

# The Voice of Experience VETERAN VOICE

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## Some victims of military sexual trauma may surprise

Mary Kemper

STAFF WRITER

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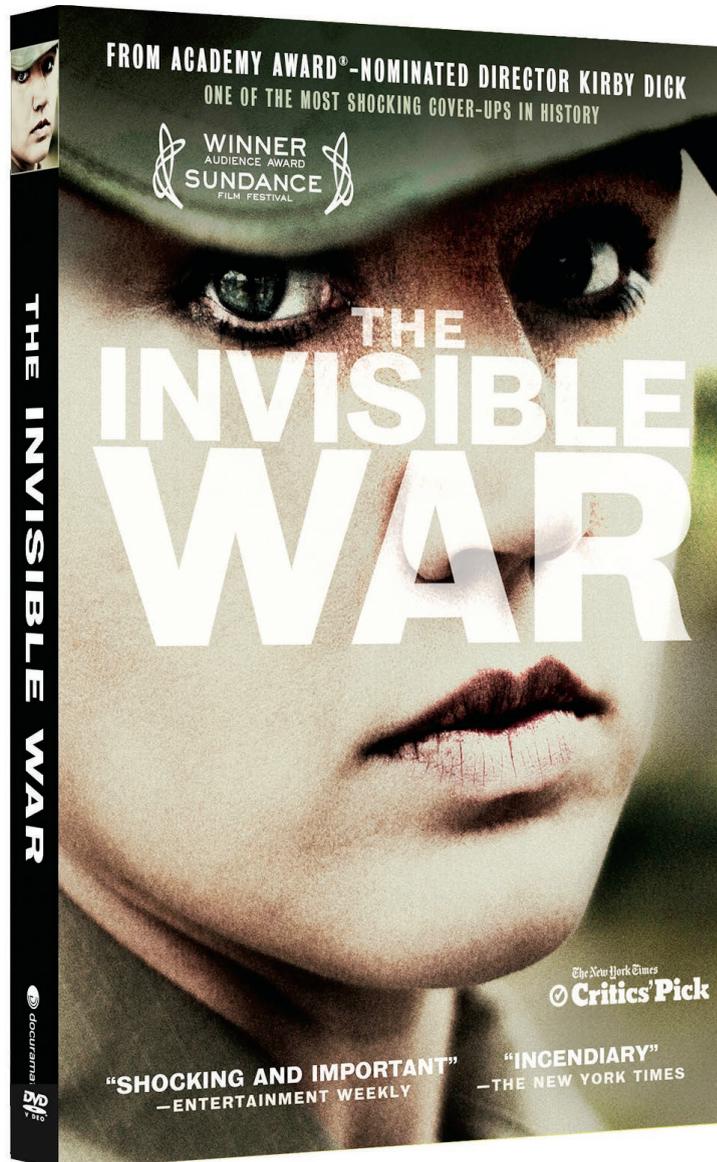
**Editor's note:** Military sexual trauma rate reports skyrocketed in 2013, as reported in the national news. Coupled with that, allegations against high-ranking or high-authority servicemen of the very crime they're supposed to prevent have captured attention. Veteran Voice will examine this issue in three parts. Part I was dedicated to an overview of the issue, to include how Florida has been affected and will be expected to contribute to eradicating the crime. Part II will break down the anatomy of sexual assault crimes, especially by gender, and examine some of the many factors that complicate the issue even more for military victims. Part III will explore what progress has been made toward eliminating the crime throughout the Department of Defense and in central Florida. Part I was published Jan. 10. Following is Part II.

Kori Cioca was raped and beaten so badly by her Coast Guard commanding officer that her jaw was shattered. It took seven long years before the Veterans Administration accepted her claim for medical care. She contemplated suicide, at one point. To date, she can only eat soft foods.

The supervisor is still at his job. Cioca is one of 70 women whose stories of military sexual trauma have been documented in the Academy Award-nominated "The Invisible War," a film by director

Kirby Dick, released in 2012. It is a frank and harrowing account – and many believe it directly led to military sexual trauma receiving so much attention in 2013, along with a string of high-profile allegations against commanders who abused subordinates.

It is a crime that cuts across all social boundaries, civilian and military. It is a crime believed primarily directed against women, and it is seen less as a kind of sexual gratification than an exercise of power. While women remain the primary victims, evidence is beginning to emerge that more men than previously



thought are also victims, adding to the crime's complexity.

And it has become evident that the military structure, if not its culture, looms large as an extra hurdle for victims to overcome.

The national numbers are sober-

ing. According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, an average of 237,868 reported incidents are reported every year. Up to 44 percent of victims are younger than 18; 80 percent are under the age of 30. Two-thirds of assaults are committed by someone the victim knows. A staggering 90 percent of accused rapists will never see trial.

In a Dec. 27, 2013, report by Associated Press reporter Lolita C. Baldor, "there were more than 5,000 reports of (military) sexual assault filed during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, compared to the 3,374 in 2012. Of those 2013 reports, about 10 percent involved incidents that occurred before the victim got into the military, up from just 4 percent only a year ago."

Broken down by service, Baldor reported, "according to the latest numbers, the increase in reports across the services ranges from a low of about 45 percent for the Air Force to a high of 86 percent for the Marines, the smallest service. The Navy had an increase of 46 percent and the Army, by far the largest military service, had a 50 percent jump.

"The crime has been vastly underreported — a fact that became evident when officials announced earlier this year that an anonymous survey had revealed that about 26,000 service members reported some type of unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault."

In central Florida, the rates are smaller than national ones, but

See VICTIMS page 5

## How do you, as a veteran, feel about the worsening situation in Iraq

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## OUR MISSION STATEMENT AND OUR OBJECTIVE

Veteran Voice is a weekly publication designed to provide information to and about veterans to veterans and to the broader community. Veterans are an integral part of their Florida communities, which currently have individual organizations of their own, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Vietnam Veterans of America and many other groups with a narrow focus, but no convenient way to connect to a wider population of veterans and to the community in general within a limited geographic area, their community.

The mission of Veteran Voice is to publish a weekly source of information that will provide, in one place, a listing of resources available to veterans, articles about changes in policies or organizations affecting veterans and events of interest to veterans as well as articles about veterans of interest to the general public.

Veteran Voice LLC is organized as a partnership of experienced newspaper executives with an interest in veterans and in the communities of Florida veterans and friends. Veteran Voice is a start-up intended to address a perceived lack of information readily available to veterans on programs and policies affecting them and objective reporting of veteran affairs to the public. To our knowledge, and based on comments from leaders of local veterans organizations, there was no media or website currently meeting this need until the launch of Veteran Voice.

We hope you agree, and will support this publication with your subscription. Without subscriptions there will be a limited number of people we can help, without which this mission will not be realized. As part of our commitment to supporting local veteran communities, we will donate 10 percent of our profits each quarter to qualified veteran charities recommended by you, our readers and subscribers. Please let us know what you think by emailing [news@veteranvoiceweekly.com](mailto:news@veteranvoiceweekly.com) or mailing your comments to us at **1919 S.W. South Macedo Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34984.**

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# Hard work key to business success

St. Lucie Battery & Tire has eight veterans currently on staff, and inviting more to apply

**Shelley Koppel**

STAFF WRITER

skoppel@YourVoiceWeekly.com

FORT PIERCE — Joey Miller, the founder of St. Lucie Battery & Tire, was only 5 when his family moved from Flatbush, Brooklyn to Fort Pierce. They came, as so many did, for a warmer climate.

Miller's father began selling eggs at 5500 Orange Ave. His son took over the small grocery business and a few years later, in 1967, began repairing batteries,

"It was a grocery store that sold used batteries and eggs," Miller said. "Back then, it was dead in the summer time. I had the opportunity to get into something year-round to supplement the farming. If you listen to your customer, they'll tell you when and where to grow. It evolved from where it was to where it is."

Today, St. Lucie Battery & Tires is a business that recently opened its 13<sup>th</sup> store, has more than 140 employees and was ranked in the top 100 independent U.S. tire retailers by *Tire Business Magazine*. The company operates in St. Lucie, Martin, Indian

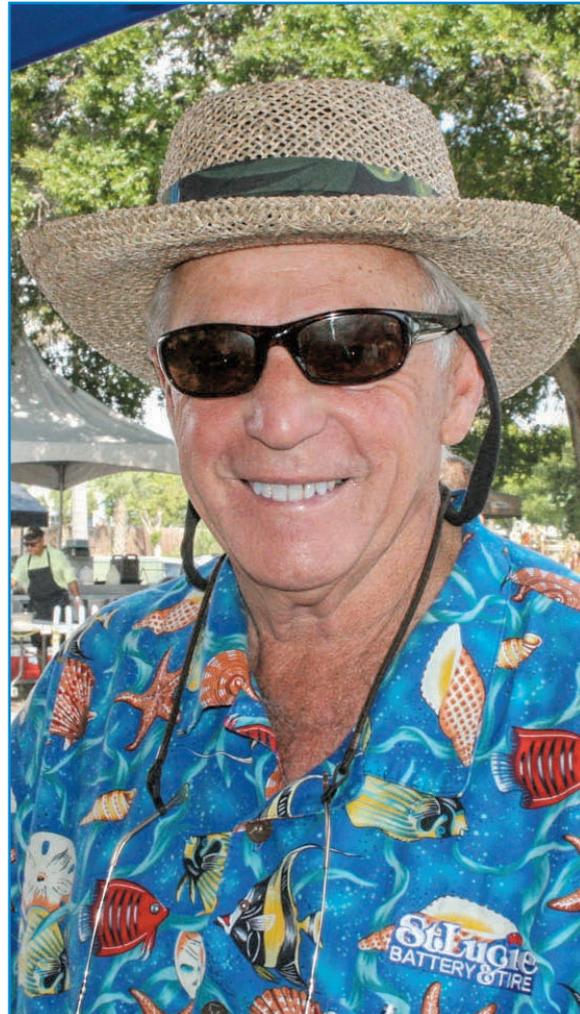
River, Okeechobee and Palm Beach counties, selling more the 8,000 tires a month and performing more than 2,000 oil changes monthly.

Miller said that the path to success wasn't an easy one.

"It was about servicing the customer and a lot of hard work. I never went to college, and I felt like if I wanted to be successful, I had to outperform my competition. I always tried to treat every customer like I'd want to be treated and give every customer a dollar's worth of value for a dollar."

Nowadays, Miller's son, Doug, is the company president and runs the business on a day-to-day basis. His other son, Mickey, is a veteran of Desert Storm, and the company is trying to hire more veterans. Right now, they employ eight, but Joey Miller would like that number to grow.

"I'm very proud to be an American," he said. "I think the people need to take their hats off to the people that serve this country. That's why we're free. When they come back, they often get overlooked. We're working hard (to hire more vets.) If a vet came with the right qualifications, we'd give them the



St. Lucie Battery & Tire founder Joey Miller is all about hard work but often looks comfortable doing it. Miller has parlayed his success in business into successes for the community through his philanthropy to many non-profit organizations and sponsorships.

Photo courtesy of Gorilla Magic

See BATTERY page 10

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# Painful, infuriating movie a must see



Patrick McCallister  
FOR VETERAN VOICE

It hurts to watch “Lone Survivor.” No, really. It physically hurts at times. It emotionally hurts. It’s infuriating, too, because it’s based on events that occurred. There’s almost nothing pleasant about “Lone Survivor.” The protagonists aren’t just Navy SEALs. They’re humans who make mistakes, feel physical pain, get emotionally overwhelmed, and die like anybody else would.

You’ve got to see this movie. Yeah, you read that right.

First, you must know a little bit about the story behind it.

On June 28, 2005, Lt. Michael Murphy made a call for help. For that call he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Murphy moved out from cover and got shot several times while begging for support.

According to a Navy Special Warfare narrative, Murphy and three



United States Navy file photo of Navy SEALs operating in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. From left to right, Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class Matthew G. Axelson, of Cupertino, Calif; Senior Chief Information Systems Technician Daniel R. Healy, of Exeter, N.H.; Quartermaster 2nd Class James Suh, of Deerfield Beach; Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Marcus Luttrell; Machinist’s Mate 2nd Class Eric S. Patton, of Boulder City, Nev.; and Lt. Michael P. Murphy, of Patchogue, N.Y. With the exception of Luttrell, all were killed June 28, 2005, by enemy forces while supporting Operation Red Wings.

other SEALs — including Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Marcus Luttrell — were seeking a Taliban leader in the mountains near

Asadabad, Afghanistan, as part of Operation Red Wings. They encountered enemy fighters. Very well-armed enemy fighters with terrain on their side. Murphy was shot multiple times when he exposed himself in order to call for assistance. By the time the battle was over, 11 Navy SEALs died alongside eight Army soldiers.

Among things that went terribly wrong — a MH-47 with SEALs heading to rescue Murphy’s team was shot down.

Luttrell, the only survivor, wrote a book about the battle. It was appropriately named, “Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10.” That book was the basis for the movie, “Lone Survivor.”

The movie has plenty of hot lead flying around. And explosions. Lots of those. None of it fun to watch. This movie is no glorified portrayal of war. It’s no hero SEAL worship either. Most of all, it’s not death glorification.

Frankly, I was a bit concerned going into “Lone Survivor.” The last SEAL movie I watched was “Act of Valor.” That movie had two-dimensional characters mechanically marching through

110 minutes of superhero SEALs status. If that 2012 movie gave me one more stoic warrior facing death with wide eyes, a smile and fearless steely resolve, I was going to scream.

“Lone Survivor” doesn’t give the viewer that superhero SEAL. It shows men who were outnumbered, outgunned, and scared. Very, very scared. It’s portrayal of war is along the lines of 2001’s “Black Hawk Down.” It shows war as a messy affair that doesn’t let heroes die very heroically. In other words, it’s honest.

The 121-minute movie is lined with numerous subtle political statements easy to miss if your mind’s not in 2005 and what was happening in American military operations around that time. Why was there a shortage of AH-64 Apache helicopters to escort the MH-47s? Movie doesn’t say, but —

The movie was released on Jan. 10. It’s in numerous area theaters.

*Patrick McCallister is staff writer for Veteran Voice’s sister publication, Your Voice News & Views, and contributes weekly to Veteran Voice.*

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#### POSTAL STATEMENT

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equally as discouraging.

Mindi Fetterman, founder and executive director of the Inner Truth Project in Port St. Lucie, which assists survivors of domestic abuse, including sexual trauma, “there are at least 20 to 30 people we treat per month,” she said. The project’s mission is to provide personal and group counseling and other related services to “help women get their lives back together and to heal, not only themselves and their families,” Fetterman said.

Currently, she said, “our financial situation doesn’t allow for us to treat men, but we certainly see welcoming them down the road when we can.”

Just what is it about sexual trauma that makes it such a particularly heinous crime?

It cuts to the core of a person’s identity, rather than simply being a physical injury, according to medical professionals. As such, it can leave lasting ill effects.

“If left untreated, the physical and psychological effects of sexual assault and rape can be devastating, sometimes even deadly,” said Dr. Roxanne Dryden-Edwards of *medicine.net*.

“Causes of death as the result of sexual violence include suicide, murder, and infection with the human immunodeficiency virus. Murder of sexual assault and rape victims may be perpetrated by the rapist or as part of an honor killing by family members of the victim.

“A victim of a rape or other sexual assault might become pregnant as a result of the rape. He or she could have trouble sleeping, changes in their appetite, or develop full-blown emotional problems, including post traumatic stress disorder, depression, substance abuse, or dependence.

“Individuals who have experienced sexual assault are at risk for other day-to-day problems, including arguing with family members and having problems at work,” Dryden-Edwards stated.

Why do people commit these terrible crimes? The use of sex is not for gratification, experts say.

Janet Meyer, who holds a master of arts in psychology, published a paper on the root cases of sexual assault.

She said that while underlying biological causes — mostly in brain orientation — may contribute, it is a minor factor.

“Biological facts may set the stage for learning, providing limits and possibilities rather than determining outcomes,” she wrote. “Developmental and environmental factors likely play the larger role.”

Meyer goes on to identify the specific behaviors men engage in

**“It’s easy for some people to single out women and say: ‘There’s a small percentage of the force having this problem,’ said First Lt. Adam Cohen, who said he was raped by a superior officer. ‘No one wants to admit this problem affects everyone. Both genders, of all ranks. It’s a cultural problem,’” Dao reported.**

when committing sexual assault:

“Men who have been convicted of rape have been diagnosed with a wide variety of psychiatric and personality disorders, most often antisocial personality disorder. Sexually aggressive men are said to differ from other men in anti-social tendencies, nonconformity, impulsivity and hypermasculinity.

“Yet, personality testing of convicted rapists has found no significant differences between sexual offenders and those incarcerated for nonsexual offenses. When research examines the personality characteristics of admitted sexually aggressive men who have not been arrested for sexual assault, the differences between these men and the general population are more subtle.

“Researchers consistently find that a startling number of college-age males report being involved in a wide spectrum of sexually coercive behaviors. The degree of involvement in sexually coercive behavior appears to be related to personality measures of irresponsibility, a lack of social conscience, and a value orientation legitimizing aggression, particularly against women.”

When Meyer refers to “hyper-masculinity” in her report, some may infer that military men may show this behavior more than others. The research into military versus civilian behavior is still in early stages, however.

Women in general are primarily the victims of sexual trauma, and women suffer a higher percentage of victims in the military.

What is surprising, however, is the number of men who anonymously reported assaults in the Pentagon’s 2012 survey, which showed unreported assaults vastly outnumbering reported ones.

“In its latest report on sexual assault, the Pentagon estimated that 26,000 service members experienced unwanted sexual contact in 2012, up from 19,000 in 2010. Of those cases, the Pentagon says, 53 percent involved attacks on men, mostly by other men,” according to James Dao in a report for *The New York Times*.

“It’s easy for some people to single out women and say: ‘There’s

**See VICTIMS page 7**

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# Legion head visits state; strong words for government

**Mary Kemper**

STAFF WRITER

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Dan Dellinger, national commander of the American Legion, paid a visit to the Brevard Veterans Council and Veterans Memorial Center last week as part of his duties to oversee Legion activities and initiatives around the nation.

He was direct and vocal about how he, and the Legion, see their way forward in assisting veterans and active-duty military members in today's political climate.

On the 2013 budget agreement in Congress: "We are on top of revisions coming in the next two weeks that would rescind the reduction in COLA (cost of living adjustments) for veterans. We are firmly against that, and other measures," Dellinger said. The "other measures" include a number of government initiatives, which have propelled the American Legion into the political theater, including closing military base commissary stores.

"I am totally against that," Dellinger said. "I'm taking up the battle on it. Too many service members can't make ends meet without the help of the commissary. Why join the military to defend our great nation if they're not able to get the benefits of it?"

On what he sees as a training problem: "There are only 26 active training brigades left, and they're not doing the job. I've actually seen Marines driving around in golf carts. I mean, simulation can only go so far."

On the state of VA medical facilities: "I will go to VA hospitals and look into every corner. There are too many reports of dirty instruments, patients not getting the right treatment — for every one good facility there are five bad ones, and that is unacceptable."

He was echoed emphatically by Art Schwabe, department commander — the state head of Florida's American Legion.

"We want to expand the veteran's voice in Congress," he said. "There is strength in numbers."

In his commander's testimony report to Congress in March, he said, he made it clear that troops must "keep their benefits. Using veterans as a line item? That's not right."

Battle lines have been drawn, both commanders made clear. Veterans, and troops, are at risk of suffering under bad legislation. The Legion has made it clear that, in addition to its usual duties, taking action in national legislation will be a priority.

According to The Daily Caller ([dailycaller.com](http://dailycaller.com)), "the House (of Representatives) voted 332-94 on



Photo courtesy of Ted Wilson

National American Legion Commander Dan Dillinger, center, chats with Robert Doyle, left, Veterans Memorial Center operations director, and Bill Vagianos, Veterans Memorial Center president, during Dillinger's recent visit to the Merritt Island institution.

Dec. 12 to approve its two-year budget deal, which slashes the Cost of Living Adjustment for veteran retirees by 1 percent per year until the veterans turn 62 years of

age. The Military Officers Association of America calculated that a veteran who retired at the E-7 pay

See **COMMANDER** page 9

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a small percentage of the force having this problem,' said First Lt. Adam Cohen, who said he was raped by a superior officer. 'No one wants to admit this problem affects everyone. Both genders, of all ranks. It's a cultural problem,'" Dao reported.

"Rick Lawson said that while he was in the Army National Guard in Washington in 2003 and 2004, he was repeatedly sexually bullied by a group of soldiers, including a sergeant who rubbed his groin into Mr. Lawson's buttocks and jumped into his bunk and pretended to cuddle with him. Later, during preparations for deployment to Iraq, one sergeant handcuffed him and put him in a headlock while another pretended to sodomize him, Mr. Lawson said, Dao reported.

"Several months after his unit arrived in Iraq in 2004, Mr. Lawson decided to report the bullying. His assailants were punished with reduced rank, Army records show, but he had to finish his deployment while living near them on the same base."

The Bay Pines VA Medical Center near Tampa has a residential treatment program for sexually abused veterans. Dr. Carol O'Brien, the chief of post traumatic stress disorder programs,

said, "Men don't acknowledge being victims of sexual assault," according to Dao's report.

And in yet another underreported twist, there does exist a small number of men being assaulted by women, according to Dao's report.

"Richard H. Ruffert, 50, said his boss in an Army reserve unit in Texas forced him to have sex with her by threatening to give him poor reviews. He said the sex continued for about two months in the late 1990s, until he attempted suicide. He then told a commander and, after a lengthy investigation, his boss was transferred. But he believes that she was never punished.

"He retired from the military in 2004 and spent several years struggling with nightmares, drug addiction and homelessness, which he blames on the sexual assault. Therapy and working with veterans have helped him, he said."

In addition to "The Invisible War," another documentary, "Justice Denied," concerned with the trauma experienced by male victims, was released in June 2013. Together, the two movies helped lead to Congressional scrutiny of the crime, and to underscore the fact that in the military, men and women both are suffering.

And in the military, there are unique factors complicating the issue.

Bar none, the biggest is the chain of command.

"(The) facts (of military sexual trauma) are horrifying enough, but when institutions like the military, closed systems that lack oversight, do not validate the experience of the rape survivor, the perpetrators get to continue their criminal behavior without consequence," wrote Michael F. Matthews, a former airman, for *The New York Times*.

And from many who participated in the Pentagon's anonymous survey, retaliation by commanders was a big factor in deciding not to report sexual trauma.

From Dao's report:

"Many experts believe that the repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell' will cause many more men to report sexual assault. That was the case with Cohen, who says he was raped in 2007 by an Army officer he had met in graduate school. At the time, Cohen was preparing to join the Air Force.

"After initially remaining silent about the episode, he filed a complaint with Air Force investigators in late 2011, after the ban was rescinded. But the investigation took a surprising turn: after Cohen returned from a five-month tour in Afghanistan, he learned

that he had become the subject of the investigation and was no longer viewed as a victim.

"The lieutenant, 29, now faces a court martial trial on multiple charges, including conduct unbecoming an officer. Cohen's special victims counsel, Maj. John Bellflower, said the Air Force investigators apparently used information provided voluntarily by the lieutenant in bringing the charges against him, a possible violation of his rights.

"The military recently told Cohen that it was reopening the sexual assault case. In the meantime, he faces a trial in July that he views as punishment for filing a criminal complaint against a superior officer.

"The Air Force denies that. "I think the attention to this issue is absolutely needed," Cohen said. "But it's a little bit late. We still have attacks, and we still have retaliation," Dao reported.

Another factor complicating sexual trauma for service members is worry over how their families will survive if they are reduced in rank or discharged for reporting their crimes. And, for another, many fear losing not only rank, but all they worked hard for to achieve in their jobs — essentially a loss of prestige, which experts

See VICTIMS page 8



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Margaret's daughters

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VICTIMS from page 7

point toward as one of the key components of a person's identity.

In terms of gender, the military is a leveler — many, if not most, women service members are either the primary breadwinners or a necessary second-income earner, the same as men. In women's cases, however, it is more likely they will be the sole breadwinner with children — yet another unique complicating factor for military sexual trauma.

And as for children who may have been traumatized by a service member, the numbers have not begun to be tabulated. Indeed, the whole issue of military sexual trauma is, itself, in the earliest stages of study.

Right now, experts are correlating statistics from the general population to the military, but, given the unique factors affecting service members, more focused studies need to be done, some psychological and psychiatric experts are beginning to agree.

If the scope of the problem is just beginning to be understood, advocates for change say they're encouraged by efforts in Washington.

The legislation newly passed by Congress and signed by President Barack Obama is a big step in the right direction, according to the Service Women's Action Network, a key player in getting legislation enacted.

Anu Bhagwati, executive director and former Marine Corps captain, said in a press release, "Chief among our policy goals going forward is moving sexual assault case disposition authority into the hands of military prosecutors and opening civil courts to service members who are victims of sexual violence. We will also continue to apply pressure on VA to reform the disability claims process for victims of military sexual trauma."

Thanks to Bhagwati's organization and many others, the legislation contains the following key changes, according to its release:

- Prohibiting the military from recruiting anyone convicted of a sex offense
- Mandatory separation of convicted sex offenders
- Insurance coverage for abortions in cases of rape or incest for service women and military family members
- Retention of restricted report documentation for 50 years if so desired by the victim
- The creation of "Special Victims Units" to improve investigation, prosecution and victim support in connection with child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault cases

- Allowing victims to return to active duty after separation to help prosecute sex offenders
- The creation of an independent review panel composed of civilian and military members that will closely examine the way that the Department of Defense investigates, prosecutes, and adjudicates sexual assaults
- Required sexual assault prevention training in pre-command and command courses for officers
- Improved data collection and reporting by the military on sexual assault and sexual harassment cases
- Annual command climate assessment surveys to track individual attitudes toward sexual assault and sexual harassment
- A review of unrestricted sexual assault reports and the nature of any subsequent separations of victims who made those reports
- Notification to service members of the options available for the correction of military records due to any retaliatory personnel action after making a report of sexual assault or sexual harassment
- Requirement for the Department of Defense to establish a comprehensive policy for sexual harassment prevention and response
- Language that will allow better oversight and tracking of the implementation of sexual assault provisions from prior Defense Authorizations in order to ensure they are being enforced properly

Whether the legislative reforms will be effective remains to be seen. In the meantime, those "in the trenches" of helping those devastated by military sexual trauma continue to assist the survivors in any way they can.

Fetterman's Inner Truth Project gave a showing of "The Invisible War," shortly after its release, and hosted a panel from the Veterans Administration with guest veterans to tell their stories. She said it was very helpful for survivors to hear they were not alone.

As the issue continues to expand in scope, with more and more men and women coming forward to report their own assaults, Fetterman said she's hopeful her organization can help even more of those in need.

"We're beginning a group soon for partners of sexual trauma survivors," she said, "which will be a big step forward for everyone who is involved."

Small steps, it may seem — but important ones, advocates say, in the fight to eliminate military sexual trauma.

Now it goes to individual units around Florida, the nation and the world, to implement the Defense Department's new policies and make sure they work.

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**COMMANDER from page 6**

grade, equivalent to a sergeant 1st class, at age 40 would lose \$83,000 in post-retirement purchasing power, while an O-5 senior officer would lose \$124,000. After it passed the Senate, President Obama signed the bill into law on Dec. 26.

"A lot of members didn't bother reading it, especially in the House," said retired Col. Mike Barron, a spokesman for the organization. "There was such a rush to get out of town, there was no heads-up. The staffs were not consulted. This was a backroom deal, and folks wanted the overall budget agreement to go through and not hold it up," Barron said.

"Republican Rep. Jeff Miller (Pensacola), chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, has proposed two bills to reduce the impact of the cuts for veterans and also to repeal the provision, respectively. H.R. 3789 and H.R. 3790 have yet to be taken to the House floor, with Congress just returning to session Monday (Jan. 6). Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte (New Hampshire) has also proposed a bill repealing the provision."

While politics are at the forefront of the Legion's activities currently, it remains a large and powerful force for assistance wherever its members see a need. Traditionally, the American Legion has assisted veterans and active-duty military members behind the scenes. Its programs are, well, legion.

Pennsylvania. He served at Fort Benning, Ga., during the Vietnam War and entered the U.S. Army Reserve in 1972, separating from the service in 1984 at the rank of captain.

"A member of the Dyer-Gunnell American Legion Post 180 in Vienna since 1982, Dellinger was made a life member in 1990. He has served as post, district and department commander and chaired numerous committees. At the national level, he chaired the Legislative, National Security and Economics commissions as well as the Aerospace Committee. He served as chairman of the Legislative Council and Membership and Post Activities Committee. He has been a member of the Foreign Relations Council, Policy Coordination, Veterans Planning and Coordinating committees as well as the Legislative Council."

Having taken office Aug. 29, 2013, Dillinger has already crisscrossed the country many times. Any doubts he is not committed to today's troops, in addition to the Legion's traditional initiatives, are quickly dispelled. Indeed - he tells you himself.

Here in Florida, the Legion is on the same track.

Schwabe, a stocky man with salt-and-pepper hair, is halfway into his one-year term as commander of the Florida American Legion. Each commander, he said, brings his own priority program to the table, and Schwabe's is the Child Organ Transplant Association. He spoke of it while Dillinger

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# The 'Greatest Generation' invited to gather in Venice

FOR VETERAN VOICE

The Inaugural Venice Veterans Gala will be held Sunday, Jan. 26, at the Venice Community Center located at 326 Nokomis Ave., South Venice, at 2 p.m.

This event is a "Salute to ALL United States active Military & Veterans with a Special Tribute to the Greatest Generation," according to a press release issued by [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org).

The gala will feature a USO style '40s swing dance to the music of Lorri Hafer and the Ten O'clock Band, food and beverages, a silent auction, a display of military paraphernalia and classic cars, and much more. If someone has a classic car or military vehicle to display, email [kkdiehl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kkdiehl@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



A portion of the proceeds from the event will go to the American Rosie the Riveters Association, honoring the working women of World War II.

Proceeds from the Venice Veterans Gala will benefit Veterans Housing of Catholic Charities, a residence for needy veterans and his or her family, and Catholic Charities programs and services that assist veterans and their families. Proceeds from the gala also will support the Venice Museum and Archives. A small donation will go to the B-26 Marauder Historical Society and the American Rosie the Riveters Association.

*(Catholic Charities press release)*

Simultaneously, the Wings of Freedom Tour, featuring the B-17, B-24 and P-51 historic aircraft, will take place at the Venice Municipal Airport. Participants are encouraged to attend both venues.

Event planners are looking for World War II veterans who are interested in attending and participating in the special recognition. Any World War II veteran interested in being part of the celebration may contact Knights of Columbus member Dick Maier at (941) 496-8181 or [kofc7052@aol.com](mailto:kofc7052@aol.com).

## COMMANDER from page 9

help them in their daily lives." Dillinger echoed that sentiment in his parting remarks to Legion members, before heading back to

national headquarters in Indianapolis.

"As I go around the country and see our vets, I want you to know that it's extremely important what you do. You're doing a great job here. Thumbs up to everyone."

## BATTERY from page 3

opportunity."

The company is also involved in charitable work in the community. They are supporters of the Humane Society, 4-H, the Treasure Coast Food Bank and the St. Lucie County Fair Association. Recently, they worked with the Philippine-American Society in Port St. Lucie to donate tarps, hammer and building supplies to victims of the typhoon in the Philippines.

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For Joey Miller, it is about running a business the way he always has.

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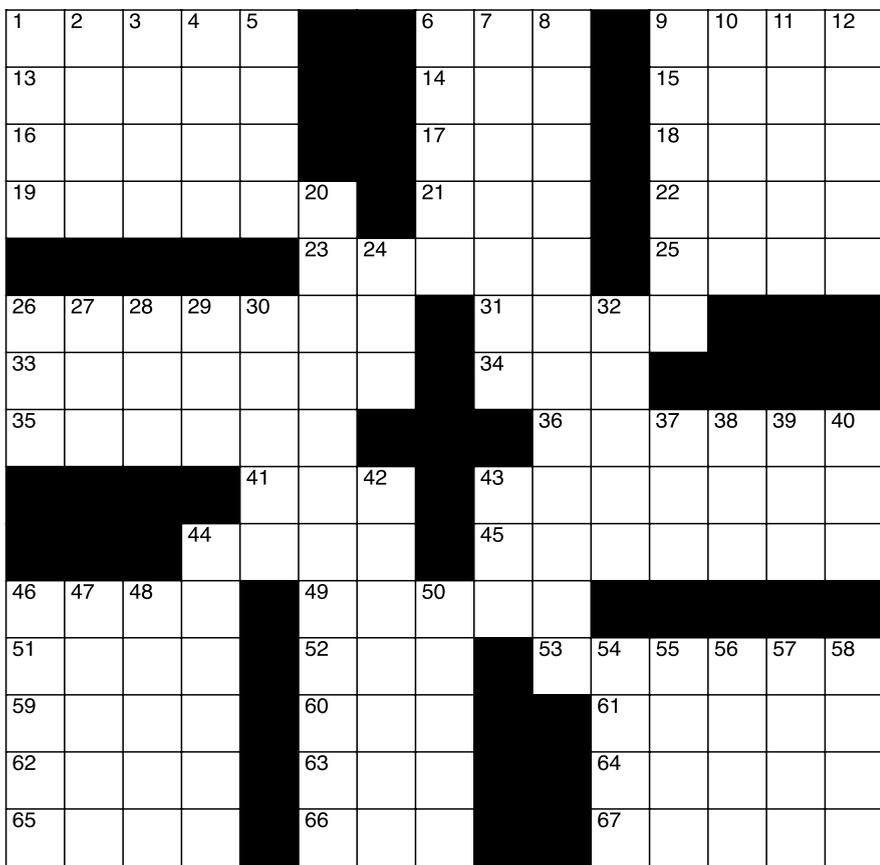
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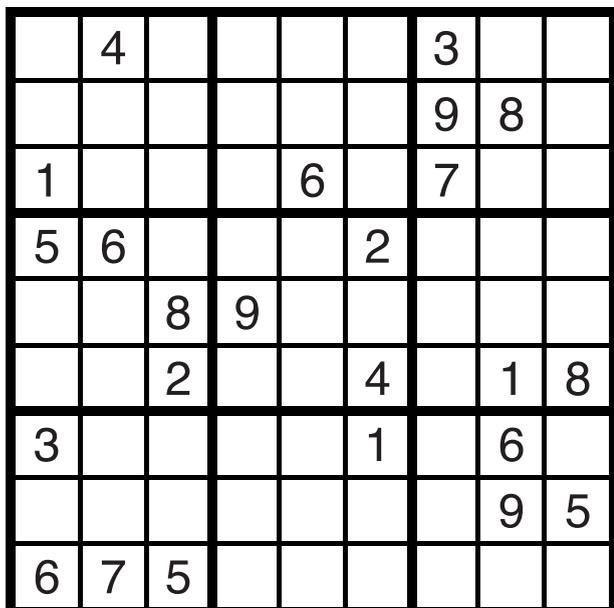
**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. NOHOW
- 6. Record (abbr.)
- 9. Hair detangler
- 13. "1836 siege" of U.S.
- 14. Old name for Tokyo
- 15. Largest continent
- 16. Showed old movie
- 17. Clatter
- 18. Considered one by one
- 19. Chinese cinnamon spice tree
- 21. Frequently
- 22. 3 person 32 card game
- 23. Misaddressed mail (slang)
- 25. Expresses pleasure
- 26. Samba or basket rummy
- 31. Military leader (abbr.)
- 33. A citizen of Iran
- 34. Environmental Protection Agency
- 35. Carbon, radioactive or varve
- 36. Loss of electricity
- 41. Mass. Cape
- 43. Mediator
- 44. 1/1000 of a tala
- 45. Players at 1st, 2nd & 3rd
- 46. Covered Greek portico
- 49. Bring upon oneself
- 51. Leuciscus cephalus
- 52. Cold War foe U\_\_\_
- 53. Bumpkins or hayseeds
- 59. Fleishy seed cover
- 60. Golf ball prop
- 61. Antipathetic
- 62. Wait or tarry
- 63. Weather map line \_\_\_bar
- 64. Civilian dress

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Informant (slang)
- 2. Olive tree genus
- 3. Armed conflicts
- 4. Am. Music Awards
- 5. Dance mix DJ Einhorn
- 6. Oxidation-reduction
- 7. Structure
- 8. Modern
- 9. Roman Conqueror
- 10. So. Honshu bay city
- 11. 8th C. BC minor Hebrew prophet
- 12. = to 100 satang
- 20. In active opposition
- 24. 007's Flemming
- 26. 12th century Spanish hero El \_\_\_
- 27. Macaw genus
- 28. Slave rebellion's Turner
- 29. Cuckoo
- 30. From a time
- 32. Applies with quick strokes
- 37. Fasten with string
- 38. Teller replacement
- 39. Command right
- 40. Sea eagle
- 42. Most closely set
- 43. \_\_\_ Dhabi, Arabian capital
- 44. Marten furs
- 46. Strike workers
- 47. Thysanopter
- 48. Louise de la Ramee's pen name
- 50. King of Thebes
- 54. \_\_\_ mater, one's school
- 55. Time unit
- 56. Klutzes
- 57. \_\_\_ Von Bismarck, Iron Chancellor
- 58. Front of the leg

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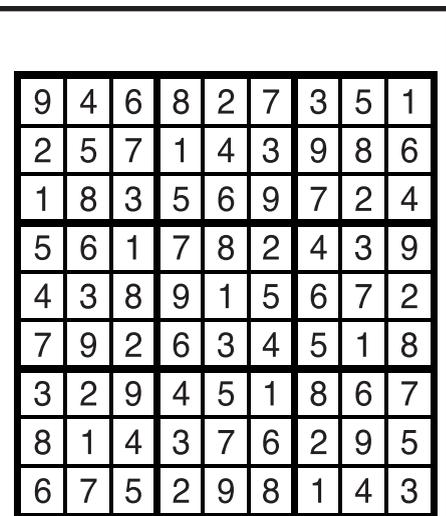
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