

“Oversight Hearing on Sexual Assault in the Military – Part IV: Are We Making Progress?”

On February 24, 2010, the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs continued its examination of efforts by the Department of Defense (DOD) to prevent and respond to cases of sexual assault among service members. This hearing was the fourth in a series on this important topic. The goal of these hearings was to ensure that DOD has adequate policies and oversight mechanisms in place to prevent, treat and punish sexual assaults. The hearing featured testimony from the Government Accountability Office on a new report, released in conjunction with the hearing, that evaluates DOD’s programs to address sexual assault. In addition, members of the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services discussed the results of their 16-month examination of prevention and response efforts throughout the military.

Witness List:

Panel I:

- Gail McGinn, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Plans), U.S. Department of Defense;
- Kaye Whitley, Ph.D., Director, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, U.S. Department of Defense;
- Louis Iasiello, Ph.D. and Brigadier General Sharon Dunbar, Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services; and
- Brenda Farrell, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, and Randolph Hite, Director, Information Technology Architecture and Systems, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Panel II:

- Merle Wilberding, J.D., Coolidge Wall. Mr. Wilberding is the attorney for Mary Lauterbach, whose daughter, LCpl Maria Lauterbach, was murdered at Camp Lejeune after reporting a rape. Mrs. Lauterbach testified at the Subcommittee’s first hearing in July 2008.

For further information regarding previous Subcommittee hearings on sexual assault in the military, please click on the links below:

[Oversight Hearing on Sexual Assault in the Military \(July 31, 2008\)](#)

[Oversight Hearing on Sexual Assault in the Military – Part II \(September 10, 2008\)](#)

[Oversight Hearing on Sexual Assault in the Military – Part III: Context and Causes \(June 25,](#)

[2009](#)

To view a webcast of the hearing, [click here](#)

Documents and Links

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

[Statement for the Record of Rep. Louise Slaughter](#)

[Prepared Testimony of Ms. Brenda Farrell and Mr. Randolph Hite](#)

[Prepared Testimony of the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services](#)

[Prepared Testimony of Dr. Kaye Whitley](#)

[Prepared Testimony of Ms. Gail McGinn](#)

[Prepared Testimony of Mr. Merle Wilberding](#)

[Op-Ed Article by Mr. Merle Wilberding in the Iowa Independent](#)

[GAO Report: "DOD's and the Coast Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Programs Need to Be Further Strengthened"](#)

[Letter to Gail McGinn with Questions for the Record](#)

[Response to Question for the record of Ms. Gail McGinn](#)