



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April 2012

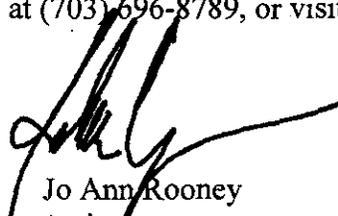
This April, the Department marks the eighth annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Highlighting this important month provides an opportunity to raise awareness and promote the prevention of sexual violence through special events and public education.

The critical message on this issue could not be clearer: Sexual assault hurts one and affects all. It harms victims, families associated with each case, may impact a unit's climate and cohesion, and in some cases, our nation's strategic alliances. Leadership at all levels must remain diligent, as we cannot afford to let this crime continue in our ranks. The human toll is too high.

As you know, the highest levels of the Department takes this issue seriously. In a January press conference, the Secretary of Defense reminded us of the devastating nature of sexual assault and the many recent initiatives implemented to combat this crime.

When you speak to groups during April and throughout the year, please remind them that there is no place in DoD for this behavior. As leaders in the Department, we play a critical role in pushing out this message, ensuring it is reflected in the command climate of every entity within the Department – from the service academies to individual units. All need to be clear there can be no tolerance for this behavior.

Participating in SAAM will help the Department move closer to its vision of a culture free of sexual assault. If you need any resources or information concerning sexual assault prevention or response, please contact Suzanne Holroyd, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, Communications Manager, at (703) 696-8789, or visit www.sapr.mil.


Jo Ann Rooney
Acting

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