

# Abuse

From Page 1A

they get fully punished for it,” Obama said.

The problem, which has plagued the military for decades, has been thrust to the fore by recent cases, including that of an Air Force officer who headed a sexual assault prevention office but was himself arrested for sexual battery.

On Thursday, Army officials said the manager of the sexual assault response program at Fort Campbell, Ky., had been relieved of his post after his arrest in a domestic dispute with his ex-wife. The program he managed was meant to prevent sexual harassment and assault and encourage equal opportunity.

Hagel has said resolving the problem of sexual assault in the military is one of his top priorities, as did his predecessor, Leon Panetta. Hagel is expected to make public in coming days a written directive that spells out steps the Pentagon will take to re-train, re-screen and re-certify those who lead the military’s sexual assault prevention and response programs.

Earlier Thursday, Odierno, the Army chief, issued a public message to all soldiers in which he said the “bedrock of trust” between soldiers and their leaders has been violated by a recent string of misconduct cases.

He said the Army demonstrated competence and courage through nearly 12 years of war. “Today, however, the Army is failing in its efforts to combat sexual assault and sexual harassment,” he wrote.

“It is time we take on the fight against sexual assault and sexual harassment as our primary mission,” Odierno said.

Allegations of sexual assault in the military have triggered outrage from local commanders to Capitol Hill and the Oval Office. Yet there seem to be few clear solutions beyond improved training and possible adjustments in how the military prosecutes such crimes. Obama said Thursday, “There is no silver bullet.”

Changing the culture of a male-dominated, change-resistant military that for years has tolerated sexism and sexist behavior is proving to be a challenging task.

“We’re losing the confidence of the women who serve that we can solve this problem,” Dempsey said Wednesday. “That’s a crisis.”

Dempsey said suggested that a deepening of the sexual assault problem may be linked to the strains of war.

“I tasked those around me to help me understand what a decade-plus of conflict may have done to the force,” he said. “Instinctively, I knew it had to have some effect.”

Dempsey added: “This is not to make excuses. We should be better than this. In fact, we have to be better than this.”

The Pentagon had scheduled a briefing for journalists Thursday with Hagel and Dempsey, but after the White House meeting was announced, the Pentagon news conference was postponed until Friday.

A Pentagon report last week estimated that as many as 26,000 military members may have been sexually assaulted last year, based on survey results, out of 1.4 million in the services.

That report, and a recent series of arrests and other sexual assault problems across the military, have triggered a rush of initiatives from the Pentagon and proposed legislation on Capitol Hill.

But experts warn that stemming an increase in assaults will require concrete changes, both in law and in military culture.

“There is not a quick fix,” said Anu Bhagwati, former Marine captain and executive director of the Service Women’s Action Network. “The military can’t train its way out of this problem.”

On Capitol Hill, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., introduced legislation Thursday taking top commanders out of the process of deciding whether a sexual misconduct case goes to trial. For sexual offenses with authorized sentences of more than one year in confinement — akin to felonies in the civilian judicial system — that decision would rest instead with officers at ranks as low as colonel who are seasoned trial counsels with prosecutorial experience.

“What we need to do is change the system so victims know that they can receive justice,” Gillibrand said Thursday on CBS “This Morning.”

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# Drought

From Page 1A

enough to substantially reduce the soil moisture deficits built up last year in the worst areas, Today said.

During the last 90 days, southeast South Dakota has received relief with 6-8 inches of precipitation, he said.

Looking ahead in the short term, Today says a large storm event is predicted to include chances for totals of several inches in far eastern areas.

“This upcoming system brings another opportunity to ease drought conditions, depending on locations of precipitation and alignment with the driest areas,” he said. “It will certainly not bring a widespread end to the drought.”

Precipitation falling on the heels of major planting progress would help spur crops in recently planted fields, Today said.

The new long-range outlooks and Drought Monitor outlook align with current conditions, says Laura Edwards, SDSU

Extension Climate Field Specialist.

On the drought outlook map, the eastern quarter of South Dakota is categorized as “Improvement Likely.” The rest of the state falls in the “Some Improvement” category.

“The difference lies in that the current precipitation event has the better chance of improving short-term drought conditions in eastern South Dakota,” Edwards said.

At the national level, the Central Plains falls into hot, dry conditions compared to areas farther to the east, according to a climate specialist.

“This is the tale of two regions, even though we are talking one region,” said Martha Shulski, the director of the High Plains Regional Climate Center.

Shulski spoke to reporters Thursday in a national conference call. She noted the region was coming off one of the coolest months in recorded history.

“April was much cooler than normal in the Central Plains. It was the top 10 on record for six states,” she said, noting parts of the Plains were more than 6 degrees below normal.

For the most part, the Central

Plains is also coming off a wet month, Shulski said. “It was wetter-than-normal conditions for the middle of the country, and we were in the top 10 wettest (Aprils) on record,” she said.

However, not everyone received the record moisture, she said. Some areas recorded 50 percent or less of normal precipitation.

Parts of the Rocky Mountains have also fallen behind normal, Shulski said. “For the most part, we are behind where we should be for the water equivalent in the snowpack for the Rocky Mountains,” she said.

On a positive note, soil temperatures have risen above 50 degrees in Nebraska and farther north, allowing the development of corn, she said.

Looking at 1995 to 2013, this year’s planting is about 30 percent below average, she said. This year’s cool, wet spring contrasts sharply with last year’s very early spring planting, when 90 percent of the corn crop was planted by this time, she added.

The National Weather Service (NWS) forecast calls for moisture through the weekend.

Thunderstorm chances will increase west of the James River Valley by late Saturday afternoon

and evening, with thunderstorms then moving across the area Saturday night.

Some severe storms will be possible west of a line from Yankton to Brookings through Saturday evening, with large hail and damaging winds the primary severe weather threats.

Periodic thunderstorm chances will continue through the early part of next week, with thunderstorms most likely Sunday and Monday.

For northeast Nebraska, there is another chance for thunderstorms across the region Saturday night into Monday. The strongest storms look to be on Sunday afternoon and night.

The NWS forecast for northeast Nebraska calls for a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms today (Friday), 20 percent Saturday rising to 70 percent Saturday

night, and a 60 percent chance on Sunday.

For the next week, the Climate Prediction Center has forecast 1.5 to 3.5 inches of rainfall for a region including South Dakota and Nebraska. The odds favor above-average precipitation across the northern Great Plains.

The 8-14 day outlook calls for above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation. A similar outlook is predicted for June.

Shulski expects neutral conditions through fall, with the continuation of recent patterns.

“The monthly and seasonal outlooks illustrate continued warmth in the west and central parts of the U.S. and dryness in the central and southern Great Plains,” she said.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](https://twitter.com/RDockendorf)

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CARS

2m1t1 '11 Chevy Aveo LT, p. windows-doors-sunroof, keyless, cd, fwd, leather, alum whls, red, 13,537 miles .....	\$17,995	<b>\$13,988</b>
2m1t2 '11 Chevy Cruze LT, p. windows-doors, keyless, alum whls, gold, 15,065 miles .....	\$19,890	<b>\$15,889</b>
3n10 '13 Chevrolet Impala LT, p. windows-doors-seat-sunroof, Bluetooth, xm, alum whls, black, 10,628 miles.....	\$29,770	<b>\$18,995</b>
3n4 '12 Chevy Impala LT, p. windows-doors-seat, sunroof, remote start, Bluetooth, onstar, alum whls, white, 14,898 miles .....	\$21,460	<b>\$16,764</b>
2n54a '04 Chevy Impala LS, p. windows-doors-seat-sunroof, cd, fwd, alum whls, 3.8v6, goldmist .....	\$10,950	<b>\$7,449</b>

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1p140 '11 Dodge Grand Caravan.p. windows-doors, dual slider, alum whls, cd, keyless, stow n' go, p. lift, white.....	\$23,995	<b>\$18,977</b>
2n45a '08 Chevey Silverado Crew LT, 4wd, p. windows-doors, keyless, cd, alum whls, low miles, white, 5.3V8, chrome pkg .....	\$27,995	<b>\$23,989</b>
3n2a '06 Poniac Montana, p. windows-doors, keyless, cd, fwd, alum whls, green, power slider, tv/dvd .....	\$8,995	<b>\$5,987</b>
1p84a '03 Chevrolet Crew Cab Silverado, 4wd, p. windows-doors seat, cd, alum whls, white, 6.0V8, 1/2ton HD .....	\$13,995	<b>\$9,477</b>
1p65b '94 Ford Ranger, Reg cab, 4x4 .....	\$6,995	<b>\$4,998</b>

SPORT UTILITIES & CROSSOVERS

2n91 '12 Chevy Captiva LTZ, p. windows-doors-sunroof-seat, leather, rear-camera, polished alum whls, allwhl drive, silver, low miles .....	\$33,845	<b>\$23,971</b>
3n14 '12 Chevrolet Captiva LT, all wheel drive, p. windows-doors-seat sunroof, remote start, rear camera, awd, heated leather, polished alum whls, black, 11,217 miles .....	\$33,845	<b>\$24,958</b>
2n100 '12 Chevrolet Captiva Sport, p. windows-doors-seat, Bluetooth, xm, cd, alum whls, 6,524 miles, silver .....	\$24,995	<b>\$18,988</b>
3n15 '12 GMC Acadia SLT, awd, quad seats, p. windows-doors-seat liftgate, remote start, rear camera, cd, alum whls, leather seats, pearl white, 14,837 miles .....	\$43,985	<b>\$34,779</b>
3n16 '12 GMC Acadia SLT, awd, quad seats, p. windows-doors-seat liftgate, remote start, rear camera, cd, alum whls, black, leather seats, 15,870 miles .....	\$43,370	<b>\$33,687</b>

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