



## NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

1636 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20301-1636

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MAR 18 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANTS GENERAL OF ALL STATES, PUERTO RICO, THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, GUAM AND THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) – April 2011

1. The Department of Defense, the Military Services, and National Guard Bureau are observing the seventh annual SAAM in April 2011. This important observance gives us another opportunity to raise awareness and promote the prevention of sexual violence through special events and public education. It also helps to enhance military readiness by establishing a culture free of sexual assault.
2. This year's SAAM theme continues from last year and focuses on mission readiness: **"Hurts one. Affects all."** The theme addresses the damage sexual assault causes, not only to an individual, but also to overall readiness and unit cohesion. Every Service member has the responsibility to learn the signs of a potential sexual assault and to learn how to safely intervene to prevent it. Additionally, the National Guard's Service-specific message is **"Don't Let Your Guard Down."** One sexual assault affects not only the individual, but the entire National Guard Family by destroying our sense of trust in our Soldiers and Airmen. Leadership at all levels must remain diligent when it comes to this crime. We cannot afford to let sexual assault continue in our ranks. The human toll is too high on our National Guard Family.
3. Sexual assault degrades mission readiness and is at odds with our core values. I ask that you continue the momentum started at the November 2010 Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Leadership Summit. Your personal involvement in April's SAAM activities and throughout the year will demonstrate the National Guard's steadfast commitment to preventing sexual assault in the military.
4. Point of contact for this issue is LTC Alfranda Durr, Chief, NGB Sexual Assault, Prevention and Response, [alfranda.durr@us.army.mil](mailto:alfranda.durr@us.army.mil), 703-607-1460.

  
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