

May 19, 2015 Judicial Proceedings Panel Public Meeting on Retaliation – Questions for Survivors

- Where do you currently live and work?
- What is your Service and Rank, or other status (i.e. dependent, former Service member). How many years of service? What commands or MOS?

USMC, Active Duty Lance Corporal. I've been in 3 years in August. I have been a part of three different units now due to my assaults. I am a Data Tech.

- Where were you stationed and what was your job at the time of your retaliation experience? What year was it?

I was stationed in [REDACTED]. I've been a data tech the entirety of my career but rarely been able to do my job. I was moved to the armory during the investigation for 4 months. I have barley a year of disjointed experience in my job because of my assaults and am now playing catch-up on things that I should have learned a year or two ago. The year was 2014.

- Was the retaliation due to your report of a penetrative sexual assault (rape), a contact sexual assault, or sexual harassment? Who did you report to? How was the case resolved (Court martial, expedited transfer, 15-6, not prosecuted, letter of reprimand)?

I reported my last rape first and the first two rapes a few months later. I reported all of them through a UVA who took me to NCIS for the official unrestricted report. Two of my cases have been closed and no one seems to know what is going on with the first rape, which was one of the two I reported last. The two that have closed came back with the conclusion that my rapes were "consensual". After the first case, I was brought into my Sergeant Major's office and read my rights for the charges of fraternization and underage drinking, I had been 19 for all 3 rapes. I was not allowed to seek advice from VLC for collateral misconduct charges for my "unfounded allegations". I tried speaking with another military legal advisor on base and he could not represent me either since my charges were related to a sexual assault case already being covered by my VLC. He did advise me though, to deny NJP and ask for Court Martial. He said they'd more than likely drop the charges completely or give me a 6105 instead so as not to skyline them in their handling of my case, them being the Lt. Colonel of my battalion and the Colonel at the regiment above us. So that's what I did. The fraternization charge was dropped at my regimental NJP proceedings and I received a 6105 for underage drinking. The two boys involved in my last rape were brought up on charges of fraternization, providing alcohol to a minor and having a female in the room after hours in the barracks. They were both knocked down from Corporal to Lance Corporal. I was told to be happy that they'd faced any punishment because it's *SO* embarrassing to get out of the military as a Lance Corporal. I was not recommended for promotion June 6, 2014 just hours after having checked out and begun checking into my new unit. On the spot where I would've signed was written, SNM (Said Named Marine) was not available. In December 2014, my expedited transfer was finally approved after having been

denied a few times. Since my case had been ruled consensual, I didn't rate an expedited transfer, right? To put so much power in one man's hands, to allow one man to make the decision that I consented to my rape and then keep me in a place that was no longer safe for me is astounding.

- What type(s) of retaliation did you experience? For how long?

I was forced into an outpatient rehab during the investigation for my "alcoholism" which helped ruin my credibility in the case. I was deemed mentally unstable to move when I asked for the Expedited Transfer initially in September, but mentally sound when I asked to get separated from this contorted, misogynistic organization. I was removed from my job, since it was my Corporal who raped me, and placed in the armory for 4 months in a cage with 7 other men. I asked to be moved to a new unit at the close of my case. I opted to stay within the regiment rather than leave it to Headquarters Marine Corps to choose where I went next. At this new unit, the MPO that was in place for me against my rapist was violated when he showed up to my new work place. He was on business but did not leave once he saw me, even though he would have known I was there to begin with. There were people who knew everything of what happened, the truth, and they tried to use their "intimate knowledge" to get closer to me, to attempt to repeat history.

- Have you experienced bullying or retaliation on social media? If so, for how long?

I did, unfortunately have to endure that. There were pictures of myself uploaded onto three boot and wook (new marine and female marine respectfully) bashing Facebook pages. There were epithets comparing me to a wildebeest and a cum dumpster. "Find her, tag her, haze her." People found me, tagged me in every picture, and I received messages from men that I did not know stating that I was better off dead, that I'm a lying whore and I deserve to die, that I because I have low self-esteem I should not ruin someone else's career. I even received messages of lewd courting, "You look naughty in your profile picture." I will attach screenshots of the messages I could get.

- Was the retaliator(s) a co-worker or supervisor? What position or rank was the person(s) who retaliated against you?

The boy who took the pictures worked with me, and many of the people who responded in one way or another were co-workers and/or supervisors in the sense that someone is a corporal of Marines, not just a corporal to their Marines. The service members I knew were E-5 and below. Though I did have Staff Non Commissioned Officers throw their two-sense into the mix at work.

- Did you talk to the retaliator(s) directly about the retaliation? If you did, what happened?

I did not.

- Did you report the retaliation to anyone else? To whom? What was the result?

I brought the matter straight to a Gunnery Sergeant and then to my VLC. The Gunnery Sergeant

ran the problem up the chain of command while my VLC brought it higher to the Colonel at regiment. A check in the box preliminary investigation was conducted, but of course nothing came of it. I was told to content myself with the knowledge that everyone that was questioned seemed scared. "they know we take these things seriously now", except absolutely nothing was done. So how are these issues being taken seriously? That's right, they're not.

- Did you make a retaliation complaint in writing or fill out a formal complaint form? Is there a process to do this that you are aware of?

There is not a process that I'm aware of, but I'm sure there is one in some dark corner of this organization that's hidden along with all the horrible realities of reporting such a heinous crime.

- Did you report the retaliation to your SARC or VA? Did your SARC or VA help resolve any retaliation issues? Did your SARC or VA speak to the command on your behalf?

I told my UVA, who in turn told the SARC, and my VLC about the retaliation. They did what they could which wasn't much between the constraints of the system and the fact that some of the retaliation came from above them.

- Did you have an SVC/VLC? If so, were they helpful in resolving the retaliation? If you didn't have an SVC/VLC, why not?

I have a VLC. She was extremely helpful in any way she could be. She helped bring some of the peer retaliation to light with my command, the vandalism of my car, the social media posts about me, the threats I received through Facebook. There wasn't much more she could besides say, "Hey guys, this is what's happening." There was a preliminary investigation which resulted in nothing.

- Have you ever had training explaining what retaliation is, how to report it, that it is prohibited, and that retaliation against someone who reports a crime is itself a crime? If so, when and by whom? If not, would that have been helpful to you?

I can't recall having training solely on retaliation. If it is even mentioned, it would be just a sentence or two during the SAPR training about how you shouldn't do it and you can get in trouble for it. Even if there were an actual class or a whole segment in the SAPR training for retaliation, I don't believe it would help. We have classes on sexual assault prevention and yet it still happens, so no, a class would do nothing.

- Did you make or consider making an IG complaint for the retaliation? If so, did you report to your Service or DoD IG? How was it resolved? Were you kept informed through the process?

I considered making an IG complaint but decided with writing a letter to my Congressman instead. His office still has my letter and has not done anything with it yet at my request. The gentleman I spoke with said it would more than likely initiate an investigation and at the time, I did not want to go through that process again.

- Did you make an EO complaint? Did you consider it? If so, what was the result?

I did not. A friend that inadvertently got involved attempted to but was told by the Commanding Officer not to so we didn't draw too many eyes.

- Do you feel like your command takes this issue seriously? Why or why not?

My first command, not at all. If they had, I wouldn't be in this boat to begin with. My current command and the last one I was at in Camp Pendleton I feel do take it seriously.

- What, if anything, ultimately ended the retaliation you experienced?

Moving, and that option was almost taken from me.

- Did you fill out the WGRA survey this year? Why or why not?

I'm not even sure what that is.

- If you had it to do over again, would you report the sexual assault? Sexual harassment? The retaliation?

Yes, but only so I could add to the already large statistic of those who have had their justice taken away from them. The system is too corrupted to work.

- How does your unit conduct annual SAPR training? Who does the training? Is it taken seriously? Is retaliation covered in the SAPR training?

Yes, we have annual SAPR training which is conducted by one of the unit's UVAs. Generally, it's not taken serious. If retaliation is covered, it's usually just a sentence or two.

- What has been the most helpful thing to you through the process?

My VLC and the last UVA I had in [REDACTED]. They were two incredibly strong and helpful women.

- What has been the worst part of the experience?

Where would I even start?

- If you are in the military currently, do you plan to stay in the military? If former military, what was the primary cause of your separation? What administrative action was used to separate you? Was it voluntary or involuntary? If involuntary, did you appeal? Do you plan to appeal?

I definitely do not intend to stay in. I'm currently looking at a separation for PTSD related to my assaults and a knee injury I incurred before my assaults. And with my knee injury, I've had trouble getting help with that because of my assaults. Some doctors look at my history of mental

health appointments and right off my knee pain as psychosomatic even though my pain stems from an accident nearly a year before any of my assaults occurred.

- Do you have any comments or suggestions for ways to help discourage retaliation in the military or to make the process for addressing it work better?

Take everything dealing with SAPR program out of the military's hands. From my experience, most commanders can not distance themselves enough to be an unbiased judge. How could he be a rapist if he has a Navy Accommodation Medal and is currently being written up for another during the middle of another?

- Who have you trusted the most through this experience?

My VLC and the one UVA I mentioned earlier.

- Who have you trusted the least through this experience?

My command, the police (PMO in particular), my peers and leadership.

- If you received any counseling or behavioral health services, were they helpful to you? Were the services from military or civilian providers? Was your SARC or VA helpful to you in finding the services you needed?

The therapy I have received has been helpful even though going is a career ender, even though people tell you it's not. The services I sought were from civilian providers on base. Initially yes.

There was mention of having commanders and NCOs and the like present to respond on how they would deal with any form of retaliation, I nearly laughed at that. How can you expect the people dueling out the retaliation to report it? I know not all are terrible people but in my experience, too many were. Any other questions that arise, I would be more than happy to answer.

