



Immediate Release
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**Statement from Armed Forces Retirement Home Chief Executive Officer Stephen T. Rippe
on the Inspector General of the Department of Defense Report of Investigation Regarding
the Former Chief Operating Officer**

Today the Inspector General of the Department of Defense released a report of investigation, number DODIG-2022-100, into allegations of sexual harassment and reprisal against Armed Forces Retirement Home employees by the Home's former chief operating officer. The report substantiated those allegations.

I thank the inspector general's office for their diligent investigative work. More importantly, I commend the three employees who cooperated in this investigation and reported what was happening to them. No one should be harassed in the workplace—ever. This case is especially troubling because it involved the Home's leadership. Our employees and residents should expect the very best from their leaders, who should hold themselves to the highest possible standard. As this report makes clear, that did not happen in this case and I stand firmly by the report's conclusions.

Despite this failure of leadership by an individual, the report did not fault the Home's policies and procedures nor offer any recommendations for improvement. The process worked and our employees and residents should take comfort in knowing that we have no tolerance for this behavior and, should it occur, swift action will be taken and consequences will result.

The full report can be found at <https://www.dodig.mil/reports.html/Article/3055934/report-of-investigation-mr-james-m-branham-former-chief-operating-officer-armed/>