SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR 17 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS
CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Sensitive Position Screening in Support of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

I know you share my sincere commitment to ensuring the safety and welfare of our people. On May 17, 2013, I directed a review of credentials and qualification of currently serving recruiters, Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs), and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) victim advocates (VAs). Your active review of the credentials and qualifications for currently-serving recruiters, SARCs, and SAPR VAs ensured that these sensitive positions met existing and applicable selection criteria and standards of conduct.

While this review was ongoing, the Department published new standards in January 2014 for the selection, certification, and decertification of SARCs and SAPR VAs. In addition, the Military Departments expanded this review by conducting enhanced screening of additional positions, such as instructors at officer and enlisted training courses and recruiters as well as expanding criteria for these reviews. I applaud these efforts and have determined that standardizing screening criteria for sensitive SAPR positions across the Department will enhance our sexual assault prevention efforts.

Therefore, I direct the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, in coordination with the Secretaries of the Military Departments, to identify common criteria and standards for screening, selection, training, and, as applicable, certification/licensure of sensitive positions that directly engage with our newest and most vulnerable Service members. The sensitive positions in support of SAPR will include: SARCs, SAPR VAs, recruiters, healthcare providers authorized to perform sexual assault forensic exams, and initial entry / basic training instructors for officer and enlisted Service members.

Additionally, the DoD Inspector General, in coordination with the Military Departments, will evaluate standards and criteria for screening, selecting, training, and as applicable, certifying, of Military Criminal Investigative Organization investigators who conduct criminal investigations, to include supporting the DoD Special Victim Capability (section 573, National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2013).

OSD004038-14

The DoD General Counsel, in coordination with the General Counsels of the Military Departments, will identify common criteria and standards for screening, selection and training, including certification/licensure, as applicable, for prosecutors, paralegals, and Victim-Witness Assistance Program personnel selected to support the Special Victim Capability (section 573, NDAA FY 2013), and for Special Victims Counsel.

Please provide me your criteria and standards for screening recommendations by May 30, 2014.

Thank you.

cc:
Under Secretaries of Defense