



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
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CAJS-J1

23 March 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April 2009

1. April is designated as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). This observance provides us an opportunity to recommit our efforts to eliminate sexual assault in the California National Guard (CNG). The theme for SAAM 2009, “Our Strength is for Defending,” encourages each Guardmember to get involved in the prevention of sexual assault.
2. The CNG has continued to work diligently this past year to develop and implement a comprehensive policy that strengthens military readiness by preventing sexual assault, enhancing victim support, and improving system accountability. Our ongoing sexual assault awareness training and command support have helped reduce obstacles to reporting sexual assaults and reinforced a climate of confidence that has encouraged victims to seek help.
3. Sexual assault continues to be the most underreported violent crime in our society. As SAAM commences, I encourage all CNG members to participate in prevention activities and renew your pledge to fight against sexual assault. Your support underscores our zero-tolerance policy toward sexual assault and our goal to eventually eradicate this crime from your ranks. “Our Strength is for Defending” is intended to highlight the fact that our mission not only involves national defense, but the protection and safety of the Americans who voluntarily risk their lives for our country. Every Servicemember, starting with senior leadership, must understand the importance of safely intervening and preventing the crime of sexual assault.
4. Questions may be directed to Mr. Robert J. May, California National Guard Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), at (916) 854-3448 or at Robert.may7@us.army.mil.


WILLIAM H. WADE II
Major General
The Adjutant General

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