



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



Sexual Assault in the Military

Dr. Kaye Whitley
Director

22 April 2010

Defense Centers of Excellence for
Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury

**PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT
IS EVERYONE'S DUTY.**



Polling Questions for Attendees

1. What percentage of female military sexual assault victims do you think report the assault an authority?
 - a. 5%
 - b. 10%
 - c. 20%
 - d. 75%

2. What percentage of female civilian sexual assault victims do you think report the assault to an authority?
 - a. 5%
 - b. 12%
 - c. 16%
 - d. 20%



DoD Policy and SAPRO Mission

DoD Policy

- Prevent and respond to sexual assaults and ensure system accountability through comprehensive oversight program

SAPRO Mission

- Serve as single point of accountability and oversight for sexual assault policy, provide guidance to DoD components and facilitate resolution of issues common to the Services and joint commands



Two Reporting Options

Restricted

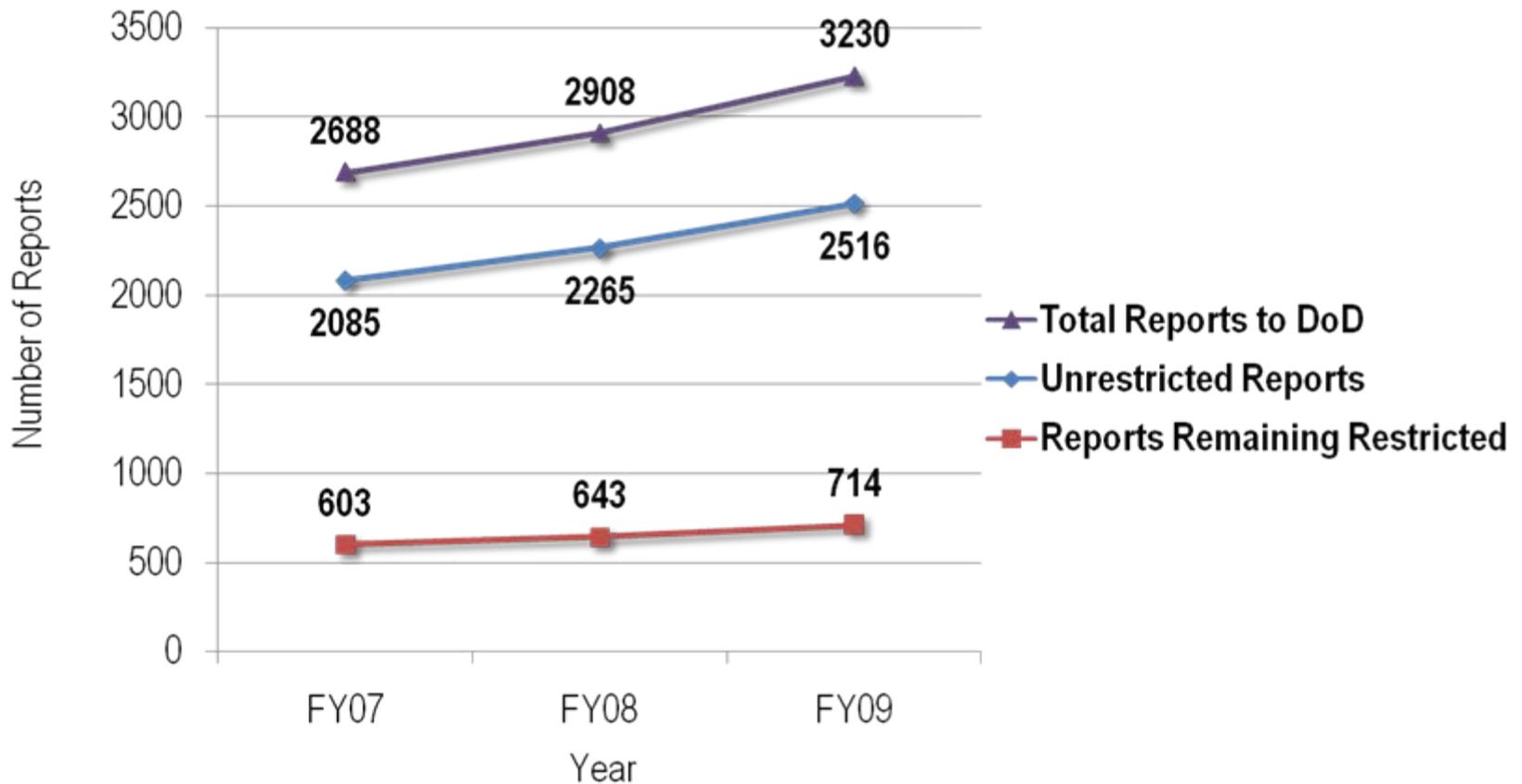
- Victim discloses specified officials on confidential basis
 - Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs), Victim Advocates, and medical and mental health providers can take restricted report
- Commanding officer told of an assault (for safety reasons) but no name provided
- Victim receives treatment but no investigation initiated

Unrestricted

- Victim discloses sexual assault without confidentiality request
- Victim receives treatment
- Report made to law enforcement and may be used to initiate the official investigative process



Sexual Assault Reports



Total Reports of Sexual Assault, FY07-FY09



Underreporting Significant Problem

To whom do victims talk?

- 82% of women and 58% of men told family or friend*
- But only 1 in 5 told a recognized authority
 - 21% reported the incident to an authority*

*Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) 2006 Gender Relations Survey, 2008

Why don't more civilian and military victims report?

- Fear they will not be believed
- Concern about their privacy
- Belief that police can't do anything about the crime
- Shame and blame associated with the crime



Military-Specific Barriers to Reporting

- Sexual Assault Prevention & Response (SAPR) program is relatively new to military
 - DoD-wide policy put in place in 2005
 - Previously Services had individual programs
- Reporting one's own victimization and seeking help are mistakenly believed to go against the strength, honor, and courage inherent in military values
- Reporting sexual assault is perceived to have lasting career and security clearance repercussions
- To address, SAPRO and Services are leading "anti-stigma" campaign to encourage reporting



Additional Care and Response Efforts

Developed policy for 24/7 worldwide DoD response

- Sexual Assault Response Coordinators at every installation
- Assistance includes medical care, sexual assault forensic exams, counseling, advocacy services and investigative response

Improve Response

- Updated training requirements for attorneys, law enforcement, investigators, and commanders
- Updating Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Kit (SAFE Kit)

Documentation

- Developing sustainment training for attorneys and investigators

Coordinate with non-DoD agencies to ensure use of “best practices”



Provider Responsibilities

1. Assess for safety from attacker
2. Treat emergent medical needs
3. Contact SARC or Victim Advocate ASAP
4. Provide treatment as needed
 - RR: Take measures to preserve confidentiality
 - UR: Participate in investigation as required
5. Assist as needed with SAFE kit requests and follow up
6. Encourage a visit to Behavioral Health for follow up



Other Considerations

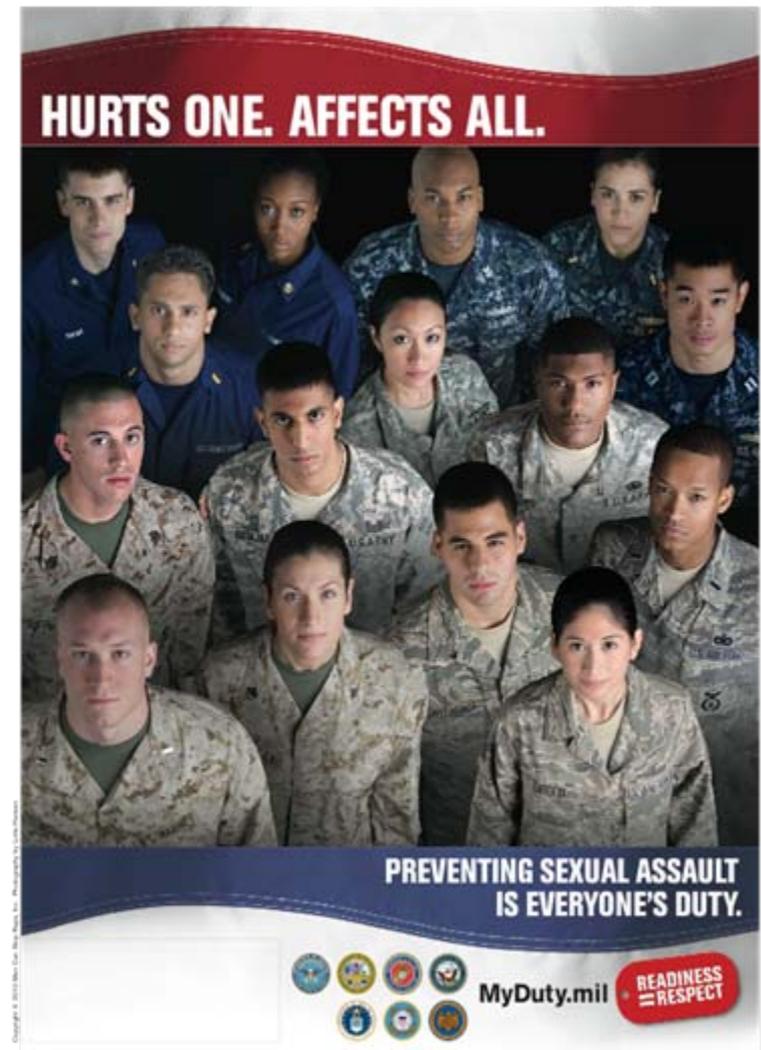
- Do not keep victim waiting in open area
- Do not place victim and suspect in same area (cross-contamination)
- Allow a support person in the room as desired by victim
- Do not evaluate the validity of the complaint at this time
 - Be sensitive to victim needs
 - Keep any opinions about the victim, perpetrator or the incident to yourself



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

Prevention Efforts

- Implementing bystander intervention to recognize potential problems and intervene safely
- Distributed outreach materials to more than 300 locations worldwide
- Outreach campaign emphasizes link to readiness
 - Partnered with nationally known group known for prevention messaging





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

SAPRLine of Courage

- Collected t-shirts from all over the world
 - Have approximately 200 t-shirts...and more arriving daily
- Displayed in the Pentagon during April
 - Unveiled on April 7 with Clothesline founders
 - Featured on Pentagon Channel
- Plan to be incorporated into permanent display in Pentagon





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

Contact for Policy questions

Diana Rangoussis
Senior Policy Advisor
diana.rangoussis@wso.whs.mil

Contact for Victim Assistance questions

Bette Stebbins
Senior Victim Care Advisor
bette.stebbins@wso.whs.mil

Office number: 703-696-9422

www.sapr.mil - Program and policy
www.myduty.mil - Victim care and prevention