



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



**ANNUAL REPORT ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE AT THE  
MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES,  
ACADEMIC PROGRAM YEAR 2014-2015**  
*8 JANUARY 2016*

This overview summarizes the Department of Defense's Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies (MSA), Academic Program Year (APY) 2014-2015. This year's report contains observations from the Department's on-site assessment of the MSAs and results from the Defense Manpower Data Center's *2015 Service Academy Gender Relations Focus Group Report*.

**Summary**

- Preventing sexual harassment and sexual assault at the MSAs remains a priority for the Department. As directed by Congress, the Department conducts an annual assessment to determine the effectiveness of the policies, training, and procedures with respect to sexual harassment and sexual assault involving cadets and midshipmen.
  - The APY 14-15 Report is composed of the Department's observations based on on-site assessments, statistical data on sexual harassment complaints and sexual assault reports, and results of focus groups of cadets, midshipmen, faculty, and staff.
  - DoD will continue to monitor the implementation of sexual assault prevention and response (SAPR) initiatives and will conduct an anonymous survey of cadets and midshipmen next year for inclusion into the APY 15-16 Report.
- The APY 14-15 Report documents progress.
  - More cadets and midshipmen made the decision to report sexual assault allegations during APY 14-15, representing a greater proportion of sexual assault incidents.
    - When a crime like sexual assault is underreported, it is a strategic objective to encourage reporting as a way to connect victims with support and to hold offenders appropriately accountable.
  - The number of cadets and midshipmen making reports of sexual assault allegations and seeking assistance with complaints of sexual harassment increased at the MSAs.
    - The MSAs received a total of 91 sexual assault reports – an increase of 32 reports over last year.
    - The MSAs received a total of 28 sexual harassment complaints – an increase of 8 complaints over last year.
  - Academy SAPR Programs meet or exceed recommendations from the *White House Task Force to Protect Students Against Sexual Assault*. MSA SAPR Programs align to many of the Task Force's recommendations, including:
    - Surveying to determine the extent of the problem
    - Establishing an option for confidential reporting
    - Providing professional victim advocacy
    - Applying evidence-based prevention practices

- Creating a comprehensive sexual misconduct policy
- Using trauma-informed investigative and prosecution techniques

### SAPR Program Assessment

- The MSAs are in compliance with Department policies. Each MSA has a section in the report describing their programs, progress, and status of initiatives and action items.
- MSAs are incorporating prevention concepts into leadership development efforts in academics, athletics, and military training.
- The Department’s on-site assessment and focus groups found improvements in overall response program execution, innovative efforts to encourage climates of dignity and respect, incorporation of prevention principles into leadership development, and engagement of cadets and midshipmen to help solve the problems of sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- There are promising practices at each Academy that the Department encourages the other MSAs to adopt as well.
- Superintendent attention drives continued progress.
  - Cadets and midshipmen acknowledge leadership’s efforts to address sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention
  - On-site assessments found improved cooperation and program fluency at all three MSAs

### Reporting Results: Sexual Assault

- Reporting sexual assault offers the primary avenue for victims to seek care and for the Department to hold offenders appropriately accountable.
- The Department assesses an increase in reports as consistent with growing confidence in our response system and a sign that victims trust us to care for them.
- In the year covered by this report, the total number of sexual assault reports received by the MSAs increased from 59 reports in APY 13-14 to 91 reports in APY 14-15.
  - While the number of reports of sexual assault increased at all three of the MSAs, the largest change in reporting was seen at the US Air Force Academy.

### Reports of Sexual Assault Involving Cadets/Midshipmen as Either Victims and/or Subjects

	APY 2013-2014	APY 2014-2015
<b>Total Reports Received</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>91</b>
Unrestricted Reports	34	54
Reports Remaining Restricted at the end of the APY	25	37
Converted to Unrestricted Report in APY	2	7
# Cadet/midshipman reports, for incidents occurring during military service	53	75

## Reporting Results: Sexual Harassment

The MSAs received 28 complaints of sexual harassment during the APY.

### Complaints of Sexual Harassment From Cadets/Midshipmen

	APY 2013-2014	APY 2014-2015
<b>Total Complaints Received</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>
Informal Complaints	19	17
Formal Complaints	1	11

### Way Forward

This year's assessment identifies each Academy's commendable practices, suggested program enhancements, and action items to be addressed. In the APY 15-16 Report, the MSAs will describe the efforts they took to enhance their programs and address action items.

- Each of the Academies should increase their emphasis on sexual harassment programs and strengthen a culture where cadets and midshipmen are committed to adhering to the high standards of military service. Military research has consistently identified a strong positive correlation between the occurrence of sexual harassment in military units and the occurrence of sexual assault. By promoting the prevention of sexual harassment, the Academies will also likely be preventing sexual assault.
- MSAs should continue to refine aspects of sexual assault response efforts. Each MSA has a thorough, comprehensive, and innovative program to provide victim care.
- MSAs will be developing and implementing metrics and assessment programs to better manage sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention and response efforts.
- MSAs will continue integrating sexual harassment and sexual assault prevention principles into leadership training. Such efforts will not only promote a respectful environment at the MSAs, they will also give the cadets and midshipmen the skills they need to lead military men and women.