

**“Oversight Hearing on Sexual Assault in the Military – Part 3: Context and Causes”**

On June 25, 2009, the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs continued to investigate the issue of sexual assault in the military by holding a hearing focused on characteristics of sexual assailants and contributing factors affecting the occurrences of sexual assaults. The hearing examined the dynamics behind sexual assault, both within the context of the military and the general public, and was designed to inform lawmakers on how the U.S. government can mitigate risks to potential victims in the military. This hearing was timed in advance of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) strategic plan and Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services findings that were set for release in late summer.

**Witness List**

- **Dr. Veronique Valliere**, President of Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc.;
- **Dr. Fred Berlin**, Founder of the National Institute for the Study, Prevention, and Treatment of Sexual Trauma and the Director of the Johns Hopkins Sexual Disorders Clinic;
  
- **Dr. Elizabeth Hillman**, Law Professor at the University of California Hastings; and
- **Professor Helen Benedict**, Author *The Lonely Soldier: The Private War of Women Serving in Iraq*, and Professor of Journalism at Columbia University.

## Documents and Links

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[Opening Statement of Chairman John F. Tierney](#)

[Prepared Testimony of Dr. Veronique Valliere](#)

[Prepared Testimony of Dr. Fred Berlin](#)

[Prepared Testimony of Dr. Elizabeth Hillman](#)

[Prepared Testimony of Professor Helen Benedict](#)

[Transcript of "Oversight Hearing on Sexual Assault in the Military – Part 3: Context and Causes"](#)

