

**Statement of Beth, Survivor**  
**Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, March 31, 2004**

I am a Major in the Army Reserve. Last year, at this time, I was at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. I was assigned to an engineering command.

I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony to the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

On March 20, 2003, I was attacked and raped in a female latrine located at Camp Arifjan. My assailant was a U. S. Army soldier. I believe he was an E5, Sergeant. That's the rank I believe I saw on his helmet.

Before the attack, I had finished what comes naturally in the bathroom when the alarm for an incoming scud sounded. I donned my chemical suit, gloves, boots, mask and helmet. I then contemplated leaving the fully enclosed bathroom to find a bunker. I decided I would be safer in the bathroom.

A few minutes into the alarm, someone knocked on the bathroom door and opened the door. The person asked if I was "ok," and I gave the thumbs up signal. The door closed.

It seemed that only a couple seconds passed when the door flew open and a soldier jumped in. The soldier appeared to be shaking. I figured he/she was scared about the alarm and tried to reassure the individual that everything would be ok. Since the person was not responding, I got up and attempted to put my hands on his/her shoulders and guide him/her to a sitting area.

When I tried to put my hands on his/her shoulders, he/she turned on me and kicked me in the groin. He/she then pushed me back towards the back of the latrine. At this time, I didn't know if the person was male or female.

We struggled and then I realized it was a male. He pulled off my protective mask and strangled me, telling me if I didn't shut up he would kill me. At this point, I laid still and figured if he was going to rape me he's have to work at it. To make a long story short, he did rape me.

I immediately sought medical treatment at the camp's Troop Medical Clinic (TMC). It was there that a rape kit was done by two female officers. During the examination, we had at least one scud alert where we had to go to MOPP Level 4.

After the examination, I went to CID to give them a statement. In my statement to CID at Camp Arifjan, I did not recall, nor do I now recall, him ever inserting his penis into my vagina. I thought he masturbated on my backside and this is what I wrote in my statement.

During the investigation, when the evidence came back, it "proved" that my attacker did in fact insert his penis into my vagina. CID came to the assumption that I lied. I DID NOT lie about my attack.

After my attack, the chaplain contacted the Stress Management Team on the base. I met with a counselor from this team, once a week for approximately two months. The counselor was deployed back home on or about 1 June 2003; my counseling sessions ended at that point.

I have seen a counselor a couple of times at the Veterans' Administration since my return to the states.

My biggest concern about this whole mess is that because I cannot identify my attacker, his DNA that was collected after the attack and his DNA on file cannot be used to identify him.

Congress needs to change the DOD law that will not allow military law enforcement to use the collected DNA to identify individuals who have committed crimes.

Another woman should not have to go through what I've been put through. If my testimony will change the law, then my experience will have been worth it. I now understand why women will not go to the authorities to report sexual assaults. The authorities make them the perpetrator rather than the victim.

I am currently a member of a theater support command. Thank you for the opportunity to share my experiences with members of Congress.