

# Wayne Allard

U . S . S E N A T O R • C O L O R A D O

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Angela de Rocha at (202) 224-5944

March 18, 2005

## **SENATOR ALLARD CONCERNED WITH ACADEMIES' SEXUAL HARASSMENT SURVEY RESULTS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) said Friday that the results of a confidential student survey of the sexual harassment climate at the U.S. four service academies to be both disturbing and disappointing. The survey was ordered by a provision Senator Allard had included in the FY 2004 Defense Authorization bill.

The survey results, released today by the Department of Defense (DoD) Inspector General, “provide a good baseline for understanding the extent of the problem at the academies,” Senator Allard said.

It reports that more than 50 percent of females at all four of the service academies have experience some form of sexual harassment, and more than 10 percent of the females at the service academies have experience some form of sexual assault.

“I am pleased the Department of Defense Inspector General's office conducted such a thorough and professional survey,” Senator Allard said. “I have been urging the department to institute these surveys since this issue gained prominence. These surveys are extremely important in that they tell us what is working – and what is not.”

The FY 2004 Defense Authorization bill provision that directs the service secretaries, under guidance provided by DoD, “...to direct the superintendents of their respective service academies to prescribe a policy on sexual misconduct applicable to the personnel of their academy. Additionally, the provision would direct the Secretary of Defense, through the service secretaries and service academy superintendents to conduct annual assessments, including surveys of academy personnel, to determine the effectiveness of academy policies, training and procedures on sexual misconduct. The Secretary of Defense would be directed to submit annual reports to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives for five years on sexual misconduct involving academy personnel.”

“As a member of the Air Force Academy's Board of Visitors, I found the number of sexual assaults reported there to be highly disturbing. These numbers were consistent with the number of cadets who approached my office and indicate an significant problem that we have only started to address,” the Senator said. “We must remember that at the heart of this issue is a

question of values and honor. Cadets must come to appreciate – if not embody – these values otherwise the problem will not go away.”

“That said, I believe the Air Force Academy is fortunate to have a committed leadership dedicated to dealing with this issue, along with a restructured Board of Visitors that is determined to stay on top of the problem,” the Senator said.

“The survey results from the other military academies were also very disappointing, but not surprising. Unfortunately, we have a serious problem at all the service academies that is going to require a concerted effort of the services, Congress and the alumni to address,” he said.

#