

Sexual Assault Prevention By CSM Fourhman

“I will never leave a fallen comrade.”

This is the final part of our Warrior Ethos that each one of us lives by everyday while we serve our great Army.

Never leaving a fallen comrade is more than just taking care of those wounded on the battlefield; it extends to never allowing harm to come to our fellow brothers and sisters in arms, in the barracks, on or off duty.

Sexual harassment and sexual assault are crimes that eat away at the very core of our Army Values and our Warrior Ethos.

Right now, the rate of sexual assaults in the Army is twice the rate of the other services.

The worst part behind that number is that experts estimate on average only one in five sexual assaults ever get reported.

It is the responsibility of everyone in the command, from senior leaders to junior Soldiers, to look out for their fellow brothers and sisters. We must create a positive environment where everyone knows that they can count on their fellow Soldiers to do the right thing ... every Soldier is his brother or sister's keeper.

As Soldiers we are bound together by our values, which help us distinguish ourselves from the rest of society. That bond to the outside eye is something some will never comprehend -- such as the sacrifice of one Soldier giving their life for a total stranger simply because they share the same uniform.

The Secretary of the Army, the honorable Pete Geren, spoke at the Association of the United States Army annual meeting and exposition last month, discussing the Army's continued effort to eradicate sexual harassment and sexual assault.

He spoke about how the Army will become the model for sexual harassment and assault prevention for the Nation, and how we will accomplish this through our Army Values.

“We will create a climate of zero tolerance for gender-based misconduct – in attitude, word, and deed, and become fully, as our values demand, a band of brothers and sisters,” said Geren, during his speech.

Stopping sexual assault begins with every Soldier doing the right thing at all times. We must stand up for our brothers and sisters, and stop the initial behaviors that lead to sexual assault before the act itself ever occurs.

Leaders must inform their Soldiers of the importance of a good sexual harassment and assault prevention program and enforce the standards to prevent these heinous acts from occurring.

USARCENT has proposed several steps in bringing awareness and prevention of sexual harassment and assault to the attention of the command.

These steps include, publishing results of Article 15/Court Martial actions, to send a message that these actions will not be tolerated and that the command takes this campaign very seriously; maximizing media potential to proliferate the field with command messaging on I. A.M. STRONG; implementing roving patrols for high risk areas; and creating an on-line communication access link for individuals with questions

about sexual harassment and assault. The on-line system also allows individuals to report incidents of sexual harassment and assault.

This is a very serious problem in our Army and something the command takes very seriously. With everyone doing their part, we can set the standard for other units to follow.

It starts with you ... take care of your brothers and sisters.
Patton's Own!