



Department of Defense Fact Sheet: Military Service Academy Report and SAPR Initiatives

This fact sheet summarizes the Department of Defense's (DoD) Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies (MSA) Academic Program Year (APY) 2013-2014 and highlights recent initiatives designed to more completely integrate sexual assault and harassment prevention into the full spectrum of Academy life and learning.

SUMMARY

- Preventing sexual harassment and sexual assault at the MSAs, as part of the total force, 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 violence involving Academy personnel.
 - The APY 13-14 Report is composed of self-assessments conducted by each MSA and an anonymous survey of cadets and midshipmen conducted by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC).
 - DoD will continue to monitor the implementation of sexual assault prevention and response (SAPR) initiatives and will conduct on-site assessments at each of the Academies for the APY 14-15 Report.
- The APY 13-14 Report documents progress: The scientific survey conducted by the Department indicates the past-year estimated prevalence (occurrence) rate of sexual assault is down across the Academies.
 - Past-year estimated prevalence rates of unwanted sexual contact (USC) are at their lowest in 10 years. Estimates indicate there were nearly 200 fewer sexual assault victims in 2014 than in 2012.
 - Sexual assault reporting by cadet and midshipmen victims did not change between APY 12-13 and APY 13-14: 53 cadets and midshipmen reported a sexual assault that occurred while in military service.
 - While the number of reports made by cadets and midshipmen this year did not change, the 53 reports received represent a greater proportion of the overall number of sexual assaults that were estimated to have occurred last year. This year the Department received a report from one in six victims at the Academies, up from one in ten two years ago. The Department believes that the increase in reports is due to increased confidence of victims coming forward.
 - Nearly 60% of cadets and midshipmen making a report chose an Unrestricted Report – up from about 40% last year.
- The Department's approach – mirrored by White House efforts to improve college sexual assault response – pairs a prevention focus with an unwavering commitment to helping victims heal and have a voice in the justice process.

SAPR PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

- The three MSAs self-assessments indicate they are in compliance with the Department's policies regarding sexual harassment and sexual assault for APY 13-14.
- All MSAs are taking action on the five initiatives directed by the Secretary of Defense in his January 2014 memorandum. The five initiatives are (1) Enhance Strategic Planning, (2) Enhance Program Effectiveness, (3) Advance and Sustain Appropriate Culture, (4) Enhance Comprehension, and (5) Expand Alcohol Polices. This memorandum is available at www.sapr.mil.
- The Department will continue to monitor the implementation of SAPR initiatives and recommendations made to the MSA by the Department in prior reports.

PREVALENCE & REPORTING RESULTS

Decrease in past-year estimated sexual assault prevalence rates

- The 2014 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey (SAGR) estimates that 8.2% of Academy women and 1.1% of Academy men indicated experiencing USC at some time during APY 13-14. Overall rates observed for both men and women in 2014 represent a statistically significant decrease from rates of USC observed in the 2012 SAGR. 'Unwanted Sexual Contact' is the term used by the Department on the survey as a proxy for sexual assault offenses prohibited under military law. While it does not provide a crime rate, it has been shown to be a good estimate of the past-year prevalence of sexual assault.
- The estimated USC prevalence rate for both Academy men and women suggests that nearly 200 fewer sexual assaults occurred in APY 13-14 than in APY 11-12.

	APY 2011-2012	APY 2013-2014
Estimated % USC Prevalence: WOMEN	12.4%	8.2%
Estimated % USC Prevalence: MEN	2.0%	1.1%
Estimated Prevalence: TOTAL POPULATION	474 to 578	306 to 349
Estimated Prevalence: WOMEN	295 to 330	197 to 223
Estimated Prevalence: MEN	164 to 263	100 to 134

Sexual Assault Reporting

- Reporting offers the primary avenue for victims to seek care and for the Department to hold offenders appropriately accountable.
- In the year covered by this report, the total number of sexual assault reports received by the MSAs decreased from 70 reports in APY 12-13 to 61 reports in APY 13-14. This is largely because the Academies received fewer reports from civilian victims and fewer reports from cadets and midshipmen about sexual assaults that occurred prior to entering military service. As stated before, the number of sexual assault reports from cadet and midshipmen victims about incidents that occurred to them while in military service at the Academies stayed the same between APY 12-13 and APY 13-14. The accused in these reports were mostly other cadets and midshipmen.
 - The number of reports of sexual assault increased at two of the Academies (USMA, USNA) and decreased at one (USAFA) of the Academies.
- Unrestricted Reports increased from 29 in the previous APY to 36 in APY 13-14. Unlike last year, there were more Unrestricted Reports than Restricted Reports made at the MSAs. The increase in Unrestricted Reports shows that more cadets and midshipmen chose to participate in the military justice system this year.
- The Department estimates it received a report from 16% of the estimated number of victims in APY 12-13, compared to 11% of the estimated number of victims in APY 11-12.

	APY 2012-2013	APY 2013-2014
# Cadet/midshipman reports, for incidents occurring during military service	53	53
Total Reports Received*	70	61
Unrestricted Reports*	29	36
Reports Remaining Restricted at the end of the APY	41	25
Converted to Unrestricted Report in APY	7	2

* Involving cadets/midshipmen as either victims and/or subjects

Sexual Harassment Reporting Key Findings

- According to the 2014 SAGR, 48% of Academy women and 10% of Academy men indicated perceiving some form of sexual harassment in APY 13-14.
- Overall, this is a statistically significant decrease in the rate for women and no change in the rate for men since the last survey in APY 12-13; however, rates of sexual harassment vary between the Academies.
 - Increase for women at USAFA and USMA, but a significant decrease at USNA.
 - No change for men at USAFA and USNA, but increase at USMA.
- During the APY, the Academies received 20 complaints of sexual harassment
 - Informal Complaints: 19 (USNA – 15, USAFA – 4)
 - Formal Complaint: 1 (USMA – 1)

WAY FORWARD

- Throughout APY 13-14, the MSAs made progress in complying with the Secretary of Defense's directives, issued in his January 2014 memorandum. However, full implementation of the initiatives and assessing their impact will take time. Academies are unique, close-knit environments with special considerations that impact cadet and midshipman reporting. The Department's dual goals for sexual assault are to use prevention initiatives to reduce the occurrence of sexual assault and at the same time, encourage reporting. DoD will conduct on-site assessments and report on MSA achievement in next year's assessment.
 - The Superintendents at each Academy are providing direct supervision over the execution of programming to address sexual harassment and violence. Organizational and policy changes set in place over the years are promoting a safer environment for officer education and development. Progress on continuing initiatives will help the MSAs achieve further reductions in the estimated prevalence of sexual assault and sexual harassment.
 - Secretary Hagel directed the implementation of the following new initiatives to address findings from this year's report and enhance the MSA's ability to reduce the occurrence of sexual assault and encourage reporting:
 - **Strategic Dialogue:** The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) will host a senior summit each APY for Service Academy leadership and others to facilitate collaboration and exchange of best practices and lessons learned in prevention and response policies. Service Academy leadership will also be incorporated into the SAPR Executive Integrated Product Team forum.

- **Targeted Interventions:** The Secretaries of the Military Departments will develop and conduct specific prevention programs and initiatives for cadets and midshipmen at the conclusion of their first APY. This training will address professional relationship expectations and the factors behind higher rates of sexual assault experienced during the Academy third-class year.
- **Addressing Prior Victimization:** The DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office will develop and deploy an anonymous, self-guided education program designed to address and support those cadets, midshipmen, and other military members who may have been victims of sexual assault or abuse prior to entering military service.
- **Improving Sexual Assault Reporting:** To encourage greater reporting of sexual assault, the Superintendents of the Military Service Academies, in collaboration with the USD(P&R) and their respective Military Department SAPR Program offices, will assess their individual Academy climates and develop a plan to promote greater reporting of these crimes by cadets and midshipmen.
- Secretary Hagel also directed the implementation of a measure to bolster Service-wide efforts aimed at reducing retaliation associated with reporting of sexual assault. He directed the USD(P&R), in collaboration with the Office of General Counsel, the Inspector General, and the Secretaries of the Military Departments, to conduct a comprehensive review of the means available to address both social and professional retaliation, to include appropriate conduct on social media. This review will include recommendations for changes to law and/or policy, as appropriate.