

Book Reviews

For Love of Country: Confronting Rape and Sexual Harassment in the US Military

"Likely to be OF GREAT VALUE to survivors of rape or harassment in the military . . . clearly demonstrates that victims, who may never have told anyone of their experiences, are not alone. The book should also be used by government and military agencies in formulating policy on rape and sexual harassment in the military. . . . A sensitive and sometimes moving approach to the subject matter, with a good mix of personal accounts and supporting official documents and statistics."

--H-Net

"A four-year veteran of the U.S. Army, Nelson is a psychotherapist specializing in sexual trauma recovery and a national consultant on the issue of violence against women. Her examination of the military's response to rape and sexual harassment occurring at installations across the U.S. and abroad incorporates personal accounts from female and male survivors, information from military personnel and veterans, commentary from congressional leaders, military documents, press releases, official rape reports, news stories, and research studies on the topic. The report reveals power failure by leaders who perpetuated or exacerbated the abuse, the loss of military values, and internal struggles within the organization, but also suggests possible solutions to this dilemma. For military personnel and related professionals."

--Book News, Inc, Portland, OR

"Nelson's book makes strong recommendations for a serious national response to rape and sexual harassment within the U.S. Military . . . But in the end, she argues, the crisis must be addressed because justice demands it. "It is time to confront rape and sexual harassment in the military if for no other reason than because it is the right thing to do."

-- Gregory Flannery, in CityBeat, Vol 8, Issue 41 August, 2002

"This book is extremely validating for me. It is a relief that women (and men) are finally able to talk about the horrible assaults they suffered while serving their country and that someone is listening and writing it down. This is an important book on a serious subject that has been long neglected. It is imperative that military leadership take notice. Fascinating and informative."

-- From Amazon.com reviewer from Baker City, OR

"A COMPELLING DOCUMENTARY. . . . Dramatically juxtaposes facts with personal accounts in a way that vividly brings out the heartbreaking reality of this ongoing problem."

--The Portland Alliance

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For Love of Country: Confronting Rape and Sexual Harassment in the US Military

T. S. Nelson's detailed account of rape and sexual harassment in the American armed forces is a welcome addition to the literature on sexual violence... This is a very important project and the author should be highly praised both for achieving her aim with sensitivity, and for providing another potentially healing space for victim-survivors to share their stories; her commitment to the victims she writes about cannot be questioned.

The book may be of value to psychologists and counselors treating victims of rape by members of the military, as it will give them a deeper understanding of the context in which the rape occurred, and an insight into the possible mixed and confused feelings of servicewomen victims. It should also be used by government and military agencies in formulating policy on rape and sexual harassment in the military. Finally and perhaps most importantly, it is likely to be of great value to survivors of rape or harassment in the military, as it clearly demonstrates that victims, who may never have told anyone of their experiences, are not alone.

--Miranda Alison, School of Politics, Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland. (For complete published journal review, refer to: H-Minerva, Quarterly Report on Women and the Military. December, 2002.)

"This book documents the pervasive problem of crime within our armed forces, crime largely unreported or underreported and minimized...A serious problem that must be addressed..." -- **Gloria Shipley , Faculty (Retired) School of Social Work, New Mexico State University**

"Author Terri Spahr Nelson gives the reader an insider's look into the private world of the military along with the policies and procedures that often perpetuate a cycle and culture of abuse. Ms. Nelson's courageous writing, international research and personal interviews have begun the process of breaking the silence and the cover-up of this complex problem. This book is an indispensable reference for military service members, for professionals working with victims of military abuse, and for those who are seeking to stop victimization."

--Janice E. Rench , author and consultant

★★★★★ **The New Training Manual for Officers**

It is right for men and women to want to serve their country.

It is right for men and women to volunteer to train and support the interests of their leaders.

It is right for subordinates to respectfully obey their commanders.

It is logical to assume that I need only fear the external enemy. Yet, in this respect Ms. Nelson tells the truth.

By outlining military standards of conduct and defining the perception that the enemy lies outside of the American chain of command, Ms. Nelson honestly describes the situation of patriotic soldiers who believe they are safe in a very imperfect system.

In the context of presenting truth about the frequency of abuse, culture of the military that perpetuates the abuse, and the consequences of abuse to individuals and to units, Ms. Nelson offers logical solutions to a historical problem.

Ms. Nelson's book is worded in such a way as to offer hope to mature leadership in their ability to address these issues. The book honors soldiers who committed their lives and security to the Armed Services only to be betrayed by a comrade and dismissed by their division. Ms. Nelson obviously cares about her country and cares about service men and women.

I would recommend this book as standard training for all officer candidates. This book is so well written and true that it would behoove us to dissolve all current sexual harassment /abuse training and instead assign this book correspondence to each Commander thus establishing a new individual standard outside of the communal culture. The standard needs to be raised. Ms. Nelson, with candor and grace, says how high.”

--H. Adam, US Air Force veteran