

February 25, 2021

Combined Statement from Acting Secretary of the Army John E. Whitley and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James C. McConville Regarding the DoD Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence at Military Service Academies for Academic Year 2019-2020

WASHINGTON – The Army is fully committed to preventing sexual harassment and sexual assault. These corrosive behaviors harm our people, destroy readiness and undermine the trust of the American people and the parents who send us their sons and daughters.

The Academy has increased staffing for prevention programs and taken steps to better protect the confidentiality of cadets who are victims of sexual violence. During fourth quarter, cadets participated in remote learning; West Point, however, continued to offer SHARP program services. Additionally, West Point implemented the Character Development Program that assists cadets in building healthy, productive relationships. The Academy's Character Integration Advisory Group is building character development into all aspects of cadet life to ensure that our future commissioned officers are fully committed to Army values.

Academy leadership is working to harness innovative character development and prevention programs to ensure a safe environment, predicated on dignity and respect, where our rising leaders can reach their full potential.

Respect, trust and discipline are the foundation of unit cohesion and readiness. West Point cadets are the standard bearers for the Soldiers they will lead tomorrow; we expect them to demonstrate the character required to serve honorably as caring leaders.

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[Read the report](#)