



**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**

1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

Colonel Seana M. Jardin  
Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services  
4800 Mark Center Drive  
Suite 04J25-01  
Alexandria, VA 22350

Dear Colonel Jardin:

Thank you for your July 26, 2023 email requesting information ahead of the Committee's September 12-13 meeting. Enclosed is our response to the request for information related to parental rights of cadets and midshipmen.

Thank you for your continued support for women in the Military Services. My point of contact for this matter is Mr. Leonard Litton who may be reached by phone at (703) 571-0116 or by email at [leonard.g.litton.civ@mail.mil](mailto:leonard.g.litton.civ@mail.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grier Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Grier Martin  
Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary  
of Defense for Manpower and Reserve  
Affairs

Attachment:  
As stated

**RFI #6a:**

**DoD implementation of the CADET Act**

**The Committee requests a written response from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) to address if legislation from the 2022 NDAA has been enacted.**

**Response:**

Updated formal written policy guidance to enable cadets or midshipman to retain parental guardianship for those who become pregnant or father a child while attending a Military Service academy (MSA) as directed by the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 National Defense Authorization Act is in the final stages of coordination and we expect it will be issued before the end of FY 2023.

The CADET Act is legislation which required several policy and legal reviews and subsequent decisions. Due to the complexities of this issue, the formal coordination stage of the DoD issuance publication process required an intensive and lengthy collaboration with the Services. While waiting for the publication of the new DoD issuance, the Military Services were asked to provide the MSAs with interim guidance should a cadet or midshipmen come forward and identify themselves as a new parent or birth parent-to-be. The Department has confirmed all three MSAs are in compliance with the intent of the CADET Act while waiting for the DoD issuance to go through the final phases of publishing. When and if presented with a cadet or midshipmen who states they are a parent or parent-to-be, the MSA concerned will consider each case on an individual basis, consult with their Military Department Manpower and Reserve Affairs office, and keep the best interest of the cadet or midshipman at the forefront.