



Public Affairs Office
West Point, NY 10996
845-938-2006/3808

STATEMENT

In response to *The Daily Beast* article written by James LaPorta, Dec. 9, 2017

The U.S. Army and the U.S. Military Academy takes all allegations of sexual assault seriously and every allegation of sexual assault is thoroughly investigated. Cadet Ahmad Bradshaw was accused of sexual assault in 2014 and the allegations were thoroughly investigated by the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command. The investigation concluded that the allegations against Cadet Bradshaw were unfounded and the case was closed.

USMA treated Cadet Bradshaw as it would any other cadet under similar circumstances. It fully investigated every allegation against him and suspended him from NCAA football competition during the eventually-unfounded criminal investigation.

In a separate situation, he was found by a panel of his peers in an Honor Board on a single allegation that he failed to properly cite material in an academic paper. As a result, he received significant academic and disciplinary penalties including an additional year at West Point. Additionally, he entered an extensive and time-consuming, character remediation program, which is unparalleled at other institutions, and he successfully completed while meeting his other academic and athletic obligations. All of these actions are not required by the NCAA but called for by USMA's commitment to developing leaders of character to serve our nation as officers in the U.S. Army.

USMA is proud of Cadet Bradshaw's athletic ability but even more proud of his leadership skills and his character growth. Cadet Bradshaw chose USMA because he believed in the concept of team, was unafraid of the tremendous amount of heart and dedication it would take to perform in such a strenuous environment, and appreciated the opportunities a USMA education would give him to provide for his family- a single mom who raised an extraordinary young man over nearly insurmountable odds - upon graduation. He has benefited from USMA's commitment to the developmental model of leadership, which has allowed him to learn and grow from his mistakes while having reiterated the importance of honor, of character, and of digging deep.

USMA stands behind Cadet Bradshaw, as it stands behind our young men and women who choose to become part of it at great personal expense in order to emerge on the other end as leaders of character. These are leaders who are not immune from mistakes or their consequences but who are uniquely equipped to learn and grow from them.

USMA has a program that specifically relates to cadet honor and provides the opportunity to those who had infractions to remediate their behavior and demonstrate the ability to live under the Cadet Honor Code. This Special Leader Development Program for Honor (SLDP-H) pairs the cadet with an experienced member of the staff and faculty, commits him or her to a series of rigorous requirements that force the cadet to deeply reflect on his or her character – past, present and future. Successful completion of the program is accomplished only when the cadet is able to take full responsibility for his or her mistakes and demonstrate the ability to internalize commitment to both West Point and Army Values. Cadet Bradshaw has successfully completed all requirements of this program. With the permission of his developmental coach, a Colonel in the U.S. Army, an excerpt was taken from a summary of his progress -- "My professional judgement is that Cadet Bradshaw's actions in his SLDP-H reflect the values that our nation expects of West Point upperclassmen, and demonstrate that he has unlimited potential for future service as an Army officer."

West Point follows the policies set by the Department of the Army. Regardless of the situation, the rules that govern a cadet's personnel file are governed by law, DOD, and Army policy. Administrative actions pertaining to Cadet Bradshaw have been handled in a manner that is consistent with these policies.