



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
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NGB-J1

5 December 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANTS GENERAL OF ALL STATES, PUERTO RICO, THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS, GUAM, AND THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April 2007

1. Sexual assault has no place in the National Guard. It is contrary to Army and Air Force Values and is a crime. Our collective vision should be an organization with no sexual assault incidents at all. To accomplish this we must continue to aggressively demonstrate our commitment to combat sexual assault with our Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPR). The goal is to eliminate sexual assault incidents. Prevention should always be our focus. The two keys to the National Guard's SAPR Program are prevention training and a sensitive response to sexual assault victims.
2. Over the past year the National Guard Bureau implemented a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program to address this goal, but there is still much to be done to eradicate the problem. In 2006, NGB trained Joint Forces Headquarters Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (JFHQ SARC)s, Deployable SARC)s, Wing SARC)s, and Victim Advocates (VAs) to serve as the "center of gravity" within all states and territories. These dedicated Soldiers and Airmen are working to ensure that all National Guard sexual assault victims get the care and support they need. Because sexual assault is one of the most underreported crimes in America, we must recognize the importance of creating a climate where victims feel free to come forward to disclose a sexual assault and know they will receive discreet, dignified and appropriate care. Your SARC)s and VAs are making sure that their support efforts remain victim-centered.
3. April has been designated National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Our leaders must fully deploy their Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program and emphasize that sexual assault is neither tolerated nor excused. Sexual assault degrades our readiness and tears at unit cohesion – every member of the unit is affected. Sexual assault has no place in the National Guard.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H Steven Blum".

H STEVEN BLUM  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Chief, National Guard Bureau