



April 2017

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month



“Protecting Our People Protects Our Mission”

April is recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) across the country by both civilian and military communities. The month is an opportunity to highlight robust efforts to care for victims and innovative ways we are working to infuse prevention practices into our daily mission.

What can we do? This year’s theme offers numerous opportunities to deliver messages which relate to how we care for each other while ensuring we are ready to accomplish our mission.

- “Protecting our People...” Each of us has a role in ensuring the men and women around us can live and work free from the threat of sexual assault.
o Each Service member – regardless of rank -- must know, understand and adhere to Service values and standards of behavior in order to eliminate sexual assault and other inappropriate behavior.
o Addressing sexual harassment in a unit is an important step to preventing sexual assaults, since many victims of sexual harassment, especially men, later experience a sexual assault.
o Understanding how to recognize opportunities for intervention is vital to stopping unsafe behavior, to include any form of retaliation.
• “...Protects our Mission.” In addition to the devastating impact on an individual, a sexual assault can severely impact a unit’s readiness to perform its mission.
o We must encourage positive behaviors by recognizing acts that contribute to a supportive command climate.
o We can protect our mission by ensuring everyone within DoD is committed to advancing an environment where sexist behaviors, sexual harassment, hazing, bullying, and sexual assault are not tolerated, condoned, or ignored.

Potential SAAPM Initiatives: Every echelon of DoD has a role in fighting sexual assault and other crimes. Activities such as these below can be started during SAAPM and sustained all year.

Table with 2 columns: Echelon and Initiatives. Rows include US Society, DoD Communities, Installations, Military Units, Relationships, and Individuals, each with specific action items.

For more SAAPM activities and resources, get connected on milSuite at “SAPR Connect” or visit sapr.mil.