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Chairwomen Davis, distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you and discuss the Army's efforts to combat sexual assault.

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. Such behavior violates the very essence of what it means to be a Soldier and is a betrayal of the Army's core values. American Soldiers are members of a band of brothers and sisters, bound by common values, with duty and loyalty to each other that sets them apart from society. Time after time, Soldiers display acts of heroism that protect and save the lives of their fellow Soldiers.

It is in this context that the Army considers the crime of sexual assault and the enabling offense of sexual harassment; and the duty of every Soldier to intervene and stop such incidents before they occur. The vast majority of our Soldiers understand that sexual assault violates the Army's values and that Soldiers who commit this crime not only betray their victims; they betray the sacred trust of the band of brothers and sisters who count on them. Moreover, any Soldier who fails to intervene to protect a comrade from harassment or the risk of assault, has also forsaken their duty to never leave a fallen comrade.

The Army's goal remains unchanged: to eliminate sexual assault and harassment by creating a climate where inappropriate behavior is not accepted, and when recognized is addressed in a way that respects the dignity of every member of the esteemed band of brothers and sisters. Creating and maintaining such a climate is the responsibility of every leader at every level throughout the Army.

The Army continues to emphasize and improve our sexual assault victim services and response capabilities, but our efforts are increasingly focused on preventing sexual assaults before they occur. With the Secretary and Chief of Staff providing personal leadership, support, and guidance -- we launched a comprehensive sexual assault prevention campaign in 2008. The campaign

centers on leaders establishing a positive command climate where Soldiers understand and adhere to the Army's intent for all team members to act to ensure Soldiers' safety. The campaign further encourages Soldiers to personally execute peer-to-peer intervention and not tolerate behavior that, left unchecked, may lead to sexual assault. United in ownership of sexual assault prevention, leaders and Soldiers are spearheading the Army's efforts to achieve and sustain cultural change of generally accepted negative social behaviors that condone the crime of sexual assault.

The cornerstone of the Army's prevention campaign is the "I. A.M. Strong" program where the letters *I*, *A*, and *M*. stand for Intervene – Act – Motivate. Leaders must embrace the "I. A.M. Strong" initiatives and motivate Soldiers to proactively engage and prevent sexual assault. The "I. A.M. Strong" program features Soldiers as influential role models and provides peer-to-peer messages outlining the Army's intent for all its members to personally take action in the effort to protect our communities.

The Secretary of the Army introduced the Army's Sexual Assault Prevention Strategy and the "I. A.M. Strong" Sexual Assault Prevention Campaign at the Sexual Assault Prevention and Risk Reduction Training Summit on September 9, 2008. Over 250 attendees, including nearly 70 general officers, participated in the Summit; as did national subject matter experts, representatives from Congress, DoD and other Services; multiple Army staff personnel, and commanders and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program Managers down to the division level. General Officer and SAPR program manager attendees represented active and reserve commands, to include commands within Theater AOR.

The Summit served as a forum to launch Phase One ("Committed Army Leadership") of our prevention strategy by providing attendees training on best practices and the opportunity to develop their own command's prevention plans in alignment with overarching strategy. This first phase addresses one of the findings of the recent GAO Report which cited that while most commanders

support the program, some do not. We intend to ensure all Army commanders are committed to this effort.

- Phase Two of the prevention strategy and campaign is "Army-wide Conviction" and includes educating and training Soldiers to ensure they understand their moral responsibility to intervene to stop sexual assault and sexual harassment, and protect their fellow Soldiers.

- Phase Three culminates the dedicated effort of leaders and Soldiers under Phase One and Two by "Achieving Cultural Change" and establishing an environment that drives sexual assault and sexual harassment from our Army.

- The final phase is "Sustainment, Refinement and Sharing", during which we will continue to grow the Army's program while motivating national partners to embrace and support our committed efforts to change generally accepted negative social behaviors; thus eliminating the crime of sexual assault.

Also during the Sexual Assault Prevention Summit, the Secretary of the Army introduced the Sexual Assault Prevention Campaign video and our new prevention Strategic communication highlights Soldiers, as members of a band of brothers and sisters, bound together by common values. The video showcases sexual assault survivor testimonials and incorporates the "I. A.M. Strong" sexual assault prevention message.

Armed with copies of the "I. A.M. Strong" video, Commander's Guides, program materials, and their newly developed action plans, command representatives departed the Summit and began implementing the prevention strategy throughout the Army.

Our determination to prevent sexual assault is more than conferences, strategic communications and videos. A measurement of our strategy is the increase in Soldiers propensity to report the crime, which will demonstrate their confidence of their command, and will allow the Army to hold offenders

accountable for their actions. The number of reports of sexual assault (both restricted and unrestricted) in the Army during FY08 increased 4% from FY07; and we anticipate another increase in reporting during FY09 in conjunction with the full implementation of the "I. A.M. Strong" Campaign and a stated goal to encourage all victims of sexual assault to report the crime. As such, we expect a steady increase in reported assault, but a decline in actual assaults.

Other key components of our prevention campaign include:

- We have Integrated our Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault Prevention missions in order to ensure consistency in messaging, education and training. We believe this will add synergy to our prevention efforts as the behavior associated with sexual harassment can be a precursor to sexual assault. This integration also resulted in a re-naming of our program to Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, or "SHARP" Program. We have already reorganized at the Department level and are working through the necessary actions and resourcing for units in the field.

- We are developing Interactive Training in Conjunction with National Subject Matter Experts. This project includes two interactive, decision-making and communications tools. The first is focused on Initial Military Training, to include U.S. Military Academy, ROTC and JROTC cadets and new recruits. The second is designed for mandatory annual SHARP training for all Soldiers. These major revisions are intended to make our training more meaningful and more effective. This action also addresses a major finding in the last GAO Report.

- We have an ongoing Army-wide tour of the popular production known as "Sex Signals". "Sex Signals" is a 90-minute program with interactive skits that deal with dating, rape, consent, gender relations and other topics such as body language, alcohol and intervention. This innovative training method is used to educate audiences on social issues. The Army has contracted with Catharsis Productions for nearly 400 shows at Army installations and in the CENTCOM AOR during FY09.

- We are developing a Permission-based, Online Resource Site specifically for Commanders to facilitate the sharing of best practices, success stories, current initiatives and innovations around the entire prevention sphere of topics.

- We are also producing two additional Sexual Assault Prevention Training Videos to continue to promote "I. A.M. Strong" prevention initiatives among Soldiers and leaders.

- Our Second Annual Sexual Harassment/Assault Prevention Summit is planned for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April 2009) and will include Army Staff SHARP program proponents, commanders and their SAPR Program Managers, national subject matter experts, SAPR representatives from DoD, J-1 and other Services, as well as representatives from other Governmental Agencies.

- To incorporate the new prevention training focus, the Army is also revising the program training curriculum utilized in our Professional Military Training, which begins with basic combat training and culminates with General Officer training. In addition, the Army is revising our pre- and post-deployment training and annual training curriculum.

- A monitored Online Social Networking Site is under development to serve as a primary prevention venue intended to encourage Soldiers to actively engage within their peer communities to foster respectful treatment of others and prevent sexual assault.

- We also are standing up a "Promotions-on-Demand" Online Site featuring "I. A.M. Strong" marketing, branding, and promotional materials for units to order or print on-demand. Following an initial issue to battalion level units across the Army, all commands can use this site to re-supply or supplement their "I. A.M. Strong" Campaign products.

The Army is committed to funding these programs.

Another key component of our prevention campaign is a comprehensive effort to improve the Army's Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Assault Cases. While other jurisdictions may operate differently, the Army's practice is to formally investigate every allegation of sexual assault which results in an unrestricted report. Although this practice may contribute to a seemingly high number of cases, it also demonstrates the Army's commitment to thoroughly investigate all unrestricted reports of sexual assault. To further demonstrate that commitment, we are resourcing several initiatives in our Criminal Investigation Command and Judge Advocate General Corps:

- The Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) is hiring seven nationally recognized experts in the sexual assault field as consultants or Highly Qualified Experts. These experts will fill positions at the CID units in the field, at CID Headquarters, at the Army Military Police School (USAMPS), and at the US Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory (USACIL). These experts will:
 - Direct, manage, coordinate, and oversee worldwide CID sexual assault investigation programs.
 - Mentor agents on investigative techniques, requirements, and related subjects briefings.
 - Provide expert oversight for criminal investigations relating to such areas as rape and sexual assault.
 - Provide expert level training in investigating sensitive and complex sexual assault cases.
- CID is also hiring 30 additional special investigators to form sexual assault investigation teams (primarily at 22 major installations) to better address the conduct of sexual assault investigations. These teams will function similar to civilian police department Special Victim Units. Team members will receive increased specialized training from the Highly Qualified

Experts that are being hired, and they may also receive additional training or mentorship from local civilian police departments that have specialized units.

- The Army JAG Corps is working collaboratively with CID throughout the implementation of these initiatives. Recently the Secretary of the Army approved significant increases in personnel and training resources for the JAG Corps specifically targeted at sexual assault, including:

- Fifteen additional authorizations for Judge Advocates who will focus exclusively on litigation and training during 3 year tours – with an emphasis on sexual assault. These special prosecutors will be assigned to our busiest jurisdictions, just like the CID sexual assault investigation SVU teams.
- Hiring 7 Highly Qualified Experts (HQE) in the fields of special victim and sexual assault prosecution to augment our training base.

- We have already begun the process of hiring these subject matter experts, reflecting the Army's commitment to good order and discipline and to institutional excellence in the practice of criminal law. Additionally, we are devoting considerable resources to military justice training in concert with premier civilian training venues.

- The combination of the Special Victim Prosecutors and Highly Qualified Expert trainers, along with improved training courses for military justice practitioners will benefit the Soldiers and commanders we serve immeasurably and immediately.

Although we have significantly increased our efforts to prevent sexual assaults before they occur, the Army continues to emphasize victim services and response capabilities. We continue to fully resource an Army-wide victim advocacy program led by Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and supported by a cadre of professional Installation Victim Advocates (IVA) who

interact directly with victims of sexual assault and other response agencies such as medical, legal, law enforcement, and chaplain.

- During FY08, Army Installation SARC's trained 4,795 Unit Victim Advocates (UVA) and Deployable SARC's (DSARC), to include both initial and continuing education training.
 - DSARC's and UVAs provide advocacy services as needed in garrison environments and are the sole advocacy proponent in deployed environments, for geographically dispersed units in CONUS and OCONUS not serviced by an Installation.
 - Army policy requires one DSARC at each brigade level unit and higher echelon. Army policy requires two UVAs for each battalion sized unit.
 - During FY08, Army SAPR Program Managers in the CENTCOM AOR reported 81 trained DSARC's to oversee and administer the program in deployed units. Most units have more trained UVAs than the required two per battalion due to the geographical separation of some of their small units from the battalion.
- Also in FY08, an Army Mobile Training Team (MTT) also facilitated 11 training sessions for another 556 Soldiers and other personnel, including 456 newly appointed UVAs and DSARC's with the Army National Guard and Army Reserve.
- The U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) just revised its comprehensive sexual assault victim response regulation which requires military medical treatment facilities (MTF), including deployed combat support hospitals, to have trained Sexual Assault Care Coordinators (SACC) and Sexual Assault Clinical Providers (SACP).
- The Chaplain Corps continues to serve as a primary confidential counseling source for sexual assault victims. All first term Army chaplains

receive 200 hours of training in pastoral care and counseling. This "Pastoral Skills Training" program includes modules in empathic listening, assessment, and intervention, as well as specific modules on caring for victims of trauma, including sexual assault.

- As previously outlined, our other primary responders - the Army JAG Corps and CID - continue to upgrade their capabilities to investigate and prosecute cases of sexual assault. These initiatives, and others, are the result of the combined efforts of professionals who are dedicated to help the Army's SHARP program succeed.

To ensure our success, we continue to assess, refine, and improve our SHARP Program. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 owns the SHARP Program and chairs a General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC) whose charter is to oversee program execution, identify process improvements, and approve program initiatives. The GOSC, through the G-1 and SHARP Program Manager, provides regular updates to the Secretary and the Chief of Staff – both of whom remain personally involved in reinforcing to all Soldiers and leaders the importance of preventing sexual assault.

In closing, let me remind us all that the U.S. Army's prominence and positive reputation is largely due to its values, warrior ethos and dedicated professionals – both Soldiers and civilians. With the pending success of the "I. A.M. Strong" Sexual Assault Prevention Campaign, I am proud to say that the Army will more fully align itself with the values it professes.

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 us address this important issue. I look forward to answering your questions.