



U.S. MILITARY, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, & THE API COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION REPORT

KEY FINDINGS

Asians & Pacific Islanders in the U.S. Military

- API military service history:
 - Dating back to the War of 1812
 - WWII's 442nd Regimental Combat Team's Japanese American soldiers.
 - Service in Korean War, Vietnam War, Afghanistan War, and Iraq War
- U.S. military bases in the Philippines started during the 1898 American occupation, with active recruitment of Filipinos into the U.S. Navy. Recruitment increased after Philippine independence, formalized by the 1947 Military Base Agreement.
- Demographic breakdown of minority veterans (Department of Veterans Affairs data):
 - Asians: 3.8% (44,001)
 - American Indian/Alaskan Native: 1.8%
 - Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander: 0.7% (539)

Sexual Violence in War Time Perpetrated by the U.S. Military in Asia

- **1898** - Philippines after the Spanish-American War
- Japan after WWII
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- Contemporary cases in South Korea and Japan

Sexual Violence: Beyond War

- Connection between military bases and the growth of the sex trade, using Subic Naval Base as an example.
- Sexual assault on civilians living near military installations or conflict zones.
- Assault on individuals in the sex trade near military bases.



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Toxic Masculinity & Sexual Violence

- Impact of hypermasculine military culture on sexual violence.
- The mission's priority and the challenge it poses to addressing sexual assault.
- "Othering" and hostility towards women and LGBTQ+ individuals.

Emasculation of API Males

- Intersection of racism and emasculation.
- The portrayal of API men and its impact on vulnerability and self-esteem.
- Need for diverse representations and inclusivity.

Hyper-Sexualization of API Women

- Connection between military bases and the growth of the sex trade, using Subic Naval Base as an example.
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Role of U.S. Military in Asia's Sex Trade

- U.S. military's unique role in expanding the hyper-sexualized image of API women.
- Presence of the sex trade around U.S. bases in Asia and its growth.
- Issues of exploitation, trafficking, and abuse in the commercial sex industry.



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Sexual Assault of Civilian Women

- Lack of data on sexual assault against civilian women by U.S. military officers.
- The need for resources for civilian victims within the military.

Prevention is Key

- Importance of shifting focus from response to prevention.
- The need for early education on sexual violence.
- Challenges of prevention at the age of the average enlisted military member.

Military Service Academies & Sexual Assault Epidemic

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The urgency to address this critical issue was reinforced by the participants, making it clear that the time to act is now.

ACTION PLAN: THE TIME IS NOW

Recent initiatives, such as the Independent Review Commission, aim to address sexual assault within the military. Notable reforms include making sexual harassment a crime and creating a specialized trial prosecution office to handle specific offenses. The report highlighted the importance of prioritizing sexual violence prevention.

NAPIESV: OUR NEXT STEPS

The report concluded with an overview of NAPIESV's future plans. Additional roundtables addressing the relationship between the U.S. military and sexual violence in different cultural communities impacted by the military are in the works. Guam is a focal point for advocacy due to its historical connection with the U.S. and its indigenous population's struggle to maintain cultural identity in the face of military occupation and colonial powers.

The comprehensive discussions and actions planned will contribute to a growing awareness of military sexual trauma and the empowerment of survivors and communities in their journey toward healing and justice.

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