

Rod Rodriguez ([00:00](#)):

This episode of Military Matters is brought to you by Navy Federal Credit Union. Navy Federal puts members first by helping them save money, make money and enjoy peace of mind and security through personalized around-the-clock service. On average Navy Federal members earn and save \$361 more per year. You can pay no fees, get low rates and rate discounts, plus earn cash back and grow your savings. Visit [navyfederal.org](http://navyfederal.org) for more information. Navy Federal Credit Union. Our members are the mission. Welcome to Military Matters fast take. I'm Rod Rodriguez. That's Jack Murphy down there. And, uh, we have an amazing guest today to talk about our last episode about sexual harassment and sexual assault and the DOD, Katie Chorbak is a US Army veteran. She is the president and founder of Our Sisters Keeper movement. Katie, thanks for joining us.

Katie Chorbak ([00:56](#)):

Thanks for having me guys. I'm honored.

Rod Rodriguez ([00:59](#)):

Um, so I want to jump right into this. Tell me about, uh, the last episode we did. We talked with Astin Muse, who is kind of a Facebook famous personality about specifically the Marine Corps TikTok video. Uh, we also talked a little bit about the annual report, which I think I kind of went hard after, but, um, I think I did so for good reasons, of course. Uh, and by the way, we, I, I appealed, I asked the DOD for some answers to the questions that I had. They didn't, uh, the response was we had no one available for an interview, which is very interesting in and of itself. Uh, and I never got back any of the answers to the questions that I asked specifically. So, uh, with that said, the other half of the episode was covered by Jack Murphy who spoke with Raven. So we talked about her situation where she was a victim who ended up behind bars herself. So that's a very quick recap for anybody listening, if you want to go back and listen to that episode now, and then come back to this, that's the way to do it, or just stick around and listen to Katie give us her take on that episode.

Katie Chorbak ([02:17](#)):

I think it was well done. So I took notes. Um, I think what, what threw me is one of the first things that Sgt. 1st Class Muse did was question the victim's integrity, right? She like watched the video and was like, Oh, what's this girl got going on. Um, and I think that that is par norm, and it's something that needs to change. Is that women only make up 15% of the military. We need to stick together and believe survivors. And so that, like it hit home as a woman, as a, you know, a soldier of there's a lot of women that just don't believe other women. Um, I think in the end that she circled back around and did a great job of saying like, Hey, civilians need to take over because this is a, you know, this is problematic.

Katie Chorbak ([03:10](#)):

Um, but yeah, that, that kind of threw me for a loop first thing, when I was listening is like, Oh no, like another victim blaming woman, phenomenal. Um, but she did a really great job. I actually follow her. I followed her since she started her Facebook. Um, I reached out to her last summer when we were doing our rallies, and then on to Raven, right? So Raven's story is not unique, which is sad. Um, that is not unique, that is a par norm story of every woman survivor and male survivor I've talked to. Retaliation is at like 68%, right? That was in the report. It's on the Protect Our Defenders website of their sexual assault fact sheet in the military. Retaliation is the number one reason why women don't report or men. Right. So another thing that stuck out to me is that she was never informed when her abuser was finally like going through the court martial, um, on the civilian side, right?

Katie Chorbak ([04:13](#)):

So outside of the military victims have rights. There's a bill of rights. I live in Florida, victims have a bill of rights. They are to be informed of anything that is going on. Now in the military that is not the norm. I have heard story after story of these sentences being adjudicated or, you know, admin sep or, you know, Article 15 even, and the victim never finds out of like, what was the end result of me reporting? So yeah, like I thought, I thought it was well done. I think you guys did great. I think, um, Sgt. 1st Class Muse just kind of threw me for a loop, like woman to woman being like, Oh, no, not again, like not another one.

Rod Rodriguez ([04:55](#)):

Is it any, I mean you said it was a, it's kind of a normal thing to do. Um, I'll be perfectly honest with you. I did the same thing. When I saw it. First of all, there was a couple of things that, that I have to look back at my initial reaction and go, OK, what I kind of have the AAR, my initial reaction. My first question was, why are you on TikTok talking about this TikTok is where I think of like, you know, children doing dance videos and, um, doing goofy stunts, not where you would talk about ...

Jack Murphy ([05:30](#)):

It may, it may be a generational thing too, Rod, like for me, me and you, it doesn't make any sense at all. Uh, and I, I mean, I'd like to ask Katie, do you think the reason why it ends up there is because of the retaliation, because there's nowhere else to go for some some young women and the only outlet they feel they have is while social media, that's what they know.

Katie Chorbak ([05:53](#)):

Well, social media has been a great generator for MST victims and survivors to get together. Like even on TikTok there's a hashtag of MST and it's been trending since Vanessa Guillen. It's definitely a generational difference. Uh, and plus it's a way for them to get their voices heard, right, on a massive scale. People within the military know that sexual assault is a problem and has been a problem for decades. Civilians don't. So like, if we can't police our own, why, why wouldn't we tell civilians on a large scale at once where it can go viral to where now civilians are involved and care. And so I thought, you know, when I first saw the video, it was sent to me at like 3 in the morning, honestly, and I woke up and watched it. Um, my first reaction to that video was, Oh, no, not again, like here, here's another victim of the system that's broken. And when she said, you know, Hey, this is why female service members kill themselves. It hit home. You know, like I was suicidal after my incidents. I had more than one while I was in the military and not being believed. And so when you have all of these people saying, he should not be retained, you know, he should be kicked out of the military, but you have one person with power saying, He's great at PT. He is good at shooting. And it's like, he committed a felony.

Rod Rodriguez ([07:24](#)):

That's interesting because you know, a lot of folks were saying, and, and some of the feedback that I've heard and some of the criticisms that I've heard of her video is that, well, you weren't sexually assaulted. He didn't hurt you. He harassed you, which should be redeemable. So maybe there's, maybe there's a redeemable quality to this Marine. He's learned his lesson. But at the same time, the DOD purports to have a zero tolerance policy. So the question now becomes, what does zero tolerance actually mean? Does this mean you will be punished or does this mean you're out?

Katie Chorbak ([08:09](#)):

Zero tolerance means absolutely nothing in the military. It doesn't. When, um, I don't know if y'all saw the report that came out that the Air Force is keeping a convicted sex offender because the panel said that they should, right. Zero tolerance should be zero tolerance. Uh, let, let's be honest, sexual harassment and sexual assault is a crime. Rape is a felony. It's a felony like, let let's call that what it is. It's a felony crime. And when you are keeping people in committing these felonious crimes, that's how it's created the toxic culture. Now, as far as, you know, the pictures and stuff like that, right? Like we are in an information era where everybody, you know, has a cell phone. Everybody takes pictures. Everybody does this. I mean, I personally have a zero rule on that. Like, there is nothing on my phone that can be shared that will be embarrassing. Um, still inappropriate, still should fall under zero tolerance policy. Um, but the DOD has shown that that's zero tolerance means absolutely nothing. When you have convicted sex offenders that get to stay. When you have convicted sex offenders that get to retire with full benefits after conviction. It means nothing to anybody anymore. And it won't until zero tolerance means zero tolerance. If you are convicted of a crime of felony crime in the military, that you were put out without pay.

Rod Rodriguez ([09:40](#)):

If you're an active duty service member, veteran, DOD civilian, or military family member, you can join Navy Federal. That means if you served in any branch of the military, it doesn't have to just be the Navy. Could be the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard. You can join the Navy Federal Credit Union. On average Navy Federal members earn and save \$361 more per year. You could pay no fees, get low rates and rate discounts, plus earn cash back and grow your savings. Navy Federal puts members first by helping them save money, make money and enjoy peace of mind and security through personalized around-the-clock service. Plus now is a great time to join. Have a large credit card balance after the holidays? Let Navy Federal Credit Union help you rebalance your priorities. Make a plan to do away with high interest credit card debt by transferring your balance to a Navy Federal credit card with a low intro APR and no balance transfer fees. You can pick the right card to help you take back control. Visit [navyfederal.org](#). Navy Federal Credit Union. Our members are the mission. And now the fine print: insured by NCUA, dollar value of Navy Federal 2019 member give back study, 5.99 to 18% variable APR based on product testing credit worthiness. Up to \$1 cash advance transaction fee at non Navy federal ATMs.

Rod Rodriguez ([10:35](#)):

So Astin Muse, or Sgt. 1st Class Muse and Raven both stated pretty much the same thing that the current process for victims is inherently flawed because it is the military investigating the military. It is still a, you know, a structure of chain of command, and it's still happening within your unit. I mean, the commander has the discretion to not make this a sexual (assault). He it's up to their, their call. The idea is that we put this in the hands of civilians. Um, the other part of this, I'm sorry, the cat just jumped back here and made his appearance anyway. Um, the other parts of this is that folks want this to become a civilian issue. They want to bring, they want to bring in a third, which is where the Vanessa Guillen bill was supposed to be heading in that direction. But if I, you know, I've heard that the Vanessa Guillen bill, despite its great intentions is going nowhere. Can you tell me a little bit about where the bill is today and what happened?

Katie Chorbak ([12:12](#)):

So the Vanessa Guillen bill was introduced by Jackie Speier, congresswoman, sorry, Congresswoman Speier, uh, in the 116th Congress like towards the end of the session last year, right before elections. It

was co-sponsored by 187 people, a bipartisan sponsorship and was introduced into the Senate by Sen. Hirono and sponsored by four co-sponsors. But when the election happened, all that, that bill died. Right? So what ended up happening, I'm a part of the military women's coalition and we have a subset committee on sexual violence that I sit on. We sent a letter to Congresswoman Speier and the DOD of our suggestions of changes to the bill. Um, I saw that, you know, Congresswoman Speier did an interview the other day that she plans on reintroducing the bill. And if that fails that she'll try and put it in the NDAA for this year, you know, cause it has to be authorized yearly. That in my opinion, that's too long, right?

Katie Chorbak ([13:20](#)):

Like we can't wait another year. We need change today. Um, and so it was a collaborative of 10 different organizations and women across the country that came together, looked at the bill line by line and came up with suggestions of how to change it to be, um, better and more beneficial to today's service members, right. Because I've been out since 2014, um, that's seven years coming up. Uh, so we had to get input from active duty as well, like women who are dealing, you know, they're stuck in the suck today. So how do we make your life better tomorrow? Uh, so right now we're just waiting for a reintroduction. Uh, any Congress member can like introduce a bill into Congress. That's how our government is set up. But since Congresswoman Speier is the head of the house arms committee, um, it has to run past her.

Katie Chorbak ([14:19](#)):

So why, why not her reintroduce it? You know, and I'm saying. But some of the people that worked on it ... Again, these are all women veterans across the country that have come together. Um, Diana Danis as many of our mentors around the country, but she's been in this fight since the '80s guys. Um, and she's trying to pass the Baton on to my generation. Uh, the Vanessa Guillen Act is not perfect, right? It has a lot of holes. It has a lot of things in it that, um, will work if implemented, uh, but trying to get Congress members, you know, both sides of the House and the Senate to agree to this bill is going to be difficult. And, uh, one of the first suggestions we made was about the change to the Ferris doctrine. People have tried to overturn the Ferris doctrine for years. ... The Ferris doctrine is a piece of legislation that says that active duty military cannot sue the DOD.

Katie Chorbak ([15:27](#)):

So, um, this within the bill, Natalie Khawam put this in, Vanessa Guillen's family lawyer, um, to be able to sue the DOD for negligence. Because if you look at the reports over the last, you know, 40 years, um, on the civilian side, it would be negligence, like culpable negligence at best. Um, and so this would allow victims of negligence on the DOD's part to sue the dog. But what we were asking is to separate that from potential benefits from the VA, right? Because if you take step pay when you leave, and then you get on VA benefits, they recoup their money. Right. Everybody knows that. So we're trying to change that like little bit of, if you get compensation after you win a case against the DOD that it's not affected when you go for VA benefits. Um, another thing that was missed that we really need to address today is MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station).

Katie Chorbak ([16:39](#)):

I didn't know that there was a problem at MEPS. I did not have a bad experience, and it's my naivete that every woman has a great experience at MEPS. Um, but worth 10 20 is a group it's like a sister group of ours, uh, all active duty women, all very young, right? Early 20s. They asked a simple question, like,

what was your experience at MEPS. Guys, there was like 2,500 answers of like awful things happening at MEPS. And most of these girls were 17. Who do they turn to some of those people that they don't fall under your scam?

Rod Rodriguez ([17:19](#)):

Yeah. I mean, both of those are really good points. I didn't know anything was happening at MEPS. MEPS is not ... it's so far outside of your military career. It seems like MEPS is just a blip. It's that formal to say again? I'm sorry. You would cut off at that. I didn't catch that,

Katie Chorbak ([17:38](#)):

UNF. So I go to the university of North Florida, um, and they're under investigation for sexual harassment within their ROTC program. Um, so if that's happening there, it's probably happening nationwide. Right? So we need to look into that recruiting standards, um, fraternization, right. It's frowned upon, right? Not like wholeheartedly. It's just kind of like wink, wink, don't fraternize. Recruiting though fraternization should be as zero tolerance policy. Women should take care of women, because if this is becoming problematic, and we're having 17, 18 year old girls sexually harassed and assaulted in recruiting and MEPS, welcome to the military, right? This is what you're going to expect over your career.

Rod Rodriguez ([18:26](#)):

Well, it seems the military has always had a bit of an issue with our, the way we perceive ourselves and what human nature really is. Uh, we want to believe that every non-commissioned officer is and upstanding citizen, the epitome of professionalism and, uh, you know, moral courage. but often we are, you know, not that we are flawed human beings. People often go into that job field or, you know, pulled into recruiting and they never wanted to be recruiters that, or they see it as I have to do this in order to become this later on, this is my stepping stone to the next piece of career. So, uh, in that respect, it can often be the wrong people going in to do the job.

Katie Chorbak ([19:14](#)):

It's the same with SHARP reps though, right? Like victim advocates, it's an identifier on your ERB. One of the things that we're asking for is either take it out of the military or billet, it make it its own MOS. That is your primary job. Nothing else. You are not platoon sergeant, motor sergeant and the SHARP rep. Right. Cause then you're not going to take it seriously. But people who could possibly be billeted for that type of job, make sure they're capable of doing that. Like they're not just joining the military to do something easy. Right. Um, cause that's a tough job.

Rod Rodriguez ([19:51](#)):

Yeah. I thought it, I thought it was interesting when you're, when you're, uh, active duty, you see like an additional duties, uh, the key control guy. Um, uh, and, and uh, what is it? Uh, height, weight guy and then SHARP rep.

Jack Murphy ([20:08](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. So the, this guy who's like the terminal E-5 is also expected to play Sherlock Holmes and investigate serious violent crimes. Like, do we really think that's gonna happen? Uh, and it is, it's like, it's like the wolf is guarding the hen house in the sense that, uh, that's probably a sexist term, but okay. It is

what it is, uh, in the sense that you have some like really bad people, um, filling those kinds of positions. Like I talked to a young woman who her best friend in the Army was sexually assaulted by another soldier. This girl did everything right. She called the SHARP rep. Uh, the sharp rep comes to the barracks. His big fix to this says in a rum, just lock the doors, and then he leaves.

Katie Chorbak ([20:51](#)):

See, now that's somewhat like, so with my experience, right. I can only talk about my personal experience. Um, I'll talk about Fort Hood, right? Because Fort Hood is a hot topic right now. My SHARP rep on Fort Hood happened to be my platoon sergeant and happened to be female. So when I told her she took it to the X, like, "Oh, we're going to fight this to the end until we get you some justice" type of stuff, right. But if you don't take it seriously like that, and it's just a job identifier on your ERB to get your next promotion, like, do you really care about what's happening to your soldiers? Like I, I sit on the Duval County veterans council, right? I'm the post 9/11 veteran vote. It's mostly Vietnam vets and Gen X-ers. So, um, every time I bring up this issue, they're like, oh, it wasn't a problem in my time.

Katie Chorbak ([21:46](#)):

I'm like, really? Like, did you not come to my last rally? I had five generations of women come forward. Five. So that's your generation, my generation, the next generation. Like it crosses everything. And so when they, they just don't recognize it for what it is. And we were talking about this before, right. Of like ambient sexual harassment. Um, it's the culture to make sex jokes. I mean, the Army is the only place I learned rape jokes and I learned it in SHARP training. Right. Um, it's, it's the only place that that type of stuff is even somewhat acceptable. If any of that happened in the civilian world, you would lose your job and be sued like very quickly. Whereas everybody in the military is just like meh. Like it's just so off the shoulder. Um, and it's just, like Rod said, you know, like, Oh, she laughed. So it must be OK. No, we laugh because we think we could be possibly murdered if we don't. Right. It's gotten to that level.

Rod Rodriguez ([22:54](#)):

And even if it's not at that level, you're still worried about the way you're going to be perceived by the people you've got to go and work with for the next three, four years. You know, if they think your overseas with, yeah, you're going to deploy these people, you got to see them every single day. If you don't play along, it just makes your time there so much harder, so much longer than it actually has to be. Instead of just having a professional environment.

Katie Chorbak ([23:23](#)):

And miserable. And miserable. And just like Jack said, we have to deploy with these people. If I can't trust you in the barracks, you think I'm going to trust you in a CHU when there's nobody around. Right? Like, and Vanessa Guillen was a headline story, but not the only person murdered in the last year, right? Natasha Aposhian, Air Force, Elder Fernandes. Like all of these names need to be mentioned because at our rallies that we did, we listed them all that we could find after research. And then you have the problem of people being marked suicide that are obviously murder.

Jack Murphy ([24:08](#)):

LaVena Johnson.

Katie Chorbak ([24:10](#)):

Natasha Aposhian has a very similar story. Like this generation's LaVena Johnson is Natasha Aposhian from the Air Force.

Rod Rodriguez ([24:20](#)):

I was recently interviewed about the Vanessa Guillen case episode that we did in Season 2. And the interviewer, uh, was a civilian. And she said, you know, tell me if I'm wrong, but the military is just a big old boys club. And that's why all of this happens. And I had to take a step. I had to take a moment here to think about that, that statement. I had to disagree with her. I said, I don't necessarily think that because it's a boys club, all of these things are happening or that the coverups occur. I think inherently the fundamental problem is that we are an organization of perfectionists and that any imperfection is evaluated and judged as a personal imperfection on you. So if I'm Jack's soldier and I harass somebody or I'm accused of sexual assault, the perception is Jack's a bad leader.

Rod Rodriguez ([25:34](#)):

And everyone up the chain is a bad leader. So it actually, it behooved the chain of command to cover it up. Cause everybody's careers who had nothing to do with my assault, everyone's career stay intact. So the perception of something could go wrong is enough to make people not want this to come to light. When, if we had an environment where we had a safe environment, where we could say, Hey, look, you can be ... a system where we would not necessarily blame the entire chain of command, but in, and encourage the chain of command to say, Hey, look, we're not perfect. Bad things will happen. And we, because bad things happen we want these things to come to light. We need these things to come to light. I think that might encourage folks to, OK, I'm not going to lose my command if I bring this out. But of course it that's a different situation.

Jack Murphy ([26:44](#)):

There is that that zero defect mentality in the military that affects this issue in so many other things is so detrimental to the force. But, um, I think when, when Katie is talking or your, your, uh, friend was talking about it being a boys club, I think what that relates more to is that there, like Katie was saying, there's 15% of the force is female. It's mostly male. And like, if you had asked me when I was active duty, I would have said the same. I would have had the same thread of denialism that, that older veteran you mentioned had, like this isn't an issue. This doesn't exist. And that's because you're inside this bubble, you're inside this very insular culture. It's this echo chamber. And you are not hearing women's voices coming to the forefront. I would probably still be in that bubble if I didn't work as a journalist and did not interview victims like on a fairly regular basis. And once you do that, it starts to be right up in your face all the time and impossible, um, to any longer have that, um, that mentality of like, that just doesn't happen here.

Katie Chorbak ([27:43](#)):

Yeah. Um, I mean, for it to be like, it is a boys club, right. As a woman, I can say that it's 85% to 15. Right. So like saying it's not a boys club would be incorrect. Um, I think the toxic culture has existed for so long that it's norm, right? Like it's OK to make sexual jokes towards your soldiers and toward other females. Like that's, that's fine. Um, and if we shouldn't have to accept that, right. I think the bigger difference though, is like, and we've talked about this, is generational, right? Like, so I had this conversation with the Vietnam veterans on my council. Back in their time, talking about rape taboo, talking about homosexuality taboo, talk about, um, going to seek counseling, taboo. You know, everybody lied about

it back then. They were like, Oh, I'm going to the park. Whereas here in 2021, this generation, my generation, I'm a millennial and Gen Zers are more than willing to be open and honest about struggles.

Katie Chorbak ([28:54](#)):

Yes, rape happens. Yes. I am a survivor of rape. Yes. I go to therapy weekly for said rape. This is what my therapist said. Right. And so it's, it's a generational thing. And I'm hoping that the next generation ... Gen Z is proven to be one of the more inclusive generations of this country that has ever existed, right? Like they care about gender identity. They care about feelings. They care about all of this, right. Whereas in the military, we go by the like ---- your feelings, right? Like that's a huge thing in the military. I have said it to numerous people throughout my life. Um, but having to face that and sit in the discomfort of us being a flawed system. Because we don't want to be flawed. Right. The military is supposed to be above board. Right. We are supposed to be, top-notch 1% of the public, you know.

Katie Chorbak ([29:52](#)):

Serve, we do good things. But in reality, the military is full of ----bags. It always has been. Right. And so let's recognize that for what it is. Is that when we had a war on two fronts and we had an extreme draw up in the military, right, a use I was in during all of this, we lacked standards. We, we, we laxed them, and we let in a bunch of people should've never been in the military. Cause I remember walking around Fort Hood and I saw this guy with like a massive tattoo and I was Jesus Christ.

Rod Rodriguez ([30:29](#)):

Yeah. We also, we also promoted a lot of people who should never have been promoted. People became officers, people came warrant officers, uh, be became senior enlisted folks.

Jack Murphy ([30:38](#)):

And that directly leads to problems. Like, you know, you get the Bowe Berghdahls in the ranks and all the problems that, that creates, you know,

Katie Chorbak ([30:45](#)):

Well, here you are like, we're in 2021. Right. So we've been at war for 20 years. Right. So now these people who should have never been in the military are leader. And that's problematic because they should have never been allowed in. Right. Because after the drawdown, we've gone back like, no, um, you know, nobody's let in that, shouldn't be it like, right. We're not doing waivers anymore into the military at this point because we have enough people. But what we really need to look at is backtrack of like, who did we let in, and who is leading our military now? Like, are they complete ----bags? Should we not have let them in, in the first place? But now they are platoon sergeants and first sergeants and some are majors, problematic.

Rod Rodriguez ([31:39](#)):

Katie, you are the president and founder of Our Sister's Keeper movement. Tell me a little bit about that organization and what you guys are doing.

Katie Chorbak ([31:47](#)):

We're an activist group. It started on a whim, guys. I like throw up on my Facebook page. Um, it was protesting season. I come from a very like socially activist family. Um, and so I just like threw it out



there, like, Hey, anybody want to go protest at Hood? Right. And then it kind of like blew up. Cause I forgot we were in the middle of a pandemic. Right. So everybody was like, can't go to Hood, but I'll do it in my city. And I was like, bet. Right? So August 1st we did our first one and we did it in 27 cities across this country. Women veteran MST survivor led where we activated the public, we got civilians involved, gold star families. Then we did a second round on October 3rd and we did 29 cities, including Hong Kong. So it became international, right?

Katie Chorbak ([32:41](#)):

Because when I talked to like, I have some Canadian battle buddies that are in the Canadian military, um, that I met on Hood. It's problem in their military to, same in England. It's like a problem across the world. So our first push for this year is we're doing a candlelight vigil on April 24th across the country. Um, it's two days after the one year murder of Vanessa Guillen, and it's sexual assault awareness month. So our big push right now, like we were talking about the military knows we have this problem. Veterans know that this is a problem, you know, who needs to know civilians? Why? Their tax dollars pay us. Their tax dollars, pay for NDNA NDAA. They pay for my disability, they pay for all of this and they don't know why, right? Like, why is this happening? They should be aware. And I'm not on that huge, like, no justice, no enlistment thing.

Katie Chorbak ([33:40](#)):

Like I'm not into that. That's not like my organization does not back that in, in the least. Um, we can't say like women don't enlist. No. We need to get into positions of power and quickly, right? Like we need to quickly rise through the ranks, become senior leaders, become officers, change it from within because that's how you fix any system, right. Is from within. So we're an activist group. I literally just wanted to protest because everybody else was protesting in the country. So it was like we should protest. And, and um, honestly it blew up, and I didn't expect it to. I actually drove from Jacksonville, Fla., To Fort Hood to be at the gate to lead that protest. Um, and I met some of Vanessa Guillen's family members and LULAC and all of that out there and, you know, got connections.

Katie Chorbak ([34:34](#)):

And by the way, don't ever drive from Florida to Texas, it is um, 28 hours by the way, 28 hours across the country. Um, but it was important, right? Cause I'm a survivor of Hood. Like I was a victim of Hood, my perpetrator. I never got justice either. Um, a lot of my battle buddies never got justice. So being there was healing, and my wife came with me and I had like a massive PTSD thing while I was there. Cause I had not been back since. Like I left Hood and was like ---- this place. Um, and so when I was actually in the HEB, like I was like, Oh my God, what am I doing here? And like, this is the worst place for me to be. Um, but no, we were an activist group or just trying to get the word out, get civilians involved, Gold Star families and some answers.

Katie Chorbak ([35:26](#)):

Right. For some of these families. Um, I know Vanessa Guillen's family wants answers, but so does Natasha Aposhian. So does Elder Fernandes. The Fort Hood report ... there's another congressional hearing today, but I watched that one last week where those people said like CID failed, right? Like CID failed hard core, and they didn't mention the Elder Fernandes case, but you could tell that's who they were talking about of like, yeah, he probably didn't hang himself. Right? Like, so one of the things that becomes problematic, especially with LaVena Johnson and these people being marked suicides is they

don't get life insurance. They get nothing. Like their child is murdered and they get nothing from the military. They don't even get a military burial. So not even a flag to say, yeah.

Jack Murphy ([36:22](#)):

Well marking it as suicide it completes the conspiracy that now there's no murderer that you ever have to catch.

Katie Chorbak ([36:31](#)):

Right. And they said that in that report is that they found serial offenders within the first like three days of looking through files. I think that is one good, positive thing that has come out of this as the serial, uh, catch a serial offender program that they implemented. Um, I've read into it. It looks great. I don't know anybody personally who was used to it yet, but I'm sure I will within the next few years. Um, but there are serial offenders. And one of the things that we're asking for that is not within the Vanessa Guillen bill at all, is at enlistment cross with CODIS, right. They take our DNA, right? Like they have our DNA. We can never commit a crime because if they run it, we're going to be caught. Right guys. And that's it. But why not at MEBS run that DNA through CODIS, the FBI database of unsolved sexual crimes. Make sure they're not a predator, make sure that they have not committed sexual crimes. And they're trying to get into the military to circumvent the legal system.

Rod Rodriguez ([37:35](#)):

I don't know about this crazy idea that you've got here. That sounds like complete lunacy due diligence. What? No, that's, that's, that's nuts. Um, tell me about, uh, where can we find out more information about your organization and what you guys are up to

Katie Chorbak ([37:51](#)):

On Facebook. Um, at our sister's keeper movement, uh, we're on Twitter. We, uh, I think it's one hour at one, our sister's keeper movement. Uh, we have a TikTok and stuff cause you all were like, ah, generation. Uh, we, we have a TikTok, um, Instagram, we have it all, right. And we also have, um, info@oursisterskeepermovement.org is our email address. Uh, you can email me anytime. Um, we're just trying to get more people involved, right? Like on a larger scale.

Rod Rodriguez ([38:27](#)):

Listen, Katie, uh, back in our day, when we wanted to do dance videos, we set up the VHS recorders, and that's how we district cable access cable access channel. There you go.

Katie Chorbak ([38:41](#)):

I'm not that young guys I've been barely. So I like, I remember that. I just, um, you know, that's important to this younger generation is very short. I think the human attention span is like 7 seconds. So like doing it in a video is smart. Right. So I do suggest though that you guys, if you do have time, go on TikTok and watch some of those videos. There's thousands and thousands of them.

Rod Rodriguez ([39:10](#)):

I introduced Mr. Murphy to TikTok after this Marine, uh, video thing. And I wish we had recorded it because I introduced him to a couple of the biggest TikTok names. I'm like, I'm like, I'm talking, I can't remember their names now, but like they're huge. They're there, they're there.

Jack Murphy ([39:29](#)):

I asked my daughter Bella Poarch. She was like, I have no idea who that is.

Rod Rodriguez ([39:34](#)):

They're the influencers right. There was the other one Charli D'Amelio. She's like a bigger, she's the one that your, your daughter has a book from a Charl D'Amelio. I'll never forget. He watches TV. He watches a TikTok video for 10 seconds. It goes, what, what, what is this? They're famous for this, that, how that got how many views? And I was like, brother that got 10 million views. They've got 1.8 billion likes, uh you're right. This is the new, uh, it is the new platform, but for us it was my space. What the hell is mine?

Katie Chorbak ([40:18](#)):

I am that old. Um, I think that it's ever changing. Right. And so with this younger generation, um, you know, social media is the way to go. Like that's, that's how we get our word out is social media. Um, like I said, there was 10, 10 different organizations that helped, um, send this letter for recommendations and we are all in cahoots with each other. So it's like, Hey, we're doing this. Like post it across all of these different platforms, like, you know, to get more, um, you know, visibility and people involved. And so that's how all those rallies started. Right. Is I just put it on my Facebook and then copy and posted to like sisterhood of veterans, you know, service women who serve like all of these, uh, beauties and boots. Right? Like, I don't know if y'all have heard of beauties and boots, but at one point there was 350,000 female veterans in that group. Wow. So, um, yeah, they got shut down recently. It was really weird.

Rod Rodriguez ([41:21](#)):

Mm. Um, Katie, thank you so much for taking time out of your, your day to talk with us. And I know that it can be difficult to listen a show about these types of things being a survivor yourself. Um, so in that regard again, thank you so much for not just taking the time to talk with us, but for listening to our episode, I know that couldn't have been easy, but we do appreciate it and thank you for listening to our episode, I know that couldn't have been easy, but we do appreciate it and thank you.

Katie Chorbak ([41:49](#)):

A lot of therapy. So I've been through a lot of therapy at this point in my life. Um, but that's one good thing, right? As, uh, I know that the Vietnam veterans, like there's like this generational gap of like interest and stuff like that, but it is something that I'm grateful for, uh, for Vietnam veterans, for fighting for veterans today to have things such as the PTSD clinic and the women like Diana Danis, who fought in the eighties to get women health care for MST at the VA. Right. Like, so that's pretty recent. Like, and then the Deborah Sampson act passed. I don't know if y'all are aware of that. Um, it passed in the last NDAA. And so it's opening up a few more things to women, and it'll allow for legal aid within the VA system, which is important. Um, but yeah, no, I mean, I'm grateful to be here.

Katie Chorbak ([42:44](#)):

I'm grateful for y'all's generation, too. Right? Cause y'all were in the suck. Uh, we, we got, uh, benefits because of y'all. Um, and that's why I do what I do mainly is that my father was a Vietnam veteran. My grandfather was in the Battle of the Bulge. Like I am a generational veteran all the way back to the Spanish American war. Um, and so fighting for change so that when I have children, if they want to join,

This transcript was exported on Mar 25, 2021 - view latest version [here](#).

I know they're just like this much more safe, right? Like I don't have to worry about what happened to me happening to them. And if it does, it's gonna be taken care of properly instead of ignored.

Rod Rodriguez ([43:26](#)):

This episode was written and produced by Jack Murphy and Rod Rodriguez, additional editing and sound designed by Clear Commo studios, executive produced by Joe Fleming. Make a plan to do away with high interest credit card debt by transferring your balance to a Navy Federal Credit Union credit card. With a low intro APR and no balance transfer fees you can pick the right card to help you take back control. Visit [navyfederal.org](http://navyfederal.org), Navy Federal Credit Union. Our members are the mission. Leave us a review and a five-star rating on whatever podcast player you use. Those reviews really do help us reach a new audience. And be sure to share this podcast. We grow through word of mouth. You can find Military Matters everywhere you listen to podcasts. Or go to [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) and click on the podcast tab. We're always free to listen to. Use promo code podcast and save 50% on your digital subscription to Stars and Stripes. You can follow us on Twitter. Jack Murphy is [@Jack MurphyRGR](#) and Rod Rodriguez is [@rodpodrod](#). I'm Rod Rodriguez. I'm Jack Murphy. We'll see you at the next episode.