Pentagon Misleads On Sexual Assault

When the Department of Defense (DoD) was faced with the sexual assault crisis, and the numbers showed they were failing, they commissioned a new survey. But when the new survey showed they were still failing, the DoD launched a campaign to ignore and discredit the new results and instead publicized cherry-picked and invalid numbers. The following are the results the DoD refuses to acknowledge:

The sexual assault rate remains the same as 2010
20,300 service members were sexually assaulted in 2014. 76% of male and 56% of female victims were assaulted at least twice, resulting in over 47,000 assaults against service members. 1 in 7 victims were assaulted by someone in their chain of command.

The retaliation rate remains the same as 2012
62% of victims who reported sexual assault still faced retaliation.

VICTIMS DON’T TRUST THE SYSTEM
86% of victims did not report the crime in 2014. 1 in 3 victims still believed that reporting would hurt their career; the process would be unfair; or that nothing would be done. 1 in 4 feared retaliation from their chain of command or coworkers.

Sexual harassment rate is alarmingly high
134,500 service members experienced severe and persistent sexual harassment or career-harming gender discrimination. 60% of these victims were harassed by someone in their chain of command.

RAND concludes: “At such high rates, sexual harassment... could affect cohesion within military units [and] degrade mission effectiveness.”

Pentagon misleads with unscientific survey
The t says victims are satisfied based on their Survivor Experience Survey, which even the Pentagon admits is not representative of all active-duty survivors. To the contrary: According to RAND, nearly half of survivors (45%) were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their treatment by their supervisor or chain of command.

Sexual harassment often mishandled by chain of command
44% of sexual harassment victims were encouraged to drop the issue. 41% said the person to whom they reported took no action.

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1 The majority of victims are assaulted more than once over the course of a year. In 2014, there were 3.57 sexual assaults per 100 active-duty service members, out of a total 1,317,561 members. This translates to 47,000 sexual assaults against active-duty service members in 2014.

2 In 2014, 10.21% of the active-duty population experienced sexual harassment or gender discrimination.