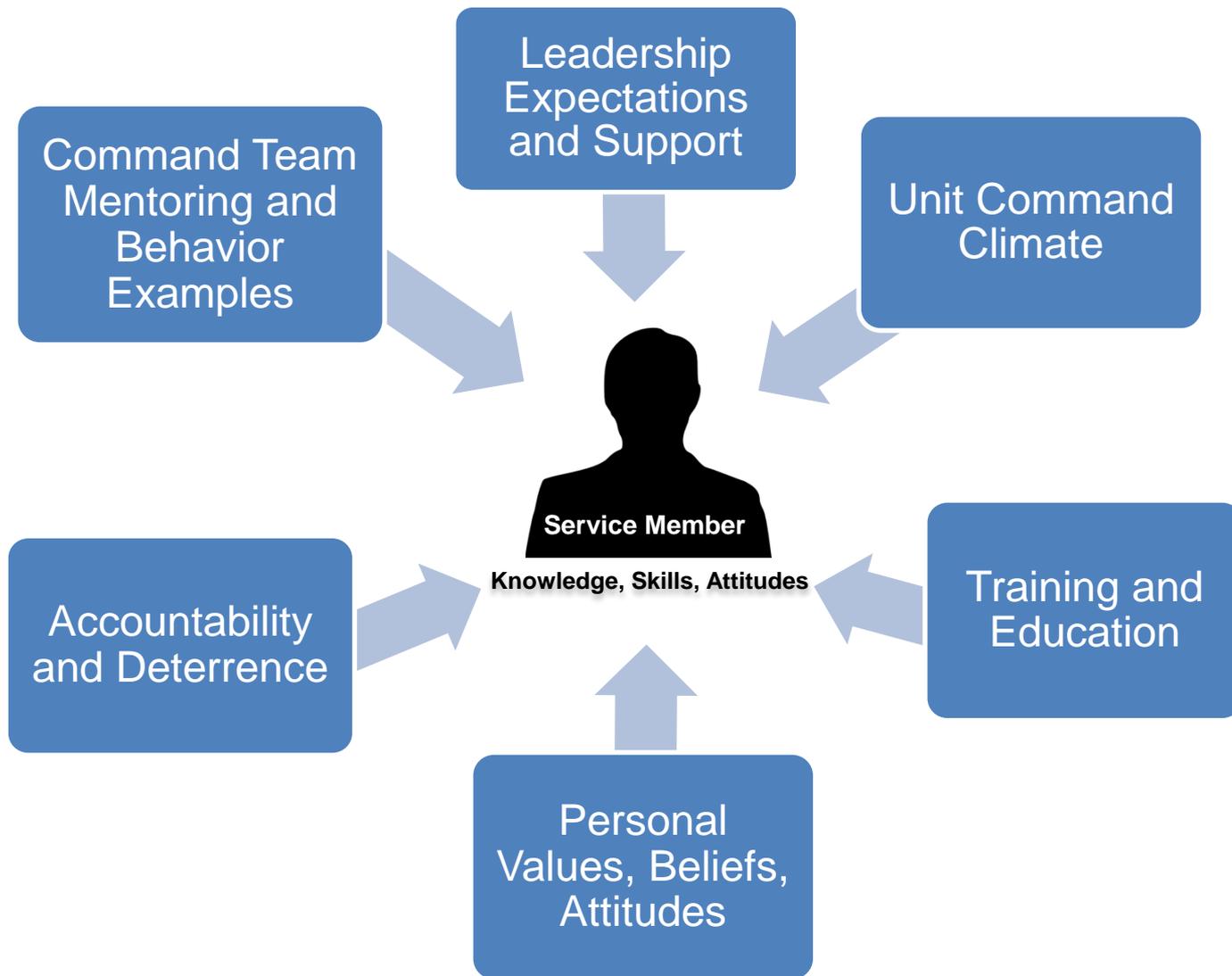
Investigative resources yield timely and accurate results.

Perpetrators are held appropriately accountable.

DoD provides high quality services and support to instill confidence, inspire victims to report, and restore resilience.

DoD incorporates responsive, meaningful, and accurate systems of measurement and evaluation into every aspect of SAPR.

# Influencing Behavior

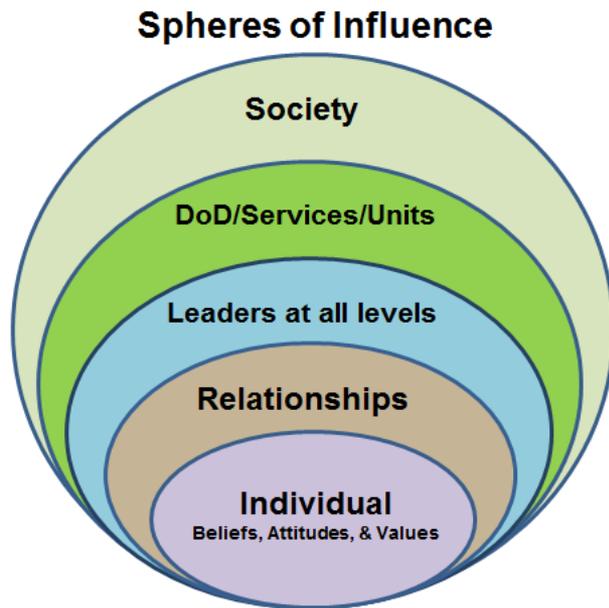


# 2014-2016 DoD Sexual Assault Prevention Strategy

**Objective:** To deliver consistent and effective prevention methods and programs.

**Endstate:** Cultural imperatives of mutual respect and trust, professional values, and team commitment are reinforced to create an environment where sexual assault is not tolerated, condoned, or ignored.

★ Leaders are the “center of gravity” for prevention efforts



**Social-Ecological Model**

Key Means – Resources	Key Ways – Objectives	Supporting End states
DoD Benchmark Prevention Programs and Research	Develop DoD national benchmark prevention program that sets the example for civil society to follow	Acceptance and endorsement of the values shared by DoD
Directives, strategies, and policies	Institutionalize sexual assault prevention practices and programs throughout Department	Institutionalized culture & values, supported by policies
Leader mentorship and unit climate	Influence personnel values, attitudes, and behaviors	Establishment and maintenance of a culture/climate which supports the prevention of sexual assault
Education, skills building, & training	Promote healthy and supportive relationships between peers, partners, family, and friends	An environment in which Service members' networks support a culture of sexual assault prevention
Education, skills building, & training	Promote healthy social-emotional relationship skills	Identify, act, and intervene to prevent inappropriate behaviors associated with sexual assault

# Enhanced Command and Senior Enlisted Leader Training

- Jan 2012 -- SECDEF mandated evaluation of Pre-Command and Senior Enlisted Leader (PCC-SEL) SAPR Training
- May 2012 -- Report to SECDEF delivered
- Sep 2012 -- SECDEF mandated development of standardized Core Competencies/Learning Objectives (CCs-LOs)
- Dec 2012 -- Standards completed – SECDEF directed implementation
- Apr 2013 -- Services implemented CCs-LOs for all PCC-SEL training

## Core Competencies

**Core Competency 1: Sexual Assault in the Military**  
Refresh understanding of basic concepts of sexual assault

**Core Competency 2: Prevention**  
Understand risks and circumstances associated with sexual assault incidence and the proactive measures to prevent sexual assault and associated destructive behaviors within their command

**Core Competency 3: Advocacy and Response**  
Understand the essential elements of quality victim care response programs and the roles and responsibilities of victim service providers

**Core Competency 4: Investigations and Accountability**  
Understand the complexity of sexual assault crimes and the appropriate investigation and disposition options available

**Core Competency 5: SAPR Program Leadership**  
Understand commander's and senior enlisted leader's roles in fostering a command environment free of sexual assault

## Resulting Learning Objectives

- Recognize sexual assault myths, facts, and trends
- Define sexual assault and sexual harassment, differentiate between the two, and review the relevant articles of UCMJ

- Recognize environments where sexual offenses occur
- Define and identify strategies for bystander intervention
- Define and identify strategies for risk reduction
- Define and identify strategies for obtaining affirmative consent
- Identify command climate strategies for preventing assaults

- Recognize impact of trauma on victim's behavior and ability to communicate clearly
- Employ tactics to minimize re-victimization
- Identify commander responsibilities for sexual assault response, privileged communications, victim care and encourage victims to report sexual assault

- Recognize commander responsibilities regarding sexual assault investigative procedures
- Recognize commander responsibilities during judicial process

- Understand applicable SAPR programs, policies & procedures
- Identify key elements of an effective command SAPR program, to include roles and responsibilities of key personnel

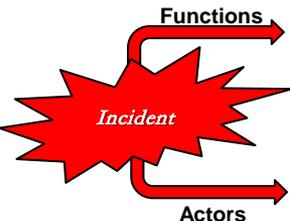
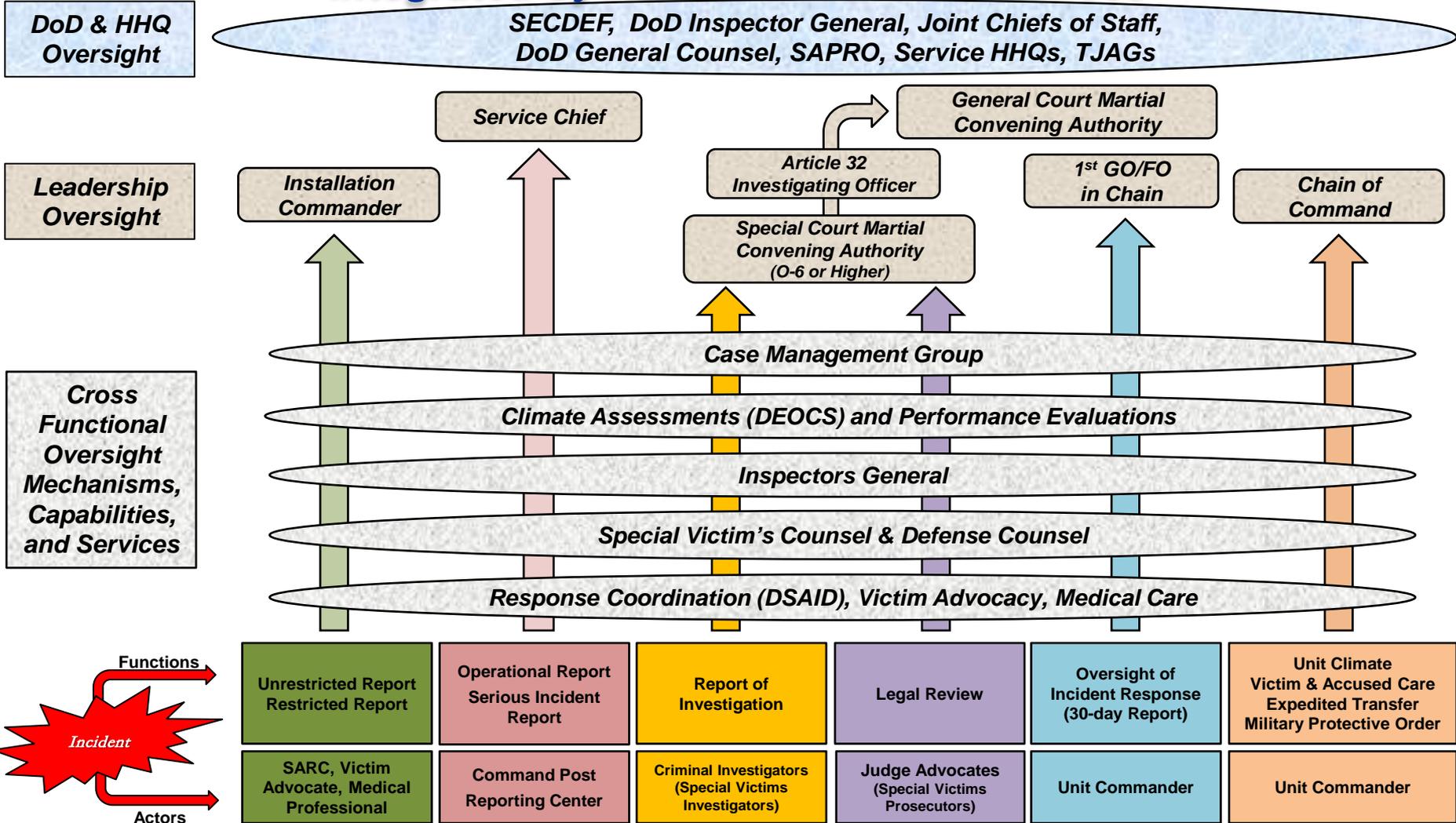
# Improving Victim Confidence

**DoD's multi-disciplinary approach employs many measures to improve victim confidence:**

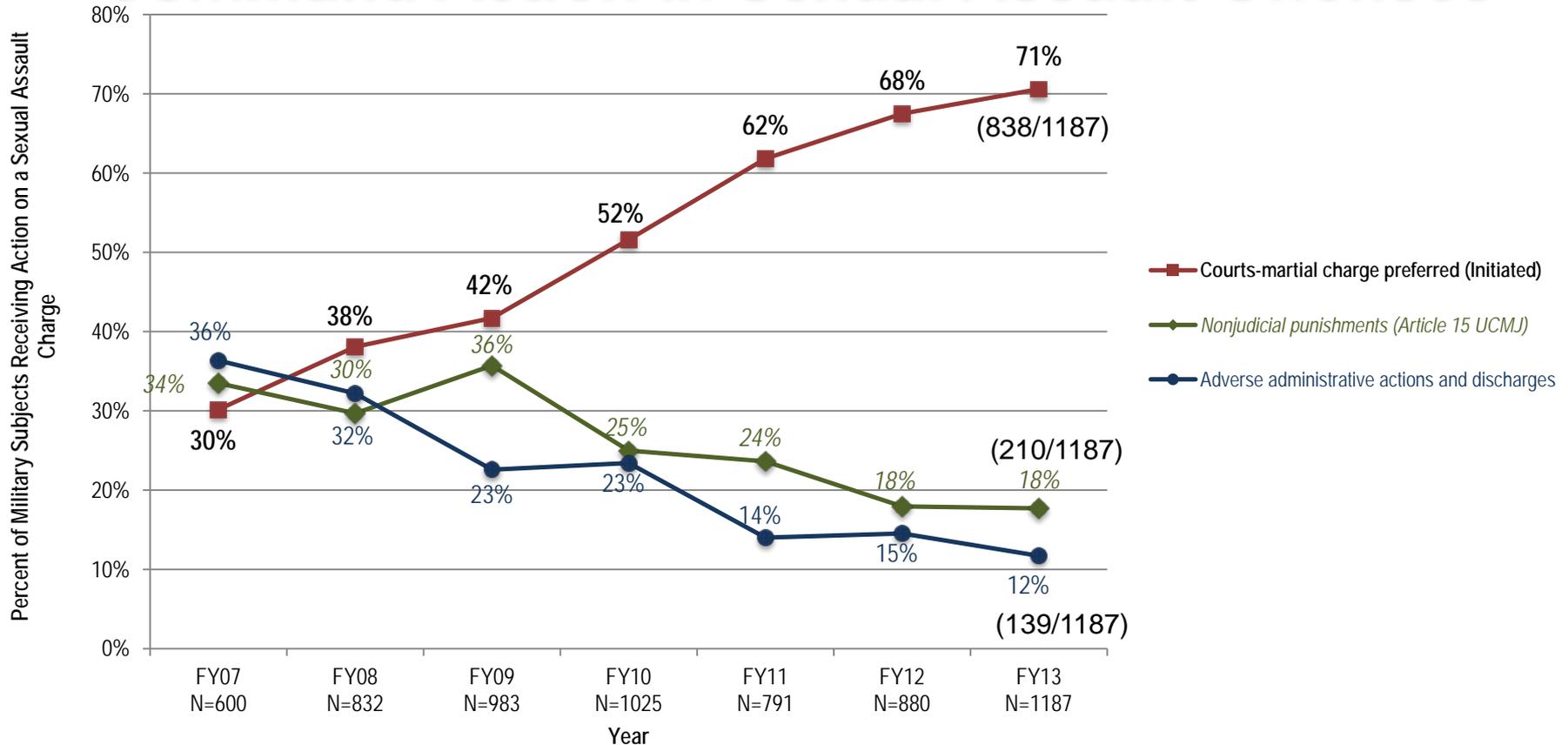
- **Commander Tools to improve Prevention and Response**: Core Competency Training, Unit Assessment Tools (DEOCS), Commander Policy Requirements – Exp. Transfer, Protective Orders, etc.; CC Evaluations
- **Every Case a Medical Emergency**: DoD policy ensures standards for appropriate medical care and counseling, and mandates that sexual assault cases are treated as emergencies
- **Victim Choice**: Reporting, Medical Care, Forensic Exam, Expedited Transfer, Legal Assistance
- **Professionally certified SARCs and VAs – 22,000+ across DoD**:
  - Defense Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program in full effect on 1 Oct
  - Certifies first responders who are foundation of our care coordination & advocacy effort
- **Victim-Victim Advocate Privilege**: Protects victims' communications; ensures private coordination of care
- **Legal Representation**: Attorney for victims with Attorney-Client Relationship
  - Air Force pilot program in Jan 2013; SECDEF directed full implementation in DoD by 1 Jan 14
- **Specially-Trained Investigators and Prosecutors**:
  - Special Teams fielded for sexual assaults, child abuse, and serious domestic violence cases
  - Training on trauma of sexual assault crimes; effect of trauma on memory; counterintuitive behaviors
- **Safety Assessments for Every Victim**: Provides risk assessment and consideration of victims concerns
- **Expedited Transfer**: Balanced options to eliminate victims' continued contact with their accused offenders, including moving offenders
- **DoD Safe Helpline/Mobile App/Safe HelpRoom**: Anonymous, worldwide, 24/7 support via online chat, telephone, & texting services enabling crisis intervention and warm handoffs to local first responders

# Sexual Assault Response & Oversight

## Integrated System of Checks & Balances



# Command Action in Sexual Assault Offenses



- Since FY07, commanders are increasingly addressing allegations of sexual assault by preferring court-martial charges, when the subject is under the legal authority of the Department and there is sufficient evidence to do so.
- In FY13, 209 of the 210 nonjudicial punishments (NJP) administered was for a non-penetrating crime; one exception involved a victim who declined to participate at court.

## Conclusions

- **DoD's program is proactive, victim-focused, and multi-disciplinary**
  - An important element is to increase victim confidence so that more victims are willing to report
  - Reporting is essential to delivering care and holding offenders appropriately accountable
- **Our results are measured in choices of victims, who are now reporting in unprecedented numbers**
  - Historically, reports of sexual assault have increased about 5% per year since 2006
  - In FY13, reports are up an unprecedented 50% with commanders at the center of our military justice system making disposition decisions
  - We assess this increase as consistent with growing confidence in our response system
  - This is supported by an additional metric demonstrating victim confidence – there are growing numbers of reports made by victims about incidents that took place prior to joining the military, up from 4% in FY12 to 10% of total reports in FY13
- **There is no indication that the spike in reporting reflects an increase in crime**
  - Rates of unwanted sexual contact in active duty men and women has stayed in a relatively narrow range since the Department began using its current measure in 2006
  - These metrics provide indications that our initiatives over the past year and a half are having an impact as more victims are reporting and accessing support services
- **DoD's goals include increasing the percentage of victims who report while reducing sexual assault prevalence**
  - Going forward, we will *intensify our efforts* to prevent the crime
  - We expect the Secretary to direct a series of prevention actions and fielding of a Prevention Strategy

**DoD Sexual Assault Prevention  
and Response Office**

**4800 Mark Center Drive, Suite 07G21  
Alexandria, VA 22311**

**[whs.mc-alex.wso.mbx.SAPRO@mail.mil](mailto:whs.mc-alex.wso.mbx.SAPRO@mail.mil)**

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