



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT  
DIRECTOR, FORCE TRANSFORMATION  
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES  
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April 2007

This April, we will recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) for the third consecutive year. This observance provides us an opportunity to recommit our efforts to eliminate sexual assault in the Armed Forces. The theme for SAAM 2007, “Stand Up Against Sexual Assault...Make a Difference,” emphasizes the ability of each and every service member to prevent sexual assaults from occurring.

The Department has worked diligently over the past two years to develop and implement a comprehensive policy that strengthens military readiness by preventing sexual assault, enhancing victim support, and improving system accountability. Its provisions, especially the restricted reporting option, have reduced obstacles to reporting sexual assaults and reinforced a climate of confidence that encourages victims to seek help.

Sexual assault continues to be the most underreported violent crime in our society. As SAAM commences, I encourage all service members to participate in prevention activities and renew your pledge to fight against sexual assault. Your support underscores the Department’s zero tolerance of sexual assault and our goal to eventually eradicate this crime from our ranks. Make a difference in the lives of others...Stand Up Against Sexual Assault.

  
Michael L. Dominguez  
Principal Deputy