

# *Reports of U.S. Military Sexual Assault Up 50 Percent*

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Washington, May 5 (RHC)-- Reports of sexual assault in the U.S. military have increased 50 percent. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said the rise means more victims are choosing to come forward following efforts to address the issue.

The Pentagon chief said he has ordered further steps, including "new methods to encourage male victims to report assaults and seek assistance." He added that with estimates that men comprise more than half the victims of sexual assault in the U.S. military, the cultural stigmas that discourage reporting must be fought.

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