



Center for Military Readiness



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Contact: Elaine Donnelly, CMR President

(734) 464-9430

Pentagon Social Policies Increase Military Sexual Assaults

Army, Defense Department and Navy Reports Downplay Record of Failure

The **Center for Military Readiness** has released a new **CMR Policy Analysis** that shines a bright light on disturbing findings about persistent and accelerating sexual assaults in the military. The analysis cites data buried in a recent Army "**Gold Book**" report on wartime personnel stress, the most recent [annual report](#) of the **Defense Department Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Office (SAPRO)**, and a 2010 report on ship captain firings that the **Navy** tried to suppress.

"Chilling Trend" of Sexual Assault in the Military

The following comments may be attributed to CMR President **Elaine Donnelly**:

"Both the Army "Gold Book" released in January and the Defense Department SAPRO report released last Friday hid the bad news in plain sight. Instead of reconsidering social policies known to increase disturbing disciplinary problems, the Pentagon is pressing ahead with costly, time-wasting programs that are not working.

"An army of professional sexual assault response counselors (SARCs), untold hours of mandatory training, pre-emptive punishments, bureaucracy, conferences, meetings, and feel-good gimmicks have produced dismal results:

- "Reports of sexual assault in all branches of the service have increased by **22%** since FY 2007. (SAPRO Report for FY 2011, April 2012, Exhibit 3, p. 34)
- "Violent attacks and rapes in the Army have **nearly doubled** since 2006, rising from **663** in 2006 to **1,313** last year. (Army Gold Book, Figure 111-25, p. 121).
- "A '**chilling trend**' of violent sex crime is growing at an average rate of **14.6** percent per year, and the rate is *accelerating*. (Army Gold Book, p. 122)
- "From 2006-2011, sex crimes in the active-duty Army have trended upward with a

28% increase in the offense rate and a 20% increase in offenders. (Army Gold Book, p. 121)

- "Contrary to premature claims about successful repeal of the 1993 law regarding **homosexual conduct**, male sexual assault victims also have increased significantly, from **10%** in FY 2010 to **14%** in restricted (confidential) reports, and **12%** in unrestricted reports. (SAPRO Report for FY 2011, p. 60, Exhibit 26, and p. 53, Exhibit 15.)
- "In 2010 and 2011, the Navy found it necessary to fire ship captains, executive officers, and senior enlisted officers at rates approaching **two per month**, most often for reasons of sexual misconduct. There is no effective strategy for reversing the trend.

"None of the procedural 'responses' that congressional and civilian feminists are demanding recognize or address flawed policies that have worsened problems of violent sexual assault. In 1997, for example, the **Kassebaum-Baker Commission** unanimously recommended that Army **gender-integrated basic training (GIBT)** be ended because it was *"resulting in less discipline, less unit cohesion, and more distraction from training programs."* (p. 15) That advice was ignored.

"Navy Secretary **Ray Mabus** recently called for yet another mandatory 'stand down' to observe '**Sexual Assault Awareness Month**,' complete with weekly themes, '**Twitter Tuesdays**,' adult interactive plays flagged for offensive language, and copious paperwork to make everyone feel good. According to Secretary Mabus, sexual assaults occur *'three times...every...single...day. This ought to make us mad.'*

"The Navy is mad all right. Secretary Mabus used exactly the same words and phrases in 2011, in response to a report that **900 sexual assaults** had been reported in the Navy in FY 2010. Doing the same thing over and over again while expecting a different result fits the definition of insanity.

"Even worse, Secretary Mabus is determined to extend the Navy's misconduct problems, both consensual and non-consensual, to all-male **Marine** infantry battalions. This policy change would devastate discipline and combat effectiveness, while providing no benefits for women, men, or the Marine Corps as a whole.

"A Navy study of reasons why ship commanding officers were 'detached for cause' between 2004-2009, which was not officially released but was obtained by *Navy Times*, reported a phenomenon called the "**Bathsheba Syndrome**" – an authority figure's belief that he, like King David, can get away with personal misconduct.

"Despite tangible evidence of failure, the same officials expect free-rein to implement policies that would worsen the situation. On February 9, 2012, Pentagon briefers announced their intent to promote "diversity" by incrementally implementing controversial recommendations of the **Military Diversity Leadership Commission (MLDC)**.

"Pentagon officials regularly praise their own work and proclaim undeserved 'success,' even though evidence of sexual misconduct, both consensual and non-consensual, continues to accelerate, year after year. These same officials should not be given even more authority to impose more of the same.

"It is time to reconsider and change flawed policies that are weakening the culture of the only military we have."

The Center for Military Readiness is an independent public policy organization, founded in 1993, which specializes in military/social issues. To schedule an interview with CMR President Elaine Donnelly, please call **734/464-9430**.

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