OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Strategic Plan Update

21 June 2013

Agenda

- **DoD SAPR Strategy**
  - **Sexual Assault Problem**
  - **Current Environment**
  - **Program Foundation**
  - **Lines of Effort and Key Tasks**
- **New Initiatives and Next Steps**

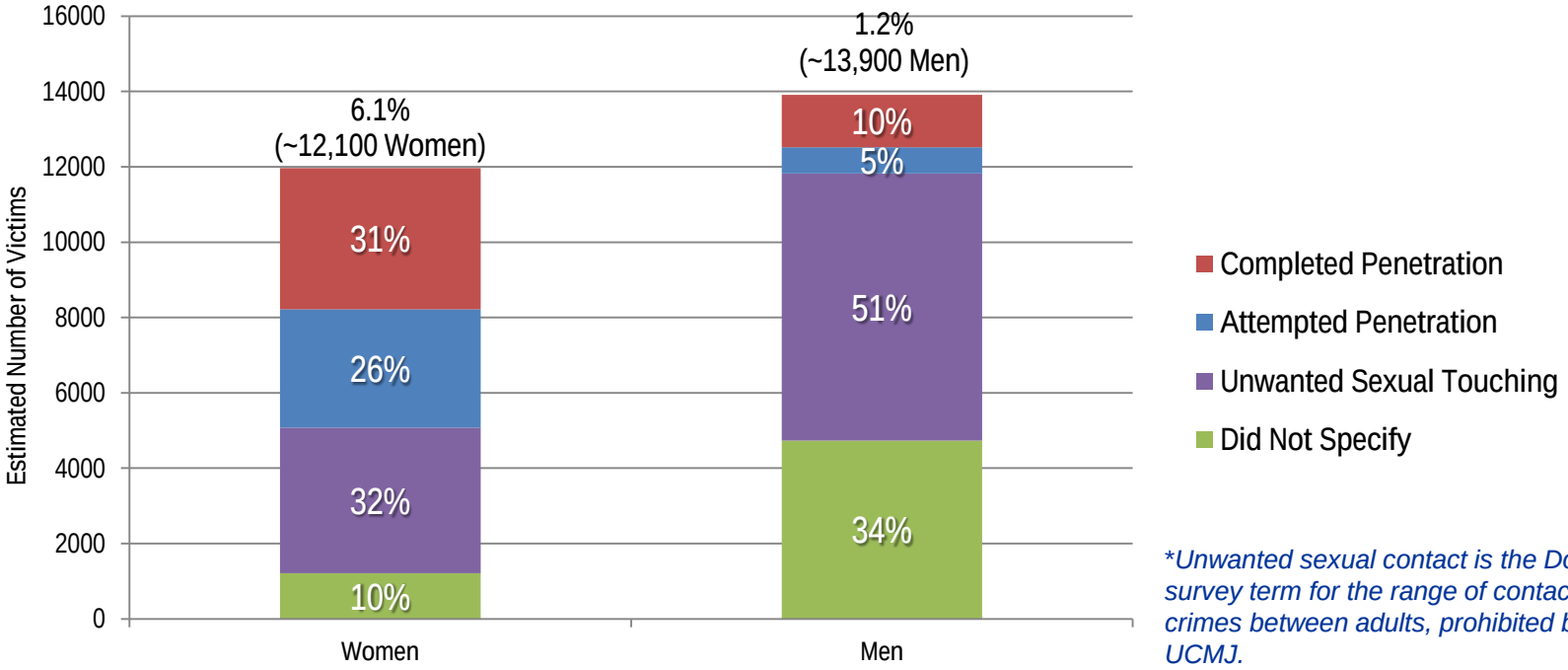
Nature of the Problem

- DoD estimates, based on surveys, more than 26,000 active duty men and women were victims of unwanted sexual contact in FY12 (rape to unwanted touching)
- In the same year, DoD received 3,374 reports of sexual assault -- which included at least one service member victim or perpetrator
- Underreporting is significant problem due to fear, stigma or shame -- which complicates victim care and holding offenders accountable
- Incident Profile: Victim and perpetrator 18-24 yrs old; peer or near peers; non-stranger; off duty, but on the installation; significant alcohol involvement
- Victim's perceive high levels of ostracization and retaliation after reporting – of the women in FY12 who reported unwanted sexual contact, 62% perceived some form of social, administrative, and/or professional retaliation
- Frontline leaders are critical to leading the culture change necessary to prevent sexist behaviors, sexual harassment and assault, and in establishing an environment of dignity, respect, and trust

Unwanted Sexual Contact Reported in DoD Surveys

Type of Unwanted Sexual Contact* Experienced

Estimates derived from 2012 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey



**Unwanted sexual contact is the DoD survey term for the range of contact sex crimes between adults, prohibited by the UCMJ.*

Bottom Line: Of those who indicated victimization via the DoD survey, roughly 57% of active duty women and 15% of active duty men experienced an attempted or completed penetration in FY2012.

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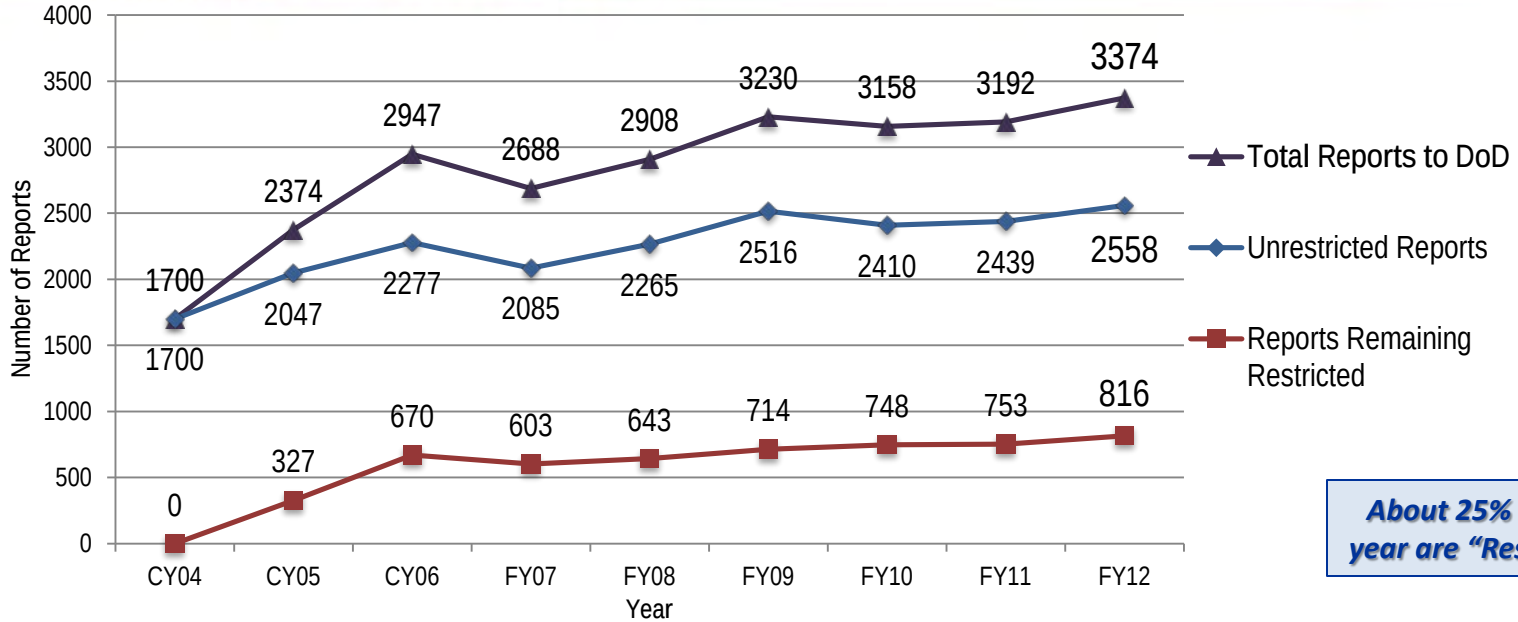
Sexual Assault Reports CY04 - FY12



"Reports" are sexual assaults by a Service Member or against Service member victim

About 25% of reports each year are "Restricted Reports"

Unrestricted Report

- **Victim receives case management by Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, medical care, counseling, and legal assistance referrals**
- **Report made to Military Criminal Investigation Organization to initiate an official criminal investigation**
- **Commander is notified – Commander-directed Investigations are not authorized**

Restricted Report

- **Victim receives same services as unrestricted report, but victim confidentiality protected and no investigation initiated**
- **Command informed that an assault occurred but victim's name or other identifying information not provided**
- **First offered in 2005 -- each year about 15% of restricted reports switch to unrestricted; in FY12, 17% converted, an increase that could be a leading indicator of victim confidence**

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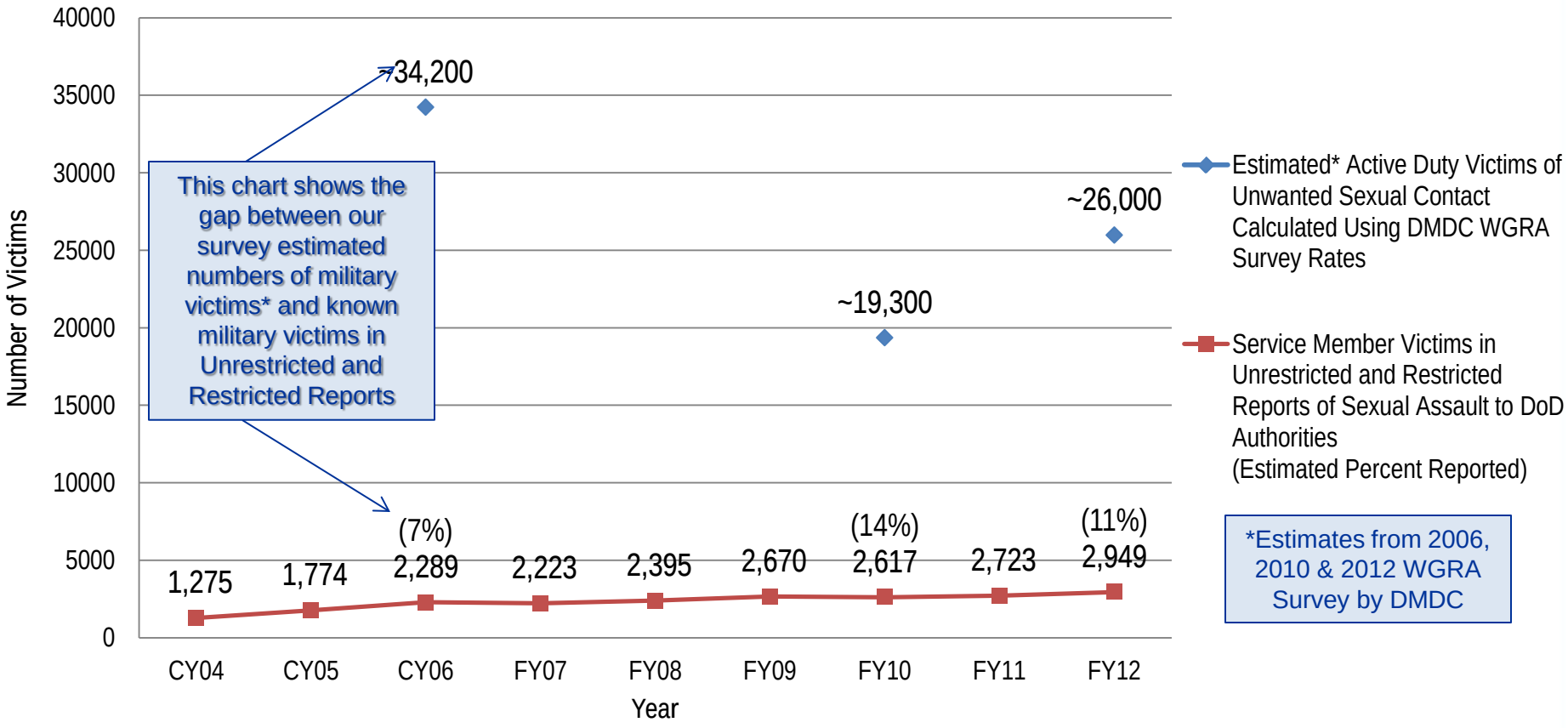
Key Program Metrics: *Estimated Prevalence vs. Actual Victim Reports*



Sexual Assault is an Underreported Crime

Increased reporting provides primary means for improving victim care and accountability of offenders

Current Environment

Facts

- Sexual Assault is a persistent problem in the force and at the Military Service Academies
- Despite strong leader emphasis, increased awareness, and new programs, prevalence remains high and underreporting persists
- *The Invisible War* documentary (released 2012) featuring DoD victims provided compelling depiction of victim trauma which raised widespread awareness
- High-profile incidents drive continued negative attention and support critical narratives -- Lackland AFB basic training incidents; Army GO sexual assault case; Aviano AB clemency decision, AF Lt Col arrest
- Substantial SAPR Legislation: 25 provisions in law in FY12 /13 NDAAs – current focus is on legislating changes to military justice system
- Combating sexual assaults in the military is a SECDEF priority issue

Critical Assumptions

- Congressional oversight and legislation, advocacy groups, lawsuits against DoD officials, and "high visibility" sexual assaults will continue to influence execution of DoD SAPR program
- US Commission on Civil Rights Statutory Enforcement Report for 2013 --*Sexual Assault in the Military* -- will be published in September

"This Department may be nearing a stage where the frequency of this crime – and the perception that there is tolerance of it – could very well undermine our ability to effectively carry out the mission, and to recruit and retain the good people we need" Secretary Hagel , 7 May 2013

DoD SAPR Program Foundation

- **Sustain multi-pronged approach – no single "silver bullet" solution**
  - Requires sustained progress, persistence, innovation, and multi-disciplinary approach in prevention, investigation, accountability, victim assistance & assessment
- **Expand prevention efforts to reinforce cultural imperatives of mutual respect and trust, team commitment, and professional values**
- **Recognize that sexual harassment is strongly correlated with sexual assault**
- **Ensure victim focus to help overcome vast underreporting**
  - Every victim needs to be treated with respect, dignity, and sensitivity
  - Reporting is an essential bridge to victim care and accountability
- **Sustain commitment to holding offenders appropriately accountable – we are improving investigative and accountability efforts through Special Victims Capability, UCMJ Panels, and comprehensive oversight actions**
- **Continue to educate frontline commanders and leaders at all levels and hold them accountable in establishing a culture of dignity and respect**

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SAPR Mission, Lines of Efforts and End States

Mission: The Department of Defense prevents and responds to the crime of sexual assault in order to enable military readiness and reduce—with a goal to eliminate—sexual assault from the military.

Communication – Communicate DoD's efforts to support victim recovery, enable military readiness, and reduce—with a goal to eliminate—sexual assault from the military.

Lines of Effort	End States
Prevention - Deliver consistent and effective prevention methods and programs.	**Cultural imperatives of mutual respect and trust, professional values, and team commitment are reinforced to create an environment where sexual assault is not tolerated.**
Investigation - Achieve high competence in the investigation of sexual assault.	**Investigative resources yield timely and accurate results.**
Accountability - Achieve high competence in holding offenders appropriately accountable.	**Perpetrators are held appropriately accountable.**
Advocacy – Deliver consistent and effective victim support, response, and reporting options.	**DoD provides high quality services and support to instill confidence, inspire victims to report, and restore resilience.**
Assessment – Effectively standardize, measure, analyze, and assess program progress.	**DoD incorporates responsive, meaningful, and accurate systems of measurement and evaluation into every aspect of SAPR.**

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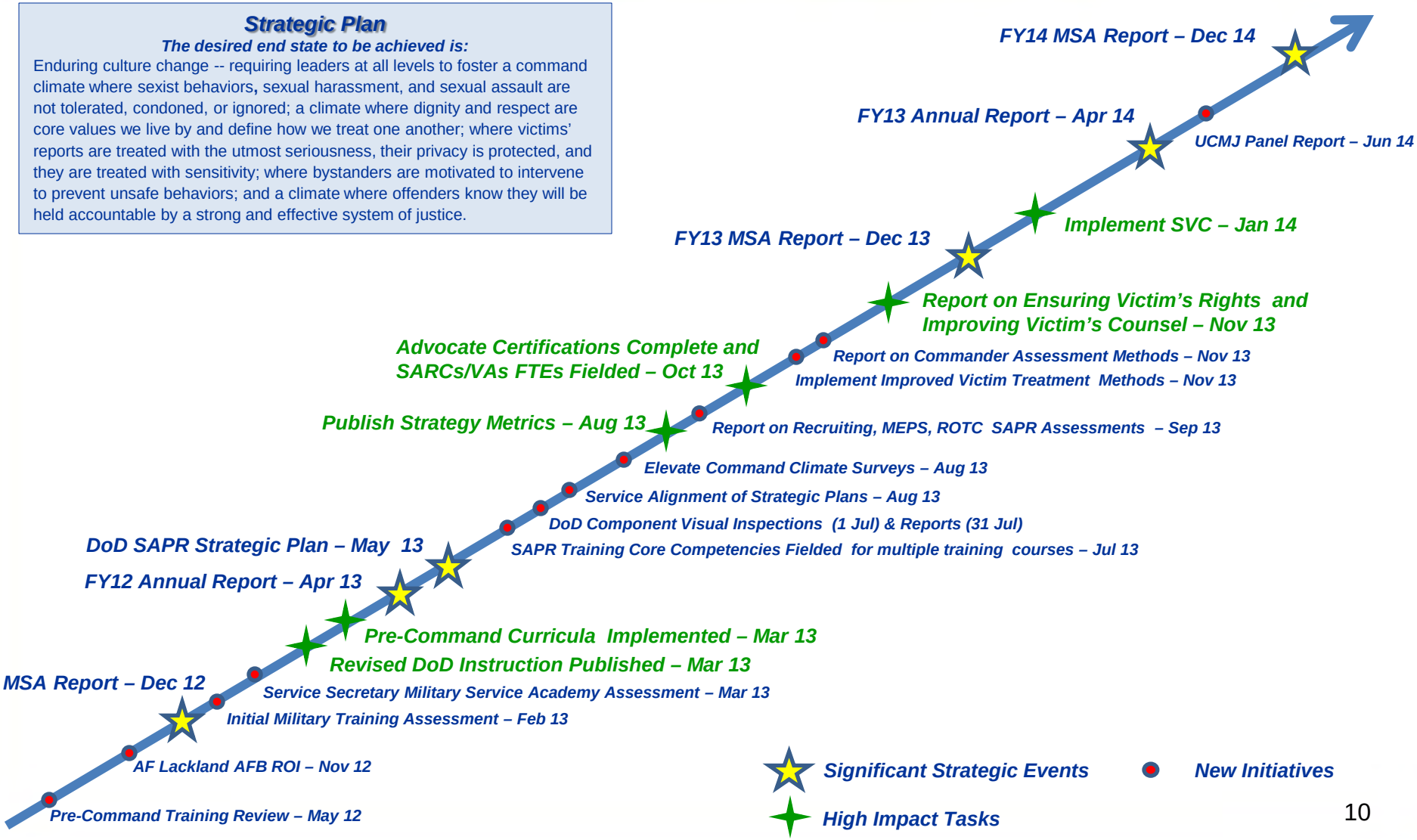
DoD SAPR Next Steps

Strategic Plan

The desired end state to be achieved is:

Enduring culture change -- requiring leaders at all levels to foster a command climate where sexist behaviors, sexual harassment, and sexual assault are not tolerated, condoned, or ignored; a climate where dignity and respect are core values we live by and define how we treat one another; where victims' reports are treated with the utmost seriousness, their privacy is protected, and they are treated with sensitivity; where bystanders are motivated to intervene to prevent unsafe behaviors; and a climate where offenders know they will be held accountable by a strong and effective system of justice.



SECDEF-directed SAPR Initiatives

(6 May 2013)

- **Ensuring Command Climate**: Visual inspection of DoD workplaces, ensuring they are free from degrading materials. (NLT July 1, 2013)
- **Enhancing Commander Accountability**: Unit annual climate survey results provided to unit commander's next higher level of command. (NLT July 31, 2013)
- **Ensuring Safety and Awareness:** Improve the effectiveness of sexual assault prevention and education programs in recruiting organizations, Military Entrance Processing Stations, and ROTC environments. (NLT Sep 30, 2013)
- **Enhancing Commander Accountability**: Service chief recommendations on methods of assessing commander performance in establishing proper climates and incorporating SAPR principles in their commands. (NLT Nov 1, 2013)
- **Improving Response and Victim Treatment**: Services will develop methods to assess, monitor, and improve victim treatment by their peers, co-workers, and chains of command. (NLT Nov 1, 2013)
- **Ensuring Victim's Rights**: DoD will develop a method, in coordination with the Joint Service Committee, to incorporate victim rights afforded by the Crime Victims' Rights Act into military justice practice. (NLT Nov 1, 2013)
- **Improving Victim's Counsel**: DoD will evaluate Air Force Special Victims Counsel pilot program and other approaches and report findings and recommendations (NLT Nov 1, 2013).
- **Assessing Military Justice Systems**: DoD will call upon the Section 576 UCMJ Response Systems Panel to report out within 12 months of panel's first meeting.

Questions