



Coast Guard Academy Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence For Academic Program Year 2022-2023

Report to Congress
July 28, 2025



U.S. Coast Guard

Foreword

July 28, 2025

The Coast Guard provides the following report, “U.S. Coast Guard Academy Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence for Academic Program Year 2022-2023”.

Section 1902 of Title 14, U.S. Code directs the submission of a report on sexual harassment and sexual violence involving cadets or other Academy personnel for each Academic Program Year.

The Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Academy have zero tolerance for sexual violence, to include sexual harassment and sexual assault, and abide by policies established by the Department of Homeland Security in addition to applicable law. Sexual harassment and sexual violence are incompatible with this commitment and the core values of the Coast Guard. Our Service and the Academy continue to build on our ongoing efforts to ensure an environment free of sexual violence and sexual harassment of any kind.

Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is being provided to the following members of Congress:

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

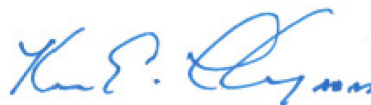
The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Please direct report inquiries to my Senate Liaison Office at (202) 224-2913 or House Liaison Office at (202) 225-4775.

Sincerely,



Kevin E. Lunday
Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Acting Commandant



Executive Summary

The Academy remains steadfast in its mission to eliminate sexual assault and sexual harassment from campus. As in past years, the Academy also continues to concentrate efforts on the five strategic goals enumerated in the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014* (Pub. L. 113-66, 127 STAT. 672) and the *Carl Levin and Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015* (Pub. L. 113-291, 128 STAT. 3292).

In Academic Program Year 2022-23, the Academy received 13 reports of sexual assault involving cadets or other Academy personnel, down from 18 reports of sexual assault in the previous reporting period. Of the reports the Academy received, eight were unrestricted and five were restricted. Per Coast Guard policy, the Coast Guard Investigative Service investigated each unrestricted report when jurisdiction over the accused was established. No allegations of sexual assault were criminally charged either due to a lack of military jurisdiction or sufficient evidence necessary to obtain and sustain a conviction. However, several of the investigations revealed other, lesser misconduct on the part of the subject which was adjudicated under the Cadet Regulations. Regardless of whether the report was restricted or unrestricted, alleged victims were provided access to support services. The Academy also received one multi-victim report of sexual harassment. That report was substantiated after investigation in accordance with Harassing Behavior Prevention, Response, and Accountability Commandant Instruction 5350.6, the governing policy in effect at the time, and adjudicated under the Cadet Regulations.

The Department of Defense's Office of People Analytics provides the Academy with data to meet the requirements for a biennial survey and focus group in accordance with Section 1902 of Title 14, U.S. Code. Their most recent study, *Military Service Academy Command Climate Assessment Process Evaluation*, specifically focused on the Command Climate Assessment cycle at Service Academies.¹ The study made overall observations on the Command Climate Assessment process in five categories: 1) knowledge sharing about the Command Climate Assessment process and its importance; 2) engagement of all Academy stakeholders in the full Command Climate Assessment process; 3) communication across the Academy at all stages of the Command Climate Assessment; 4) tracking effectiveness and assessing progress on climate goals; and 5) use of additional data sources. In addition to the overall study conducted at the Department of Defense Service Academies, Office of People Analytics produced a guide specific to the Coast Guard Academy after conducting similar focus groups. The purpose of this guide is to enhance the effectiveness of the Command Climate Assessment process at the Coast Guard Academy and will be a valuable resource for future iterations of the Command Climate Assessment process.

The Academy leadership team continues to employ measures to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault while providing specialized support services to victims of these crimes.

¹ [Office of People Analytics Military Service Academy Command Climate Assessment Process Evaluation: Overview Report, Dec 2023](#)



Coast Guard Academy Sexual Harassment and Violence for Academic Program Year 2022-2023

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I. Legislative Language

This document fulfills the requirements set forth in Section 1902 of Title 14, U.S. Code, which states:

SEC. 1902: POLICY ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

...

(d) Report. -

(1) In general. —The Commandant shall direct the Superintendent to submit to the Commandant a report on sexual harassment and sexual violence involving cadets or other Academy personnel for each Academy program year.

(2) Report specifications. —Each report under paragraph (1) shall include, for the Academy program year covered by the report, the following:

(A) The number of sexual assaults, rapes, and other sexual offenses involving cadets or other Academy personnel that have been reported to Academy officials during the Academy program year and, of those reported cases, the number that have been substantiated.

(B) A plan for the actions that are to be taken in the following Academy program year regarding prevention of and response to sexual harassment and sexual violence involving cadets or other Academy personnel.

(3) Biennial survey. —Each report under paragraph (1) for an Academy program year that begins in an odd-numbered calendar year shall include the results of the survey conducted in that Academy program year under subsection (c)(2).

(4) Transmission of report. —The Commandant shall transmit each report received by the Commandant under this subsection, together with the Commandant's comments on the report, to—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(5) Focus groups.

(A) In general. —For each Academy program year with respect to which the Superintendent is not required to conduct a survey at the Academy under subsection (c)(2), the Commandant shall require focus groups to be conducted at the Academy for the purposes of ascertaining information relating to sexual assault and sexual harassment issues at the Academy.

(B) Inclusion in reports. —Information derived from a focus group under subparagraph (A) shall be included in the next transmitted Commandant's report under this subsection.

(e) Victim Confidentiality. —To the extent that information collected under the authority of this section is reported or otherwise made available to the public, such information shall be provided in a form that is consistent with applicable privacy protections under Federal law and does not jeopardize the confidentiality of victims.

II. Background

The Academy plays a fundamental role in developing, educating, and training future Coast Guard leaders for the challenges they will encounter during their careers. The Coast Guard's core values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty provide the character foundation upon which all members of the Coast Guard are expected to live their lives and carry out their official duties. As their first foray into military life, cadets inherently reference the lessons learned at the Academy throughout their careers. This shapes the future environment of the Service, as cadets are expected not only to abide by these values, but also impart them on the members they lead. Our cadets must carry forward an environment free of sexual assault and sexual harassment.

III. Data Report

A. Reported Sexual Offenses

Thirteen reports of sexual assault and one report of sexual harassment involving Academy cadets, staff, and other Academy personnel were made to Academy officials during Academic Program Year 2022-2023. This reporting period includes September 01, 2022 – August 31, 2023.

Reports of Sexual Assault²

The Academy received 13 reports of sexual assault, eight of which were unrestricted³ and five of which were restricted.⁴ In all 13 cases of reported sexual assault, victim support services were made available. In each unrestricted report, the Academy convened a Crisis Intervention Team per the Coast Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery Program Manual, Commandant Instruction M1754.10E, the policy in effect at the time. Coast Guard Investigative Service was notified and engaged in each instance. Each investigation was evaluated by the Staff Judge Advocate for advice and disposition to the Academy Superintendent, acting as the General Court-Martial Convening Authority and Sexual Assault Initial Disposition authority pursuant to the Coast Guard Military Justice Manual, Commandant Instruction M5810.1H.

The unrestricted reports were resolved as follows:

- All eight unrestricted reports of sexual assault lacked evidence sufficient to establish probable cause or lacked jurisdiction to move forward with criminal adjudication under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Further details are provided as follows:
 - Two reports involved allegations against individuals who were not subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The Coast Guard therefore lacked jurisdiction. Both cases were referred to civilian authorities.
 - One report was made by a former Coast Guard member regarding allegations of an event that transpired while they were assigned to the Academy in 2009. The Coast Guard lacked jurisdiction over the subject.
 - Two reports involved allegations against non-Coast Guard members at Marion Military Institute, a military preparatory school in Marion, Alabama. In both instances, the Coast Guard lacked jurisdiction, and the victim declined to participate in the law enforcement investigation. Notifications were made to Marion Military Institute and the accused's military service, when applicable.

² This includes all allegations of sexual offenses under 10 U.S.C. 920 (Article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), including Rape, Sexual Assault, Aggravated Sexual Contact, and Abusive Sexual Contact.

³ Unrestricted Report: "An Unrestricted Report initiates a criminal investigation and provides command support for service member victims. It allows for the full range of victim protections, including MPOs, transfer or relocation, expedited transfer, convalescent leave, and unrated time, per Reference (q) [Commandant Instruction M1000.8 (series)], for performance evaluations." (See Commandant Instruction M1754.10F, Para 4.F, p.4-2).

⁴ Restricted Report: "SAPRR-eligible victims may elect a Restricted Report and receive Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery services, Special Victims' Counsel services, medical treatment, counseling, and referrals to community resources. A Restricted Report does not trigger an investigation or command notification. Exceptions to Restricted Reporting are listed in Paragraph I of this Chapter [4. REPORTING]." (See Commandant Instruction M1754.10F, Para 4.H, p.4-5).

- Three reports resulted in criminal investigations by Coast Guard Investigative Service. However, the victims declined to participate and there was otherwise insufficient evidence to obtain and sustain a criminal conviction.

Complaints of Sexual Harassment:

The Academy received one multi-victim complaint of sexual harassment during the reporting period. The Academy referred this complaint to Coast Guard Investigative Service who opened a criminal investigation. Upon review of the criminal investigation and applying the Harassing Behavior Prevention, Response, and Accountability Policy, Commandant Instruction 5350.6, the Academy **substantiated** two complaints of sexual harassment against a cadet for making unwelcome sexual comments to other cadets. The cadet was disciplined under the Cadet Regulations.

B. Coast Guard Academy Actions Taken Within the Reporting Period

The Academy continues to train all personnel on sexual harassment, sexual assault, civil rights, and human relations. These trainings are summarized below:

Initial Indoctrination Training by the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. Within their first week of reporting in at the Academy, each incoming class receives initial sexual assault training from the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. This training introduces the cadets to the Coast Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery program, trains them in sexual assault reporting options, and gives them the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator's contact information. Two weeks later, the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator provides in-depth training that covers all key aspects of sexual assault prevention, reporting, response, and recovery policies, as outlined in the Coast Guard Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery Program, Commandant Instruction 1754.10 (series) and the *National Defense Authorization Act of 2014*. Specifically, the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator teaches the cadets how the military's approach to sexual assault has changed over the course of history, the definition of sexual assault and consent, appropriate procedures for reporting sexual assault, reporting requirements and options (i.e., restricted or unrestricted) to include Catch a Serial Offender Program entries, barriers to reporting, consequences of committing sexual assault (including dismissal and dishonorable discharge for offenders), and prevention strategies.

Cadets Against Sexual Assault. Cadets Against Sexual Assault is a student-led organization dedicated to supporting victims of sexual assault within the Corps of Cadets and providing peer education and awareness about sexual assault. Cadets Against Sexual Assault members volunteer and receive training by the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator to provide information, support, and a conduit to the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Victim Advocate Program Specialist or Victim Advocate for any member who wishes to report or seek resources from the Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery Program.

New Faculty Course. All new military and civilian faculty are required to complete a New Faculty Course. As part of this course, the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator teaches a block of instruction on various aspects of sexual assault. The training includes discussions on sexual assault in military and college environments, Article 120 (Sexual Assault) and Article 132

(Retaliation) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, different types of reporting requirements, methods to properly address reports of sexual assault, and how to provide specialized support to victims.

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. In April 2023, the Academy observed Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and held events to raise awareness of the policies and resources related to Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery. These events included a “Take Back the Night” event and joining the observance of “Denim Day.”

Annual Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery Training. All Academy faculty, staff, and cadets are required to complete annual training on Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery. The training was available for all staff and faculty through the online Coast Guard Learning Portal,⁵ and the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator held in-person training sessions for cadets.

First Responder Training at the Academy Clinic. In September 2022, the Academy Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Victim Advocate Program Specialist, and the Family Advocate for the First Coast Guard District jointly administered a First Responder Training for the healthcare staff assigned to the Academy Clinic. Clinic staff were advised of response policies, procedures, and resources related to sexual assault, domestic violence, and interpersonal violence. This forum allowed members to ask questions about the forensic examination process, as well as how to have a trauma-informed response in working with victims of special crimes.

Tailored Faculty/Staff Training. In January 2023, the Academy Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and Victim Advocate Program Specialist provided annual Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery training for the Athletics department to include staff, coaches, athletic trainers, and faculty. This training included detailed discussion of the signs and symptoms of trauma in cadets, including what the department staff might see from cadets on the field or during practice. The training also reviewed the availability of local resources, how to access help for survivors, and answered questions from staff about confiding in another and their duty to report to command. Additionally, in August 2023 the Staff Judge Advocate briefed the Senior Leadership Team, Athletics Division, and the Provost’s Council on updates to the Coast Guard and Academy policies governing sexual assault and sexual harassment.

Bystander Intervention Training. Bystander intervention is a strategy that motivates and mobilizes people who may see, hear, or otherwise recognize signs of an inappropriate or unsafe situation to act. Using an interactive and dynamic model, this 90-minute course provides basic education about bystander intervention and practical strategies to intervene safely. The course is comprised of a concise introduction of the history of bystander intervention research, followed by an opening “on your feet” exercise, scenario-based discussions, and a closing exercise. During Academic Program Year 2022-2023, all cadets received bystander intervention training.

Civil Rights and Human Relations Training. All cadets receive mandated Civil Rights Awareness training per the Coast Guard Civil Rights Manual, Commandant Instruction 5350.4 (series). In addition to this triennial training, each class receives annual Sexual Harassment Prevention training. Each training course outlines the policies and procedures associated with the rights and responsibilities of a cadet. Included are expectations and examples of professional military

⁵ In 2024, the Coast Guard Learning Portal was renamed the CG-Online World of Learning.

behavior while serving as a cadet. Each class also receives Human Relations training to build on prior Civil Rights and Human Relations knowledge, and the Academy's Civil Rights Officer tailors these trainings to each cadet class based on their needs and development within the Academy's 200-week training program.

- During the initial summer indoctrination, the incoming cadet class receives four hours of Civil Rights Awareness training, including one hour of Sexual Harassment Prevention training.
- Fourth-class cadets (freshmen) receive Civil Rights Awareness and Sexual Harassment Prevention training, which outlines the civil rights policies and reporting procedures while focusing on the rights and responsibilities of a cadet.
- Third-class cadets (sophomores) receive Human Relations training facilitated by Company Chiefs and Company Officers throughout the training year. They also complete the annual mandated Sexual Harassment Prevention training online.
- Second-class cadets (juniors) receive Human Relations and leadership-specific training facilitated by the Company Officers and Company Chiefs. Additionally, they complete the annual mandated Sexual Harassment Prevention training online.
- First-class cadets (seniors) receive the triennial Civil Rights Awareness training, focused on managerial responsibilities, cross-cultural communications, and Sexual Harassment Prevention with Coast Guard fleet-wide application.

C. Plan of Action

The climate the Academy sets forms the backbone of the future climate of the Coast Guard. Accordingly, the values the Academy instills will pay dividends as the Service seeks to eliminate sexual harassment and sexual assault from its ranks. To that end, continued training, engaged leadership, community involvement (e.g., Cadets Against Sexual Assault, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, etc.), and parity with other military service academies will build and reinforce a healthy climate free of sexual harassment and sexual assault.

Revision of anti-harassment policies and procedures, in step with the Coast Guard's revised policies, has further removed barriers to reporting by providing additional avenues for victims to ensure their complaints are appropriately heard and investigated. Beginning in 2025, sexual harassment is a covered offense under the purview of the newly established Office of the Chief Prosecutor, ensuring another avenue of both oversight and accountability for complaints of sexual harassment.

Additionally, in April 2024, the Academy coordinated with the Department of Defense Service Academies to establish a Memorandum of Agreement governing the expedited inter-Service Academy transfer of victims of certain sex offenses.

The Academy will continue to leverage a multi-faceted response approach through rapid provision of support services upon receipt of an unrestricted report. These services include access to the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Victim Advocate Program Specialist, Special Victims' Counsel, and medical and spiritual service providers. These services will continue to be

coordinated through the initial and reoccurring Crisis Intervention Team process consisting of command, legal, support providers, medical, and law enforcement stakeholders. Notably, the establishment of the Office of the Chief Prosecutor and their expert and in-depth engagement in the investigation of alleged sexual assaults will further enhance the Academy's ability to respond.

IV. Conclusion

The Academy is committed to providing a safe environment for all cadets, faculty, and staff. This effort begins with ensuring that cadets, faculty and staff are well-trained in Coast Guard policies and that they feel comfortable speaking up when they witness misconduct. By continually reviewing policies, assessing progress, and refining the way forward, the Academy works to eliminate barriers to reporting, provide the maximum possible support to victims, and ensure appropriate accountability for offenders. The ultimate goal of this holistic approach is in an environment that rejects and refuses to tolerate sexual assault and sexual harassment.