



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

FEB 5 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(PERSONNEL AND READINESS)

SUBJECT: Department of Defense Care for Victims of Sexual Assaults

I am concerned about recent reports regarding allegations of sexual assaults on service members deployed to Iraq and Kuwait. Sexual assault will not be tolerated in the Department of Defense. Commanders at every level have a duty to take appropriate steps to prevent sexual assaults, protect victims, and hold those who commit offenses accountable. I am directing that you review how the Department handles treatment of and care for victims of sexual assault, with particular attention to any special issues that may arise from the circumstances of a combat theater. We are responsible for ensuring that the victims of sexual assault are properly treated, their medical and psychological needs are properly met, our policies and programs are effective, and we are prompt in dealing with all issues involved.

Your review should address the reporting of sexual assaults, including the availability of private channels for reporting such issues within combat theaters. During the course of your review, you should also consider what briefings may need to be given to deploying and redeploying service members.

Please report your findings and recommendations 90 days from the date of this memorandum.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. ...".



OSD 01728-04