

Army launches probe into drunken sex attack

FOUR soldiers investigated over alleged alcohol-fuelled attack on a female officer in their barracks.

By Alexis Gillham

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THE Defence Force is investigating four male soldiers after a woman in their regiment was allegedly attacked at Queensland's Lavarack Barracks.

The alleged alcohol-fuelled assault took place in the B3/4 Calvary Regiment last Friday night and has outraged the Defence community, the [Townsville Bulletin](#) reports.

The wife of a soldier in the regiment spoke out about the allegedly horrendous attack, which she suspected involved sexual assault, because she feared it was deliberately being kept quiet by the Defence force.

"I can't believe it's happened again - these soldiers are due for deployment next year," she said.

"(The soldiers) were from B3/4 Cav (3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment) (and) they were drinking on base at the time when the male(s) assaulted the female. Apparently she is recovering in the hospital.

"I have never heard of a male hitting a girl - they usually leave the girls alone. It's all being kept a bit hush hush."

The soldier's wife attributed the incident to a major drinking culture at the barracks.

She said she now feared for her husband's safety, given he had been posted to Townsville for three years.

A Defence spokesman said the incident was under investigation, but denied the victim had to be taken to hospital after the attack.

"Army is working closely with the Queensland Police regarding allegations related to on-base activity," he said.

"It would be inappropriate to comment while an investigation into the incident is under way.

"The member has been provided counselling support and case management."

It is understood there are just seven females in the 200-person unit, all of whom are in their early 20s.

The attack followed an incident earlier this year where a soldier allegedly suffered bullying so severe he was taken to hospital for a mental breakdown.

Read more at the [Townsville Bulletin](#).

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