



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



**DoD ANNUAL REPORT ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE AT THE
MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES
ACADEMIC PROGRAM YEAR 2015-2016**

Background

- Section 532 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364) requires an assessment of the Military Service Academies (MSAs) during each Academic Program Year (APY)
- The *DoD Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies* assesses the effectiveness of policies, training, and procedures to address sexual harassment and sexual violence at the United States Military Academy (USMA); United States Naval Academy (USNA); and United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)
- This year's report contains self-assessment summaries from the Academies and results from the 2016 *Service Academy Gender Relations (SAGR) Survey* conducted by the DoD Office of People Analytics
 - The Academy's self-assessments provide updates on activities conducted to meet the requirements of Secretary of Defense initiatives and address action items from previous reports
 - The SAGR covers topics such as the past-year prevalence (occurrence) of unwanted sexual contact (USC) and sexual harassment, reporting and training, and characteristics of the unwanted sexual and gender-related behaviors

Summary

The MSAs continue to make clear and demonstrable progress in supporting those who report sexual assault and harassment. However, this year's survey results underscore the unique challenges the Academies face in sustaining long-term decreases in the occurrence of sexual assault.

Key Findings

- ***Rates of Unwanted Sexual Contact Rebounded:*** Overall, about 12 percent of Academy women and 2 percent of Academy men indicated experiencing USC in the year prior to being surveyed. These rates are statistically higher than rates observed in 2014, and are statistically similar to USC rates observed in 2010 and 2012
- ***Sexual Assault Reporting by Cadet and Midshipmen Victims Varied by Academy:*** Overall, MSAs received a total of 86 reports of sexual assault, down from 91 reports last year; however, USMA and USNA sexual assault reporting show year after year increases in the number of reports. USAFA receives the greatest number of reports each year, but its numbers tend to also show the greatest amount of fluctuation
- ***More Victims Converted Restricted Reports to Unrestricted Reports:*** Twelve cadets and midshipmen who made Restricted Reports this year chose to convert their report and participate in the military justice system; this reflects an increase from the seven conversions that occurred last year
- ***Cadets and Midshipmen Continue to Experience Sexual Harassment:*** The SAGR Survey found that about 48 percent of Academy women and 12 percent of Academy men experienced an incident of sexual harassment in the past year; these experiences largely

involved hostile work environment situations (pervasive and severe unwanted sexual attention, comments or jokes made at their expense)

- **Varying Rates of Sexual Harassment Complaints Over the Past Five APYs:** MSAs received a total 10 sexual harassment complaints, down from the 28 received last year; a greater focus on intervention and prevention of sexual harassment would also likely lead to fewer sexual assaults

Areas of Progress

- **Bystander Intervention:** About 90 percent of cadets and midshipmen who observed situations at risk for sexual assault indicated taking action to prevent it; however, fewer than five percent of respondents indicated seeing a risky situation in the past year
- **Sexual Harassment Intervention:** Cadets and midshipmen indicated an increased willingness to point out to someone that he or she crossed the line and to seek help from the chain of command
- **Victim Support:** All MSAs now have Special Victims' Counsel/Victims' Legal Counsel located on their campuses, joining Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates in the mission to help cadets and midshipman recover and participate as desired in the military justice process

Way Forward

- The Academies must expand their local expertise to incorporate more primary prevention resources
- Prevention efforts at the MSAs require greater alignment with activities demonstrated to reduce the occurrence of sexual assault and sexual harassment
- Bystander intervention efforts must be broadened to sensitize cadets and midshipmen to a wider range of risky situations and offer opportunity to practice skills
- The Department will focus its upcoming MSA assessment visits to the MSAs in 2017 on assisting with prevention programming