



1 December 2015

## RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT



**COURT-MARTIAL:** At an October 2015 Court-Martial in Kaiserslautern, Germany, a Sergeant, assigned to the 16th Sustainment Brigade, was found guilty, by an enlisted panel, of rape, abusive sexual contact, aggravated assault, assault, assault on a minor, communicating a threat, adultery, and breaking restriction.

**SENTENCE:** Confinement for 2 years, total forfeitures, and a bad conduct discharge.

**FACTS:** This Sergeant held his wife down and digitally penetrated her. He also assaulted, groped, and threatened her on various other occasions during the course of their marriage. Additionally, the Sergeant physically abused two of his stepsons. After he separated from his wife, the Sergeant began an adulterous affair with another woman. That relationship turned violent and the Sergeant slammed her head on the ground splitting her head open and causing grievous bodily injury.

**OBSERVATIONS:** Marriage does not entitle anyone to sex. Everyone has the right to say “no” to unwanted sexual contact. Victims should not suffer in silence. Domestic abusers rarely stop with one victim and will often abuse other family members or intimate partners. Abusers often commit these crimes behind closed doors. They exploit the love and trust of their family members. Such abusers will continue until they are reported. Stop the cycle of violence early and ask for help, before it is too late.

**"Report all cases involving an intimate partner to your local Family Advocacy Program Office. Military members and adult dependents 18 years and older who have been sexually assaulted by someone other than an intimate partner, may contact the Brigade Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Victim Advocate, healthcare provider, CID, Staff Judge Advocate, Military Police, Behavioral Health, or Chaplain. They may also call the DoD Safe Helpline from Germany by dialing 537-SAFE (7233) or 0611-143-537-SAFE (7233). The telephone number is accessible via DSN, landline, and mobile, 24 hours a day."**

For more guidance on reporting options and rights, visit

<https://www.safehelpline.org/>