



# ***CJTF Phoenix VII Equal Opportunity and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Programs Newsletter***



EO/SAPR Team: LTC VanCort and MSG Misericordia

**Edition 1, 1 June 2008**

Welcome from the EO/SAPR Team for CJTF Phoenix VII, we hope that you find this newsletter beneficial in the performance of your duties as an Equal Opportunity Leader (EOL) and/or Victim Advocate (VA). We have placed many useful tools on the CJTF PHX VII intranet site at: <https://tfphx.onetteam.centcom.mil/Pages/default.aspx> You can find guidance, procedures, forms, posters, training packages, etc for both Equal Opportunity and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. We welcome your feedback, comments, suggestions, etc.

## **Equal Opportunity and Prevention of Sexual Harassment**

CJTF PHX VII will be conducting an Equal Opportunity Leaders training course from 4-9 August 2008. If you know you will be departing theater in the coming months or you are aware of Warriors in your command that desire training, advise your Commander and forward their names for attendance. Command can never have enough "eyes and ears" on the ground especially with the numerous FOBs and Camps in our Area of Operations.

A refresher training packet was emailed and is available on the intranet site for use. All Warriors while deployed must have refresher training every 90-120 days. Tailor the information in the presentation to the needs of your command. We have had positive feedback from a couple units who have completed it already.

MSG Misericordia recently visited ARSIC-C and met with EOL leaders in the ARSIC. He will be visiting ARSIC-N 2-4 Jun and ARSIC-W on 9-11 Jun. These are strictly "visits" and not "inspections". It gives us an opportunity to see and meet EOLs in the field.

## **Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program**

### **Warriors Learn to Be Victim Advocates**



(On May 15, 2008, Captain Joel Abelow, CJTF PHXVII SJA provides students with information on the legal process for victims of sexual assault.)

**KABOL PROVINCE, Afghanistan** — U.S. military Deployable Sexual Assault Response Coordinators, Unit Victim Advocates, Chaplain, Medical, Investigative in Legal representatives in Kabul, Afghanistan, teamed up May 12-16 to train 17 unit representatives at Camp Phoenix. Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VII SARC coordinated the classroom instruction of a Unit Victim Advocate. One (1) UVA from Camp Eggers and 16 CJTF Phoenix VII UVA's attended the week-long course. "Our Brigade reported with 10 trained Unit Victim Advocates, however there were not enough qualified to cover our area of responsibility," said Lieutenant Colonel Theresa VanCort, CJTF Phoenix VII DSARC. Military regulations require all personnel to attend the course in order to be assigned as UVAs. There is an ongoing need for this training with the rotation of personnel in theater, said VanCort. "We wanted to ensure warriors throughout our Area of Responsibility (AOR) have (trained) Unit Victim Advocates in case they're needed," said VanCort "Command support was outstanding. All Commanders embraced the program and allowed Warriors from all Military Services to attend this training. We had UVAs from Army, Air Force and Navy" said VanCort. Colonel

Gary Yapple, CJTF Phoenix VII Deputy Commander opened the course and provided Warriors with their completion certificates at closing. "This is a critical service that you are providing" "you have the full support of this command", said Yapple. The course is intended to give UVAs the basic Sexual Assault Prevention and Response information to include program purpose, UVA role, reporting options, critical advocacy skills, crisis intervention, victim safety, the medical, investigative and legal processes and how to assist Commanders with training in this critical program", explained VanCort. During the training, students learn how to communicate and build rapport with victims of sexual assault and to assist victims in what can be a very difficult process.

Please ensure you update the Sexual Assault Posters for your units and include the following information:

**Sexual Assault Hot Line:** 431-7454/7453 (Confidential hot line – manned by SARC's at Bagram)

**Military OneSource:** Overseas:00-800-3429-6477 OS Collect:1-484-530-5908 (Confidential Hotline)

**Phoenix TMC,** Bldg A-4 237-2412

**Bagram ER** 431-3207 (5436)

We anticipate more information on medical resources by our next Sexual Assault Review Board in June. We continue to work on the "Due out list" from the UVA course. Items in process: Victim packet; UVA readiness packet; table of contents for a continuity book; medical sop; and additional level III options. We have provided the phone contacts, business card templates and this newsletter. All course attendees had some "due ins" and we are still looking for regional contacts and periodic updates on any climate issues or trends.

Interesting newsletter article in regards to Sexual Assault legislation in regards to contractors.

*Poe/Slaughter Amendment Protects Civilian Contractors Working Overseas Tuesday, May 27, 2008 Requires Defense Contractors to Report Violent Crimes WASHINGTON, DC –* Congressman Ted Poe (TX-02) and Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) offered an amendment to the Defense Appropriations Bill requiring defense contractors supporting the missions in Iraq and Afghanistan to report violent crimes committed against or by contracted employees to the Department of Defense and that the information be made public. Congress overwhelmingly approved this amendment by voice vote.

"This is one step in the right direction in bringing justice to victims," said Poe. "It is important that Americans working overseas know that the long arm of the law doesn't stop at our borders. The sexual assault case of Jamie Leigh Jones brought to light serious concerns over how our government and US contractors handle criminal activity in Iraq and Afghanistan. I applaud this Congress for recognizing this is not a political issue and working across party lines to overwhelmingly support this important amendment."

Slaughter/Poe Amendment to H.R. 5658, The Defense Appropriations Bill:

\* Secretary of Defense shall develop requirements relating to covered offenses allegedly perpetrated by or against contractor personnel

\* Creates a requirement for defense contractors to provide for victim and witness safety, medical assistance, and psychological assistance in the case of a covered offense

\* Applies to all current and future government contractors Congressman Poe has been an outspoken advocate for justice on behalf of Jamie Leigh Jones. Poe was instrumental in facilitating the return of Ms. Jones after receiving a call from her father in July 2005. Congressman Poe contacted the State Department's Department of Overseas Citizen Services, which then dispatched agents from the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad to rescue her.

Congressman Poe is the founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus. As a former criminal court judge and prosecutor for over 30 years in Houston, Texas, Poe is recognized nationally for his creative sentencing of criminals and as a dedicated advocate for victims and children.

Feel free to share the information in this newsletter with your command. We hope you have found this information useful in making your programs successful.

*Please feel free to provide input to this newsletter. We will publish this on a monthly basis on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. Please forward any input to LTC VanCort or MSG Misericordia NLT the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thank you all for your role and in performance of this invaluable service you provide to Commanders and Warriors!*