

Brief on Preventing Sexual Assaults in the Canadian Armed Forces

This brief is for the following studies of standing committees for the House of Commons of Canada (43rd Parliament, 2nd Session):

Study on Addressing Sexual Misconduct Issues in the Canadian Armed Forces of the Standing Committee on National Defence for the House of Commons of Canada

Study on Sexual Misconduct within the Canadian Armed Forces of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women for the House of Commons of Canada

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Brief on Preventing Sexual Assaults in the Canadian Armed Forces

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This brief is for the study on addressing sexual misconduct issues in the Canadian Armed Forces of the Standing Committee on National Defence for the House of Commons of Canada as well as the study on sexual misconduct within the Canadian Armed Forces of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women for the House of Commons of Canada.

Unfortunately, there is an epidemic of sexual assaults in the Canadian Armed Forces. As a former infantry officer (military occupation) and platoon commander understudy (regiment appointment) in the Canadian Army Reserve, I am familiar with infantry service and army service and have six ideas on how to prevent sexual assaults in the Canadian Armed Forces:

1. Every member of the Canadian Armed Forces should be equipped with a personal alarm device. A personal alarm device can be used if someone is being attacked. A personal alarm device is cheap, can easily fit within one's pocket, and can emit an extremely loud sound if activated. Military members are provided with all kinds of gear and equipment already. They should be provided with personal alarm devices too. The Canadian Armed Forces can find the best supplier and negotiate a quantity discount. Each military member should be instructed to keep a personal alarm device in a pocket while awake or in a pocket or under her pillow while sleeping. If military members know that other military members are carrying these devices, they will be less likely to commit sexual assaults. Equipping each military member with a personal alarm device is easy to do and could have a major impact in reducing sexual assaults.
2. The Canadian Armed Forces should ban alcohol in mess clubs, on military bases, in armories, on ships and submarines, and in any other military facilities and military vehicles. Also, the Canadian Armed Forces should ban alcohol consumption for military members deployed in combat, peacekeeping, or disaster relief missions. Alcohol reduces inhibition of people to commit criminal, otherwise illegal, reckless, or foolish acts. Military members shouldn't be drinking alcohol anyway because it consists of empty calories and can cause numerous health problems.
3. Members of the Canadian Armed Forces should receive more fight training in effective combative arts like Gracie jiu-jitsu, American kickboxing, Muay-Thai kickboxing, boxing, and Japanese jiu-jitsu to be able to better defend themselves if necessary in assault cases or in combat. These are the most effective fighting styles when combined for punching, kicking, standing grappling, and ground grappling in my opinion as a mixed combative arts fighter. If military instructors don't have the expertise to teach effective combative arts, then civilian fight instructors can be employed to teach combative arts. If the military doesn't have sufficient equipment like heavy bags, pads, speed bags, mats, gloves, hand wraps, shin pads, knee pads, headgear, rings, etc. for combative arts training, then it should send military members to private fight training clubs. Every person doing kickboxing or boxing sparring will need her own mouth guard to reduce the risk of injuries to the teeth, lips, tongue, face, or jaw.
4. Considering the extreme number of sexual assaults, the military should transition its barracks from shared rooms with shared washrooms to a separate lockable room for each military member staying on a military base. Each military member should have her own bathroom attached to her room in the barracks.

5. Any member of the Canadian Armed Forces who witnesses an assault should be required to report it to military police. Any member of the Canadian Armed Forces who is informed of an assault should be required to report it to military police. Military members who commit assaults can't be brought to justice and prevented from committing more assaults if they aren't reported.
6. A Canadian Armed Forces committee should look closely at past cases of sexual assault in the military and how they could have been prevented. Then the committee should write a report with its recommendations. In the meantime, the recommendations listed above should be implemented by the Canadian Armed Forces.