



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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JAN 24 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April 2008

During April 2008, the Department of Defense will observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) for the fourth consecutive year. SAAM presents an opportunity to focus our efforts on sexual assault awareness and prevention. The SAAM 2008 theme, "Prevent Sexual Assault: Ask, Act and Intervene!" serves as a message that every Service member can have a positive role in preventing this devastating crime. This year we want to focus on the relationship between alcohol and sexual assault. The DoD has vast resources dedicated to the prevention of sexual assault, and to the prevention and treatment of problem substance use. I encourage each of you to find ways to bring our caring professionals together on this topic.

We have continued to strengthen our programs across the Military Departments in the areas of comprehensive victim care, training and prevention, and system accountability. This April, I ask that you join us in renewing our commitment to this matter by participating in the SAAM events and awareness activities throughout the month. It is only with the support of every Service member that we can shape a military free from sexual violence and other destructive behaviors. Together, we can stop sexual assault before it happens.


Michael L. Dominguez
Principal Deputy