



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION
AND RESPONSE**

EXCEPTIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATOR

2010 AWARD CEREMONY



**FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2010
THE HALL OF HEROES
THE PENTAGON, WASHINGTON, D.C.**



**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:
A PROCLAMATION**

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH, 2010

Every day, women, men, and children across America suffer the pain and trauma of sexual assault. From verbal harassment and intimidation to molestation and rape, this crime occurs far too frequently, goes unreported far too often, and leaves long-lasting physical and emotional scars. During National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves not only to lifting the veil of secrecy and shame surrounding sexual violence, but also to raising awareness, expanding support for victims, and strengthening our response.

Sexual violence is an affront to our national conscience, one which we cannot ignore. It disproportionately affects women - an estimated one in six American women will experience an attempted or completed rape at some point in her life. Too many men and boys are also affected.

These facts are deeply troubling, and yet, sexual violence affects Americans of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances. Alarming rates of sexual violence occur among young women attending college, and frequently, alcohol or drugs are used to incapacitate the victim. Among people with disabilities, isolation may lead to repeated assaults and an inability to seek and locate help. Native American women are more than twice as likely to be sexually assaulted compared with the general population. As a Nation, we share the responsibility for protecting each other from sexual assault, supporting victims when it does occur, and bringing perpetrators to justice.

We can lead this charge by confronting and changing insensitive attitudes wherever they persist. Survivors too often suffer in silence because they fear further injury, are unwilling to experience further humiliation, or lack faith in the criminal justice system. This feeling of isolation, often compounded with suicidal feelings, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder, only exacerbate victims' sense of hopelessness. No one should face this trauma alone, and as families, friends, and mentors, we can empower victims to seek the assistance they need.

At the Federal, State, local, and tribal level, we must work to provide necessary resources to victims of every circumstance, including medical attention, mental health services, relocation and housing assistance, and advocacy during legal proceedings. Under Vice President Biden's leadership, the 2005 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act included the Sexual Assault Services Program, the first-ever funding stream dedicated solely to providing direct services to victims of sexual assault. To further combat sexual violence, my 2011 Budget doubles funding for this program. Through the Justice Department and the Centers for Disease Control, we are funding prevention and awareness campaigns as well as grants for campus services to address sexual assault on college campuses. The Justice Department has also increased funding and resources to combat violence against Native American women.

As we continue to confront this crime, let us reaffirm this month our dedication to take action in our communities and stop abuse before it starts. Together, we can increase awareness about sexual violence, decrease its frequency, punish offenders, help victims, and heal lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2010 as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to reach out to victims, learn more about this crime, and speak out against it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA



BY THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH, 2010

The Department of Defense is observing its sixth annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), which provides us an opportunity to raise awareness and promote prevention of sexual violence through special events and public education. It also helps us further the evolution of our military into an environment that collectively works to prevent sexual assault.

The SAAM 2010 theme is ***"Hurts one. Affects all,"*** which focuses on mission readiness. As is readily understood throughout the military, mission readiness defines a unit's ability to deploy quickly and efficiently, and to protect the security of our country. A sexual assault in a unit can have devastating consequences to mission readiness. A sexual assault can reverberate throughout a unit and beyond, degrading readiness by devastating the life of the victim, and the military's ability to work effectively as a team. Commanders and senior enlisted leadership must set the tone in their units to prevent this crime, and not damage the trust that our Military members have in their leaders and their peers.

Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates in the Services are professionals who can assist with the effective transmission of this message. However, commanders and senior enlisted personnel are key to the successful implementation of the Department's efforts. Additional information is available at www.myduty.mil. I expect you to support and take part in your Service's sexual assault prevention and response programs. Your participation in April's SAAM activities demonstrates the Department's worldwide commitment to the safety, welfare and readiness of its personnel.

CLIFFORD L. STANLEY



Ms. Gail H. McGinn Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Plans)

Mrs. Gail H. McGinn was appointed as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Plans in November 2002. In this capacity, she serves as the official within the Office of the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness responsible for developing integrated evaluation processes to measure the success of personnel programs. She provides advice and assistance to the Under Secretary on the management of military and civilian personnel programs affecting over 2 million service members and employees; oversees the development of strategic plans for human resources; and directs involvement with oversight and consultant boards to achieve human resource goals. She was appointed as the Senior Language Authority for the Office of the Secretary of Defense in May of 2004, with responsibility for improving foreign language capability within the Department of Defense. She is also responsible for developing policies and approaches to address sexual assault within the Armed Forces and diversity management and equal opportunity for the Department of Defense. Mrs. McGinn manages the Department's involvement with the Senior Oversight Committee and Joint Executive Council to support the wounded warrior and joint strategic planning efforts between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to support warriors transitioning to veteran status.

Mrs. McGinn became a member of the Senior Executive Service in 1992. Her prior SES assignments include Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy and Principal Director for Personnel Support, Families and Education. Beginning her service in the Office of the Secretary of Defense in 1988 Mrs. McGinn provided personal leadership to the planning and development of military family support programs; child development programs; and family advocacy and domestic violence prevention programs. She also led a special effort to design a military funeral honors program for our nation's veterans. Before coming to the Office of the Secretary of Defense in 1988, Mrs. McGinn was the Director of Program Analysis and Evaluation at the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center (1985-1988). From 1983-1985, Mrs. McGinn worked on the Army staff and served on a special task force that inaugurated family programs in the Department of the Army. She has also held a number of positions in the drug and alcohol field. These included positions at Headquarters V Corps in Frankfurt, Germany; and at Seneca Army Depot.

Mrs. McGinn is a recipient of the Presidential Distinguished Executive Rank Award and is a two-time recipient of the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award. Her other awards include the Department of Defense Award for Distinguished Civilian Service; the Secretary of Defense Awards for Distinguished Civilian Service, Meritorious Civilian Service and for Exceptional Civilian Service; as well as the Department of the Army decoration for Meritorious Civilian Service, the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, and the Order of the White Plume. She is also the recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award from William Smith College and is an honorary member of the Phi Sigma Iota foreign language honor society.

Born in East St. Louis, Illinois, and raised as a military child, Mrs. McGinn has lived in many locations in the U.S. and abroad. She attended William Smith College in Geneva, New York, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. in Psychology and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She completed graduate study with a Masters Degree in Education from Boston University. Mrs. McGinn has studied both French and German and spoke Danish as a child on the playgrounds of Odense, Denmark.



Program

Opening

Dr. Kaye H. Whitley

Director, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

Remarks

Ms. Gail H. McGinn

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Plans)

Presentation of Awards

Miss Marci T. Hodge

Outreach Coordinator

Closing Remarks

Dr. Kaye H. Whitley



Exceptional Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Award

The Department of Defense annually recognizes individuals (Military or civilian) from each Military Service, who act as the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator either on an installation or in a deployed environment. This award recognizes individuals whose work has been particularly noteworthy, and demonstrates outstanding service in support of our Service members.

2010 Awardees

Master Sergeant Rita Cossio
United States Army

Colonel John Sollis, Retired
United States Marine Corps

Ms. Vicki Shepherd
United States Navy

Dr. Charlotte Moerbe
United States Air Force

Second Lieutenant Lori Alix
National Guard Bureau



Master Sergeant Rita Cossio United States Army

Master Sergeant Rita A. Cossio served as the Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (DSARC) and personally managed six brigade DSARCs and approximately 75 Unit Victim Advocates (UVA) on Joint Base Balad, Iraq. MSG Cossio was assigned as the DSARC and Equal Opportunity Advisor (EOA) for the forward deployed, 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Commands (ESC) and subsequently the 13th ESC from 9 March 2009 to 31 December 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

MSG Cossio volunteered to deploy to Iraq and was personally selected and appointed by her home station Brigade Commander to serve as the EOA and DSARC in order to fill a critical shortage. As the DSARC and EOA, she was responsible for providing cover for more than 45,000 Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and DoD Civilians dispersed throughout the Iraqi Theater of Operations and on Joint Base Balad.

MSG Cossio committed countless hours to victims of sexual assault and ensured they were treated with dignity and respect and received timely and adequate care. She was involved with multiple committees and events that helped raise awareness of sexual assault trends and implement preventive measures to combat incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault. She worked with local law enforcement and CID Agents and provided them with the information they needed to conduct their investigations regarding incidents of sexual assault and provide timely assessments to commanders and victims.

MSG Cossio was noticeably resourceful in providing guidance for implementing the Department of the Army's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program - I. A.M STRONG Campaign Plan. She aggressively spearheaded her commands local Sexual Assault Campaign Plan intended to eliminate incidents of sexual assault through a comprehensive policy that centered on awareness, prevention, training, education, victim advocacy, response, reporting, and accountability. This was by far the most aggressive, active, and effective plan in theater.

Her passion and commitment to the SAPR program was demonstrated in her ability to personally expand upon and conduct multiple UVA and DSARC courses and train more than 300 personnel theater-wide. This critical training allowed newly appointed UVAs and DSARCs to return to their units and provide care for the victims of sexual assault, help commanders identify potential threats and risk to young men and women in their respective commands, and train unit personnel on sexual assault awareness.

MSG Cossio is a highly adaptive and diverse leader who excelled in the Joint environment. She expertly learned regulatory guidance and policies for the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, as well as Civilian policy. MSG Cossio has successfully trained over 21 units thus resulting in the training of more than 2000 Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen. Her superb teaching and coaching skills, along with her extensive knowledge was recognized by Commanders and Command Sergeant Majors who have personally awarded her 11 Coins of Excellence. MSG Cossio received special recognition by Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I) for her detailed and thorough planning of the "Sex Signals" Tour that visited Joint Base Balad where nine shows were conducted that trained about 1700 Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen. She was also acknowledged by the Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) IG Inspection Team during a theater wide sexual assault program inspection and received numerous laudatory comments regarding program execution and accurate record-keeping.



Mr. John Sollis, Colonel, Retired United States Marine Corps

John B. Sollis has served as the Director, Marine Corps Community Services, Camp LeJeune since August 2002 and the Assistant Chief of Staff, Marine Corps Community Services, Marine Corps Installations East (MCIEAST) since October 2005. As a Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), he clearly understood the importance of the Marine Corps' Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program when it began in 2005. In 2005, he volunteered to take on the additional duties as the Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) which he performed until the hiring of a full-time Installation Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Manager in October 2009. He also contributed to the development of the sexual assault prevention and response programs across all Marine Corps Installations East.

During his tenure as the Installation SARC, Mr. Sollis built a new and vital relationship with the Camp LeJeune Naval Hospital, one that established and institutionalized procedures for handling restricted sexual assault cases that allowed victims to seek medical attention without compromising the restricted status of their cases.

He established an ongoing dialogue with the Onslow County Women's Center which further built a cohesive, coordinated, and credible community response to sexual assault cases on behalf of Camp LeJeune's Service members. Mr. Sollis's success in bringing together all community organizations involved in responding to sexual assaults has not only raised awareness of the issue but built the credibility of the response system among the victims it serves.

In the training arena, Mr. Sollis undertook numerous initiatives to educate Service members and other stakeholders regarding sexual assault prevention and response. He brought the renowned training program, "Sex Signals," to Camp LeJeune and briefed numerous units on sexual assault prevention just prior to the beginning of their liberty periods. He spoke at E9 (Sergeants Major/Master Gunnery Sergeants) training symposia, sensitizing enlisted leaders to the issue of sexual assault prevention and response and equipping them to discuss it with young enlisted Service members.

Mr. Sollis arranged the location and provided comprehensive training manuals for three Uniformed Victim Advocate training sessions and one Sexual Assault Response Coordinator training session per year. Each session trained approximately 90 Service members. He personally presented certificates to all Uniformed Victim Advocates upon graduation.

Mr. Sollis undertook significant and successful efforts to spread the word among all Service members about sexual assault prevention and response. He promoted awareness of the Uniformed Victim Advocates by providing them with posters to display in their organizational command posts. Each customized poster included a photograph and name of the Uniformed Victim Advocate as well as a copy of the Commanding Officer's statement on sexual assault prevention and response. He further ensured that display tables were set up at Camp LeJeune's Main Exchange each year during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The tables were manned and displayed brochures and bookmarks imprinted with sexual assault facts.

Mr. Sollis has combined his passion for sustaining the reputation of the U.S. Marine Corps as the world's finest fighting force with his considerable talents and skills as an executive leader to focus them on creating a world-class sexual assault prevention and response program at Camp LeJeune, including vital outreach programs involving the local community. The programs he has developed and nurtured have elevated awareness of sexual assault prevention and response among the 45,443 Service members; 42,928 family members; and 5,218 civilian employees who live and/or work at Camp LeJeune.



Ms. Vicki Shepherd United States Navy

Ms. Vicki Shepherd, as the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for Naval Support Activity, Naples, Italy, has done an exemplary job, while also supporting the Command Navy Region Europe, Africa, and Southwest Asia. Her accomplishments this past year are noteworthy and broad in scope. She has discharged her duties at the installation in Naples, and contributed greatly to the mission in Djibouti, Africa, and other regional sites.

Ms. Shepherd provided more than 83 workshops and trainings including bi-monthly trainings for new personnel arriving in Naples at Area Orientation, the Chief Petty Officer's Association, POC, DCC, and Liaison training, Security, Ombudsmen, Emergency Room staff, etc. She presented to approximately 1260 personnel at NSA Naples, Gaeta, and Joint Forces Command through general military trainings and Area Orientation. She presented at the Naval Hospital SANE training, including five new SANE nurses and 48 first responders to sexual assault incidents. She facilitated eight new Victim Advocate trainings, for a total of 240 hours, equipping 152 Sailors and DoD civilians with the skills to be Victim Advocates. She prepared and offered monthly refresher trainings for victim advocates and points of contact, totaling 118 trained. She conducted SAVI Command Point of Contact training, SAVI Command Liaison training, and SAVI Data Collection Coordinator training, reaching 63 additional personnel and 15 commands, to ensure that they are following DoD instructions. She trained a total of 2,038 individuals in Naples alone this year. Ms. Shepherd's extremely busy year also included an Inspector General team and a Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services visit.

One of the innovative trainings spearheaded by Ms. Shepherd this year was the Catharsis productions "Sex Signals." She encountered some initial resistance in the region, but through her education and promotion efforts, this scenario-based training was presented in Naples and Sigonella, Italy, Bahrain, and Djibouti. She planned Sexual Assault Awareness Month events including the 5th Annual SAVI Walk with more than 100 supporters, informational display tables at different locations around the Naples base, and special presentations at various commands. Ms. Shepherd wrote a total of five articles for the Panorama, the NSA Naples newspaper. She organized SAVI volunteers and participated in National Night Out, increasing awareness of sexual assault to 300 residents of Naples, Joint Forces Command, and local nationals. She additionally presented at a Personal Readiness Summit sponsored by DAPA, reaching more than 200 participants. To reiterate, she recommended, marketed, and coordinated Catharsis Productions "Sex Signals," which was incredibly well received and in keeping with the current focus on bystander intervention education and training.

It is difficult to quantify all of the resources and gifts that Ms. Shepherd brings to the program. Her strengths lie in always being willing to support the needs of Service members in the region, for example presenting Victim Advocate trainings in Djibouti, Horn of Africa, and in Souda Bay, Greece. She has considerable talent in building relationships across a wide spectrum, including new SARCs in the region, Commands, Victim Advocates, and other community agencies, and also has built strong relationships with hospital personnel and the members of the Sexual Assault Case Management Group. Her leadership sat in on one of her Victim Advocate trainings in Djibouti and again find it difficult to quantify or capture the enthusiasm and generosity of her trainings. They were extremely impressed watching the participants respond to her style of presentation, which includes vitality and strong personal commitment.



Dr. Charlotte Moerbe United States Air Force

Charlotte L. Moerbe, Ph.D. has made significant contributions as a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for the Air Force's largest training installation, Lackland Air Force Base. Her accomplishments include expanding local support services to victims, creating new training curriculums for technical students, and establishing a premier office whose achievements have been benchmarked by both civilian and government agencies nationwide and in the Area of Operations.

In 2004, Dr. Moerbe created the Lackland Sexual Assault Prevention and Outreach (SAPO) program and continues to build on the successes of this robust, ground breaking victim services agency. Dr. Moerbe recognized the strong need for advocacy and outreach services for victims of both recent and past sexual violence. She has worked closely with civilian and military organizations to build on existing victim care resources. She trained more than 220 volunteer Victim Advocates and currently oversees a pool of 90 Victim Advocates who serve approximately 50,000 personnel from Lackland Air Force Base and Brooks-City Base in San Antonio, Texas. One of Dr. Moerbe's SAPO Victim Advocates was awarded "Volunteer of the Year" in 2009 by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA). Dr. Moerbe also created a new staff position, a Trauma Counselor, to be housed in the SAPO office. This new position provides after-hours mental health services for victims currently in training. This SAPO position is the first of its kind in the Air Force. Dr. Moerbe completed a new victim program evaluation survey that will allow victims to confidentially provide feedback to the first response agencies who supported them. With a yearly average of 130 sexual assault survivors who seek Lackland's SAPO victim services, it is estimated that since 2005, Dr. Moerbe and her team have personally supported several hundred Military members recovering from sexual violence.

Recognizing the need to shift the cultural perspective of many of the young Airmen entering the Air Force, Dr. Moerbe created a comprehensive prevention and awareness program that highlights the Wingman concept, bystander intervention, men's role in preventing sexual violence, and the prevalence of non-stranger sexual assault. To achieve this mission, Dr. Moerbe first expanded her team of SAPO staff members and volunteer pools. Her office team consists of five staff members, including two civilian training specialists, one trauma counselor, one deputy SARC, and an office manager. One of her staff members is a board member for the San Antonio Rape Crisis Center and ensures a good working relationship with this community resource. Staff members have attended and presented at both state and national conferences on sexual violence. This year, Dr. Moerbe increased the number of programs offered by SAPO by having her training specialists certified by civilian programs and bringing them to the Lackland community.

Dr. Moerbe's accomplishments demonstrate her level of passion and commitment to the fight against sexual assault, in both the military and civilian community. Her expertise and work ethic have been recognized by numerous government organizations and civilian agencies. Over the past year, Dr. Moerbe has received praise from the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military and the Office of Secretary Defense Policy Assistance Team. Dr. Moerbe's team represented the Air Force during testimony to the House Armed Services Committee in February 2009. The Air Education and Training Command Inspector General (IG) awarded Dr. Moerbe a Professional Performer award in June 2009. Dr. Moerbe presented at this year's National Sexual Assault Conference, discussing her collaboration with civilian agencies, and she was recently asked to present and to be a keynote speaker at the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault Conference in March 2010.



Second Lieutenant Lori Alix National Guard Bureau

As the Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ) Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for the Massachusetts National Guard, Second Lieutenant (2LT) Lori Alix has performed her duties admirably. She led the way in developing and enhancing Massachusetts National Guard's SAPR Program. She also was the key instrument in making sure that the Massachusetts National Guard met the program's guidelines, and exceeded them.

2LT Alix personally briefed crucial unit leaders, to include the Adjutant General (TAG), on their roles and responsibilities of implementing and supporting the SAPR program. She also provided a continuity binder and guidance to the field, assisting in the SAPR IG Inspection directed by TAG. This inspection resulted in favorable findings: that the Brigade level DSARCs were knowledgeable and the program was being implemented properly. Additionally, she provided annual training and current care resources to units and customized lesson plans that spanned from leaders at the command level down to Soldiers and Airmen at the lowest unit level. She also developed a state TAG policy letter pertaining to Sexual Assault Prevention that was distributed and enforced throughout the state, setting the tone for a no tolerance environment.

2LT Alix created victim advocate (VA) selection packages that contained all the steps necessary to become a new VA, which included an outline of the commander's appointment criteria and a CORI Application. 2LT Alix continuously monitored these packages until their completion and ensured that all VA's had current certification. These packages were maintained on file in the SARC office to provide 2LT Alix with immediate access to VA's who were properly certified and thus ready to assist victims in the case of an assault. She also created "mobile training bags" for victim advocates that included all the necessary tools for them to provide training to Soldiers and Airmen. These bags also had documentation to enable victim advocates to respond to a sexual assault incident immediately.

2LT Alix coordinated two eight - hour victim advocate refresher training sessions. In order to coordinate classes, 2LT Alix reached out to the local Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, Worcester Rape Crisis Center, Milford Police Department, and Domestic Violence agencies. These agencies assisted with victim advocate refresher training and provided increased knowledge to Massachusetts victim advocates. She also coordinated the non-military training group, "Sex Signals" to provide an additional training method and approach that many young Soldiers could easily relate. This served as annual training for many units and no doubt increased sexual assault prevention awareness.

In addition, 2LT Alix produced a great deal of SAPR literature to distribute to units. She developed posters with photos of victim advocates to inform all Guardsmen on the personnel they should report to if something happens. She also created quick guide reference cards for deploying members ensuring they had access to reporting options. 2LT Alix provided additional training tools, such as videos and brochures that enhanced VA's unit training capabilities. She coordinated with public affairs and the S6 or communications section to develop a public website, as well as a resource page on MAKO giving Soldiers and Airmen additional and constant access to SAPR information. Additionally, 2LT Alix attended appropriate national joint training conferences, including the Army Summit, ensuring that Massachusetts had the most up to date and best prevention information.

In conclusion, 2LT Alix is exceptionally passionate about the SAPR program and has implemented a successful program by obtaining command support, effectively providing victim care, developing new training materials and overseeing the education more than 8,500 Massachusetts National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, families, and civilian federal employees.

HURTS ONE. AFFECTS ALL.



**PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT
IS EVERYONE'S DUTY.**

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