**Supplemental Interview Guide**

The interviewer will ask each question on the interview schedule, and participants will be asked to elaborate on strongly held views that emerge during the interview. The interviewer will have the flexibility of asking follow-up prompts for each question if more information is needed for a given domain. General prompts to elicit further information will include questions such as: *How? How so? Can you tell me more about why you think/feel that way? Can you provide any examples?* *What was most helpful? Least helpful?*

*NB:* ***Bolded*** *questions are priorities to ask/try to get an answer to.*

**Participant Characteristics**

Before we get into the more open-ended questions, I'd like to begin by asking you several questions about yourself

1. **How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years**
2. Only ask if participant raises (because already asked in phone screen):

What is your sex or current gender? (Please indicate all that apply)  
⃤ Female  
⃤ TransMale/Transman/TransFemale/Transwoman

What sex were you assigned at birth?  
⃤ Male  
⃤ Female  
⃤ Decline to State

1. **Do you think of yourself as:**

**⃤ Lesbian, gay, or homosexual   
⃤ Straight or heterosexual  
⃤ Bisexual  
⃤ Something else (Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)  
⃤ Don’t know  
⃤ Decline to State**

1. **Can you please describe your race or ethnic background?**

**Military Experiences**

Now I want to ask you some questions about your military service.

1. What branch of service were you in? [*In some cases, may be more than one active duty branch or a combination of active duty service and Reserve/Guard service.*]
   1. What years did you serve?
   2. Were you ever deployed?
   3. What was your MOS?
   4. What was your rank at discharge?
2. **What led you to join the [Army/Marines/Navy etc.]? (Was your family in the military? Were you interested in travel or adventure? Did you join to get away from home or family?)** 
   1. How was the transition to life as a [soldier/airman/ marine etc.]?
   2. Do you think your transition was easier or harder than for your peers?
   3. **When you joined the [Army/Marines/Navy etc.] what were you expectations regarding your military experience? (Did you want to be career military?)**
3. **Did you think the military was a good fit for you? (Did you like the order, the camaraderie, patriotism, etc.?)** 
   1. What positive things did you get from your time in the [Army/Marines/Navy etc.]?
   2. What negative things came out of your time in the [Army/Marines/Navy etc.]?
4. What was it like to be a woman in the military?
5. Did female [soldiers/marines/etc.] have a typical “look”? Did you think you had that “look”?
6. **While in the [Army/Marines/Navy etc.], did you ever feel like you were judged unfairly, treated disrespectfully, singled out, or misunderstood, because of some aspect of your identity? By identity, I mean things like your gender, sexual orientation, racial or ethnic background or other things about you. If so, tell me a little bit about these experiences.**

**Military Sexual Trauma Experiences**

In this next section, I want to ask you some questions about your experiences of military sexual trauma. I understand that these experiences might be difficult to discuss so you do not need to go into great detail about them. However we do want to fully understand the experiences you have had and how you view these experiences.

1. **Tell me about the unwanted sexual experiences (experiences that are sometimes called military sexual trauma) that you had during your time in the [Army/Marines/Navy etc.].** 
   1. When did they happen?
   2. **What was your relationship to the person or people who did this to you?**
   3. What words do you use to label or describe these experiences?
   4. **How did those experiences impact you at the time?**
      1. NB: If it becomes clear during interview that participant experienced MST during deployment, feel free to ask questions related to the impact of the experience during deployment.
2. **Did you tell anyone about these experiences of military sexual trauma at the time?**
   1. **Why or why not?**
   2. **If so, who did you tell? How did they respond?**
   3. **Did you report these experiences to anyone in the military with the expectation that they would do something to stop it or to hold the offender accountable? Were you satisfied with their response?**
3. Was there ever a time when you were unable to completely understand some aspects of these experiences?
4. How about remembering?  Was there a time when you were unable to completely remember some aspects of these experiences?
5. **Why do you think these experiences happened to you? Do you think you were targeted because of some aspect of your identity? By identity, I mean things like your gender, sexual orientation, racial or ethnic background or other things about you.**
6. **Do you think anything about military, like the military culture, environment, or policies, contributed to your experiences of military sexual trauma?** 
   1. **Are there things that a specific person or people did or didn’t do that allowed this experience to happen?**
   2. **Are there things that the [Army/Marines/Navy etc.] did or didn’t do that allowed this experience to happen?**
   3. **Are there things that a specific person or people did or didn’t do that made dealing with these experiences more difficult?**
   4. **Are there things that the [Army/Marines/Navy etc.] did or didn’t do that made dealing with these experiences more difficult?**
7. **One of the reasons we’re doing this research is that we’re very interested in whether or not military sexual trauma is different from other stressful or traumatic experiences.**
8. **Have you had other very stressful or traumatic experiences in your life?** Can you tell me a little bit about those experiences? (Probes: When did this happen? What was your relationship to the person(s) who did this to you?)
9. **If so, how were your experiences of military sexual trauma similar to these other experiences? How was the impact of these experiences similar?**
10. **How were your experiences of military sexual trauma different than these other experiences? How was the impact of these experiences different?**
11. **How have these unwanted sexual experiences impacted you since your time in the military?**
    1. Did these experiences change your view of the [Army/Marines/Navy etc.]?
    2. **Was your military career impacted by these experiences?**
    3. **Did other aspects of your life change after these experiences?**
    4. **How did your experiences of military sexual trauma affect your views of yourself and the world?**
    5. How do you feel about your experiences of MST now?

**Wrap-up**

1. Is there anything else that you think is important to tell me about these experiences?

That is the end of the interview questions. Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts and feelings about these experiences with me.

Supplemental Table 1. *Additional Quotes from Interviews to Support the Theme,* Barriers to Disclosure.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Barriers** | **Frequencies** | | | | **Representative Quotes** |  |
| **Theme/**  **Subtheme** | **Military** | **Medical** | **Informal** | **Military** | | **Medical and Informal** |
| **Concerns with Disclosure Recipients** | 60.9%  (14) | 17.4%  (4) | 17.4%  (4) |  | |  |
| **Difficulty Accessing Disclosure Recipients** | 43.5%  (10) | 13.0%  (3) | 13.0%  (3) | * “There wasn’t really anybody but the chaplain that you could go and talk to about it.” (54 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “They would talk to us about things about being mindful about not getting yourself in certain situations, but the follow through about how to report it if it did happen was not there” (57 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) * “I was being kind of side railed into ‘no one’s available, no one’s available.’ They kept like, ‘he’s not in yet,’ you know there were all these excuses.” (50 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “And I have to go through all these people that are unnecessary to go talk to the right person. Why would I do that? That’s being retraumatized numerous times.” (55 year-old, Mexican American Air Force veteran) | | **Medical:**   * “[did] not have a rape kit staff member.” (32 year-old, Native American Army National Guard veteran) * “There was not PTSD. There wasn’t anywhere that women could go to as far as hospitals or anything when I came back. I couldn’t do this because there was no place for me to go” (58 year-old, African American Army veteran) * “didn’t know how to ask for help,” (44 year-old, African American Navy veteran)   **Informal:**   * “[I] didn’t have anybody to talk to” (58 year-old, African- merican Army veteran) * “I just didn’t have a lot of support.” (44 year-old, African American Navy veteran) |
| **Lack of Desirable Disclosure Recipients** | 34.8%  (8) | 4.3%  (1) | 13.0%  (3) | * “There was an island full of men. Who was I going to go to?...There were no females there” (55 year-old, Mexican American Air Force veteran) * “I didn’t have female officers above me. It was hard there wasn’t that many women that were in the military that were officers.” (53 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “The problem was [the perpetrator] was the officer, it was an officer, he was the officer that you would go to, to report some of these things” (35 year-old, Caucasian Coast Guard veteran) | | **Medical:**   * “Couldn’t trust the chief nurse because she was too akin to the general in terms of doing everything that he said. And I certainly had no support from her” (72 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran)   **Informal:**   * “Trust issues…the only people I have are the people who did drugs or alcohol so I didn’t have anybody to tell it.” (58 year-old, African American Army veteran) * “[My mother] and I were not close” (60 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) |
| **Fears of Negative Consequences** | 60.9%  (14) | 0 | 34.8%  (8) |  | |  |
| **Potential Negative Effects on Career** | 34.8%  (8) | 0 | 0 | * “I could have gotten kicked out for fraternization…I just sort of intuitively knew that I couldn’t tell anybody.” (60 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) * “In the military you’re stuck there. You can’t get out and you work with these same people every day. And if it’s someone you directly work with, you can’t get out of it. You can’t just request a transfer and get it. You can’t just quit your job. So you’re basically hostage to those people…if you do report it, you’re going to get in trouble.”(55 year-old, Caucasian Marine Corp veteran) * “[told by Commander to] keep your mouth shut. You weren’t supposed to be there in the first place…that’s…not adultery but it’s some other form of behavior which is unbecoming.” (65 year-old, Caucasian Air Force veteran) | | **Medical and Informal:** N/A |
| **Fears of Judgment/Being Treated Differently** | 30.4%  (7) | 0 | 17.4%  (4) | * “Who you going to tell? Who’s going to believe you?” (51 year-old, heterosexual, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “Word gets around and then there’s this perception of women being labeled as uptight and prude, and can’t take a joke, and something like that, and once you get that label, everybody thinks that we can’t even mess with her because she’s going to report us” (27 year-old Chinese American, Army National Guard veteran) * “There were other issues in the military, where women had reported things like that, and they basically got screwed. … You were just this little female that wanted to make that...like it made you feel powerful to tell this “lie” on this high ranking person. So I wasn’t going to tell anybody…you would hear about situations not even necessarily at the post that you were stationed at, but other situations where the female had reported something and you would just hear other people talking like, ‘Oh, she just lied about it because blah, blah, blah; he’s been in the military; he’s a…whatever his rank might be. How could he be a commander of a post if he’s going around doing this to young enlisted girls?’ Nobody would believe them.” (57 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) | | **Medical:** N/A  **Informal:**   * **“**I didn’t want to identify, them to identify with me, label where I was, how it happened in detail.” (51 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “I just started seeing [girlfriend], I didn’t want her to think I was dirty” (50 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “I was afraid of what she would think of me as far as why didn’t I report it, why did I let it happen? Maybe judgmental.” (35 year-old, Caucasian Coast Guard veteran) |
| **Fears for Personal Safety** | 21.7%  (5) | 0 | 0 | * “I felt threatened.” (52 year-old, African American Army veteran) * “…Just a couple people intimidated me and threatened me and…his colleagues were the Marines and basically threatened me verbally” (44 year-old, African American Navy veteran) | | **Medical and Informal:** N/A |
| **Potential Negative Effects on Others** | 17.4%  (4) | 0 | 21.7%  (5) | * “And it’s almost like if you went and told anybody this, you’d embarrass the military, who I loved dearly and has been my family…I felt like…don’t put a black mark on your family” (65 year-old, Caucasian Air Force veteran) * “What am I gonna go do? Cause an international incident?” (55 year-old, Mexican American Air Force veteran) * “I didn’t report it because he threatened to kill my father...And he said, ‘I know your father’s a truck driver and he drives through [city] every day.’ And he did.” (55 year-old, Caucasian Marine Corps veteran) | | **Medical:** N/A  **Informal:**   * “I think it would kill my mother…I think she would fall apart and I don’t need her to fall apart again.” (58 year-old, African American Army veteran) * “I knew that [my dad] would try to fight this guy…I didn’t want to take any chances of my dad getting hurt. So I just sucked it up.” (55 year-old, Caucasian Marine Corps veteran) |
| **Internal Barriers** | 43.5%  (10) | 17.4%  (4) | 43.5%  (10) |  | |  |
| **Distress or Shame** | 39.1%  (9) | 17.4%  (4) | 26.1%  (6) | * “Because of the shame...I was just...my mind was just so messed up…I just was embarrassed.” (44 year-old, African American Navy veteran) * “I felt like I did something wrong. What did I do to deserve this, you know what I mean? It’s all my fault, and that’s basically why I didn’t tell anybody.” (53 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “it was so surreal that I couldn’t even gather everything that had happened,” (50 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “distraught so I tried to pretend that couldn’t have really happened” (35 year-old, Caucasian Coast Guard veteran) | | **Medical:**   * “I can only deal with one major thing at a time. I’ll handle it later. And I just put it away. And when I got home, I just stayed busy.” (42 year-old, Cacuasian Army veteran) * “I was in denial in a sense without even recognizing it. I didn’t respond to the psychiatrist immediately.” (72 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran)   **Informal:**   * “I felt embarrassed.” (27 year-old Chinese-American, Army National Guard veteran) * “I was in shock…I felt funny, like I was stunned by something and didn’t know what it was.” (60 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) * “I wouldn’t ask anybody for anything…I just sat there, in my room, by myself, with the TV and just smoke and drink. That’s all I did” (58 year-old, African American Army veteran). |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| **Privacy** | 4.3%  (1) | 0 | 21.7%  (5) | * “It’s personal. It’s private. It doesn’t belong out there” (65 year-old, Caucasian Air Force veteran) | | **Medical:** N/A  **Informal:**   * “I’m not going to tell my story because that’s too private.” (65 year-old, Caucasian Air Force veteran) * “[Today] people are kind of encouraged to be open about what happens…Back then…it was more private, things that happened to you.” (65 year-old, Caucasian Air Force veteran) |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| **Belief that Disclosure Will not be Helpful** | 30.4%  (7) | 0 | 4.3%  (1) | * “They would drop it. They would not pursue it.” (55 year-old, Caucasian Marine Corps veteran) * “I kinda think nothing would have happened. Maybe a small report, maybe they would have talked to the officer. Maybe they would have gotten more of my story. But I don’t feel like discipline would have come upon him… I really don’t think anything drastic would have happened. Maybe that’s why I also didn’t report it.” (35 year-old, Caucasian Coast Guard veteran) * “Nothin’ was done the first time” (51 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “This was the same person that didn’t bring this one, this one, and this one up on charges and these people were superior to me.” (52 year-old, African American Army veteran) | | * “I don’t think [my father] would understand, and…he was from that generation where you just didn’t talk about that stuff.” (54 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) |
| **ANY BARRIER** | **91.3%**  **(21)** | **30.4%**  **(7)** | **56.5%**  **(13)** |  | |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Supplemental Table 2. *Additional Quotes from Interviews to Support the Theme,* Facilitators of Disclosure | | | | | | |
| **Facilitators** | **Frequencies** | | | **Representative Quotes** |  |
| **Theme** | **Military** | **Medical** | **Informal** | **Military** | **Medical and Informal** |
| Internal Facilitators | 30.4%  (7) | 8.7%  (2) | 4.3%  (1) | * “This is a cut and dry situation” (32 year-old, Native American Army National Guard veteran) * “I cried and as I cried I got more and more angry. I’m like, he is going to pay. I think I’d had my fill of guys thinking that they could have anything.” (54 year-old, Native American Army veteran). * “I wasn’t worried about the discipline on my actions…I didn’t realize, even as I sit here today, the amount of courage that it really took. You know? But something was so innately wrong that I had to.” (50 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran)” * “I knew I had to do something because everything was crumbling…I called the center for our assignments and I asked if there was any possibility of transfer” (72 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) | **Medical:**   * “I knew something was wrong with me and I never gave up finding the cause and when I did I cried in relief because I…I said, now I have a diagnosis and I can go forth with treatment.” (72 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) * “I never owned up to it until recently when I realized that confirmation of what had happened would help me in an MST claim or PTSD claim” (55 year-old, Caucasian Marine Corp veteran)   **Informal**:   * “I didn’t feel pressured, I felt guilty that it was a secret. I don’t like keeping things from my mother.” (35 year-old, Caucasian Coast Guard veteran) |
| Available or Desirable Reporting Targets | 8.7%  (2) | 4.3%  (1) | 17.4%  (4) | * “I knew there was another person I could have gone to…a mediator for situations like that. So I knew I had options” (35 year-old, Caucasian Coast Guard veteran) * “I would have taken it to the MP’s office.” (52 year-old, African American Army veteran) | **Medical**:   * “There are women who are like me, and I used to think that I was alone…I was very thankful for the VA because I would never know. It’s just a lot of very, very good professionals here and I’m very, very happy.” (58 year-old, African American Army veteran)   **Informal:**   * “[My partner has] been with me for a long time. I trust her. If I didn’t, I wouldn’t have said anything.” (58 year-old, African American Army veteran) * “[My mom] is very supportive on a lot of things I do” (35 year-old, Caucasian Coast Guard veteran) |
| Disclosure Encouraged by Others | 8.7%  (2) | 8.7%  (2) | 13.0%  (3) | * “we had to go before a captain and describe what happened” (54 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “I didn’t want to testify but they rallied and said I had to…[However,] the sergeant …was the opposite. He wanted me to go and speak about what had gone on with me, he didn’t want me to suck it up. ” (65 year-old, Caucasian Air Force veteran). | **Medical:**   * “I didn’t respond to the psychiatrist immediately but thank goodness the person who identified me followed up.” (72 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran)   **Informal**:   * “[My mother] kept asking about it. I didn’t feel pressured.” (35 year-old, Caucasian Coast Guard veteran) |
| **ANY FACILITATOR** | **39.1% (9)** | **21.7% (5)** | **26.1%(6)** |  |  |

Supplemental Table 3. *Additional Quotes from Interviews to Support the Theme,* Negative Reactions to Disclosure

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Negative Reactions** | **Frequencies** | | | **Representative Quotes** |  |
| **Theme** | **Military**  **(*n* = 16)** | **Medical**  **(*n* = 12)** | **Informal**  **(*n* = 17)** | **Military** | **Medical and Informal** |
| Negative Instrumental Reactions | 81.3%  (13) | 25.0%  (3) | 11.8%  (2) | * “When I presented it to the people that were in a position of power to do something about it, it’s almost like they just wanted to sweep it under the rug. Like, don’t give us any problems, just do what you’re supposed to be doing.” (54 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “they just transferred him. He didn’t receive any reprimand, they didn’t demote him or anything,” (27 year-old, Asian American Army National Guard veteran) * “I said, ‘You know you can’t keep us like this, you can’t.’ So what do they do? They shoot me to another place. And I’m like, you know, why didn’t you get rid of him?” (54 year-old, Native American Army veteran) * “They didn’t tell me they presented it until three days after they presented it… I was, I feel, very specifically denied that opportunity…I never even met the JAG [Judge Advocate General] officer who presented my case…He never called me up before he presented my case to talk to me at all about it.” (32 year-old, Native American Army National Guard veteran) | **Medical:**   * “[They said] ‘We can only help you if there’s something physically wrong with you.’ They just wanted me to leave” (32 year-old, Native American Army National Guard veteran) * “Minimal. Whatever they did there…It was horrific, I’ll tell you that. I mean I had bruises on my hip like this. Black and blue on my knees…Mile and a half to go back to where I belong. So I was on my own, after the fact. I mean what do you--- it was unbelievable.” (51 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran)   **Informal:**   * “the advice that [my friends] gave me was, ‘You’re f\*\*\*ed.’” (52 year-old, African American Army veteran) * “But [my friend] was like, ‘Don’t report it, you really don’t have any proof.’” (53 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) |
| Negative Emotional Reactions | 43.8%  (7) | 16.7%  (2) | 41.2%  (7) | * “‘You instigated this, you were the one that brought this on yourself,’ that type of thing…I had to relive it, you know, and explain to them. And of course, they tried to make it out to be my fault…Like I had asked them to attack me. And I said, ‘No, that’s not the case at all.’” (54 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “And then it’s just like, ‘Tough it out.’ That was kind of the attitude. ‘Oh, sh\*\* happens.’ That was the way they thought” (53 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “I explained the incident to him…I had been honest and said that I had been drinking…and he said, ‘Well, what did you expect?’” (50 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) | **Medical:**   * “Immediately there’s this immediate judgment of drunk whore. Oh she made a mistake and now realizes what she did in the morning. No! It was not like that” (32 year-old, Native American Army National Guard veteran).   **Informal:**   * “They [my friends] found that hard to believe.” (52 year-old, African American Army veteran) * “When [my husband] was drunk or yelling or something and he’d say you know, ‘You’re used’” (53 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “And then I told my husband when he came home [from overseas] he blamed it on me too” (53 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) |
| Perceived Retaliation | 50.0%  (8) | 0 | 0 | * “[Told by my commander] You weren’t supposed to be there in the first place. You’re not supposed to be staying with girlfriends in the BOQ [Bachelor Officers’ Quarters], that’s like, not adultery but it’s some other form of behavior which is unbecoming.” (65 year-old, Caucasian Air Force veteran) * ““I said, ‘I had an incident happen to me Memorial Day weekend when I wake up with one of your f\*\*\*ing sailors on top of me with my pants down to my ankles.’ That’s exactly what I said. So didn’t maybe articulate it proper. And then he comes back with they’ll be no gays in my Navy…I did tell this, what happened to me [the sexual assault] and then they hooked it into a gay discharge.” (50 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “[My general] said, ‘Well, I don’t think I want your kind in my Marine Corps.’ And so he changed my reenlistment code from RE1A, which is the best, to an RE4, which is the worst” (55 year-old, Caucasian Marine Corp veteran) |  |
| **ANY NEGATIVE REACTION** | **100%**  **(16)** | **25.0%**  **(3)** | **52.9%**  **(9)** |  |  |

Supplemental Table 4. *Additional Quotes from Interviews to Support the Theme,* Negative Impacts of Disclosure

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Negative Impacts** | **Frequencies** | | | **Representative Quotes** | |  | |
| **Theme** | **Military**  **(*n* = 16)** | **Medical**  **(*n* = 12)** | **Informal**  **(*n* = 17)** | **Military** | **Medical and Informal** | |
| Dissatisfaction or Disillusionment with Disclosure Recipient | 75.0%  (12) | 0 | 0 | * “It was a bit disappointing as well…It’s like, that’s how they view this kind of behavior…And then that made me think that they didn’t really care about what happens to me or whatever…We’re just something small, they don’t really care about that.” (27 year-old, Asian American Army National Guard veteran) * “I don’t know how to explain it, like after what happened to me and the way that it was handled, I pretty much was really disappointed because I thought the Navy was going to protect me and everything and I felt like they, you know, my whole thing was that I felt betrayed by the Navy...I was no longer them, I was separated.” (53 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “That’s just where they put me. You’re just another stupid bitch. So even though I went above and beyond my whole military career, when it really comes down to it, it doesn’t matter because I have a vagina. I am less.” (32 year-old, Native American Army National Guard veteran) | **Medical and Informal:** N/A | |
| Negative Emotional Impacts | 50.0%  (8) | 0 | 0 | * “My rape started when I talked to the CID [Criminal Investigations Division] guy…The violation” (42 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) * “You guys are making me crazy because you’re telling me it’s my fault that I was sexually assaulted…So I just felt like, like an asshole. ... I was at a point in my life where I did not know what to do.” (32 year-old, Native American Army National Guard veteran) * “What are they going to do to me?” (53 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) | **Medical and Informal:** N/A | |
| Negative Long-Term Consequences | 50.0%  (8) | 8.3%  (1) | 0 | * “It changed me. And it made me feel powerless against everyone. I felt when someone said something, I had to abide by it. Because there was no one that I could talk to that was on my side. And so I just had to suck it up.” (55 year-old, Caucasian Marine Corp veteran) * ”my ability to speak up for others is fine, but my ability to speak up for myself is really…like after the fact in my life, when I go through something like a difficult person at work and I don’t report them or something…Like I still live in that fear that they are going to retaliate in a way that’s just going to affect my day to day life at work or something…I can think back on things now that…it just added to doubting yourself. Or fear. I want to say more fear.” (57 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) * “How dare you try to flip a rape into a gay discharge. You spineless motherf\*\*kers…and then this is imprinted on your paperwork that’s carrying you throughout life. And I’m reporting a rape. And you’re going to give me this? …That was a good way of saying f\*\*k you. That would stick with me…You know and then having the [flag officer] instill, “If you weren’t drinkin’…” you know, to erase the old tape and try to change the tape, takes a lot of work. It’s not like a quick fix type things. It’s lots of memories, lots of history… trying to report it and not being believed. It was whippin’ up the wind. So I guess, as far as what really breaks a person, the military broke me so bad, my spirit and everything, that it’s just takin’ a long time to get back. A long, long time.” (50 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) | **Medical:**   * “[no medical records meant] no actual evidence, and I had to fight…for years… it was like wading through molasses…because I had already been deemed irrational. I was a liar…I’m not to be believed” (42 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran)   **Informal:** N/A | |
| Negative Social Impacts | 12.5%  (2) | 0 | 23.5%  (4) | * “People were already like, ‘We have to be careful because she’s going to report us’ like I reported that guy” (27 year-old, Asian American Army National Guard veteran). | **Medical:** N/A  **Informal:**   * “I can’t say I was glad I did it because I do have doubts. It was kind of a secret I would have liked to have kept….I do still debate whether or not it was the right thing to do to tell [my mom]. I don’t know if it bothers her that it happened and I didn’t [make a report].” (35 year-old, Caucasian Coast Guard veteran) * “When [my husband] blamed it on me too …that has a lot to do with my relationships now. I don’t really want one. I have a lot of trust issues…I don’t let myself love anybody” (53 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) | |
| **ANY NEGATIVE IMPACT** | **93.8%**  **(15)** | **8.3%**  **(1)** | **23.5%**  **(4)** |  |  | |

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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Supplemental Table 5. Additional Quotes from Interviews to Support the Theme, *Positive Reactions to Disclosure* | | | | | | | | **Positive Reactions** | Frequencies | | | Representative Quotes |  | | Theme | Military | Medical | Informal | Military | Medical and Informal | | Positive Instrumental Reactions | 56.3%  (9) | 25.0%  (3) | 17.6%  (3) | * “got court martialed. And he lost. He did…he got busted down in rank, and then he got taken off the post” (54 year-old, Native American Army veteran) * “My first sergeant…was livid. At the first formation, he says, ‘We will not tolerate any of our females being victimized.’ He says, ‘This will not happen. I want to know if anything like this happens.” (42 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) * “[Military officials] took me to the hospital to get the [rape] kit done” (51 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) | **Medical:**   * “[I received] 10-13 hours of medical care. It wasn’t just here you go, they did take care of me” (51 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “I call and [VA practitioners] answer and they listen and I can come and walk in here any time I want to and just know and I respect them,” (58 year-old, African American Army veteran)   **Informal:**   * “…and [my friends] jump to their feet and they’re like, ‘Is there a f\*\*\*ing problem here?...and so, my guys were like ‘f\*\*\* this place.’ So we went back and they walked me back to my place.” (42 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) * “And some of the guys came from inside the bar…and [were] trying to talk him off” (55 year-old, Caucasian Marine Corps veteran) * “He was a good guy and said that he was going to call his recruiter” (27 year-old Chinese American, Army National Guard veteran) | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Positive Emotional Reactions | 12.5%  (2) | 25.0%  (3) | 58.8%  (10) | * “wanting me to go and speak about what had gone on with me, he didn’t want me to suck it up. No one ever said that to me” (65 year-old, Caucasian Air Force veteran) | **Medical:**   * “[The nurse said] ‘You didn’t do anything wrong’” (32 year-old, Native American Army National Guard veteran) * “[Therapist encouraged her] ‘You can do it. You might go through a lot of pain and stuff comes up but you can get through it’” (53 year-old, African American Army veteran)   **Informal:**   * “[My partner] was crying like me…she was on my side. She understood me because she had empathy” (58 year-old, African American Army veteran) * “[My friends] believed me. They didn’t put judgment on it, they would just be like, ’Oh my God! What a scary thing!” (57 year-old Caucasian Army veteran) | | **ANY POSITIVE REACTION** | **56.3%**  **(9)** | **33.3%**  **(4)** | **64.7%**  **(11)** |  |  |   Supplemental Table 6. *Additional Quotes from Interviews to Support the Theme,* Positive Impacts of Disclosure | | | | | |
| **Positive Impacts** | **Frequencies** | | | **Representative Quotes** |  |
| **Theme** | **Military** | **Medical** | **Informal** | **Military** | **Medical/Informal** |
| Satisfaction with Disclosure Recipient | 43.8%  (7) | 16.7%  (2) | 0 | * “[My first sergeant] took immediate, definitive action” (42 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) * “It was very worthwhile” (72 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) * “I am glad that he [was transferred] because I didn’t want to see him again…I never saw him again” (27 year-old, Asian American Army National Guard veteran) | **Medical:**   * “One of my counselors was a pilot. A female pilot so she knew search and rescue…I could really talk to her…I was very happy that they had military people working [at the VA] too.” (53 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “I call and they answer and they listen and I can come and walk in here any time I want to…I respect them.” (58 year-old, African American Army veteran)   **Informal:** N/A |
| Positive Emotional Impacts | 18.8%  (3) | 25.0%  (3) | 11.8%  (2) | * “Validation…When I sat there with the colonel…it’s like, I knew I had somebody on my side. I really did.” (54 year-old, Native American Army veteran). * “I was validated that he didn’t doubt me for a second!” (42 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) | **Medical:**   * “I must say that the VA was right there for me once I came in, every step of the way. They were right there continually behind me, you know making…there’s a lot of stuff that the VA offers and people should just take advantage of it.” (53 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran)   **Informal:**   * “I’m just so glad that you guys are trying to figure out what happened to us an how to handle it like how to help us.” (53 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) |
| Positive Long-Term Consequences | 6.3%  (1) | 25.0%  (3) | 11.8%  (2) | * “That’s how I got my disability because there was a report.” (53 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) | **Medical:**   * “Without the psychiatrists and the psychologists, I wouldn’t be able to see my way out. I wouldn’t have had a better perspective. I would have been alone…it has changed my life…I’ve got more knowledge behind my PTSD and it just freed my mind a little. I still got a ways to go, but I’m better than I was.” (58 year-old, African American Army veteran)   **Informal:**   * “look back and make things click…just by talkin’ about it.” (51 year-old, Caucasian Navy veteran) * “[Support received] provided me enough to see [the recovery process] to the end” (72 year-old, Caucasian Army veteran) |
| **ANY POSITIVE IMPACT** | **50.0%**  **(8)** | **33.3%**  **(4)** | **23.5%**  **(4)** |  |  |