

ANALYSIS OF VICTIM EXPRESSED EXPERIENCE

ISSUE

1. The purpose of this BN is to provide additional information to the Court Martial Comprehensive Review Team (CMCRT) in regards to member lived experience with criminal justice system interaction.

BACKGROUND

2. The Sexual Misconduct Response Centre was contacted by the CMCRT in order to provide both qualitative and quantitative data regarding member experience of the military criminal justice system.

3. The qualitative data provided was culled and de-aggregated from the Case Management System case notes. This de-aggregated data was broken into general themes representing first person, third party or Chain of Command experiences with Harmful and Inappropriate Sexual Behaviour¹ in which the military criminal justice system became involved.

4. Some situations represent only the Chain of Command involvement, while others had MP/civilian police and JAG involvement. Not every situation went to Court Martial and in very few cases was the SMRC made aware of the final outcome.

5. Finally, the data are primarily a subjective description of the person's lived experience with the military criminal justice system as a whole, as very few who contacted the SMRC made a distinction between the component parts of the system be they Chain of Command, MP/NIS, JAG and Court Martial.

CONSIDERATIONS

6. As a result of their experience, victims of sexual assault are required to navigate numerous services within the military justice system (ex: Chain of Command, Military Police/NIS, JAG, civilian police). This means that at any point in time, depending on the victim's experience with any of these points of contact, they may decide to withdraw from the process. For example, a victim could have a very positive experience with a NIS officer but decide to withdraw after feeling dismissed by a JAG. A victim could also decide to withdraw right after feeling re-victimized during a victim interview with the NIS. Therefore, when reviewing the court martial process and its impact on victims, it is important to consider the system as a whole and how it interacts together to best support the members.

7. The decision to withdraw from the process can have a tremendous impact on the member's mental health; these incidents have the potential to exacerbate depression

¹ For the purpose of this analysis, the cases reviewed included those where the caller stated the involvement of the military criminal justice as a result of a sexual assault, a sexual offence or sexual harassment.

symptoms, suicidal behaviour, maladaptive coping mechanisms (addictions, risk behaviours) and can gravely affect both their Canadian Armed Forces and post CAF career choices and subsequently their socio-economic future (difficulty finding jobs, emotional instability, etc.). In addition to acting as an unintentional barrier for other members who may wish to come forward. The quality of their support systems following the sexual assault received when victims reach out for help, and how authorities respond have a powerful impact on their post-traumatic recovery.

CONCLUSION

8. Harmful and Inappropriate Sexual Behaviour within the Canadian Armed Forces represents a significant risk to the overall morale and welfare. For the larger organization, HISB creates vulnerabilities as they pertain to overall unit cohesion and effectiveness thus jeopardizing overall operational readiness. Improving the the integrity of the current court martial system would include elements such as provision of victim advocates, victim access to independent JAG legal advice to assist with specific legal questions, procedural or otherwise, improving transparency and the responsiveness of all component parts of the military criminal justice process by reducing silos between systems and finally increasing the overall level of education and awareness of victim behaviour re: neurobiology of trauma and Forensic Experiential Trauma Investigation.

9. It is noted that the issue of enhanced victim support (including victim liaison assistance) is being reviewed by the Canadian Armed Forces Strategic Response Team on Sexual Misconduct, the SMRC as well as other key stakeholders (including JAG).

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Responsible Group Principal:

Date Prepared: 05/04/2017

Annexes: 5

Annex A: Quantitative Statistical Analysis for Courts Martial Review Process

Annex B: Qualitative Statistical Analysis for Courts Martial Review Process

Annex C: Existing Legal Assistance Programs

Annex D: Military Police Liaison Officer Role

Annex E: Briefing Note on Advocacy

ANNEX A

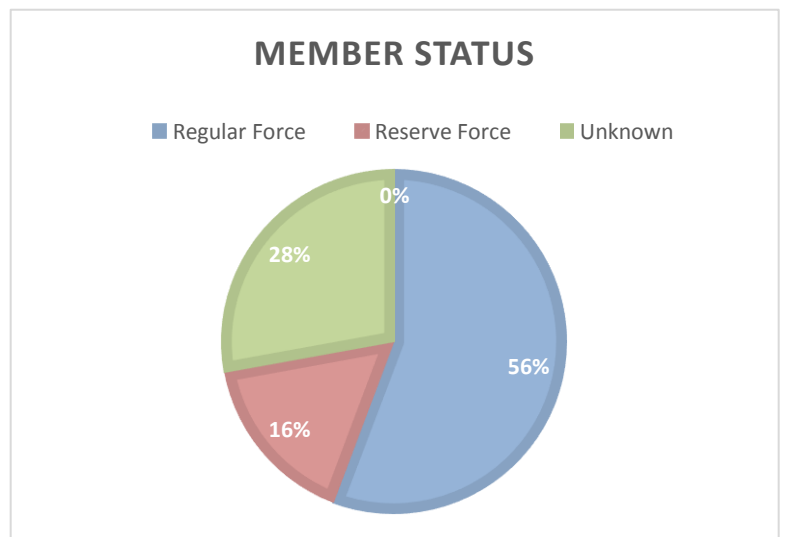
29 March 2017

Re: Quantitative Analysis for Courts Martial Comprehensive Review Team

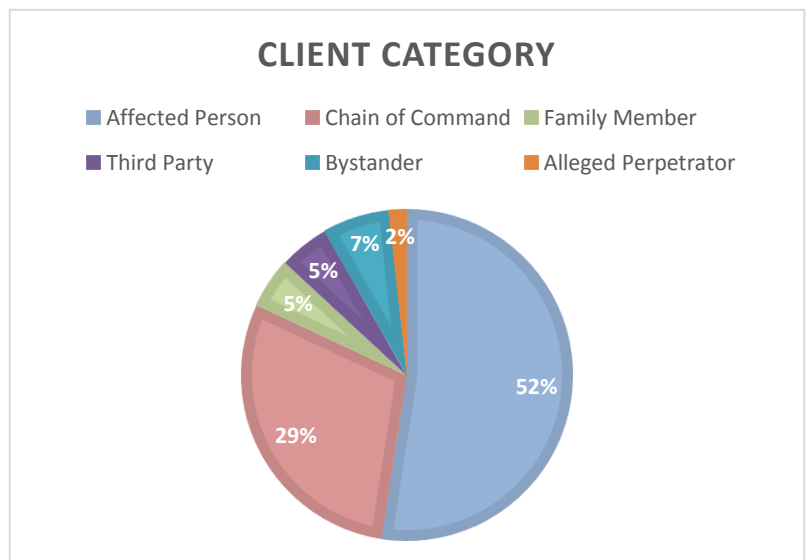
From: SMRC Response and Support Team

This data only includes statistics regarding callers who have identified themselves as current CAF members (some do not specify whether they are regular force or reservists). It also only includes members who identify as having reported their experience and been involved with the military justice system in some way. It is also important to note that although the members called in the past year, it does not mean that their experience occurred in the past year or that they reported in the past year. These numbers represent callers to the SMRC who were involved with military justice system between May 1, 2016 and March 21, 2017.

Member status:	
Regular Force	34
Reserve Force	10
Unknown	17
Total CAF Members	61



Client Category	
Affected Person	32
Chain of Command	18
Family Member	3
Third Party	3
Bystander	4
Alleged Perpetrator	1

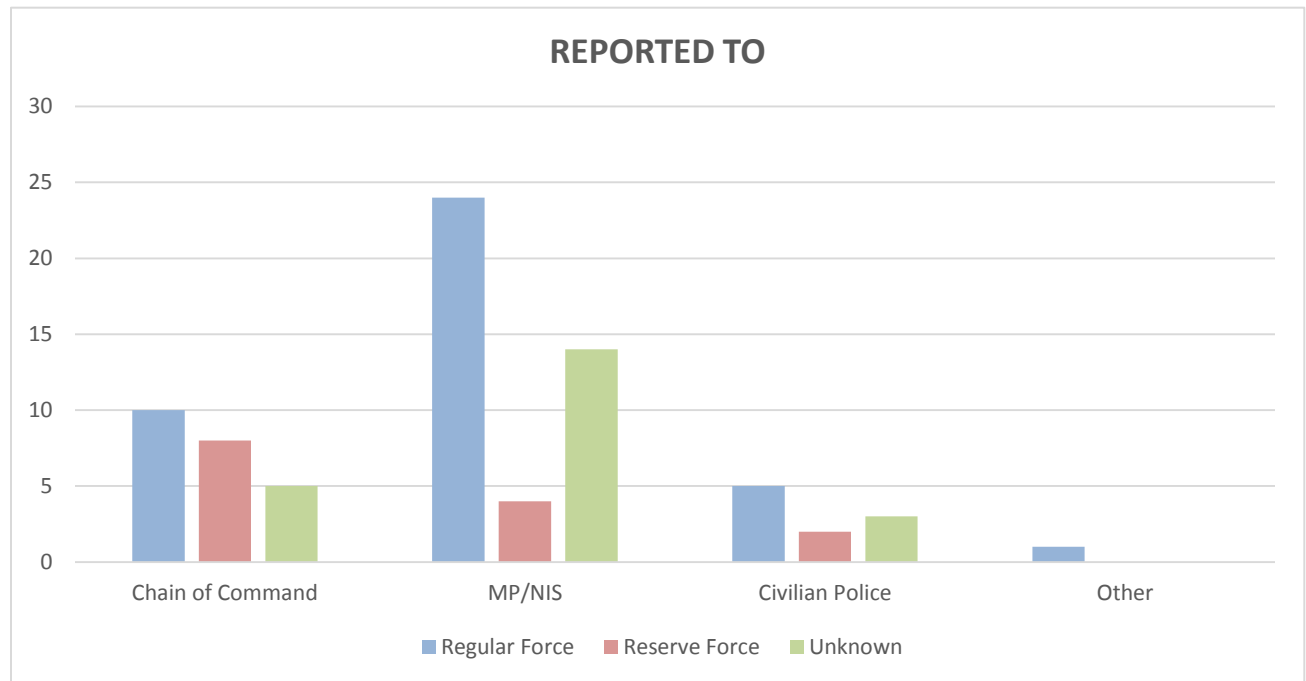


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Reported to - Regular Force:	
Chain of Command	10
MP/NIS	24
Civilian Police	5
Other - identify	1 (HA)

Reported to - Reserve Force:	
Chain of Command	8
MP/NIS	4
Civilian Police	2
Other - identify	

Reported to - Unknown	
Chain of Command	5
MP/NIS	14
Civilian Police	3
Other - identify	



Some members reported to more than one entity (ex: CoC + MP/NIS).

ANNEX A

Concerns Expressed by Callers

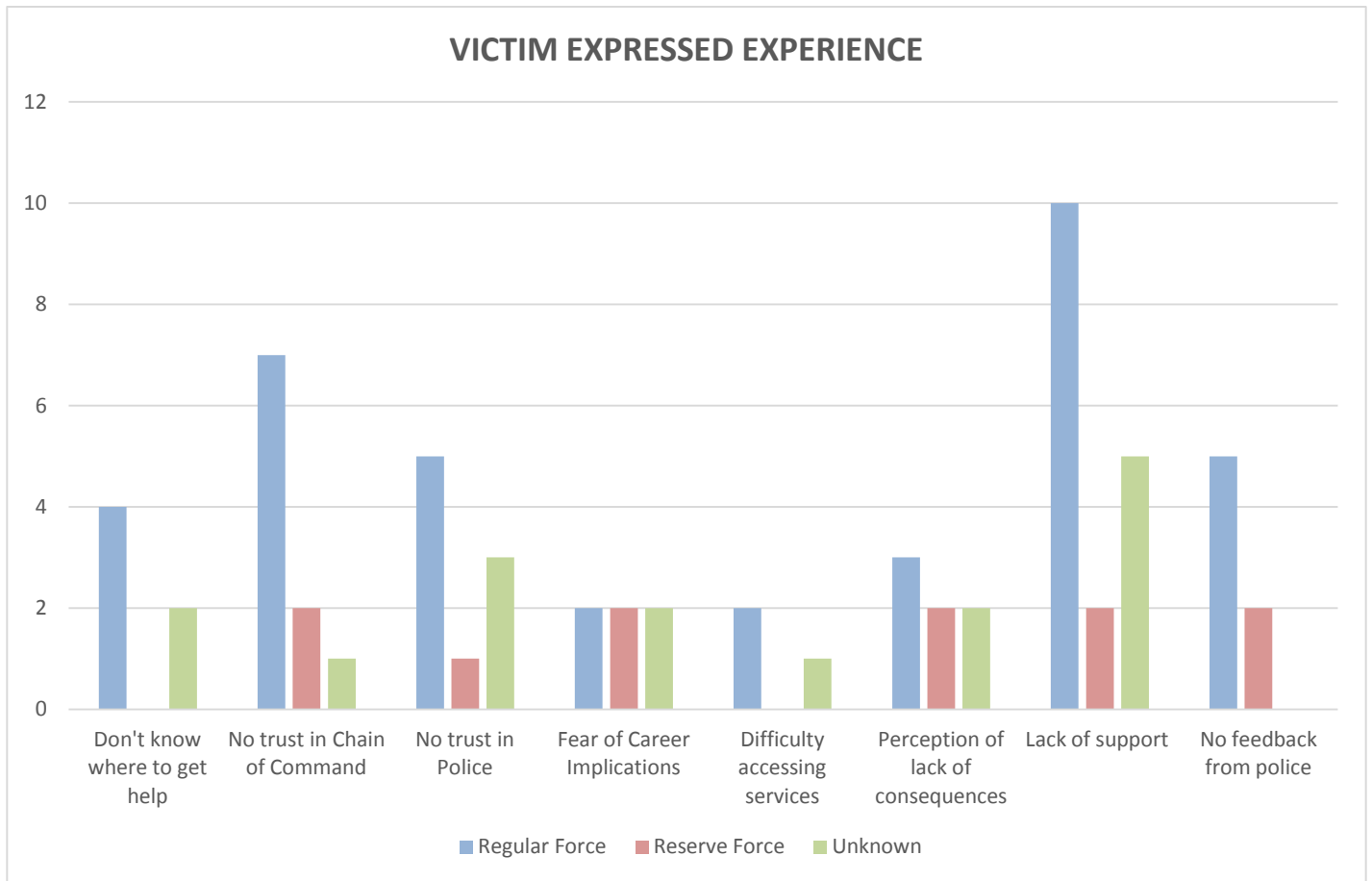
Victim expressed experience - Regular Force	
Don't know where to get help	4
No trust in Chain of Command	7
No trust in Police	5
Fear of Career Implications	2
Difficulty accessing services	2
Perception of lack of consequences	3
Lack of support	10
No feedback from police	5

Victim expressed experience – Reserve Force	
Don't know where to get help	
No trust in Chain of Command	2
No trust in Police	1
Fear of Career Implications	2
Difficulty accessing services	
Perception of lack of consequences	2
Lack of support	2
No feedback from police	2

Victim expressed experience - Unknown	
Don't know where to get help	2
No trust in Chain of Command	1
No trust in Police	3
Fear of Career Implications	2
Difficulty accessing services	1
Perception of lack of consequences	2
Lack of support	5
No feedback from police	

This data outlines what was reported to the SMRC by victims. They should not be taken out of context. Please refer to qualitative analysis for more information.

ANNEX A



The outcome of investigation is not known unless callers have specified the outcome as callers may be contacting the SMRC at any time during the course of an investigation.

Additional Details indicating outcome of Reporting - MP/NIS - Regular Force	
Charges Laid	5
Awaiting Trial	2
Trial Completed	2
Did not proceed/ reason	
Unknown if legal process is proceeding	3
Decided not to make statement	2
Jurisdictional issues between NIS/MPs and Civilian Police Force	
Unclear who to report to	
Was told they could not proceed with laying charges - not enough evidence	5
Ongoing investigation	7

ANNEX A

Additional Details indicating outcome of Reporting - MP/NIS - Reserve Force	
Charges Laid	
Awaiting Trial	
Trial Completed	
Did not proceed/ reason	
Unknown if legal process is proceeding	
Decided not to make statement	1
Jurisdictional issues between NIS/MPs and Civilian Police Force	3
Unclear who to report to	
Was told they could not proceed with laying charges - not enough evidence	1
Ongoing investigation	

Additional Details indicating outcome of Reporting - MP/NIS - Unknown	
Charges Laid	2
Awaiting Trial	1
Trial Completed	
Did not proceed/ reason	
Unknown if legal process is proceeding	
Decided not to make statement	2
Jurisdictional issues between NIS/MPs and Civilian Police Force	
Unclear who to report to	
Was told they could not proceed with laying charges - not enough evidence	3
Ongoing investigation	2

Additional Details indicating outcome of Reporting - Civilian Police - Regular Force	
Charges Laid	1
Awaiting Trial	
Trial Completed	
Did not proceed/ reason	
Unknown if legal process is proceeding	
Decided not to make statement	
Jurisdictional issues between NIS/MPs and Civilian Police Force	1
Unclear who to report to	
Was told they could not proceed with laying charges - not enough evidence	
Ongoing investigation	2

ANNEX A

Additional Details indicating outcome of Reporting - Civilian Police - Reserve Force	
Charges Laid	
Awaiting Trial	
Trial Completed	
Did not proceed/ reason	
Unknown if legal process is proceeding	
Decided not to make statement	
Jurisdictional issues between NIS/MPs and Civilian Police Force	3
Unclear who to report to	
Was told they could not proceed with laying charges - not enough evidence	
Ongoing investigation	1

Additional Details indicating outcome of Reporting - Civilian Police - Unknown	
Charges Laid	
Awaiting Trial	
Trial Completed	
Did not proceed/ reason	
Unknown if legal process is proceeding	
Decided not to make statement	
Jurisdictional issues between NIS/MPs and Civilian Police Force	
Unclear who to report to	
Was told they could not proceed with laying charges - not enough evidence	
Ongoing investigation	

Re: Qualitative Analysis of Calls to SMRC for Courts Martial Review Process

From: SMRC Response and Support Team

Lack of support	Lack of trust	Lack of Transparency	Perception of lack of consequences	Systems working in Silos	Areas for Improvement/Closing Gaps
<p>Lack of support for victim throughout military justice system (x17):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victim not explained the process/what to expect Victim left in the dark regarding decisions made on her case Victim alone during the Court Martial/MPs/Hospital Victim could not access adequate services in language of choice Difficulty accessing support services/doesn't know where to go (x3) Victim feels overwhelmed by the process/self-blame/shame/guilt/humiliated Chain of Command supporting perpetrator by sending unit to court, victim Chain of Command did not provide any court support MPs not being responsive to the victim/No feedback from MP/NIS, civilian <p>Lack of support</p>	<p>Lack of trust in Military Justice System (x10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victim afraid of how S.A would be perceived by military justice system b/c she had previous sexual relationship with alleged perpetrator. Victim does not believe that MPs are correctly handling case (x4) Member wants to leave unit because of unattended HISB in unit (multiple complaints made to CoC regarding behaviour of others while on training) - CoC does not appear to take situation seriously 	<p>Appearance of lack of transparency throughout military justice system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victim left in the dark as to why a sentencing decision was made. Long delays from prosecution/no contact with victim for several months re: status of case. MP subtly encouraged victim not to go through with charges Perceived retaliation - lack of transparency in what was done regarding incident on behalf of CoC 	<p>Lessened consequences (x7).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member was sexually assaulted. Alleged perpetrator was "asked to retire" instead of going forward with an investigation. Perceived indifference on behalf of the CAF. Member sexually assaulted while on training. Reports it to CoC, alleged perpetrator has a note written in file and sent home for "family reasons". No further actions are taken. Member reports sexual assault to civilian police. Both CoCs are made aware. Alleged perpetrator gets promoted. Alleged perpetrator removed from command during S.A investigation. Victim is posted out of unit and alleged perpetrator placed back in command position before investigation is over. S.A. reported to civilian police. Alleged perpetrator promoted/sent on training courses (x3). <p>Perception of lack of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JAG expressing resistance to recommending administrative measures and actions following charges being laid but before court decision being rendered (x2) Alleged perpetrator had a previous sexual assault charge in another province. 2nd Victim and perpetrator both posted to JPSU and were employed in adjacent buildings and would often see one another During investigation both victim and perpetrator assigned to the same training course Alleged perpetrator removed from command position during sexual assault investigation. Victim was then posted out of the unit afterwards perpetrator was placed back in command position with the organization assuming the risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient education on the neurobiology of trauma and behaviours victims can exhibit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MP called a victim a "fucking liar" A perceived lack of skill on the behalf of the MP in managing a sexual assault case A lack of knowledge regarding what constitutes consent on behalf of the investigating MP Ongoing Chain of Command support and education re: HISB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No administrative charges laid after inappropriate touching (no criminal charges laid either) CoC reluctant to contact MP's re: clear sexual assault, preference to manage situation via sexual harassment complaint Unclear as to what constitutes sexual assault and criminal behaviour, MP's were not contacted no charges laid. CoC concerned that they are feeling unprepared/unequipped to properly support victims through the process CoC feeling unequipped or unaware of procedural measures

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	Lack of trust	Lack of Transparency	consequences	Systems working in Silos	Areas for Improvement/Closing Gaps
police/Lack of follow-up (x5)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perpetrator charged with a lesser crime (x2). 	<p>RESERVISTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases going back and forth between civilian and military justice systems. Victims not provided with any guidance or support (“given the runaround” by police) (x2) Victim informed by civilian police that her sexual assault was “not a priority” but were not willing to close the file in order for the MP’s to open a new file. 	regarding HISB incidents within their unit

ANNEX C

Existing Legal Assistance Program Review

The relationship between victims of crime and the criminal justice system is complex; the addition of a traumatic crime creates further complications for everyone involved. Survivors can feel left behind by a system which holds all of the knowledge, power and expertise and is indifferent to their suffering at best or re-traumatizing at worst. Although some efforts have been made to prepare survivors for the criminal justice system, these efforts are inconsistent. Being able to balance the needs of victims, defendants and the courts to clearly articulate how and why charges are or are not laid; deciphering what, how and why sentences are arrived at is an art which requires great finesse, patience and compassion. It must also be understood and validated that just because an accusation did not result in someone going to prison does not mean that something bad did not occur i.e. the bar for criminal conviction is high.

Source	Program	Delivery Method	Purpose/Objective
MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO, 2016	Independent Legal Advice for Survivors of Sexual Assault Pilot Program	Survivors of sexual assault living in the City of Toronto, the City of Ottawa, or the District of Thunder Bay, may be eligible to receive up to four hours of free legal advice to help you make informed decisions about your next steps.	The pilot program provides eligible survivors with up to four hours of free, legal advice from one or more lawyers on the referral list by phone, or in person.
Sexual assault survivors are encouraged to access independent legal advice through this pilot program as a way to better educate themselves on the criminal justice system in Ontario thus obtain the support, resources and knowledge required to make an informed decision as to next steps. Information regarding the high burden of proof that the Crown requires in order to obtain conviction requires preparation as it pertains to cross examination from defense counsel. Additionally, the independent legal advice can provide information on other legal options available.			
"Legal Assistance to Victims of Sexual Assault": General Counsel for the U.S. Secretary of Defense, 2012	SPECIAL VICTIMS COUNSELORS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE	Survivors of sexual assault who are eligible receive independent military legal counsel who assist them throughout the duration of interaction with the Court Marshal process.	These arrangements exist to supplement and enhance the current system as well as adequately address the gaps in trial and court preparation, ensure appropriate lines of questioning and for sexual assault victims to attain a certain level of participation which does not interfere with due process.
"...zealous representation to clients. Constrained only by ethical limits, the SVC's shall represent the best interests of their clients as appropriate...will foster victims understanding of the military justice process and aid(ing) each victim with the legal assistance needed to allow full participation...this will be accomplished by providing effective			

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and timely advice, being available to assist throughout the full spectrum of the military justice practice from initial investigation to convening authority action, and providing appropriate advocacy to assure rights are fully realized.” SVA’s are permitted to attend all interviews of the victim by investigators and may advocate a victim’s interests to any actor in the military justice process, including , but not limited to, commanders, convening authorities, Staff Judge Advocate Trial Counsel, the accused’s trial defense counsel, and, to the extent authorized, the military judge. In addition, the victims will be notified of the opportunity to provide input during the post-trial process.”

ANNEX D

5 April 2017

Re: Military Police Liaison Officer

The establishment of a single point of contact for the SMRC counsellors and for members who so request with a Military Police Liaison Officer (MPLO) has proven an effective means to ensure that members who wish to obtain more information about reporting processes can become well-informed before any formal investigation take place. In some situations, members of the chain of command have also requested to speak with the MPLO for information regarding alleged sexual offences.

Managing waves of emotions while navigating issues involved in reporting an alleged sexual assault can be daunting. It can be particularly intimidating for members who have experienced such a traumatic incident in the very environment where they should feel the safest. From its inception, the SMRC was assigned a Military Police Liaison Officer (MPLO) which formalized the partnership with the Military Police/Canadian Forces National Investigation Service and provides a single point of contact for SMRC counsellors. The MPLO is trained in trauma informed policing and very experienced in conducting sexual assault investigations. Individuals can choose to speak with the MPLO anonymously via a live call transfer which, upon the member's request, can be facilitated by the counsellors. The MPLO readily answers questions on the investigation process, the military criminal justice process, individuals' rights as well as what can be expected if they choose to make a formal complaint. With the knowledge of available options and the formal complaint process, the SMRC and the MPLO help individuals to make informed decisions and have realistic expectations of potential outcomes and timelines. The success of SMRC's partnership with the MPLO is largely the result of a shared commitment to work together in addressing barriers to CAF members reporting incidents of sexual misconduct. The benefits of this relationship for CAF members affected by sexual misconduct are demonstrated time and time again.

Since September 2016, the Canadian Forces Military Police now have a specially trained response team dedicated to supporting the investigation of criminal sexual offences throughout the Canadian Armed Forces and Department of National Defence. The 18-member Sexual Offence Response Team (SORT) increases the ability of the CFNIS to protect and support victims of sexually based offences by identifying, investigating and helping prosecute persons responsible for criminal sexual offences. In addition to standard training received by all CFNIS investigators, members of the Sexual Offence Response Team also receive specialized training in investigating sexual assault; physical abuse and child death; investigating offences against children; investigative and forensic interviewing techniques; and trauma informed care training. When a case is reported to the MPLO, he in turns reports the new file to his HQ. It is then assigned to one of the 6 detachments in Canada and the appropriate Detachment Commander assigns the case to his or her SORT.

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BRIEFING NOTE FOR: CMCRT

VICTIM ADVOCACY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Refs: A. ERA Report

B. FRAG O 002 to CDS OPORD - Operation HONOUR

Appendix 1: Literature Review

ISSUE

1. The purpose of this BN is to inform and provide research to the CMCRT in regards to Victim Advocacy Programs and Services.

BACKGROUND

2. Assigning responsibility for providing victim support, including the responsibility for advocating on behalf of victims in the complaint and investigation processes was one of the recommendations from the External Review Authority (ERA), specifically, recommendation #9.

3. The development of a Victim Liaison Assistance Program to ensure that victims of sexual misconduct have the option of being supported by specifically trained personnel and legal entities as their case progresses through the civilian and military systems is a task that was assigned to MILPERSCOM by the CDS in Annex A to FRAG O 002 to CDS OPORD - Operation HONOUR.

4. Currently, victims of sexual assault in the CAF are required to navigate complex medical and criminal justice systems all by themselves whilst also processing the trauma they experienced. There is no comprehensive CAF victim support program and no standardized service for support across the CAF. Support is limited to whatever the Unit can provide and SMRC referral services and supportive counselling. Victims who must repeatedly reach out for assistance often fatigue and give up, which in turn contributes to the low reporting and help-seeking rates.

5. This lack of support is inconsistent with the majority of Canadian society where most victims have access to advocacy services in the form of sexual assault crisis centres.

6. Currently, our allies have already implemented and continue to support victims through advocacy services. For example, The United States Department of Defense has victim advocates that are available to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They facilitate care for the victim, provide ongoing nonclinical support and monthly case status updates, assist victims with accessing resources and provide information on options. Australia's Department of Defense has also developed an advocacy component to support their members. Their service includes a support coordinator who will work with victims of HISB to ensure they have access to a counsellor, and will work with the victim and Chain of Command to ensure the victim's continued safety. They will also set up appropriate, longer-term support arrangements to aid victims in their recovery.

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DISCUSSION

7. Advocacy services can assist in reducing barriers in several ways; navigating complex medical and criminal justice systems, avoiding re-traumatization and re-victimization, providing comfort, reassurance and information. Advocates also provide an important role in reducing the stigma and barriers to disclosure such as shame, guilt and self-blame.

8. Research (See Annex A for literature review) indicates that advocacy can lead to increased levels of satisfaction with both the medical and criminal justice system. It has also been shown to reduce levels of re-traumatization and thus reduce the likelihood of the long term use of medical and mental health services.

CONCLUSION

9. Advocacy offers a wide range of support services available for victims of sexual assault. By enhancing victim support, it could have significant impact on the CAF by helping increase trust in the Chain of Command and Military Justice System, reducing re-traumatization resulting in better retention of CAF victims as well as restoring operational effectiveness more quickly.

Prepared by: Elyse Gagnon, MSW, SMRC, 613-996-3856

Date prepared: 05/04/2017

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Appendix A: LITERATURE REVIEW

In this literature review, we summarized research pertaining to victim advocacy programs and services. These programs were generally located in civilian settings. Victim advocacy services are typically offered by rape crisis centres, organizations expressly dedicated to victim advocacy (even beyond sexual assault) and institutions focused on counseling services. Advocates have an area of expertise in the various structures that victims will encounter. An advocate does not provide legal advice but provides information that will help a person to make informed decisions. Depending on the program, advocates can: facilitate care for the victim, provide information on resources, assist victim in making contact with agencies and systems (shelters, law enforcement, medical and social services), accompaniment services (hospital, police, court), assist with victim impact statements, provide case status updates to victims etc.

Source	Sample	Method	Study Purpose/Objective
CAMPBELL, 2006	Female rape victims who sought medical treatment (Michigan, U.S)	Interviews	Assess the impact of rape victim advocate involvement on rape victims' experiences with the medical and legal systems
<p>Victims who received assistance from a rape victim advocate were more likely to have police reports taken, were less likely to disclose secondary victimization by police, and indicated less distress stemming from their legal system experience. Victims who used a rape victim advocate received more medical services and were less likely to report secondary victimization by health care professionals, and they indicated less distress based on their interaction with the medical system.</p>			
Campbell and Salem, 1999	Rape victim advocates; rape crisis centre staff members (Michigan, U.S)	Interviews, pile sort	Illustrate the utility of the concept mapping method and identify how the legal, medical, and mental health systems could more effectively meet sexual assault victims' needs.
<p>The final concept map included 10 clusters of recommendations for broad-based changes and system-specific ones related to the following areas: victim attitudes and behaviors, community education, policy changes, policies and services for rape crisis center and mental health professionals, sensitizing medical staff, sensitizing polices, tips for juries, tips for prosecutors, medical services and court improvements.</p>			
Karjane, Fisher, and Cullen, 2002	institutions of higher education (U.S.)	Secondary data analysis, surveys, Focus Groups	Conduct a comprehensive baseline investigation of campus sexual assault policies and procedures.
<p>The report is organized around nine major sets of findings, including variation in definitions of sexual assault; the existence and publication of policies for campus sexual assault; training for those to whom sexual assaults tend to be reported; on- and off-campus reporting options and procedures for sexual assault victims; and resources available for victims' safety, support, medical treatment and counselling.</p>			

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<p>Kelley et al., 2005</p>	<p>Patrons of a military sexual assault prevention program that provides trained advocates to victims (U.S.)</p>	<p>Survey</p>	<p>Assess the navy Sexual Assault Victim Intervention (SAVI) Program</p>
<p>Respondents believed that training provided sufficient sexual assault prevention and satisfied the program objectives. Those respondents that had been sexual assault victims also believed the program had helped them cope with the sexual trauma.</p>			
<p>Koss, 2006</p>	<p>Literature on victims, victim advocates, health care providers, investigators, and the legal system (U.S.)</p>	<p>Literature review</p>	<p>Identify victims' needs and assess how well the community, the justice system in particular, responds to them.</p>
<p>Five topics are covered in this review: health care and criminal justice needs created by sexual assault; the range of formal support providers that assist victims; the ability of current criminal and civil justice options to satisfy victims' justice needs; agreement between restorative justice elements and the anti-rape movement's values and priorities; and a call to action to those working to end sexual assault. The author emphasizes an evaluation of justice system processes, including reporting, prosecution, trials, civil tort options, non-tort civil actions, and legal reforms. Other sections of the review pertain to re-victimization before and during a trial, and victim-centered justice options, ranging from charging decision-related changes to restorative justice.</p>			
<p>Lang and Brockway, 2001</p>	<p>Stakeholders from the criminal justice system, medical system, and victim advocacy organizations (Michigan, U.S.)</p>	<p>Not specified</p>	<p>Identify barriers to service and to justice for sexual assault victims, suggest ways to reduce those barriers, and devise strategies to implement the solutions developed by the task force</p>
<p>The report is divided into four sections, in which both important issues and recommendations are briefly summarized. The prevention section describes developing a larger coordinated system and working with the media. The victim services section describes needed services, collaboration and cooperation needs, reaching underserved populations, and service accessibility. Issues outlined in the medical system pertain to coordination across disciplines, mandated reporting of sexual assault, training, forensic nurse examiner programs, drug and alcohol facilitated assault, SAFE collection kits, and evidentiary exams. The last section, on the criminal justice system, covers a statewide law enforcement protocol for sexual assault cases, training, prosecution, court practices, sex offender treatment and management, DNA-based arrest warrants, assaults of adolescents, assaults of people with disabilities, Michigan's rape shield law and rules of evidence, and legislative issues.</p>			
<p>Monroe et al., 2005</p>	<p>Sexual assault victims who received treatment at sexual assault centers (Maryland U.S.)</p>	<p>Interviews</p>	<p>Assess the experiences, needs, and recommendations of sexual assault victims treated at Maryland sexual assault centers</p>
<p>Only 19% of interviewees knew that they would not be charged hospital fees for sexual assault services, and just 40% treated at a hospital indicated they indeed had not been charged. All services provided by a sexual assault center were favorably viewed. Group therapy for sexual assault victims was the most frequently cited recommendation for improved care at sexual assault centers, and interviewees also recommended opening more centers and providing additional services for sexual victims.</p>			

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Ullman and townsend, 2007	Rape victim advocates (U.S)	Interviews	identify barriers that victim advocates face in supporting sexual assault victims
<p>Four categories of barriers were identified: societal attitudes, organizational barriers, staff burnout, and direct service barriers. Societal attitudes identified included denial of rape and biases related to race and class, gender, sexual orientation, and disabilities. Organizational barriers included lack of funding, environmental factors, a clash of philosophies regarding professionalization, and racism. Staff burnout was related to inadequate supervision, inadequate pay, lack of support, lack of accountability, rigid work demands, and worker abuse. Direct service barriers included access and availability barriers, lack of resources to meet survivor needs, and secondary victimization.</p>			
Hellman, 2014	Literature on adult women’s recovery from sexual assault. (U.S.)	Literature review	To examine the state of the science of sexual assault research to direct future research in three key areas: responses, mediators, and current theory
<p>A larger number of articles looked at factors that affected recovery. Increased positive support led to better outcomes, whether that was informal support or structured therapy. In addition, survivors did better when they felt like they had more control during the recovery period, and when they used a greater number of coping strategies. The response to disclosure was important as well. As survivors divulged their attack, how listeners responded determined future incidence sharing, affected relationships, and guided survivors’ feelings of self-blame. These conclusions suggest that both supportive individual advocacy and community work to decrease stigma and negative responses are critical to survivors’ recovery.</p>			
Greeson and Campbell, 2012	Adolescent sexual assault victims (Michigan, U.S)	Case review, pile sort	To determine whether community-level context (i.e., stakeholder engagement and collaboration) was predictive of adolescent legal case outcomes, after accounting for "standard" factors that affect prosecution success (i.e., victim, assault, and evidence characteristics).
<p>Adolescents are at high risk for sexual assault, but few of these crimes are reported to the police and prosecuted by the criminal justice system. To address this problem, communities throughout the United States have implemented multidisciplinary interventions to improve post-assault care for victims and increase prosecution rates. The two most commonly implemented interventions are Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Programs and Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs). Overall, 40% of the adolescent cases from these two SANE-SART programs (over a 10-year period) were successfully prosecuted. Cases were more likely to be prosecuted for younger victims, those with disabilities, those who knew their offenders, and instances in which the rape evidence collection kit was submitted by police for analysis. After accounting for these influences, multi-level modeling results revealed that in one site decreased allocation of community resources to adolescent sexual assault cases had a significant negative effect on prosecution case outcomes. In a coordinated service system, one system takes responsibility for helping survivors access the other systems. In the uncoordinated model, victims who must reach out for assistance repeatedly may fatigue and give up; in turn, this may contribute to the low reporting and help-seeking rates found in the literature.</p>			