

Soldiers Update: SMA Chandler SHARP

(Intro with music)

SMA: What I've learned is that soldiers want leaders to take action. If we tell soldiers and junior NCOs that we expect them to treat each other with dignity and respect, and that sexual assault and sexual harassment is inappropriate, they will want to know that action is being taken. Those persons who are perpetrators -- or the insider threat -- are being dealt with so they can be in a safe and secure environment.

Reporter: The Sexual Harassment and Assault Reduction and Prevention program provides tools and training to help victims be comfortable in reporting these acts. If individuals build an organization around a weak culture, it will only influence poor working environments.

SMA: In other words, not very strong leadership that is not willing to take change and that is not willing to lead by example. You will, in fact, create an environment where persons who are not fully committed to the Army's programs and policies will do what they want to do, and that creates a lack of trust in that organization. Therefore, you no longer a cohesive team, you're a bunch of individuals doing your own thing.

Reporter: The sergeant major has seen changes in attitudes as he travels around the world.

SMA: I've seen a shift in that. That they are willing to go to their leaders with that. That something has happened and I need your assistance.

Reporter: He continues to be encouraged by the improvement the Army is making in reducing sexual harassment and assault in the ranks.

SMA: I think if we stay on the same path we are right now, we'll make significant reductions and regain some of the faith that we may have lost with the American people.

Reporter: For Army Broadcasting, I'm Sgt. David Rankin.

(Exit with music)