

## Fort Bliss Sexual Assault Myth Busters



**Myth:** Strangers commit most sexual assaults. Sexual assault happens when victims are alone.

**Facts:**

- In nearly 87% of sexual assaults DoD wide, the assailant was someone the victim knew.
- Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) statistics indicate 80% of rapes are committed by someone known to the victim
- FBI rape data for 2019 indicates 70% of rapes occur at a residence/home and only 8.7% occur in the stereotypical dark/secluded locations

**Myth:** Men are not sexually assaulted.

**Facts:**

- Since FY17, 16.2% of sexual assault victims on FBTX have been male. Of these, 67% are Male/Male 33%; are Female/Male (AO/Victim)
- For FY19 19% of sexual assault reports by DoD service members were made by men
- VA Health Data reports that approximately 1 in 50 men who seek VA Health care have experienced military sexual trauma while on active duty

**Myth:** A person cannot sexually assault their partner or spouse.

**Facts:**

- RAINN statistics indicate 33% of rapes are committed by a current or former significant other
- FBI Rape data for 2019 indicates that 8.7% of victims are raped by their boyfriend/girlfriend and 2.3% by their spouse
- A Soldier violates Article 120, UCMJ (Rape/Sexual Assault) when he or she performs a sexual act on another person without consent or by force, regardless of whether or not the victim happens to be married to the accused Soldier

**Myth:** If a person doesn't fight back, they weren't really assaulted

**Facts:**

- The behavior of sexual assault victims, especially by known alleged offender frequently conflict with behaviors that the public expects
- In a study that examined 274 police reports in the United States only 22% of victims resisted rape through fighting and screaming

**Myth:** If a victim doesn't report right away, their report is less valid than if they reported immediately.

**Facts:**

- Victims have individual responses to trauma that are often counterintuitive to public expectations
- Victims seldom immediately report their assault due to guilt, shock, self-blame, and confusion
- In the United Kingdom only 46% of recorded rapes were reported on the day they took place

**Myth:** Offenders don't get punished

**Fact:**

- DOD-wide, FY19 substantiated sexual assault allegations resulted in court-martial (49%), Administrative Actions and Discharges (29%) and in nonjudicial punishment (22%).
- From Oct 20—MAR 21 on FBTX, over 90% of substantiated SA cases resulted in punishment of the AO at the victim-requested level of punishment (nonjudicial, administrative, or court-martial)

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## Fort Bliss Sexual Assault Myth Busters



**Myth:** There are a lot of false reports

**Facts:**

- In FY19, 1.3% of all service member reported sexual assault were false. (50/3716)
- From FY15-FY19, The average percentage of false service member reported reports was 2%
- A review of civilian research from 2000-2009 concludes that false reports comprise 2-7% of total reports in the United States
- A false report is a report that an investigation factually proves never occurred. This is different than an unsubstantiated report where there is **insufficient evidence** to determine whether or not the incident occurred

**Myth:** Once an assault is reported, the victim is transferred out of unit while assailant stays in unit.

**Facts:**

- All victims of sexual assault may request an expedited transfer upon making a report. Expedited transfers of victims only occur at victim's request
- 1AD policy allows to the victim to stay in the current unit and, if applicable, move the AO.
- In FY19, across all the DoD 97% of expedited transfers were approved

### FACTS EVERY SOLDIER SHOULD KNOW

- 55% of reported Sexual Assaults DoD-wide involve alcohol
- On FBTX 80% of incidents occur outside duty hours (0600-1800), evenly split before and after midnight and primarily on weekends
- On FBTX, 24% of sexual assaults occur in the on-post barracks and 20% in off-post residence
- Most common location of incident among SPC, SGT, and PFC are On Post Barracks (28.9%), On Post (20.6%), and Off Post Residence (19.1%)
- 7.6% of FBTX sexual assault reports were made by victims who had been assaulted more than once
- For FY19 DoD unrestricted reports 23% of AOs were E5-E9, 45% of AOs were E1-E4
- For FY19 DoD unrestricted and restricted reports 68% of victims were age 16-24 and 65-67% of victims are E1-E4
- Article 120, UCMJ prohibits sexual assault including situations when sexual acts are committed by threat, by fraudulent representation (trick), or when a victim is incapable of consents (asleep or too intoxicated to consent)
- Article 120, UCMJ expressly states 'Lack of verbal or physical resistance does not constitute consent'
- Consent can be withdrawn at any time.

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