

Sex abuse continues at military academies

New training program fails, survey finds

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Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sexual assaults and harassment are still significant problems at the nation's military academies, polls of students at the schools show, despite recent scandals that triggered intensive training to prevent the behavior.

Up to 6 percent of the women at the Army, Navy and Air Force academies said they experienced sexual assault during the 2004-2005 school year, and about half or more said they were sexually harassed, according to a survey released yesterday by the Pentagon.

The survey comes more than two years after a sex abuse scandal rocked the Air Force Academy, leading to a purge in its leadership and a new, intensive focus on training to prevent abuse and sexual harassment.

The impact of increased training was most evident at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., where reports of rape by dozens of women triggered the 2003 scandal.

According to the new survey, Air Force cadets reported a lower percentage of women students who said they were either sexually assaulted or harassed than the other two military academies. Four percent of the Air Force women said they were assaulted, while 49 percent said they were harassed.

Cadets at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., reported the highest number of assaults and sexual harassment. According to the survey, 6 percent of the women were sexually assaulted, and nearly two-thirds were sexually harassed.

Of those assaulted, about 4 in 10 reported it. And among those who reported it, nearly 40 percent said they experienced repercussions.

At the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., 5 percent of the women said they were assaulted and 59 percent said they were sexually harassed.



TODAY, IN 1943
President Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, at left, supreme commander of Allied forces for Operation Overlord.



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