



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, DC 20318-9999

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15 Apr 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR JOINT FORCE

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention

1. April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM). During SAAPM, we put renewed emphasis on the fact that eliminating sexual assault from our ranks is a year-round effort. Every case of sexual assault erodes readiness, lethality, and the trust Americans have in our ability to carry out our mission. Sexual assault crimes that target the individual, threaten us all and run counter to what we stand for—honor, courage, integrity, selflessness. Zero tolerance is the only acceptable metric.

2. Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan and I have committed to working with Congress to take a fresh look at ways to prevent sexual assault and hold accountable those who choose to commit these crimes. We also encourage everyone impacted by this horrible crime to report it to their local Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and get the support they need. From the lowest ranking individual, to the senior echelons of command, every Service member has the responsibility to foster a climate of respect and accountability. Together, we can ensure our military is a ready, lethal force, able to take on the challenges of today and tomorrow.


JOSEPH F. DUNFORD, JR.
General, U.S. Marine Corps