

Invisible War Interview w/ [REDACTED], CG SAPR  
Post Interview Notes

- They had interviewed over a hundred victims, including ex-Coast Guard members listed as plaintiffs in the SA suit against the DoD, Kori Cioca and Panayiota Bertzikis and were forthright about their empathy for the victims of military sexual assault they spoke with.
- Based on their research (extensive) and interviews to this point, they believe sexual assault efforts are under implemented and the “unique culture” of the military seems to exacerbate the issue but they don’t fully understand why or how yet (much of their line of questioning was inspired by this facet of the issue - what is it about the military that makes this issue more complicated when it should make things more clear cut.)
- They had researched our organizational structure were interested in whether it was more challenging for the Coast Guard to prevent and respond to assault due to the remote nature of many of our units as opposed to the DoD which is more installation based and more adequately staffed.
- Along those same lines, they also asked about whether the smaller, remote units may be prone to unfair treatment of victims because of unit tightness or because the command is too close to the situation.
- They were not aware the Coast Guard was not part of the law suit.
- They were not aware the Coast Guard’s program was voluntary and not mandated nor an official part of the DoD SAPRO
- They stated that in the victim interviews, more than half said they were disappointed by the level of punishment doled out to the guilty party and to that end they asked if there was a push to take the decision to levy punishment out of the unit COs hands and to an outside high HQ due to potential conflicts of interest
- They had various questions about checks and balances in the reporting process – in particular, they were curious about areas where the process might make it easier to allow the crime to be brushed under the rug.
- Interview lasted approximately 45 minutes.
- Directors said after the interview that they were “impressed” with how the Coast Guard recognized this as a serious issue and “applauded” the task force.
- Release date is Summer 2012

### Key Themes

The following four overarching themes were hit on throughout the interview.

- Empathy for the victims
- This is a servicewide and society wide issue
- The Coast Guard has come a long way in a short time but still room for improvement
- Task force will assess, ID and address many of those areas where we need to do better