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Chairman Tierney, distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you and discuss the Army's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program.

It is DoD policy to investigate every unrestricted sexual assault report; treat victims with sensitivity and care; and take appropriate disciplinary or administrative action. The goals of our Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program are to create a climate where Soldiers live the Army Values, thereby eliminating incidents of sexual assault; where Soldiers feel they can report incidents when they do occur, without fear, knowing they will receive the help and care they deserve; and where offenders receive appropriate action.

Even one sexual assault violates the very essence of what it means to be a Soldier and is a betrayal of the Army's core values. On behalf of the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff, I can assure you that the Army takes sexual assault very seriously. To support our efforts in combating sexual assault, the Army has created the Sexual Assault Data Management System (SADMS). The Army is the only Service with such a system that integrates five authoritative sources from legal, medical, investigative, law enforcement, and advocacy services to provide a holistic case management record. The Army's $2.8M investment (to date) in the SADMS provides an assessment capability to conduct in-depth analysis of the SAPR Program including both performance measures and data trends.

The Army has added much to our knowledge base as we have grown our program. The Army's program's foundation supports the findings and recommendations from our Sexual Assault Task Force and Sexual Harassment Task Force reports. Through the Army's annual command program assessment reports and recommendations, our recent Inspector General Report, and our recurring analysis of sexual assault case data, we continuously reassess and improve our program.

We know that sexual assault is the most under-reported crime in the United States. As the Army reviewed the findings from early Defense Manpower Data Center and the Army Research Institute surveys of our Soldiers, we learned that many Soldiers who said they experienced sexual assault within the previous 12 months did not report it. Accordingly, the introduction of sexual assault awareness and confidential victim services may have contributed to the sharp increase in the number of reported cases of sexual assault. Additionally, senior leadership emphasizes that Soldier safety is paramount; command climates appear to have reduced under-reporting and empowered more Soldiers to willingly report incidents of sexual assault.

While the Army continues to aggressively implement and improve our program, let me review the progress we have made to date:

- We built an extensive Army-wide victim advocacy program. At each Installation, our full-time professional Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) interact directly with victims of sexual assault and other installation response agencies - medical, legal, law enforcement, investigative, and chaplains.
- The advocacy program extends to deployed units through deployable SARCs (DSARCs) and Unit Victim Advocates (UVAs). DSARCs are Soldiers trained and responsible for coordinating SAPR Program activities as a collateral duty. Army policy requires one DSARC at each brigade and higher echelon. UVAs are Soldiers trained to provide victim advocacy services as a collateral duty. Our policy requires two UVAs for each battalion.
- Since 2005, the Army has employed a comprehensive set of training support packages for all levels of Army Professional Military Education, from initial entry to the Army War College. Annual unit level sexual assault training is also mandatory, as is pre- and post-deployment training.
- Progress in the Army's sexual assault response capabilities is the result of an integrated coalition of command, advocacy, law enforcement,

investigative, medical, legal, and chaplains. These "first responders" receive initial and annual refresher training for their specific response capability. In most cases, initial training occurs at the corresponding Army training institution.

- Above all, sexual assault prevention and response is a leadership issue. Senior mission commanders are required by Headquarters, Department of the Army policy to hold monthly Sexual Assault Review Boards in order to provide executive oversight, procedural guidance and feedback concerning program implementation and case management.

Under the direction of Secretary Geren and General Casey, the Army is developing a comprehensive prevention campaign, which, among other things, focuses on peer-to-peer intervention strategies in order to affect behaviors that lead to sexual assault. While the Army has achieved success with our initial response-based efforts (creating the right climate, removing the stigma of reporting, and prosecuting Soldiers and Civilians who don't live up to the Army's standards), the Army will launch new initiatives in September 2008 focused primarily on prevention. As a result of the Army's sexual assault task force, the Army has completed all 239 actions from the Army's Action Plan, which included: developing a policy and training plan; establishing a SAPR program; establishing a victim advocacy program; and establishing a system for documentation, program assessment, and reporting and program involvement. Our initial prevention efforts were focused on risk-reduction methods within our professional military education and our commanders' actions. As an example, the Army reviewed its DNA processing, applied more resources, and cut the process time almost in half within a year's time.

Most reported sexual assaults involve offenders (64%) who are between the ages of 18 and 24. Similarly, an overwhelming majority of victims (85%) are also junior enlisted (E1-E4) Soldiers. The Army recognizes that many of these Soldiers enter military service with social beliefs that are inconsistent with Army values. To date, the Army's prevention efforts have been inadequately confronted those societal norms in the area of relationships between Soldiers.

This phase of the campaign will focus on addressing negative social influencers, increasing peer-to-peer bystander intervention and enhancing Soldiers' skill sets on how to stop assaults before they occur.

Key components of our prevention campaign include actions from the Secretary and Chief of Staff down to the Commanders at all levels of the Army. Recently, the Chief of Staff sent a message to commanders that he and the Secretary are not satisfied with the results of our prevention program, that we will overhaul our sexual assault prevention program, and aggressively take steps to develop a sound prevention initiative. Commanders at all levels are eager to engage. Consequently, we are refining our reporting and quality assurance measures for our SADMS to provide commanders statistical data to help them engage more effectively with sexual assault awareness and prevention.

The Army's Sexual Assault Program Office has prepared a Phase II Action Plan with over 125 actions. The action plan incorporates results of an Army Inspector General inspection report (May 2007) and other program assessments. We are planning a Sexual Assault Prevention and Risk Reduction Training Summit in September. The Summit will include national subject matter experts, Senior Army leaders and their Sexual Assault Program Managers, and Army training developers. Summit results will drive the development of our prevention training and strategic communications. While there is not a specific line item in the budget for our program, the Army will spend approximately $40M in FY 09 to achieve our FY09 prevention and response goals.

The Secretary and the Chief of Staff of the Army are personally involved in ensuring sexual assault prevention is paramount to all Soldiers and leaders. Our awareness and prevention processes are reviewed at the Senior-most levels, and we will continue to pursue improvements and enhancements to our program. Again, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, for your continued support of the Army, our Soldiers and Families, and for your partnership in helping the Army address this important issue. I look forward to answering your questions.