



Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation

April 1, 2017

“Sexual Assault. Sexual Harassment. Not in our Army.”

Each April, military and civilian communities observe Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) to eliminate sexual harassment and sexual assault from our ranks and to support survivors.

The Department of the Army observes the thirteenth annual Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month with the theme “Sexual Assault. Sexual Harassment. Not in our Army.” SAAPM is an opportunity for the Army’s leadership to demonstrate to Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians and Family members that prevention of sexual assault/harassment remains a top priority for the Army; that these incidents should be reported without fear of retaliation; and that offenders will be held appropriately accountable.

As a commander’s program, leaders should work in coordination with their Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program offices. Commanders are responsible for the readiness of their units and for the health and welfare of their Soldiers. They are charged with establishing a command climate that helps eradicate the incidents of sexual assault and sexual harassment. Sexual harassment and sexual assault cause a destructive effect on our unit readiness, team cohesion, command environment, and the trust of our Soldiers and Family members.

SAAPM is a great opportunity to honor the first line responders in the SHARP program as well as their medical, legal, and investigative partners for their tireless efforts to prevent sexual offenses from occurring and for providing first-rate response and victim services when this unfortunate incident does occur. As the Army recognizes SAAPM, I charge our leaders to reexamine command policies and sexual harassment/assault and prevention action plans to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our personnel. Our leaders are key in creating a culture that is free of sexual violence by setting, enforcing, and exemplifying standards of discipline. Everyone should be treated with dignity and respect and follow the Army Values. Army professionals will provide effective and efficient Stewardship of the Army Profession for Soldiers, Army Civilians, and Army Families. Our Army is built on trust and we as an Army Community must make every effort to take care of and protect each other.

JOHN P. JOHNSON
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding