



# ARMY RESILIENCE DIRECTORATE

## Army Implements Reforms To Counter Sexual Harassment/Sexual Assault

By Antwaun Parrish, Army Resilience Directorate

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Army is making additional changes designed to further improve the Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program. Outlined below, the changes are codified in Secretary of the Army Directive 2022-13, *Reforms to Counter Sexual Harassment/Sexual Assault in the Army*, which was published Sept. 21.

### **1. Sexual harassment complaint investigations**

Investigating officers If there is enough information to warrant an investigation of a sexual harassment complaint, commanders will appoint investigating officers from outside the subject's assigned brigade-sized element, in accordance with AR 600-20, Chapter 7. Investigations will comply with processing timelines established by law and DOD and Army policies.

Military Protective Orders The first O-6 officer in the subject's chain of command will implement mechanisms to protect complainants of sexual harassment and victims of sexual assault.

### **2. Disposition and status disclosure to sexual assault victims**

Brigade commanders (or brigade-equivalent commanders) will notify the Soldier-complainant within two business days of receiving the decision from any judicial, nonjudicial or administrative proceeding. This new requirement is in addition to the obligation to provide status updates to victims within 72 hours of each recurring Sexual Assault Review Board, in accordance with Army Command policy (AR 600-20).

### **3. Involuntary-separation policy**

Commanders will initiate proceedings for an involuntary administrative separation from the Army for any Soldier against whom there is a substantiated complaint of sexual harassment unless that Soldier is otherwise punitively discharged or dismissed as part of a court-martial sentence.

### **4. Publicize results of UCMJ actions**

Commanders will publish the nature and results of all judicial, nonjudicial, letters of reprimand and adverse administrative actions through unit letters, bulletin boards and other means to inform their troops.

### **5. Implement Connect to Care**

Commanders will ensure that Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members who seek assistance from any Army agency in obtaining SHARP services will be put in contact with a sexual assault response coordinator or victim advocate.



These policy changes are part of the Army's larger effort to effectively create an environment that deters sexual harassment and sexual assault. In addition, the modifications enable the Army to respond effectively and in a timely manner when these incidents occur and to hold leaders appropriately accountable for fostering a climate and culture of trust, dignity and respect within their organizations.