

## Military Sexual Trauma (one-pager, MWVC)

Nearly one in four U.S. servicewomen reports being sexually assaulted in the military.

Of those that do report, 64% expressed that they were retaliated against for reporting.

For decades, sexual assault and harassment have festered through the ranks of the armed forces with military leaders repeatedly promising reform and then failing to live up to those promises.

Women remain a distinct minority, making up only [16.5 percent of the armed services](#), yet nearly one in four servicewomen reports experiencing [sexual assault](#) in the military, and more than half report experiencing harassment, according to a meta-analysis of 69 studies published in 2018 in the journal Trauma, Violence & Abuse. (Men are victims of assault and harassment, too, though at significantly lower rates than women.)

After their attacks, victims also rarely see justice. Of the more than 6,200 sexual-assault reports made by [United States service members in fiscal year 2020](#), only 50 — 0.8 percent — ended in sex-offense convictions under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, roughly one-third as many convictions as in 2019.

From 2009 to 2015, more than 22 percent of service members who left the military after reporting a sexual assault received a less-than-fully-honorable discharge, according to a 2016 investigation by the Department of Defense's Office of the Inspector General. That's nearly one and a half times more than the percentage of overall service members who received less-than-fully-honorable discharges from 2002 to 2013, according to data compiled in a March 2016 report by Swords to Plowshares, a veterans advocacy group.

And this is not a new issue.

Following the [murder of Specialist Vanessa Guillén](#) in 2020, whole sectors of society have become far more aware of the issue of sexual abuse, harassment, and other misconduct within the U.S. Armed Forces.

Congress has taken action by [passing multiple bills](#) to deal with sexual assault. The U.S. military has changed the way in which [sexual assault cases are processed](#). The White House has made [sexual harassment a crime](#) under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

To most everyone, Guillén's murder was a shocking event, one that stunned civilians and military personnel alike. However, this was not an isolated event, nor was it the first of its kind to strike the military and shock the public. Shadow McClaine was murdered by a fellow soldier at Ft. Campbell, KY in 2016. Often the victims have been blamed for their own assaults and murders.

Sadly, the issue of sexual assault and harassment within the military is one that has been building over time and been a known and serious problem since at least 1985.

It has been spoken of quietly since women began serving during the Revolutionary War.

### [A Look Back at the History of Sexual Assault in the Military Over the Years](#)

The care provided to those assaulted in service, or the VA continues to be uneven. We Advocate creation of a distinct, permanent occupational field for Sexual Assault Prevention and assistance personnel. It is a

critical step toward continuity, clarity and consistency across all elements of emergency care, reporting, ongoing medical, mental health and legal aide for survivors.

We are committed at the Military & Veteran Women's Coalition to addressing this epidemic and ending sexual assault and the retaliation that our Service Members are experiencing after reporting these crimes. Stand with us to address this serious issue and make your voice heard.

## **Resource Sites and orgs supplemented from W0menVetsUSA**

[#NotInvisible](#)

[Academy of United States Veterans \(annual recognition/awards event\)](#)

[Academy Women \(AW\)](#)

[Addiction Resource](#)

[Air Force Women Officers Associated \(AFWOA\)](#)

[All Navy Women's National Alliance \(ANWNA\)](#)

[Alliance for National Defense \(AND\)](#)

[ALS Association \(VA Benefits as of 2008\)](#)

[American Bar Association \(National Pro Bono Legal Services\)](#)

[American Women Veterans Foundation \(AWVF\)](#)

[American Women Veterans Sorority](#)

[AmericaServes \(Housing/Charlotte & Asheville area\)](#)

[Army Nurse Corps Association \(ANCA\)](#)

[Army Women's Foundation \(AWF\)](#)

[Association of Veteran Women, Inc.](#)

[CalVet Women Veterans Program \(California\)](#)

[Cardinal Retreats \(Veterans & Families\)](#)

[Code of Support Foundation \(Free case coordination assistance to providers & veterans\)\)](#)

Combat Sexual Assault

[Combatting Trafficking in Persons \(Department of Defense\)](#)

[Creative Healing Connections](#)

[DAV Transportation Network for Veterans](#)

[eMentor](#)

[F7 Group](#)

[Fallen Heroes Project \(Portraits for Families\)](#)

[Fatigues to Fabulous](#)

[For Women: U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#)

[Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 \(Includes VA & DOD Policies\)](#)

[Grace After Fire \(Wellness\)](#)

[Hawaii Vet 2 Vet, Inc.](#)

[Hidden Heroes \(Veteran & military caregivers\)](#)

[Homeless Veteran Stand Downs/Operation Reveille \(Calendar of nationwide recurring events linking veterans to housing, health care, & other services\)](#)

[Honor and Remember \(Flag for Families\)](#)

[Horses for Heroes--New Mexico, Inc. \(Equine Therapy\)](#)

In Their Honor

[I'm One. I'm a Proud Veteran./Outreach Campaign \(Department of Veterans Affairs\)](#)

[IAVA Rapid Response Referral Program \(Transitioning assistance for veterans & families\)](#)

[IAVA Women Veterans' Campaign](#)

[ID.me \(Veteran Identification Card/VIC issued by VA for all honorably discharged veterans\)](#)

In Their Honor, LLC

[Invitae \(Affordable Genetic Testing & Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008\)](#)

[Joining Forces for Women Veterans and Military Spouses Mentoring Plus](#)

[Justice for Vets](#)

[LadyBobette \(Speaking, Coaching, Consulting\)](#)

[Legal Services \(National Pro Bono Resources\)](#)

[Lifeline for Vets \(Suicide & Other Resources\)](#)

[Mentoring Women's Network](#)

[Military Women Across the Nation \(Formerly WAVES\)](#)

[Minority Women Veterans Organization](#)

Minority Veterans of America

Modern Military Association of America

[Ms. Veteran America](#)

[National Association of Black Military Women \(NABMW\)](#)

[National Association of State Women Veteran Coordinators \(NASWVC\)](#)

[National Center on Family Homelessness](#)

[National Human Trafficking Resource Center \(NHTRC\)](#)

[National League of Female Veterans, Inc. \(NLFV\)](#)

[National Park Service Lifetime Access Pass \(for disabled veterans\)](#)

[National Resource for Women Veterans \(NRWV\)](#)

[National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#)

[National Veterans Foundation](#)

[National Women Veterans of America \(NWVA\)](#)

[National Women Veterans United \(NWWU\)](#)

[National Women's Business Council](#)

[National Women's History Alliance](#)

National Women's Law Center (NWLC)

[Navy Nurse Corps Association \(NNCA\)](#)

[Nevada Military Support Alliance \(Assistance to families of fallen service members & catastrophically injured\)](#)

Never Alone

[One Million Thumbprints \(Violence Against Women in War\)](#)

[One Savvy Veteran](#)

[Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States](#)

[Operation Reinvent \(Employment\)](#)

[Paralyzed Veterans of America](#)

Pink Berets

[Polaris Project \(Human Trafficking\)](#)

Protect Our Defenders (POD)

[Quit Smoking Community](#)

[Rebuilding Together \(Home Repairs\)](#)

Red Feather Ranch

[Resolve \(National Infertility Association\)](#)

[ROMVETS \(Writers Network\)](#)

[Sea Service Leadership Association \(SSLA\)](#)

[SemperSarah](#)

Shield of Sisters

[Serenity Trauma Healing Center \(California\)](#)

[Serving Our Veterans \(Discounted Fertility Treatments for Wounded Warriors\)](#)

[Serving Our Veterans \(List of Discounted Fertility Clinics for Wounded Warriors\)](#)

Service Women's Action Network (S.W.A.N.)

Service: Women Who Serve

[She S.E.R.V.E.D., Inc.](#)

[Soldier On \(Housing & Services\)](#)

[Soldiers' Angels \(Care packages & food distribution\)](#)

[SoldierStrong \(Prosthetics\)](#)

[Somebody's Mama \(Women's Empowerment\)](#)

[Space Available \(Space-A\) Travel Eligibility](#)

[Space-A Travel Registration \(Includes DODI reference for eligibility & sign-up form\)](#)

[State Veteran Benefits](#)

[StatesideLegal](#)

[Swords to Plowshare: Shout! For Women Veterans \(California\)](#)

[Take Back the Night](#)

[The Mission Continues \(Community Volunteerism\)](#)

[Therapeutic Health Services: Women Veterans Program \(Washington\)](#)

[Thistle Farms](#)

[Trafficking Matters \(Federal\)](#)

[Transitional Housing in Communities \(At Risk of/Experiencing Homelessness}](#)

[TriState Women Veterans \(Indiana\)](#)

[United Farmer Veterans of Maine](#)

[United Military Women of the SouthWest](#)

[V-WISE: Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship](#)

[VA Center for Women Veterans](#)

[VA Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors Handbook, 2016 Edition](#)

[Veteran Identification Card/VIC \(ID.me issued by VA for all honorably discharged veterans\)](#)

[Veterans Authority](#)

[Veterans Justice Outreach Program \(Department of Veterans Affairs\)](#)

[Veterans Legal Services Initiative \(VetLex\)](#)

[Veterans Legislative Voice](#)

[Veterans Passport to Hope \(Colorado\)](#)

[Veterans Treatment Courts Locations](#)

[Vietnam Veterans of America Women Veterans Committee](#)

[Vietnam Women Veterans, Inc. \(non-nursing field\)](#)

[Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation, Inc. \(VWMF\)](#)

[Wings Across America/WASP on the Web \(Aviator\)](#)

[Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services \(WAVES\)](#)

[Women in Military Service for America \(WIMSA\) Memorial](#)

[Women in Military Service for America \(WIMSA\) Memorial "We Also Served Member" Registration](#)

[Women Marines Association \(WMA\)](#)

[Women Military Aviators, Inc. \(WMA\)](#)

[Women Under Fire](#)

[Women Veteran Social Justice](#)

[Women Veteran Speakers \(Speakers Bureau\)](#)

[Women Veterans Alliance \(California\)](#)

[Women Veterans Connect, Inc. \(WVC\)](#)

[Women Veterans Housing \(Resources for Women with Military Service Experiencing Homelessness or At Risk of Homelessness\)](#)

[Women Veterans Initiative \(Minnesota\)](#)

[Women Veterans Interactive \(WVI\)](#)

[Women Veterans of New Mexico](#)

[Women Veterans ROCK](#)

[Women Veterans' Meetups](#)

[Women Warriors Roar Blog \(Recognizing Service & Life\)](#)

[Women-Owned Small Businesses \(SBA\)](#)

[Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association](#)

[Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association \(WACVA\)](#)

[Women's Health: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Women's Health: Department of Health and Human Services](#)

[Women's Health: Department of Veteran's Affairs](#)

[Women's Health: Health Resources and Services Administration](#)

[Women's Overseas Service League \(WOSL\)](#)

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# MILITARY & VETERAN WOMEN'S COALITION

Uniting Servicewomen:  
Past, Present & Future