

B Focus Group Questions

COMMANDERS/SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISORS

1. Describe the command climate with respect to Sexual Assault.
 - a. How does the command encourage reporting?
 - b. What are the barriers to reporting?
 - c. What mechanism(s) is in place to evaluate risks/trends with respect to sexual misconduct?
 - d. Are you aware of any single, comprehensive information source regarding the support available, reporting processes involved and rights and regulations affecting victims and alleged offenders?
2. In regards to required policies and procedures (Service level, installation/local, immediate higher command, their level and subordinate commands) tell me about those concerning Sexual Assault:
 - a. Prevention?
 - b. Response?
 - c. Protection?
 - d. Notification requirements through the Chain of Command (Serious Incident Reports)
3. Describe your actions in the event of a Sexual Assault.
 - a. What resources are available to support the victim and the command in response to a Sexual Assault incident? (medical, mental health, law enforcement, legal, victim advocate, command)
 - i. Are there private channels for reporting and services?
 - ii. Describe your Victim Advocate program.
 - iii. Are these support functions timely? How do you know?
 - iv. From recent experience, describe coordination and interface between these support agencies
 - b. Where are the gaps?
 - c. Are there differences for responding or supporting a victim based on their gender?
 - d. What are the differences when deployed?
4. What training have you, your subordinate commanders and other members of your command received?
5. How are you or subordinate commanders and support functions held accountable for their response to reports of sexual assaults?
6. Discuss how you hold alleged offenders accountable? Are there differences in a deployed environment?
7. In the areas of Sexual Assault prevention, response, protection, accountability, what is working well?

8. What concerns do you have?
9. From your perspective, what recommendations or improvements would you make to improve responsiveness to the victim? And for your role in responding to incidents of Sexual Assault?
(institutional, toolkits)

(If you could speak one-on-one with Secretary Rumsfeld to discuss sexual assault, prevention, protection, and accountability, what would you tell him?)

ENLISTED (E-1 TO E-4)

1. Describe the command climate with respect to Sexual Assault.
 - a. How does the command encourage reporting?
 - b. What are the barriers to reporting?
 - c. Are you aware of any single, comprehensive information source regarding the support available, reporting processes involved and rights and regulations affecting victims and alleged offenders?
2. In regards to required policies and procedures, tell me about those concerning Sexual Assault:
 - a. Prevention?
 - b. Response?
 - c. Protection?
3. Describe your actions in the event of a Sexual Assault.
 - a. What resources are available to support the victim in response to a Sexual Assault incident? (medical, mental health, law enforcement, legal, victim advocate, command)
 - i. Are there private channels for reporting and services?
 - ii. Describe the Victim Advocate program.
 - iii. Are these support functions timely? How do you know?
 - iv. From recent experience, describe coordination and interface between these support agencies
 - b. Where are the gaps?
 - c. Are there differences for responding or supporting a victim based on their gender?
 - d. What are the differences when deployed?
4. What training have you received?
5. Are alleged offenders held accountable? Are there differences in a deployed environment?
6. In the areas of Sexual Assault prevention, response, protection, accountability, what is working well?
7. What concerns do you have and what recommendation would you make? (If you could speak one-on-one with Secretary Rumsfeld to discuss sexual assault, prevention, protection, and accountability, what would you tell him?)

PROVIDERS

1. Describe the command climate (both line and departmental perspectives) with respect to Sexual Assault.
 - a. Do either of these encourage or discourage reporting?
 - b. What are the barriers to reporting?
 - c. Are you aware of any single, comprehensive information source regarding the support available, reporting processes involved and rights and regulations affecting victims and alleged offenders?
2. In your area of expertise and your Service/command, describe required policies and procedures, tell me about those concerning Sexual Assault:
 - a. Prevention?
 - b. Response?
 - c. Protection?
3. Describe your actions in the event of a Sexual Assault.
 - a. What resources are available to support the victim in response to a Sexual Assault incident? (medical, mental health, law enforcement, legal, victim advocate, command)
 - i. Are there private channels for reporting and services?
 - ii. Describe the Victim Advocate program.
 - iii. Are these support functions timely? How do you know?
 - iv. Are there adequate resources for responding? (specialized equipment)
 - v. From recent experience, describe coordination and interface between these support agencies.
 - b. Where are the gaps?
 - c. Are there differences for responding or supporting a victim based on their gender?
 - d. What are the differences when deployed?
4. What training have you received? Is the training sufficient? Have you sought additional training from non-DOD sources?
5. In the areas of Sexual Assault prevention, response, protection, accountability, what is working well?
6. What concerns do you have and what recommendations would you make? (If you could speak one-on-one with Secretary Rumsfeld to discuss sexual assault, prevention, protection, and accountability, what would you tell him?)

VICTIM ADVOCATES

1. Describe your perception of command climate for the victims you work with.
 - a. Does it encourage or discourage reporting?
 - b. What are the barriers to reporting?
 - c. Are you aware of any single, comprehensive information source regarding the support available, reporting processes involved, and rights and regulation affecting victims and alleged offenders?
2. Describe required policies and procedures concerning Sexual Assault with respect to:
 - a. Prevention?
 - b. Response?
 - c. Protection?
3. Describe your actions in the event of a Sexual Assault.
 - a. How are you initially contacted?
 - b. What resources are available to support the victim in response to a Sexual Assault incident? (medical, mental health, law enforcement, legal, victim's advocate, command)
 - i. Are there private channels for reporting and services?
 - ii. Describe the Victim Advocate program.
 - iii. Are these support functions timely? How do you know?
 - iv. Are there adequate resources for responding? (specialized equipment)
 - v. From recent experience, describe coordination and interface between these support agencies.
 - c. Where are the gaps?
 - d. Are there differences for responding or supporting a victim based on their gender?
 - e. What are the differences when deployed?
4. What training have you received? Is the training sufficient? Have you sought additional training from non-DoD sources?
5. In the areas of Sexual Assault prevention, response, protection, accountability, what is working well?
6. What concerns do you have and what recommendations would you make? (If you could speak one-on-one with Secretary Rumsfeld to discuss sexual assault, prevention, protection, and accountability, what would you tell him?)

LEGAL

1. Describe the command climate with respect to Sexual Assault.
 - a. How does the command encourage reporting?
 - b. What are the barriers to reporting?
 - c. What choices are available for victim participation for command response? (charging decisions, alternate dispositions, “opting out”)
 - d. What mechanism is in place to evaluate risks/trends with respect to sexual misconduct?
 - e. What are your notification requirements through the Chain of Command (Serious Incident Reports)?
 - f. Are you aware of any single, comprehensive information source regarding the support available, reporting processes involved and rights and regulation affecting victims and alleged offenders?
2. How do you implement the Federal Victim’s Witness Assistance Program?
3. In regards to required policies and procedures (Service level, installation/local, immediate higher command, their level and subordinate commands) tell me about those concerning Sexual Assault:
 - a. Prevention?
 - b. Response?
 - c. Protection/Safety?
4. Describe your actions in the event of a Sexual Assault.
 - a. What resources are available to support the victim and the command in response to a Sexual Assault incident? (medical, mental health, law enforcement, legal, victim’s advocate, command)
 - i. Are there private channels for reporting and services?
 - ii. Describe your Victim Advocate program. (versus VWAP, inclusive of?)
 - iii. Are these support functions timely?
 - iv. From recent experience, describe coordination and interface between these support agencies.
 - b. Where are the gaps?
 - c. Are there differences for responding or supporting a victim based on their gender?
 - d. What are the differences when deployed?
 - e. Describe the relationships with local prosecuting authorities? (coalition considerations)
 - i. To resolve jurisdictional issues.
 - ii. Search and Seizure protocols. (accused and victim)
5. What training have you received with respect to Sexual Assault? Is the training sufficient? Have you sought additional training from non-DoD sources?
6. What are the primary issues/factors/concerns for taking judicial action or securing a conviction for charges of Sexual Assault? (evidentiary, victim’s conduct, consent)

7. In the areas of Sexual Assault prevention, response, protection, accountability, what is working well?
8. What concerns do you have and what recommendation would you make? (If you could speak one-on-one with Secretary Rumsfeld to discuss sexual assault, prevention, protection, and accountability, what would you tell him?)

VICTIM

1. How would you describe the command environment (or command climate) at the time of the assault?
 - a. Was sexual harassment or other indicators of indiscipline pervasive?
 - b. Does it encourage or discourage reporting?
 - c. What are the barriers to reporting?
 - d. Are you aware of any single, comprehensive information source regarding the support available, reporting processes involved and rights and regulation affecting victims and alleged offenders?
2. Prior to the Sexual Assault what was your familiarity with or training received regarding:
 - a. Prevention?
 - b. Reporting?
 - c. Your rights?
 - d. Available resources?
3. Did you report?
 - a. Was the person you reported to knowledgeable, sensitive and responsive?
 - b. To the extent possible, was your privacy respected?
 - c. How has reporting affected you?
4. Describe the command's response.
 - a. Safety. (physical and emotional)
 - b. Privacy/Confidentiality
 - c. Accountability
 - d. Retribution. (career)
5. What assistance was available or offered to you? Did you seek help?
 - a. What resources were available to support you? (medical, mental health, law enforcement, legal, victim's advocate, command)
 - i. Were there private channels for reporting and services?
 - ii. Describe support from the Victim Advocate program.
 - iii. Do you feel that adequate resources were/are available to support you?
 - iv. Were these support functions timely?
 - b. Are there gaps?
 - c. Were your needs met?
6. What concerns do you have and what recommendation would you make? (If you could speak one-on-one with Secretary Rumsfeld to discuss sexual assault, prevention, protection, and accountability, what would you tell him?)

LAW ENFORCEMENT/INVESTIGATORS

1. Describe the command climate with respect to Sexual Assault.
 - a. How does the command encourage reporting?
 - b. What are the barriers to reporting?
 - c. What choices are available for victim participation for command response? (charging decisions, alternate dispositions, “opting out”)
 - d. Are you aware of any single, comprehensive information source regarding the support available, reporting processes involved and rights and regulation affecting victims and alleged offenders?
2. What role do you play in implementing the Federal Victim’s Witness Assistance Program?
3. Describe required investigative policies and procedures concerning Sexual Assault.
4. What is your role with:
 - a. Prevention?
 - b. Response?
 - c. Protection/Safety?
5. Describe your actions in the event of a Sexual Assault.
 - a. What resources are available to support the victim and the command in response to a Sexual Assault incident? (medical, mental health, law enforcement, legal, victim’s advocate, command)
 - i. Are there private channels for reporting and services?
 - ii. Describe your interaction with the Victim Advocate program. (versus VWAP, inclusive of?)
 - iii. Are these support functions timely?
 - iv. From recent experience, describe coordination and interface between these support agencies and within law enforcement community.
 - b. Where are the gaps?
 - c. Are there differences for responding or supporting a victim based on their gender?
 - d. What are the differences when deployed?
 - e. Describe the relationships with local/military law enforcement agencies? (coalition considerations)
 - i. To resolve jurisdictional issues.
 - ii. Search and Seizure protocols. (accused and victim)
6. What training have you received? Is the training sufficient? Have you sought additional training from non-DoD sources?
7. What are ways that we could improve investigative process to strengthen prosecutorial outcomes for charges of Sexual Assault?
7. In the areas of Sexual Assault prevention, response, protection, accountability, what is working well?

8. What concerns do you have and what recommendation would you make? (If you could speak one-on-one with Secretary Rumsfeld to discuss sexual assault, prevention, protection, and accountability, what would you tell him?)