



NATIONAL CENTER
on Domestic and Sexual Violence
training • consulting • advocacy

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NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Debby Tucker

March 9, 2004

Two weeks ago, I joined seven others to testify at a Personnel Subcommittee hearing of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee. Recently, dozens of servicewomen have reported being sexually assaulted or raped by fellow soldiers. In response, Senate lawmakers convened to question the Pentagon's top personnel officials, four four-star generals and others with expertise on sexual assault in the military.

According to military officials, in the past year and a half, there have been 112 reports of sexual misconduct in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. In addition, two dozen women at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas reported being assaulted in 2002. Last month, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld ordered an inquiry into the sexual assaults in Iraq and Kuwait – specifically, into how the armed services treats victims. The Army and Air Force have opened similar investigations.

I was impressed by the determination of the Senators who demanded compassion and support for victims, and investigation and prosecution of offenders. They seemed to understand the challenges of in-theatre prevention and appropriate responses, while expecting the military services to meet them. I believe there is much to be gained in addressing sexual violence in the military from studying our work on the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence.

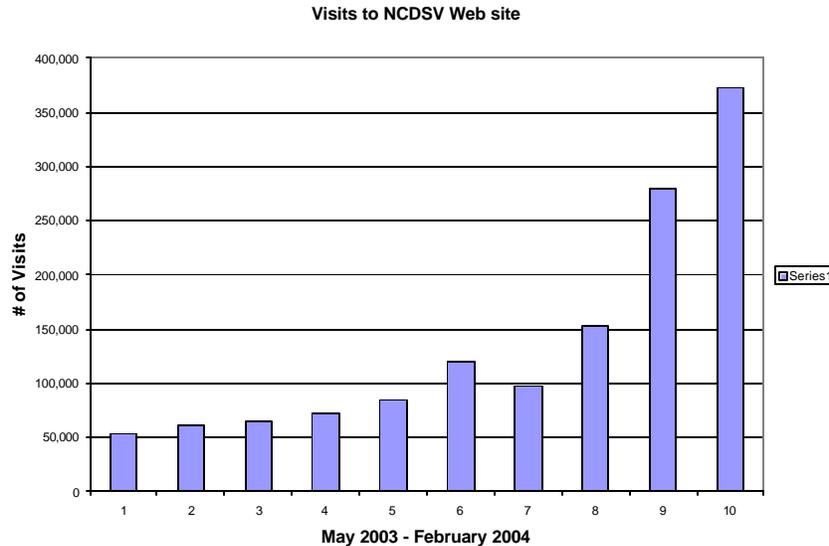
The others who testified with me on February 25, 2004, were: the **Honorable David S. C. Chu**, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; **General George W. Casey, Jr.**, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army; **Vice Admiral Michael G. Mullen**, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy; **General William L. Nyland**, Assistant Commandant, United States Marine Corps; **General T. Michael Moseley**, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Air Force; **Christine Hansen**, Executive Director, The Miles Foundation; **Dr. Terri J. Rau**, Head, Policy and Prevention Section, Counseling, Advocacy and Prevention Branch, Navy Personnel Command; and **Dr. Susan H. Mather**, Chief Officer, Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards, Veterans Health Administration.

To read my testimony, visit the National Center web site at http://www.ncdsv.org/ncd_news.html

“Over 1,000,000 Served” by the National Center’s Web Site

A year ago, we started redesigning our web site (<http://www.ncdsv.org>) to make it more appealing, informative and user-friendly. The completely overhauled site was launched in early May 2003. Since then we've received lots of positive feedback from people who have visited it, but only recently were we able to determine the traffic the site generated. In the 10 months since its launch, we've had **1,358,082 visits**; the monthly breakdown on the following page demonstrates the steady growth. Numerous items are

downloaded from the site every day. We also receive consistent requests to link to our web site and for permission to reprint specific articles or documents posted on the site. Based on users statistics, individuals, nonprofit organizations, educational systems, public entities, military representatives and government agencies all visit the site in the U.S. and internationally.



The site (<http://www.ncdsv.org>) includes:

- ⌘ law enforcement training opportunities, highlights of our partnerships with the **Federal Law Enforcement Training Center**, the **National Sheriffs' Association** and the **National Center for Rural Law Enforcement** and details about the upcoming *Domestic Violence Training for Emergency Professionals (Dispatchers/Call Takers)*, scheduled for April 21-22, 2004 in Austin, Texas;
- ⌘ more than 300 links in 45 different categories on a myriad of issues;
- ⌘ hundreds of publications, articles, research studies, FAQs, and reports and dozens of power and control wheels, safety plans, handouts and overhead transparencies (including some in Spanish);
- ⌘ audio recordings of 911 emergency calls and a radio show addressing domestic violence in the workplace;
- ⌘ dozens of conference and funding announcements; and
- ⌘ information about the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence and a multitude of military resources.

To keep the web site as timely as possible, it is updated at least three times per week with an average of 50-100 additions a week. Check out these recent additions:

- ⌘ "The War on Violence: Improving the Response to Domestic Violence in the Military," an article by Judge Peter Macdonald and Debby Tucker for the *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*
- ⌘ Lifetime Television Salutes Debby Tucker in their Times Square Project
- ⌘ *Child Sexual Abuse – No One Wanted to Talk About It! Until Now!* commercials from Darkness to Light

Visit the web site often for more enhancements!