Sexual Assault Reporting and Prevalence in the Department of Defense

IACP Defense Chiefs Section Mid Year Meeting
April 10, 2014

Colonel Alan Metzler
Deputy Director, SAPRO
Agenda

- Reports of Sexual Assault
- Prevalence of Sexual Assault
- Integrated Response System
- DoD SAPR Program Foundation
Reports of Sexual Assault: CY04-FY13

- 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.
Demographics in Majority of Unrestricted Reports

- **Victims**
  - Female (88%)
  - 18–24 years old (69%)
  - Junior enlisted (E1 – E4) (73%)
  - Occurring off duty at a military installation

- **Subjects**
  - Male (90%)
  - Females (2%)
  - Unidentified (8%)
  - Enlisted Military (79%)
  - 18 to 34 years old (71%)
    - Trend toward slightly higher rank than victim
    - Not a stranger to victim
    - Alcohol commonly the only “weapon”

- **Relationships**
  - Service member on Service Member (62%)
  - Service member on Non-Service member (22%)
  - Non-Service member on Service member (5%)
  - Unidentified subject on Service member (11%)
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.

WGRA conducted August 17 to November 7, 2012
Unwanted Sexual Contacts* Experienced Estimates from 2012 WGRA

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

*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).
Sexual Assault is an Underreported Crime
Increased reporting provides primary means for improving victim care and accountability of offenders

This chart shows the gap between our survey estimated numbers of military victims* and known military victims in Unrestricted and Restricted Reports

Key Program Metrics: Estimated Prevalence vs. Actual Victim Reports

- Estimated* Active Duty Victims of Unwanted Sexual Contact Calculated Using DMDC WGRA Survey Rates
- Service Member Victims in Unrestricted and Restricted Reports of Sexual Assault to DoD Authorities (Estimated Percent Reported)

*Estimates from 2006, 2010 & 2012 WGRA Survey by DMDC
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.
DoD SAPR Program Foundation

• 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

• 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