



April 2016

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month



Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know Your Part. Do Your Part.

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) in April is recognized across the country by both civilian and military communities. This month offers an opportunity to build on existing momentum to eliminate this crime and ensure all Service members are treated with dignity and respect, and can operate without fear of retaliation.

What can we do during April? We should offer messages and activities to reinforce our personal and unit commitments to the elimination of the crime of sexual assault in the military.

- **Eliminate Sexual Assault:** Every Service member, at every level in our military, must know, understand and adhere to Service values and standards of behavior in order to eliminate sexual assault and other inappropriate behavior.
 - *Underpinning our entire program is the need for every Service member – from new recruit to General/Flag Officer – to live the core values of our profession: integrity, trust, dignity, respect, fidelity, and courage.*
 - *We continue to strive for an environment where professional values, team commitment, and respect define how we treat one another at every command, in the workplace, and throughout our military community.*
- **Know Your Part:** Each member of our DoD community has a unique role in preventing and responding to sexual assault. We must recognize our part in stopping this crime, starting with our own awareness and knowing when and where to intervene.
 - *Understanding how to recognize opportunities for intervention is vital to stopping unsafe behavior, to include any form of retaliation.*
 - *Each day we can take steps to foster a culture of dignity and respect with proper ethical behavior, even when no one is watching.*
- **Do Your Part:** We have to act. If we see a crime or inappropriate behavior unfolding, as bystanders, we need to step in to stop or prevent it. We each need to add our voice to the call to end this crime.
 - *In order to prevent sexual assault, every member of the DoD Community must be committed to advancing an environment where sexist behaviors, sexual harassment, and sexual assault are not tolerated, condoned, or ignored.*
 - *Sexual assault is not only inappropriate behavior, it is criminal behavior.*

Potential SAAPM Initiatives: Consider using the entire month of April for SAAPM activities to generate maximum awareness for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response efforts:

- **Facilitate discussions within each leadership level (enlisted and officer) on their role** in eliminating sexual assault, throughout the force;
- **Collect ideas for innovative prevention initiatives** and ask peer-level Service members to select the “winners” for implementation throughout the year;
- **Feature local service members in ads and posters** with them completing the statement “My role is ...”;
- **Send out representatives to local schools and colleges with JROTC and ROTC units** to educate our future leaders about expectations of their role in fighting sexual assault;
- **Collect names of individuals who have taken the initiative outside of their normal work duties** to foster efforts to prevent the crime and support victims, and recognize one of those individuals each day during April;
- **Connect with local establishments** to hold events to send a community-wide SAAPM message;
- **Set up awareness booths** at major installation locations and feature displays to increase awareness and solidarity against the crime;
- **Hold run/walk event** and encourage leadership from every level of the installation to show solidarity and commitment to eliminating this crime from our ranks;
- **Hold a concert** or invite a local or military band for a concert that would include a short rally against sexual assaults; and
- **Promote a free mobile app** to provide quick and discreet access when needing assistance to prevent sexual assaults.

For examples of Sexual Assault Prevention ideas, events, and other resources for SAAPM, get connected on milSuite at DoD SAPR Connect or visit sapr.mil.

