

TO ALNAV

SUBJ: SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

1. APRIL 2013 IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH AND WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS SUCH THROUGHOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
2. NO FORM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IS EVER ACCEPTABLE ANYWHERE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY. I AM PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO A DEPARTMENT-WIDE CULTURE OF GENDER RESPECT WHERE SEXUAL ASSAULT IS COMPLETELY ELIMINATED AND NEVER TOLERATED, WHERE SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS RECEIVE COMPASSIONATE AND COORDINATED SUPPORT, AND WHERE OFFENDERS ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE. EVERY SAILOR, MARINE, AND DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY CIVILIAN SHARE DUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN ACTIONS AND FOR PROTECTING EACH OTHER FROM HARM. OUR CORE VALUES DEMAND NOTHING LESS.
3. OUR 2013 THEME FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH IS "WE OWN IT...WE'LL SOLVE IT...TOGETHER" AND CONVEYS THE PRINCIPLE THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY SAILOR, MARINE, CIVILIAN AND LEADER TO COMBAT SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SUPPORT SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS. TAKE EVERY REPORT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT SERIOUSLY, INSIST ON THOROUGH CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS, AND ACTIVELY PROTECT SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS FROM RETALIATION OR RE-VICTIMIZATION. COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IS THE GOAL.
4. DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY VICTIM SUPPORT EFFORTS INVOLVE HUNDREDS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATORS AND THOUSANDS OF VICTIM ADVOCATES WORKING UNDER SERVICE OPERATED PROGRAMS IN COORDINATION WITH MEDICAL RESOURCES, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS, LEGAL ASSISTANCE, AND COMMAND LEADERS. AS A COMMUNITY, WE SEEK TO HELP SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS HEAL AS INDIVIDUALS AND SUCCEED IN THEIR CAREERS.
5. I PLEDGE TO ALL VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OUR DEPARTMENT-WIDE COMMITMENT TO YOUR SUPPORT AND HEALING. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEEK THE SUPPORT; YOUR LOCAL VICTIM ADVOCATE, UNIFORMED VICTIM ADVOCATE, SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATOR OR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST ARE EXCELLENT INITIAL POINTS OF CONTACT. IN ADDITION, LIVE CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE ANYWHERE 24/7 FROM THE SAFE HELPLINE TOLL-FREE AT (877) 995-5247 OR BY CHAT AT [WWW.SAFEHELPLINE.ORG](http://WWW.SAFEHELPLINE.ORG).
6. SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH IS AN ANNUAL REMINDER OF VALUES AND COMMITMENTS WE HOLD DEAR ALL YEAR. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO ORGANIZE OR PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS. TOGETHER, WE CAN ELIMINATE THIS CRIME. NOTHING LESS IS ACCEPTABLE.
7. RELEASED BY RAY MABUS, SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.