

# RaceWire

THE COLORLINES BLOG

**COLORLINES**  
The national newsmagazine on race and politics.

HATTY LEE

## 1 in 3 Women in the Military are Raped: Sgt. Sandra Lee Speaks Out



The thought of being raped one day and then having to defend the life of the rapist the next is unimaginable. But this is what many women in the military deal with everyday. According to a new study by the Department of Defense, 1 in 3 women in the military are raped. This has lead Veterans for Peace to designate Oct 12-16 as "Military Rape Awareness Week." To kick off the campaign, Sgt. Sandra Lee made her first public statement on how she was raped twice while deployed in Iraq. According to Veterans for Peace: "Thirty seven percent of the attempted raped and raped women in the VA study also reported being raped more than once and 14% of them reported being gang raped. This study also discovered that 75% of raped women in the military failed to report it."

Women in the military face many difficult obstacles around gender, sexuality and race. Back in July/Aug 2008, *ColorLines* ran a story on three women of color veterans. Read their stories here.

Much love and respect goes out to Sgt. Sandra Lee for breaking her silence. For more information, check out the Veterans for Peace website.

Posted at 10:42 AM, Oct 15, 2009 in Women | Permalink | 2 Comments and 15 Reactions

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**RW** lejosdelusa6 4 months ago

`Women are always booty of war-- its just the reality of war-- as women are weaker then men-- USA feminists don't understand this-- until they are in a warr zone- are faced with an enemy that wants to rape them-- & no man will defend them-- then-- it sinks in to these USA feminists-- women are weaker then men suerte

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