

Resources & Support

<https://rainn.org/news-room/SAFEHelpline>
RAINN helps to provide a safe helpline that will provide live, one-on-one crisis intervention, emotional support, advice and information to the Department of Defense (DoD) community worldwide by phone and online, as well as referral information by text message. All calls anonymous and confidential.

<http://www.sapr.mil/>
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office prevention objective is to deliver consistent and effective prevention methods and programs. The desired end state is an atmosphere where 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.

<http://www.woar.org/counseling-and-support/>

WOAR provides free individual and group counseling to children and adults who have experienced sexual violence: this includes sexual abuse, sexual assault, rape/date rape, and incest.

<http://www.militaryrapecrisiscenter.org/>
The Military Rape Crisis Center is a survivor-run organization. All of our services are free for Active Duty, Reserves and National Guard members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces that been sexually harassed, sexually assaulted and/or raped.

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Abuse in the United States Military

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George Mason University

"One of the most under reported stories of our generation"

-The Invisible War

The Facts

- More than half a million service men and women have been sexually assaulted since World War II
- The Department of Defense does not maintain military sex offender registry
- Approximately 33% of women report experiencing rape in the military
- Approximately 1% to 12% men report experiencing rape in the military
- Sexual trauma is the leading cause of PTSD in women veterans, while combat trauma is the leading cause of PTSD in men.
- Rape victims in the military must turn to their commanders a move that is all too often met with foot dragging at best, and reprisals at worst
- Many rape victims find themselves forced to choose between speaking up and keeping their careers. Little wonder that only 8% percent of military sexual assault cases are prosecuted.

Affects of Sexual Abuse

- 72% of female victims report emotional abuse more negative than physical abuse.
- Abuse is associated with poorer mental and physical health
- Veterans highly traumatized can suffer from shame, agoraphobia and severe depression.
- Higher rates of depression and anxiety symptoms, substance and dependence, sexual dysfunction, PTSD, and harder to adjust to civilian life.

The Invisible War

A groundbreaking film investigation about one of America's most shameful and best kept secrets: the epidemic of rape within the U.S. military.

About the Films Participants

“In December 2005, Kori Cioca was raped by a commanding officer while serving in the US Coast Guard. Her jaw was broken in the attack. Kori was told by her chain of command that if he went forward with the case, she would be court martialed for lying; her attacker, who admitted to the attack but denied the rape, received 30 days of base restriction and loss of pay” (The Invisible War).

“After reporting her rape, Jessica Hines was diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder and discharged from the military. During the investigation into the assault, the perpetrator was awarded "Airman of the Year" (The Invisible War).



Military Implementations

- Established law: Victim and Witness Assistance Program
- Joint Service Committee on Military Justice (2008)
- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO)
- Congress pass Public Law 102585

Suggestions for Change

- Stricter routine screenings before entering the military
- Education on sexual violence
- Prevention programs
- Updated laws that include all military personal no matter their sexual identity, race, gender or culture
- Changing negative normative beliefs and increase tolerance as a military value
- Increasing number of women's roles of leadership
- Increasing recruiting efforts of women
- Training on reporting and resources of reporting incidents
- Train military staff on signs, symptoms of sexual assault, both physical and psychological
- Personal safety and self-defense training available
- Counseling within military insurance, current and after service
- Continued research and data collection