

"Hey baby, how 'bout a kiss? Sure like your moves honey"

PFC Mary Hughes hates PT. It's not because she doesn't like exercising. She's always been athletic. She's tired of remarks by the men in the unit. "Can you make those moves for me, baby?" "Whew, I thought my shorts were tight."

Mary also doesn't go to the EM Club anymore. When she went to the club, rude remarks or physical advances by the men made her uncomfortable. She goes straight to her room after work but even walking home causes Mary embarrassment. Guys hang out of the barracks windows to yell and whistle.

Brushes her breast

Mary's friend, Sp4. Sue Smith, complained to the first sergeant that one man in the orderly room excuses himself everytime he brushes her breasts while making believe he's reaching for something. The first sergeant asked Sue, "What did you do to bring it on?"

Are Mary and Sue's experiences unusual? No. Are these problems serious enough to deserve attention? You bet they are. These incidents and many like them are known as sexual harassment. It's no longer being laughed at or swept under the rug. The old saying, "boys will be boys" is beginning to disappear.

Sex object

Some males have been brought up to think of a woman as a sex object. Men who have been taught to think this way think nothing of making sexual comments to a woman, whistling, leering or, worst of all, making unwelcome physical advances. Of the several different types of sexual harassment, verbal harassment is likely to be the most common. This ranges from calling "Hey, baby" to the worst cases of outright filthy language.

Some other types of improper sexual contact are attempting to kiss, pinch or pat a woman. While this is often intended by the man to be either a compliment or a sign of affection, it is no more acceptable or welcome than the same behavior by one whose intentions are not so honorable.



The use of one's official position to gain sexual favors is probably the worst form of sexual harassment. Many women are afraid to report sexual harassment for fear of losing their job or getting a bad efficiency report.

Most women consider sexual harassment to be abusive, degrading and unwelcome. Few feel flattered by whistles, "cat calls," or outright propositions, regardless of the circumstances.

Unfortunately, many men feel that comments, gestures, and other sexually suggestive actions are acceptable behavior. They feel it is a compliment to the woman and considered masculine or "macho" by men and women alike.

Bottom line

Why should we do something about the problem of sexual harassment? Because it's a form of behavior that breaks down relationships between soldiers. All soldiers, male or female, should be allowed to live and work in an environment free from unwanted sexual advances. (DA Scene)