



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



**FISCAL YEAR 2015 ANNUAL REPORT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT  
IN THE MILITARY**  
MAY 5, 2016

This overview summarizes the Department of Defense's (DoD) Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military. This year's report documents the Department's progress in five sexual assault prevention and response (SAPR) program efforts, provides final statistical data on reports of sexual assaults and case dispositions from FY15, provides data on formal sexual harassment complaints, and includes analyses from Defense Manpower Data Center's *2015 Focus Group Study of SAPR for Active Duty Members*, *2015 Military Investigation and Justice Experience Survey*, *2015 QuickCompass of SAPR Responders*, and *2015 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Reserve Component Members*.

### Summary

The actions taken in FY15 reflect DoD's ongoing commitment to preventing sexual assault and ensuring that victims receive comprehensive support services. The Annual Report is structured around five SAPR program efforts.

- **Advancing Sexual Assault Prevention:** Updated SAPR policy to require support of DoD Prevention Strategy. Updates to policy incorporated many recommendations from the Response Systems Panel, initiatives directed by the Secretary of Defense, and changes in law that support prevention work.
- **Encouraging Greater Sexual Assault Reporting:** Assessed victims' experience with the military justice process by conducting the *Military Investigation and Justice Experience Survey*, which is an important step to better understand the experiences of survivors.
- **Improving Response to Male Sexual Assault Victims:** Analyzed current male victim outreach practices as the first part of a new effort to improve support for male victims.
- **Combatting Retaliation Associated with Sexual Assault:** Created the Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy that provides procedures related to retaliation against victims who report a sexual assault, complainants of sexual harassment, first responders, and bystanders.
- **Tracking Accountability of Sexual Assault Cases:** DoD authorities had sufficient evidence to take some kind of disciplinary action against three out of four military subjects considered for action by military commanders.

### Reporting Findings

- While the number of reports received in FY15 decreased by 1% from FY14, sexual assault reporting was sustained at the high level the Department witnessed in recent years. The Department is encouraged by the sustained high level of reporting; but more must be done to engage victims in care and services; greater reporting is possible through leadership emphasis and publicizing resources for victims.
- Nineteen percent of sexual assault reports came from men this year, up from early years of the SAPR program; nonetheless, victimized men rarely report this crime. The Department is

working to improve how our prevention and response system appeals to and meets the needs of men.

- Services members are trained to identify situations at risk for sexual assault and instill the social responsibility to act. DoD data suggests that these training efforts are having success. Of Service members who observed a high risk situation, 88% intervened.
- The *2015 Military Investigation and Justice Experience Survey* assessed the experiences of victims who made Unrestricted Reports using a new measure of retaliation that is better aligned with Department policy and law addressing retaliation. 68% of respondents endorsed at least one negative experience associated with their report of sexual assault. However, once the context of those negative experiences was assessed, only 38% of the respondents' responses were consistent with the kinds of circumstances that military law prohibits concerning reprisal, ostracism, and maltreatment.

### Sexual Assault Data

| Reports of Sexual Assault Involving Service Members as either Victims and/or Subjects | Fiscal Year 2014 | Fiscal Year 2015 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Total Reports Received  | 6,131            | 6,083            |
| Unrestricted Reports  | 4,660            | 4,584            |
| Reports Remaining Restricted at the end of the FY                                     | 1,471            | 1,499            |
| Converted to Unrestricted Report in FY  | 369              | 401              |
| # of Service Members for Incidents Occurring during Military Service                  | 4,744            | 4,736            |

### Sexual Harassment Reporting Data

The Department is firmly committed to eliminating sexual harassment from the Armed Forces. The following sexual harassment statistics are provided by ODMEO for FY15:

- 657 total formal complaints were filed in FY15
  - 566 of the 657 formal complaints (86%) were completed with 91 (14%) pending resolution (14%) at the end of the FY
- Of the 566 complaints closed in FY15
  - 315 (56%) complaints were substantiated
  - 251 (44%) were unsubstantiated
- Of the 315 substantiated complaints, outcomes were available for 269 (46 pending at the end of the FY)
  - 137 (51%) received non-judicial punishment
  - 113 (42%) received some form of adverse administrative actions
  - 19 (7%) received other action, including courts-martial and/or discharge

### Way Forward

The Department continues to assess its programs and policies to ensure that it is effectively addressing the needs of Service members. The Department will continue to focus its FY16 efforts on eliminating sexual assault from the military. DoD's major efforts in FY16 include:

- Creating the 2017-2021 Sexual Assault Prevention Plan of Action
- Launching the DoD Prevention Collaboration Forum
- Increasing reporting through leadership engagement

## Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

- Conducting assessments to measure effectiveness of CMGs
- Creating male-specific Safe HelpRoom sessions
- Developing a plan of action to address male victimization and prevention
- Implementing the Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy