



SAPR Newsletter

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

Spring 2014

Volume 3, Issue 2

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Moving in the Right Direction: *You Are Making a Difference*

Since the June 2012 launch of the SAPR Campaign, Marines have participated in intense and large-scale initiatives aimed at preventing sexual assault, and the emerging crop of data from recent surveys and reports indicates we are moving in the right direction. There is still a long way ahead, but in support of April's 14th annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), we have compiled this snapshot of where we stand now to show that your efforts are having a real, direct impact.

“We've taken steps down a road that leads to a safe, respectful place for all Marines. There are still many summits to climb, but here on the first hill, we can see that reaching our goal of eliminating sexual assault is, in fact, possible.”

—Brigadier General Russell A. Sanborn,
Director, Marine and Family Programs

86% Reporting Increase Means Increase in Victim Care & Offender Accountability

FY13 MARINE CORPS ANNUAL REPORT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

One of the most successful outcomes of the SAPR Campaign to date has been the increase in reporting of sexual assaults. The FY13 Annual Report on Sexual Assault reveals an **86% increase** in reporting, which follows a **31% increase** in FY12. These numbers suggest that growing numbers of sexual assault victims are reporting the crimes and not remaining silent. By coming forward, victims gain ready access to supportive services and enable increased offender accountability. In addition, by coming forward, victims are expressing

confidence in the reporting options available to them and in the SAPR processes in place. It's important to note that this reporting statistic is independent of prevalence measures. A convenience sample survey conducted by the Department of the Navy for FY13 suggests that prevalence has decreased from a similar survey conducted for FY11 (see 2013 DON Sexual Assault Survey article below). These significant developments—an increase in reporting and a suggested decrease in prevalence—indicate that Marines are more aware that sexual assault is

a crime and not a misunderstanding and that more Marines are acknowledging that sexual assault has no place in the Corps. The FY13 Annual Report will be released in April/May 2014 and highlights other significant developments, such as those listed above.

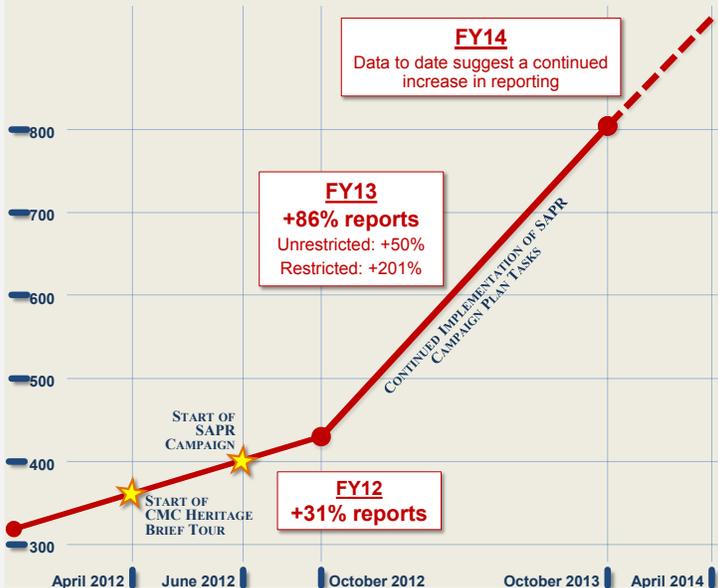
Significant SAPR Developments

Increase in Reporting. An increase in reports means that more victims have access to supportive services (see article at left).

Contact Crimes/Penetrating Crimes. In FY13, the number of reports of contact crimes (unwanted sexual contact without penetration) increased, while reports of penetrating crimes decreased. These changes indicate that Marines are now recognizing and willing to report sexual assault crimes before they possibly escalate.

Increase in Conversions. More victims are converting their restricted, confidential reports into unrestricted reports, which trigger investigations and bridge the way to increased offender accountability.

Increased Reporting: A Bridge to Victim Care



2013 DON SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVEY

The 2013 DON Sexual Assault Survey, taken by 37,314 Marines, suggests that there was a decrease in the number of projected incidents of unwanted sexual contact from 2011 to 2013. This is encouraging, especially in light of the 86% reporting increase shown in the FY13 Annual Report, because these data indicate we are closing the historically wide gap between reporting and prevalence. Why is this important? If the number of sexual assaults is higher than the number of victims reporting, then there are victims without access to supportive services. Ultimately, the goal is an equal number of assaults reported and actual assaults: that number is zero.



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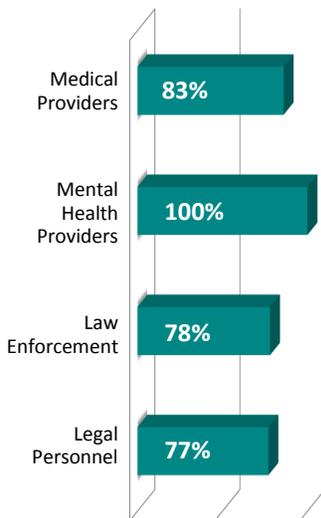
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MARINE CORPS VICTIM SURVEYS

Victims of sexual assault who file reports (both restricted and unrestricted) gain ready access to supportive services, including medical, mental health, legal, and investigative. Victims who have taken advantage of these services report an overall positive experience:

Victims expressing satisfaction with privacy and sensitivity provided by:

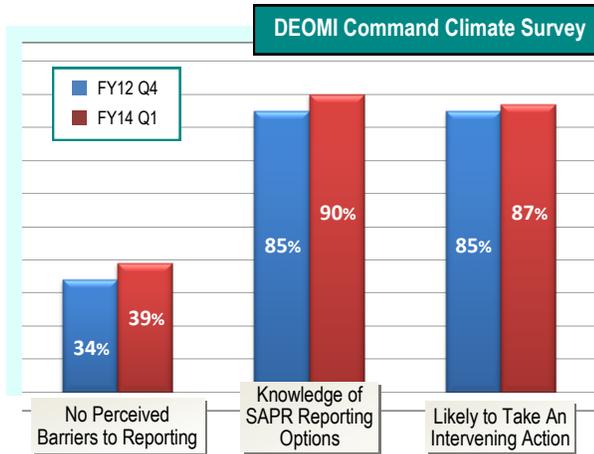


Survey results from Nov 2013 to Dec 2013

Transforming Perceptions: More Marines Say They Will Speak Up & Step Up

DEOMI COMMAND CLIMATE SURVEY

The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) survey, which measures organizational climate, is conducted within 90 days after a Commander assumes command and at least annually thereafter.



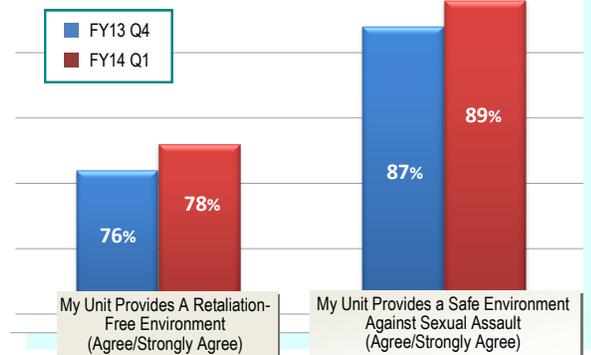
The DEOMI has included questions that measure the climate associated with SAPR since 2012. The most recent DEOMI survey covers FY14 Q1 data and shows gains in knowledge of sexual assault reporting and bystander intervention principles. In addition, Marines reported a decreasing number of barriers to reporting (such as stigma and fear), suggesting that more victims will be willing to report sexual assaults, bridging the way to victim care and offender accountability. More Marines also expressed an increased positive perception of leadership support for SAPR efforts.

We Still Have a Lot of Work Ahead: In addition to continuing our gains in reporting and leadership support, we must focus on integrating our prevention efforts with other behavioral health programs. Preventing sexual assault is larger than the assault itself, which often co-occurs with other misconduct, including sexual harassment, alcohol abuse, and hazing. We will continue to listen to and incorporate feedback from you via surveys, focus groups, and other tools to ensure we are providing quality services and effective initiatives.

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS COMMAND CLIMATE SURVEY

An internal Marine Corps survey, the CMC Command Climate survey was implemented in June 2013 and designed to measure the “health” of a particular command. It includes, among other topics, questions relating to SAPR. Via this tool, Commanders are accountable for the well-being and culture of their command, and results to date indicate that Commanders are effectively implementing SAPR initiatives in their units. Even in the short time that the survey has been fielded, Marines reported increased perceptions of units as safe and non-retaliatory environments, which means

CMC Command Climate Survey



that even more victims are likely to report sexual assault crimes. In addition, these results mirror the recent findings of the DEOMI Command Climate survey (see left), which showed a significant increase in perception of leadership support for SAPR.

In Honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month: *Step Up to Stop Sexual Assault*

As part of the 14th annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), DoD and Marine Corps are once again joining organizations across the country to emphasize the importance of eradicating the crime of sexual assault. This April’s DoD SAAM theme is “Live Our Values: Step Up to Stop Sexual Assault,” which recognizes the role that every Marine must play to help prevent sexual assault. In recognition of SAAM, this newsletter is presented to you—the Marines on the frontline of this battle—to show you where we stand now and where we still need to go.



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Status & Progress

The Way Ahead: Keeping the Momentum

As stated in the July 2012 SAPR Campaign Plan, the purpose of the Marine Corps SAPR Program is to eliminate sexual assault from the Corps and to establish a culture that is non-permissive to any form of misconduct. We are moving in the right direction, but we still have a long road ahead until we fully realize this goal. This page offers a glimpse into some of our upcoming training and recognizes the efforts of organizations and individuals who provide critical help to victims.

BYSTANDER INTERVENTION TRAINING: “Step Up” to Stop Sexual Assault

Emphasizing that each Marine has a responsibility to step up to prevent sexual assault, this new interactive training with video components follows a group of Marines attending a party at which one Marine aggressively pursues another. The training teaches Marines about sexual assault and how to prevent it by identifying the different ways bystanders at the party could have intervened to stop an incident from occurring. —*Coming Summer 2014*



ETHICAL DISCUSSION GROUPS: What Would You Do?

Eight new Ethical Discussion Groups (EDGs) are being developed to enhance Marine Corps prevention training efforts by incorporating bystander intervention principles and teaching Marines how to properly respond if a sexual assault occurs. Each video-based vignette will relate to all Marines and will provide a small-group opportunity for candid, nonjudgmental discussion that will encourage Marines to think and talk about how they would act in similar situations. —*Coming Spring 2014*

VICTIM-CENTRIC COUNSEL: Organization Helps Victims through Investigative and Justice Process

The Marine Corps Victims' Legal Counsel Organization (VLCO), which reached initial operating capability on 1 November 2013 and full operational capability on 1 January 2014, is fully committed to providing legal advice and, when detailed, representation to victims of sexual assault and other crimes, as well as protecting victims' rights at all

stages of the military justice process. VLCO services are primarily intended for Active Duty military members and Reservists on active duty who are victims of sexual assault; however, eligible victims of other crimes in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice may also seek assistance from a Victims' Legal Counsel (VLC). VLC provide

victims an overview of the military justice system and assist victims in understanding their legal options, including making Restricted versus Unrestricted reports of sexual assault. VLC are judge advocates who are highly qualified attorneys with military justice backgrounds and who have completed a certified victims' advocacy course.

Have You Thanked A SARC Today?

An increase in reporting means more victims have access to supportive services, but it also means an increase in workload for Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs). These advocates are in the trenches every day working to ensure that victims receive high-quality and timely care. They are charged with properly executing policy and often work in a demanding, sensitive environment with little recognition. In honor of SAAM, we'd like to acknowledge the critical role SARCs have in this ongoing battle against sexual assault.

EXCEPTIONAL SARC OF THE YEAR: MIDGE SCOTT



Amid a field of high quality contenders, Midge Scott was selected for this award due to her outstanding efforts as the SARC for Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. Under her careful coordination and dynamic leadership, 100% of recruits were screened and educated in 2013, which contributed to an increase in reporting and a reduction in military affiliated sexual assaults. As Commanding General L.E. Reynolds stated, “Her passion, winning personality, and exceptional managerial skills have won the year for sexual assault prevention and response.” Ms. Scott holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice and is the mother of a 20-year-old son.

SARCs: Please remember to plan for SAPR Annual Training, scheduled for 18–22 August 2014.