

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 3, 2018

Mr. Glenn A. Fine
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Defense Office of Inspector General
4800 Mark Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22350-1500

Dear Mr. Fine:

Congress has made it a priority to work with the Department of Defense to reduce the number of sexual assaults in the military, provide outstanding care to the victims and to report accurate information on incidences of sexual assault. Furthermore, the effectiveness of survivor care and investigative activities is a top priority. We are also concerned about the incidents of retaliation against victims and whistleblowers who bring to light inappropriate or unlawful actions of individuals or organizations.

While we have seen the Department of Defense take concrete steps in the area of preventing sexual assaults, we are troubled by recent allegations surrounding the United States Air Force Academy's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program. The Air Force Academy garnered much attention a two of decades ago due to multiple reports of alleged sexual misconduct and a dearth of leadership at the Academy. In 2003, the Fowler Panel conducted an exhaustive investigation and made significant findings and recommendations. In 2017, we expect that the Academy is much better in terms of preventing sexual assaults and caring for survivors.

Earlier this month, CBS News produced a multi-segment piece detailing troubling allegations related to the Air Force Academy's SAPR program, retaliation against those who report sexual assault incidents, underreporting of the number of incidents and retaliation against those who challenge leadership.

In light of these allegations we request that you conduct an investigation of the Air Force Academy's sexual assault prevention and response program, including but not necessarily limited to:

- 1) A review of the effectiveness of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program activities at the Air Force Academy.
- 2) A review of the Office of Special Investigations policies, procedures and actions related to sexual assault investigations at the Academy.
- 3) Whether mental health policies, procedures and actions specific to those who bring forward charges of sexual assault allegations meet best practices and are adequately supporting cadets.
- 4) The level of confidence in the reported numbers of sexual assaults at the USAFA.

- 5) An investigation into the alleged retaliation against those who report sexual assault and what the USAFA is doing to prevent it.
- 6) Whether Headquarters Air Force and the Air Force Academy leadership are providing all necessary resources and support for the SAPR program at the USAFA.

Thank you for your attention to this important request. We look forward to your findings on this very important issue for the Air Force Academy and the military as a whole.

Sincerely,



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator