



Jan. 10, 2013

Victims No Longer

## AF escalates war on sexual abuse

We are living witnesses to one of those rare historical coincidences, the one where we can actually *learn* from history instead of condemning ourselves to repeat it. Fortunately, the Air Force is on the cutting edge of our education.

Looking back to the first half of the twentieth century, the Civil Rights dilemma was profound: It was the obvious truth that was being ignored. And in instances when it became too obvious to be ignored, it was discounted or dispensed with altogether with a bureaucratic sleight of hand: The states voiced demands that the federal government set the tone, while simultaneously turning a blind eye to localities that maintained the status quo. The ideology behind the bureaucracy was that “stateways cannot change folkways.”

It was the Civil Rights Movement, led by the late Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday is celebrated as a federal holiday on January 16, that challenged America to embrace The Dream. And in 1964, with the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the formal and informal education that came with it, stateways and folkways began to morph and complement each other.

Fast forward to the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we are witness to another metamorphosis. The dismantling of the wall of silence about sexual assault has begun. Much like the Civil Rights Movement of half-century earlier, the resolve of those determined to affect change—to end the shame, the silence and the stigma attached to the sufferer of sexual assault and not the perpetrator—is being bolstered by communication and education. The amplifying opportunity now, however, is that communication (and its inherent ability to educate) is far more robust than it was at mid-century, and it offers a variety of media and platforms never before imagined, for good or ill. For example, whether or not you agree with the information contained in the [graphic posted by The Enliven Project](#), which visually portrays rape statistics in terms of the people involved, it is well worth noting that within the first 24 hours that it was posted, over 20,000 people have liked, commented and shared the statistics about sexual violence contained in it. (No report was provided on viewers only.) This is, as has been noted, the teachable moment, a time for conversation and enlightenment.

Nowhere is this teachable moment taken more seriously than in the Air Force. In announcing the Special Victims’ Counsel Program, Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III emphasized why the status quo is intolerable: “It takes a strong team to succeed in our mission to protect and defend the nation, and sexual assault undermines that.”

The program, which will provide 60 specially-trained attorneys Air Force-wide, is centered on supporting the object of the sexual assault by combatting anxiety with education, loss of control with certainty, and depression with a clear plan for taking action against the assailant. The attorneys are certified trial counsel, and they have expressed a desire to help victims of sexual assault. The plan, at its core, will provide support *and* advocacy for those targeted by sexual predators enabling them to be survivors and victors instead of bystanders with a toxic history defining their future.

-- Martha Lockwood  
Chief, Information Products, Defense Media Activity

### ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**Jan. 10, 1957** - The DoD assigned the highest national priority to intercontinental ballistic missile and intermediate-range ballistic missile projects.

**Jan. 11, 1944** - During a WWII bombing mission over Oschersleben, Germany, [Lt. Col. James H. Howard](#) was leading a P-51 fighter escort group, when numerous German fighters attacked. Not waiting for his group to reassemble, Howard attacked 30 enemy planes, destroying three and damaging several others. Even when three guns stopped working and his fuel tanks neared empty, Howard continued to

protect the bombers. For his bravery, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

**Jan. 12, 1965** - At Plattsburg AFB, N.Y., the 380th Air Refueling Squadron received the Strategic Air Command’s last KC-135 (Tail No. 64-14840).

**Jan. 13, 1993** – Air Force [Maj. Susan Helms](#) became the first U.S. military woman in space during a flight of the Space Shuttle Endeavour.

**Jan. 14, 1977** - The Department of Defense directed the Air Force to begin full-scale production of the Air Launched Cruise Missile.

**Jan. 15, 1914** - The Signal Corps Aviation School issued the first Army aviation safety regulation. It required pilots to wear helmets and leather coats for overland flights, and unsinkable coats for overwater flights.

**Jan. 16, 1981** - From Corpus Christi, Texas, and Little Rock AFB, Ark., Military Airlift Command C-130s moved 500 tons of arms, ammunition, helicopters, and other material to San Salvador to support the Salvadoran government in its struggle against leftist guerrillas. This operation lasted through June.

## ► RESOURCES

### **AF.mil**

<http://www.af.mil>

### **Airman magazine**

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

### **Air Force Outreach**

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

### **Military OneSource**

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

### **Air Force Personnel Center**

<https://mypers.af.mil>

<http://www.afpc.af.mil>

### **Department of Defense News**

<http://www.defense.gov>

### **Department of Veterans Affairs**

<http://www.va.gov>

### **TRICARE**

<http://www.tricare.mil>

### **U.S. Government Website**

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

### **Employment Opportunities**

[www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com)

[www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

### **Air Force Association**

#### **Scholarships**

<http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/scholars.asp>

### **Air Force Safety Center**

[www.afsec.af.mil](http://www.afsec.af.mil)

## Personal vision changes world

It had all of the makings of a Hollywood epic. A vision. A struggle to turn that vision into reality. Adversity. Conflict. Then determination, perseverance and a fulfillment of that vision that would impact the world. It was a dream that would have made any Hollywood producer proud, but for Martin Luther King, Jr., it was a dream that would help move a nation out of prejudice, bigotry and racial violence into a world on its way to healing.

It matters little whether the dream is for a world where “a person will be judged on the content of his character,” or a dream to build a monument to the man whose “I have a dream” speech has become synonymous with the achievements of civil rights. What matters is that the vision becomes the reality.

The vision statement for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial mirrors the man. Throughout, phrases conjure up images of “the American Dream—Freedom, Democracy and Opportunity for All,” reflecting our hallmark American potential and the cornerstone of the idea to build the memorial.

The history of the memorial began in 1968, shortly after King’s assassination. The national office of Alpha Phi Alpha, King’s collegiate fraternity, proposed erecting a permanent memorial to King in Washington, D.C. Ultimately, the fraternity established a separate foundation to manage the fundraising, design and building process, and in 2009 the memorial’s final project was approved by the involved federal agencies, a building permit was issued, and building began in December of that year.

Perhaps more than any other memorial in Washington, the location, address and structure are symbolic, and relate to the ideals of the Civil Rights Movement. The Location of the memorial is on a direct line of sight between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials. While most Washington memorials don’t really have street addresses, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial does. Located between 19th and 20th Streets on Independence Avenue, SW, the memorial’s address is 1964 Independence Avenue, the street number a direct reference to the year of the passage of the Civil Rights Act. The structure’s centerpiece is a rendering based on a phrase from his “Dream” speech: “Out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope.” A 30-foot high relief of King, which is called “Stone of Hope,” appears to be emerging from two other equally large pieces of stone, located slightly behind the Stone of Hope, called “the Mountain of Despair.”

In all, there are 14 inscriptions, and although they are representative of the “Dream” speech, they are in actuality taken from his sermons, speeches and letters, lest the memorial become a monument to the speech and not the man.

The memorial opened on August 22, 2011, just days before its scheduled dedication on August 28th, However, Hurricane Irene had other plans, and the official dedication was postponed until October 16th.

President Obama gave the keynote address, and in it, he addressed the never-ending fits and starts of deep cultural change whose time has come: “Our work is not done. And so on this day, in which we celebrate a man and a movement that did so much for this country, let us draw strength from those earlier struggles. First and foremost, let us remember that change has never been quick. Change has never been simple, or without controversy. Change depends on persistence. Change requires determination.”

*-- Martha Lockwood  
Chief, Information Products, Defense Media Activity*

*"The Special Victims' Counsel will provide victims of sexual assault with a better understanding of the criminal process from an expert who is specially qualified to represent the victim. This program embodies what the Air Force is all about -- taking care of our people." -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III speaking about the new Air Force program designed to provide legal assistance to victims of sexual assault which will begin later this month.*

#### ► CURRENT ISSUES

##### [Fiscal cliff legislation affects military, civilian paychecks](#)

The legislation President Barack Obama signed Jan. 2 postponed the fiscal cliff and means changes to military and civilian paychecks, Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials said today.

##### [Military OneSource Provides Tax Assistance Service](#)

As tax season nears, Military OneSource and H&R Block have joined forces again to provide a free online tax preparation service for service members.

##### [U.S., Canada think ahead to NORAD](#)

More than a half century since it was established to confront the Cold War threat, North American Aerospace Defense Command is at a new crossroads as officials in the U.S. and Canada determine the capabilities it will need to confront emerging challenges and threats in the decades ahead.

##### [Air Force supports defense of Turkey](#)

Mobility Airmen are enabling their Army counterparts to meet a Secretary of Defense order to move two Patriot anti-missile batteries and hundreds of soldiers to defend Turkey -- a U.S. ally and one of 28 NATO member countries.

#### ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

##### [Reservists to get help with travel vouchers](#)

Air Force Reserve Command is adding resources and changing business practices to make travel voucher processing easier for reservists.

##### [Deadline Nears to Nominate Employers for Recognition](#)

Reserve-component service members have until Jan. 21 to nominate their employers for a 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, according to a Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve news release.

##### [DOD Extends Housing Allowance for Some Civilian Employees](#)

The Defense Department is extending housing allowances by one year for DOD civilians employed overseas by the U.S. European Command who were mistakenly granted the benefit, a Pentagon official said here yesterday.

##### [Hundreds on first 2013 supplemental promotion list](#)

Several hundred Air Force enlisted members were selected for promotion in the January supplemental promotion process, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced today.

#### ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

##### [Air Force Marathon has record opening day registration](#)

The Air Force Marathon filled a third of its 15,000 runner slots on the first day of registration, breaking last year's registration opening record.

#### ► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

##### [AF opens new nuclear training center](#)

Almost 10 years of joint effort and cooperation culminated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Nuclear Security Tactics Training Center in Guernsey, Wyo., Dec. 13.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>.

The Defense Media Activity produces Commander's Call Topics weekly. For questions or comments about this, or any other DMA product, send e-mail to [afproducts@dma.mil](mailto:afproducts@dma.mil). To subscribe to Air Force news and information products online, go to [www.af.mil/information/subscribe](http://www.af.mil/information/subscribe).