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Military Seeks Help to Solve Rape Cases

By Daniel Borunda, El Paso Times

Military criminal investigators this week posted fliers along Dyer Street offering a \$500 reward for information on the person responsible for raping several women.

The unidentified person, or persons, are sought “for the suspected rape, sodomy, robbery and aggravated assault of several women in the El Paso, TX area,” stated the fliers by the Fort Bliss Criminal Investigations Division.

The Army Criminal Investigation Division, or CID, deals with Army-related investigations on and off military property.

Investigators at Fort Bliss said they couldn’t comment and referred questions to the post’s Public Affairs Office.

“There is no confirmation it (the suspect) could be anybody in the military,” Fort Bliss spokeswoman Jean Offutt said. She did not have any information on how many victims there were or where the attacks took place.

El Paso police spokesman Officer Chris Mears said police were not investigating any strings of sexual assaults. Special Agent Andrea Simmons, a spokeswoman for the FBI, which handles civilian crimes on government property, said the bureau was not investigating any rapes on Fort Bliss.

The reward fliers were taped to windows of shops along Dyer close to Fort Bliss’ Cassidy Gate. Prostitution has historically been found in certain spots along the street.

“Unfortunately, prostitutes are in a higher risk category by the nature of what they do to earn money,” said Rebecca Orndorf, community education coordinator with Sexual Trauma and Assault Response Services, or STARS.

Orndorf advised residents to be vigilant and to listen to their gut feeling if they don’t feel comfortable. “There is nothing wrong with being cautious,” she said.

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