



The view of women as sexual prey rather than as responsible adults has always been part of military culture. Women today are indispensable to the military. Nevertheless, one woman soldier observed: "There are only three things the guys let you be if you're a girl in the military- a bitch, a ho, or a dyke." Not all military men see women soldiers this way, but too many do. The hostility is shown by undermining women's authority, denying promotions, denigrating their work, sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape.

-Helen Benedict, from her book, "The Lonely Soldier: The Private War of Women Serving in Iraq" (Beacon Press, 2009)

**IT TAKES TRUST,  
MUTUAL RESPECT, AND  
TEAMWORK**



See:

[www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org)  
Military Sexual Assault  
Resources and other information

# **VETERANS FOR PEACE MILITARY RAPE AWARENESS WEEK**



**OCTOBER 12-16 2009**

**WARNING:  
STUDY SAYS 1 IN 3 WOMEN  
RAPED IN THE MILITARY**

*A.G. Sadler, et al., Factors Associated with Women's Risk of Rape in the Military Environment, American Journal of Industrial Medicine, 43:262-273 (2003). Important, see Erratum correcting study's rate of rape from 28% to 30%*

## AN EPIDEMIC

- A 2004 study of women veterans from Vietnam to the time of the study, who were seeking help for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), found that 71% said they were sexually assaulted or raped while serving
- The VA study (referenced in the front title) was funded by the Army Medical Research Department and found that 30% of women veterans said they were raped while serving. That is almost one in three
- Thirty seven percent of the attempted raped and raped women in the VA study also reported being raped more than once and 14% of them reported being gang raped. This study also discovered that 75% of women raped in the military failed to report it

*Although this is an epidemic, it is not being treated as one.*



## SURVIVORS LIVE WITH...

- Depression, shame, terror, irrationally blaming themselves, difficulty trusting anybody again
- Emotional numbness, helplessness, fear, flashbacks, nightmares
- Severe medical problems, drug and/or alcohol dependency
- Homelessness- 40% of female veterans report being raped in the military



## EVEN A PACK OF CIGARETTES HAS A WARNING

VFP sees its campaign as an important public service. After all, who wouldn't want their daughters, sisters, nieces, aunts, and mothers to know of this great risk when they are considering enlistment?

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Contact your elected representatives, write letters to publications and lobby for meaningful printed warnings on recruiting literature and enlistment contracts
- Demand that the military command prosecute and punish offenders severely
- Demand that students' confidential information not be released to recruiters
- Tell school officials you want information from VFP, American Friends Service Committee or other sources that tell students what the recruiters leave out
- Contact Veterans For Peace for a speaker for your school, church or community group

It's your country, your government, your military, your children. Please take it from there as your conscience dictates.