

## DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Fact Sheet

### Current State

The report recently delivered to the President in December 2014 described the Department's progress in the fight against sexual assault in the military. Statistical data show the percentage of victims choosing to report the crime increased, while a scientific survey indicated the estimated prevalence of sexual assault decreased since 2012. Despite these and other signs of progress, sexual assault remains an underreported crime in the military. Therefore, the Department of Defense (DoD) continues its efforts to prevent sexual assault and support victims who make the difficult decision to report.

**DoD estimates that it receives a report from 1 in 4 victims of sexual assault, indicating greater confidence in reporting (*Up from 1 in 10 in 2012*)**

#### Provisional Statistical Data: Official Reports

Greater reporting provides more victims with access to needed support and services.

- 6,131 reports received in 2014 – Reporting in 2013 and 2014 was well over 50 percent higher than in 2012.
- Preliminary data indicates:
  - Women reported at about a 40% rate, up from an estimated 21% in FY12.
  - Men reported at about a 10% rate, up from an estimated 3% in FY12.

#### Statistical Data: Prevalence Surveys

DoD uses scientific, representative surveys to estimate the past-year prevalence (occurrence) of unwanted sexual contact (offenses ranging from illegal sexual contact to forced penetration, as prohibited by military law). Rates among military men and women have stayed within a narrow range since DoD began using its current measure in 2006. Estimates indicate approximately 19,000 instances of USC in 2014, down from 26,000 in 2012.

- **Survey Findings for Women:** In 2014, an estimated 4.3% of active duty women indicated experiencing some kind of unwanted sexual contact (USC) in the past year. Applying this rate to the full population of active duty women, DoD estimates that 8,500 experienced USC in 2014. Past-year rates of USC have ranged between 4.3% (2014) and 6.8% (2006).
- **Survey Findings for Men:** In 2014, an estimated 0.9% of active duty men indicated experiencing some kind of USC in the past year. Applying this rate to the full population of active duty men, DoD estimates that 10,500 experienced USC in 2012. Past-year rates of USC have ranged between 0.9% (2014) and 1.8% (2006).

### Resources to Empower Victim Recovery

- Victim options for confidential reporting, participation in the justice system, medical and mental healthcare, and expedited unit transfers
- 24-7, global support through DoD Safe Helpline
- Access to professionally-certified victim advocates at every installation
- Special Victim Investigators and Prosecutors, trained on effect of trauma on memory and methods to reduce potential for retraumatization
- Special legal representation for all victims, whether by military special victims' counsel for those eligible or by private civilian counsel

### Sweeping Legislative and Policy Reforms

- Since 2012, the Secretary of Defense has directed 50 initiatives to fundamentally reform how the military works to prevent, respond to, and adjudicate sexual assault crimes
- DoD is implementing the 100+ Congressional provisions related to sexual assault, including the most comprehensive reforms to the Uniform Code of Military Justice since 1968
- DoD has implemented or is working to implement most of the 132 recommendations made by the independent Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Panel