



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

I would like to personally thank you for the time and effort you have dedicated to eliminate sexual assault from the military. Without your individual contributions to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, the Department could not have created a climate of confidence where service members feel comfortable reporting sexual assault crimes.

We observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in April, to raise awareness and promote the prevention of sexual violence through special events and public education. This year, the Department of Defense (DoD) has selected the theme, *Stand Up Against Sexual Assault...Make a Difference*. This theme accurately acknowledges the ability of every individual to help prevent sexual assaults and make a difference in someone else's life by refusing to be a bystander.



As a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, you represent the cornerstone of your installation's sexual assault program. Its continued advancement would not be possible without your commitment. As you plan for SAAM, please use this packet to help champion the message of prevention. In addition to the standard DoD materials, the enclosed CD includes Service-specific pamphlets, posters and bookmarks to further enhance your efforts. These items have the ability to be localized, enabling quick reference for sexual assault victims when they contact your program.

The actions you take today will have long-term effects on our program. Our goal is to make awareness events stronger and more meaningful with each passing year so I encourage you to promote this month-long observance and to reinforce the positive impact created during previous years. Thank you again for your hard work and good luck with this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Make a difference!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaye H. Whitley".

Kaye H. Whitley, Ed.D.

Director

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office