



Military Sexual Assault

Presented by: Sara Zak

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Maravilla - Club Room

5486 Calle Real, Santa Barbara

(Please carpool if possible)

Military Sexual Assault--Not just the Military's Problem

Sexual harassment and assault have probably existed in the military since the time women supported the Revolutionary War effort as cooks, laundresses, and nurses. Women began serving in large numbers as nurses and support staff during World War I. Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948. Military Sexual Assault (MSA) was described as an epidemic in 2012.

This seminar will provide an overview of the Military Sexual Assault problem, including its history, recent statistics, and why it persists despite decades of a "Zero Tolerance" policy. It will include a brief explanation of the sexual assault prosecution system in the military, especially the role of the unit Commander in that system.

Discussion will proceed to compare sexual assault in the military and civilian worlds with due consideration of the similarities. We will identify some of the changes the Department of Defense has implemented to improve the situation and consider a wide variety of organizations that are working to solve the MSA problem. An analysis of the costs of MSA and the potential benefits of the military's attempts to reverse the recent trend will demonstrate why civilian taxpayers and voters should deem Military Sexual Assault as more than just a military problem.

The Academy Award nominated film, "The Invisible War," will be shown as part of the seminar. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and a number of legislators viewed the documentary in 2012. It was one of the catalysts for the current Congressional and public attention to MSA.



ENROLLMENT FORM: Military Sexual Assault - Oct 7

VISTAS Members \$15/per person – Non-members \$22.50 per person

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Mail check & registration form to:

VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc., P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228

Deadline for registration: October 1st

Please check here if you would like to volunteer to help with refreshments _____

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Biography: *Sara Zak* is a retired US Navy Commander having been commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Rochester, NY. She served in the Navy throughout the 1980s, when women were being integrated aboard ships and aircraft squadrons. Sexual harassment was a common occurrence during that period of adjustment.



Sara is currently on a leave of absence from a Master of Social Work program at the University of Southern California. She recently spent four months in Washington DC on a self-directed internship to learn about the on-going Military Sexual Assault problem from the many stakeholders working to define and solve it. Sara has a unique perspective of the controversy surrounding the topic that is sure to become an election campaign issue.

VISTAS CALENDAR

| Seminar/Event | Dates | Time | Venue |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Annual Picnic | Sunday, September 7 | 12:30 pm | Tuckers Grove |
| Documentary Film Club | 3rd Thurs Monthly | 10:00 am | Valle Verde Theater |
| Shakespeare | Sept 9, 16, 23, 30 | 1:30 pm | Maravilla Theater |
| Maya Classic Period | Sept 10,17,24 & Oct 1 | 1:30 pm | Maravilla Club Room |
| Fall Ballot Propositions | Sept 22 & 29 | 1:30 pm | Maravilla Valencia |
| Military Sexual Assault | October 7 | 1:30 pm | Maravilla Club Room |
| Women in Art | Oct 8, 15, 22 | 9:30 am | Farrand Hall |
| Amelia Earhart | Oct 23 & 30 | 1:30 pm | Maravilla Valencia |
| History of Hawaii | October 29, Nov 5 & 12 | 1:30 pm | Maravilla Club Room |
| Poetry & Metaphor | Nov 7, 14 & 21 | 9:30 am | Valle Verde Social Rm |
| Pacific Coastal Fishes | November 19 | 9:30 am | Valle Verde Social Rm |



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