



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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

FEB 07 2011

Dear Commanders, Sexual Assault Response Coordinators, and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates:

As the seventh annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) approaches, I would like to express our appreciation for your continued support of the Department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program. Your efforts are central in helping achieve our vision of enhancing military readiness by establishing a culture free from interpersonal violence.

The 2011 SAAM theme is "*HURTS ONE. AFFECTS ALL... PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IS EVERYONE'S DUTY.*" The primary theme "*HURTS ONE. AFFECTS ALL.*" focuses on the effects sexual assault has on mission readiness. This theme provides Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates (VA) the opportunity to speak with Commanders and senior enlisted leaders about the connection of mission readiness to preventing this crime. Sexual assault not only affects the victim, but also many others, such as the unit, Commanders, families, and friends.

The secondary campaign theme, "*PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IS EVERYONE'S DUTY*" focuses on the importance of *bystander intervention*, a strategy the Department launched to encourage Service members to prevent sexual assault. Active bystanders take the initiative to help those who may be targeted for sexual assault or to help friends, who are not thinking clearly, from becoming perpetrators of a crime.

The materials in this year's SAAM packet will help to champion the message of prevention, and the critical tie to mission readiness. Enclosed are the all-Services and Service-specific posters which can be customized to include your local information, a CD containing PDFs of the posters, Facilitator Guides to be used with the posters during trainings and briefings, and television and radio public service announcements. Digital versions of these materials can also be found at [www.sapr.mil](http://www.sapr.mil). In addition, we are working on a training video that will be delivered by the end of spring 2011.

We are committed to making sure you have the resources needed to effectively carry out your important work. Thank you for again for your dedication.

Sincerely yours,

Kaye H. Whitley  
Director

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office