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SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATIONS

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Deputy G2/3

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CASE DATA

- 12,725 ROIs investigated in FY13 (~900 more than FY12)
- 2,623 sexual assault ROIs investigated in FY 13 (~400 more than FY12)
- 1,833 sexual assault ROIs met the DoD definition (~550 more than FY12)
- 90% solve rate for sexual assault ROIs
- 109 days = average length of a sexual assault investigation
 - ~ 43% of cases reported a month or more after incident
 - ~ 15% of cases reported a year or more after incident
 - ~ 36% of cases occur off-post
 - ~ 36% of cases involve a civilian suspect (both on and off post)
- Laboratory turnaround/processing times
 - 57 days for DNA in FY13
 - 76 days for processing all sexual assault evidence in FY13



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AGENT DATA

- **747 authorized CID agents at field investigative units**
 - 354 WO, 371 Enlisted and 22 Civilian (all these civilian agents are Sexual Assault Investigators (SAIs))
 - Avg Experience: 9.8 years (WO); 3.9 years (Enlisted); 18.1 years (SAIs)
- **71 CID field offices at major Army installations worldwide**
 - Goal is to have SVU qualified agent(s) at all CID field locations
 - 54 (76%) of CID field locations have SVU trained agents



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BASIC AGENT TRAINING

- Basic agent training (15 weeks) includes:
 - 32 hours of law and legal issues
 - 241 hours of crime scene processing
 - 187 hours of interview techniques
 - 16 hrs of specific sexual assault
- 1 year probationary period after graduation from basic:
 - Hands on evaluation of all required investigative skills, to include interviews, crime scene, sexual assault investigation and court testimony
- Annual Refresher Training
 - All agents trained
 - Review of DOD, Army & CID policies; topics in DoDI 6495.02 and DODI 5505.18; investigative weaknesses noted



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ADVANCED SEXUAL ASSAULT INVEST. TRAINING

• SVU Course at USAMPS for advanced sexual assault, child and domestic partner assault investigation training (80 hrs)

- Update on DOD policies (Army and CID policies presented in separate training module)
- Memory and Recall Processes and Functions - How Trauma Affects Memory and Recall
- Alcohol Facilitated Sexual Assaults
- Same-Sex Sexual Assaults
- Marital Sexual Assaults
- Proper Case Determination Closure (False Report Myths, False Recantations, etc)
- Legal Aspects of SVU cases
- Medical Examination/Evidence in SVU cases
- FETI (Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview) technique
- Vicarious Trauma
- Heavy use of video vignettes and analogies throughout. Training draws out and discusses deeply and widely held bias' and beliefs – start of changing the culture of investigators

• Graduates receive a basic Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) to assist in management and assignment to SVUs at (eventually) all Army bases that have a CID offices



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SENIOR SVU AGENT TRAINING

- **SVU Course (80 hrs)**
- **Domestic Violence Intervention Course (40 hrs)**
- **Child Abuse Prevention & Investigation Course (66 hrs)**
- **Advanced Crime Scene Course (80 hrs)**

- **Graduates receive a “Senior” Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) to assist in management and assignment to SVUs at all large Army bases that have a CID office. Senior and basic ASI agents will support smaller Army bases as a “fly away” team as dictated by individual cases.**



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SPECIAL VICTIM UNIT CAPABILITIES

- 22 civilian Sexual Assault Investigators (SAIs) at 20 Army posts lead SVU teams
 - In FY14, 30 SAIs at 23 Army posts (if funding is available)
- For those posts without an SAI, goal is to have an senior ASI agent and a basic ASI agent assigned to lead SVU teams.
 - 54 Army posts have a basic SVU trained military agent
 - 7 Army posts have a senior SVU trained military agent
 - 17 Army posts are currently not covered
- Have 7 Senior SVU military agents and 311 Basic SVU military agents
- Assignment process to assure coverage at all locations awaiting normal PCS order rotation for military agents



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SVU WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

- 21 of 23 Special Victim Prosecutors (SVPs) co-located on Army posts with CID SVU SAIs
- 2 SVPs co-located on Army posts with CID SVU trained agents
- Early and constant coordination between investigators and prosecutors is required. Final coordination required before a case can be closed
- Prior to monthly case status update to victim, coordination with prosecutor is required
- Special Agents in Charge (SACs)(or SVU team chiefs in large offices) attend monthly meetings with all partners involved in sexual assault response and prevention
- Multi-discipline approach to investigations is emphasized
- Use of experts to explain evidence, victim behavior, etc, is emphasized



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SVU CHALLENGES

- Pre-text call/communication (consensual intercept) approval process
- Collateral misconduct
 - Mandatory rights advisement for military per UCMJ
- Victim movement after reporting
 - New agent has to establish rapport with victim
 - New agent not familiar with crime scene, location(s), and/or nuances in witness and suspect statements
 - Can lengthen the investigative process
- Evidence Retention



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SVU INITIATIVES

- Locate both SVPs and CID SVU agents in the same building at Ft Hood
- Expand SVU Team to include not only SVPs and SVU agents, but to include medical care, legal services, and victim advocates at a single location at Joint Base Lewis-McChord
- Sexual assault investigative training with medical personnel (SANEs, doctors, nurses) in Germany



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QUESTIONS?

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