

STATE OF OHIO ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT 2825 West Dublin Granville Road Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789

NGOH-TAG

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

- 1. Each year in April, we recognize Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM). The DoD's theme continues to be "Protecting Our People, Protects Our Mission." Now more than ever, we all are feeling a greater sense of urgency in protecting ourselves and each other. As we continue our focus on supporting our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, we'd ask that you take a moment to remember to focus on preventative measures (such as bystander intervention and recognizing predatory behaviors) in the war on sexual assault.
- 2. It's important that our Airmen, Soldiers, and citizens understand our commitment to eradicate sexual harassment and any kind of sexual violence from our organization. Sexual assault and sexual misconduct violate our values and core beliefs about who we are as an organization. We, <u>all</u> of us, must be committed to creating an environment free of sexual assault. Sexual assaults are one of the most threatening elements to the cohesion of our formations. It threatens the very trust which is the essence of our ability to build an effective combat team.
- 3. This is a charge to all members to assist in eliminating sexual assault in our teams, squads, and sections. Be proactive in calling out inappropriate behavior that can lead to sexual assaults. Be aware of what predatory behavior looks like. There are bad actors in our formations. We have to recognize these behaviors as hostile to our way of life, and I expect you to intervene. Our focus on this matter is prevention, and our commitment to you is to provide an environment where every Service member is able to live up to their potential. For those of you who intend to disrupt that environment, you will be held accountable. It's about courage, dignity, and respect for everyone in our organization. It will take all of us to create a culture that no longer tolerates sexual assault. It's imperative that every single person be a part of this solution.
- 4. To that point, eliminating sexual assault and sexual harassment is not possible without the men and women who come forward to report such acts. Leaders at all levels, as well as every Soldier and Airman, must foster an environment that encourages reporting and is free from retaliation. Supporting victims of these crimes

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and ensuring perpetrators are held accountable are everyone's responsibility. We cannot lose sight of our ultimate goal, which is to eliminate sexual assault and safeguard victims.

- 5. Governor Mike DeWine and Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted have signed a SAAPM proclamation, setting expectations for our prevention and response program. We encourage you to take a moment and read the proclamation at https://ong.ohio.gov/programs/sapr/resources/2021-governor-proclamation.pdf.
- 6. As your operational tempo allows, please encourage your Soldiers, Airmen, and employees to participate in events and activities that support these awareness campaigns such as signing the pledge, participating in 5Ks scheduled at our Wings, wearing denim on Denim Day, etc.
- 7. We thank each of you for your continued leadership and the work that you have already done to create command climates that support our Army and Air Force values.

JAMES R. CAMP

Major General

Asst Adj Gen for Air

THOMAS E. MOORE I

Brigadier General

Asst Adj Gen for Army

JOHN C. HARRÍS JR.

Major General

The Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

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SHARP Pledge

I promise to immediately address and prevent any known sexual harassment from occurring In addition, if I am made aware of any sexual assaults that occur, I will immediately notify local authorities, military police, chaplain, or chain of command to obtain immediate assistance for the victim(s). I will never leave the victim as he or she is my comrade. I will ensure that appropriate personnel or agencies are assisting the victim(s) prior to departing his or her side.

To ensure I maximize my efforts:

I pledge to recognize a threat to my fellow comrades. I will have the personal courage to **INTERVENE** and prevent Sexual Assault. I will stop acts of Sexual Harassment. I will not condone or allow obscene gestures, language or behavior to occur. I am a member of this great Army team. I will **INTERVENE**.

All personnel that I work with are considered my brother, my sister, my fellow comrade. It is my duty to stand up for them, no matter the time or place. I will take ACTION. I will do what's right. I will prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior, I will ACT. I am an American. I am MOTIVATED to keep my fellow comrades safe. It is my mission to prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. I will denounce sexual misconduct. As a team member. I am MOTIVATED to take action. I understand that we are strongest...together.

By signing this pledge, I understand that I am confirming my commitment to **ACT, INTERVENE, and SUSTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF MOTIVATION** to eliminate Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault in the workplace.

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