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Service Women's Action Network

December 30, 2011



**Dear Supporters,**

It has certainly been an incredible year at SWAN; one that has been filled with hard won victories. Please know that we could not have accomplished all that we have without your support. Thank you for your donations, for spreading the word about the work we do and for reaching out to your representatives to encourage them to support our legislative measures. Here are a few of OUR wins this year:

1. Groundbreaking protections for military sexual assault survivors signed into law.
2. President Obama signs executive order establishing privileged communications between sexual assault victims and victims' advocates.
3. DOD adopts two new sexual assault policies providing base transfers to survivors of sexual assaults and 50 year retention of sexual assault records.
4. VA changes to Military Sexual Trauma disability claims policy.
5. The only organization to hold the Military Service Academies accountable for its failure to follow DOD sexual violence prevention policy.
6. Open letter to the Secretary of Defense calling for an overhaul of how current sexual assault cases are handled by the military.



In 2012, we plan to work even harder to ensure that all service members are provided with equal opportunity and the freedom to serve in uniform without threat of harassment, discrimination, intimidation or assault and that all veterans have equal access to quality health care, benefits and resources. Some of the key issues we will be working on in the New Year include removing barriers to women officially serving in combat, redress and accountability for rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment in the U.S. Military, availability of high quality health care and benefits for women veterans, access to the same reproductive choices that exist outside the military, coverage for reproductive procedures under the military's healthcare system and equal rights and protection for LGBT service members.



Please consider making a gift to help SWAN end gender discrimination and sexual violence in the military!

#### *SWAN in the News*

The Department of Defense released its annual report detailing a sharp rise in sexual assault at military academies. The Christian Science Monitor reports with quotes from SWAN Policy Director Greg Jacob [here](#).

[The Washington Post](#) also covered the Pentagon report, with quotes from SWAN.

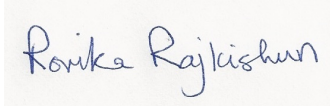
Read [the Stars and Stripes coverage](#) of SWAN and [Protect our Defenders' Open Letter to Sec. of Defense Leon Panetta](#) regarding handling of sexual assault in the military.

While we are celebrating our victories, we know the year ahead will not be without its challenges. There is much work that needs to be done in order to ensure equality for all service members and veterans. We owe it to the people who so valiantly make the ultimate sacrifice for our country to continue this fight and give it all that we have.

As we end the year, we must ask you once more to support our work. If you have not yet made a donation, there are just two days left in this year to make your tax-deductible donation. Every dollar counts. [Please consider making your donation right away to help us continue our work in 2012.](#)

From all of at SWAN, we wish you and your families a happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,



Rovika Rajkishun  
Development Director



## About Us

SWAN is a human rights organization founded and led by women veterans. SWAN's vision is to transform military culture by securing equal opportunity and the freedom to serve in uniform without threat of harassment, discrimination, intimidation or assault. SWAN also seeks to reform veterans' services on a national scale to guarantee equal access to quality health care, benefits and resources for women veterans and their families. You can find the Service Women's Action Network on our [homepage](#), on [Twitter](#) or on [Facebook](#).

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