

Sexual Assault Cases Up In US Military

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/17, story 5, 2:10, Williams) reported, "Now to the Pentagon and a disturbing new report on sexual assault in the US military." It is more "widespread than was first thought, but very few cases are reported or prosecuted. ... A Pentagon report on sexual assaults released" Tuesday shows that in "2008, there were more than 2,900 sexual assaults in the military," up "eight percent" from "the previous year. Perhaps more alarming, the number of sexual assaults in the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan spiked by 26%. Pentagon officials insist they're taking the disturbing trend seriously." And, in fact, the Pentagon "has launched an aggressive campaign to convince the victims to step forward and report sexual assaults. But it's still estimated that only 10% of the attacks ever get reported."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/17, story 8, 4:45, Rodriguez) noted, "The Pentagon acknowledges that some 80 percent of rapes are never reported, making it the most underdocumented crime in the military." Callie Wight, a counselor for the Department of Veterans Affairs, "says victims haven't come forward for a number of reasons," including that "they didn't want anyone to know what had happened to them." CBS added, "The military is trying to reduce the stigma through increased awareness, education, and guaranteeing confidentiality to victims reporting such crimes. And the Army has launched a national program called 'I am Strong.' Installations like Fort Irwin in California credit the campaign with driving assault numbers down."