UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

OCT 23 2014

PERSONNEL AND READINESS

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month – April 2015

In April, the Department will observe the eleventh annual Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) with the theme "Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know your part. Do your part." Eliminating sexual assault requires every Service member be a steadfast participant in creating an appropriate culture and upholding military core values.

We all have a part in combating sexual assault and SAAPM offers an excellent opportunity to focus attention on our individual roles. We should be able to identify situations that pose a risk for sexual harassment, sexual assault, and other criminal behaviors and demonstrate social courage to safely correct harmful behavior.

The Department's prevention approach engages leaders at all levels and requires a personal commitment from every Service member to prevent this crime. By sustaining the right command climate, ensuring leadership support, and empowering Service members to safely intervene, we can create the environment to eliminate sexual assault.

Please find attached guidance for messages and activities that can be employed with regard to SAAPM. Resources can be downloaded at www.sapr.mil. If you have any questions, Major General Jeffrey J. Snow, Director of the Department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, and his team can assist. They can be reached at sapro@sapr.mil.

Jessica L. Wright

Attachment:
As stated

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April 2015

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know Your Part. Do Your Part.

"Preventing Sexual Assault in our military requires a personal commitment from all Service members, at every level, to be a steadfast participant in creating an appropriate culture and upholding standards of behavior and military core values."

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, May 2014

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) in April is recognized across the country by both civilian and military communities. This month offers a unique opportunity to build on existing momentum to eliminate this crime and ensure all Service members are in a command climate where they are treated with dignity and respect.

What can we do during April? We should offer messages and activities to reinforce our personal and unit commitments to the elimination of the crime of sexual assault in the military.

- **Eliminate Sexual Assault:** Every Service member, at every level in our military, must know, understand and adhere to Service values and standards of behavior in order to eliminate sexual assault and other inappropriate behavior.
  - *Underpinning our entire program is the need for every Service member – from new recruit to General/Flag Officer – to live the core values of our profession: integrity, trust, dignity, respect, fidelity, and courage.*
  - *We continue to strive for an environment where professional values, team commitment, and respect define how we treat one another at every command, workplace, and throughout our military community.*
- **Know Your Part:** Each member of our DoD community has a unique role in preventing and responding to sexual assault. We must recognize our part in stopping this crime starting with our own awareness and knowing when and where to intervene.
  - *Understanding bystander intervention is vital in helping to identify and stop unsafe behavior.*
  - *Each day we can take steps to foster a culture of dignity and respect.*
- **Do Your Part:** We have to act. If we see a crime or inappropriate behavior unfolding, we need to step in to prevent it. We each need to add our voice to the call to end this crime.
  - *In order to prevent sexual assault, every member of the DoD Community must be committed to advancing an environment where sexist behaviors, sexual harassment, and sexual assault are not tolerated, condoned, or ignored.*
  - *Sexual assault is not only inappropriate behavior, it is criminal behavior.*

Potential SAAPM Initiatives: Consider using the entire month of April for SAAPM activities to generate maximum awareness for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response efforts:

- **Connect with local establishments** to hold events to send a community-wide SAAPM message.
- **Invite local university or school advocacy groups to provide skits** throughout the month at high profile locations around the installation to bring greater awareness.
- **Set up awareness booths** at major installation locations and feature displays to increase awareness and solidarity against the crime.
- **Hold run/walk event** and encourage leadership from every level of the installation to show solidarity and commitment to eliminating this crime from our ranks, starting with the individual.
- **Hold a concert** or invite a local or military band for a concert that would include a short rally against sexual assaults.
- **Promote a free mobile app** to provide quick and discreet access when needing assistance to prevent sexual assaults.

For examples of Sexual Assault Prevention ideas, events, and other resources for SAAPM, get connected at DoD SAPR Connect or visit sapr.mil.