



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
**SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION
AND RESPONSE OFFICE**



FACT SHEET: ANNUAL REPORT ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE AT THE MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES

FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Background:

- Congress requires the Department to assess the Academies to determine the effectiveness of sexual harassment and sexual assault policies, training, and procedures.

Top Line Results:

- This year's report consists of data on sexual assault and sexual harassment *reporting* for Academic Program Year 2020-2021; a new effort to identify cadet and midshipman peer influencers and social networks; an assessment of ongoing prevention and response initiatives; and the Academies' self-reported compliance with Department of Defense and Military Department policy.
- The Department received a total of 161 reports of sexual assault that involved cadets/midshipmen/prep school students as victims and/or alleged perpetrators, an increase of 32 reports from the previous Academic Program Year. 131 sexual assault reports were made by cadets or midshipmen for incidents that occurred during military service.
 - The Department cannot fully interpret this increase because no prevalence survey was conducted.
 - The next Service Academy Gender Relations Survey is currently planned for April of 2022. The results will be reported early 2023.
- In APY 2020-2021, sexual harassment complaints increased to 30 total complaints, up from 12 in the prior year.
- Results from a new study, the 2021 Academy Climate and Networking Study, found that:
 - 17 percent of cadets and midshipmen at the MSAs were considered influencers. They are people that could play a critical role in prevention and response programs on campus if appropriately equipped.
 - Cadets and midshipmen also accept and generally support norms related to confronting sexist comments, discouraging hostile language on social media, and discouraging insults. However, other norms that relate to making healthier alcohol use choices and holding others accountable to academy rules are acknowledged but are poorly supported by cadets and midshipmen. Academies need to provide students with the information and skills needed on these important, but poorly supported expectations.
 - Finally, the ACNS obtained feedback on the kinds of messaging that resonates and does not resonate with cadets and midshipmen. Activities that promote discussion, leverage small groups, and provide personal experiences tend to be received well. However, activities that are slide-based, involve large groups, or fail to acknowledge the experiences of cadets and midshipmen are not received as well.
- DoD continued initiatives to enhance the Department's prevention capabilities by:
 - Launching efforts to scientifically evaluate new and existing prevention programs; and

- Publishing an integrated prevention policy that unifies and focuses efforts on activities with the greatest potential to reduce multiple forms of violence

Way Forward

Work remains to sustain and advance the MSAs progress across the focus areas below:

Efforts to reduce and stop sexual assault

- Identify and empower senior-level prevention decision-makers
- Codify prevention plans into academy policy
- Evaluate and identify impacts of prevention plan and component activities
- Review prevention activities to:
 - Identify opportunities to build skills to address problematic social norms,
 - Include influential cadets and midshipmen as potential messengers, and
 - Resource and structure priority programs to include messaging approaches that resonate

Sexual assault and sexual harassment reporting

- Provide resources for victims to make entries into the CATCH a Serial Offender (CATCH) Program
- Track sexual assault reports associated with Safe to Report policy

Victim assistance initiatives

- Develop Localized Case Management Group Operating Instructions
- Assist DoD in completing the academy Expedited Transfer Policy
- Identify areas that SARCs and SAPR VAs can educate victims about the military justice process
- Deconflict class schedules for requesting victims beyond case closure and protective order expiration