UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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SUBJECT: Training Standards for Sexual Assault Response Training (JTF-SAPR-011)

This directive-type memorandum establishes DoD guidelines for providing baseline training standards to responders in sexual assault cases, as required by Section 577(b) (2), (3), and (4) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005, Public Law 108-375, October 28, 2004, and which is part of the Department of Defense comprehensive policy on the prevention and response to sexual assaults involving members of the Armed Forces.

It is the DoD's intent to leverage best practices that exist within each Military Service's current sexual assault response training. The policy objective is to develop and implement baseline training for first responder groups so that any member of the Total Force that is assaulted will receive the same level of response, regardless of Military Service or environment. Sexual Assault investigations involve complex issues requiring special expertise in the physical and psychological treatment of the victim, and the identification and collection of evidence. Establishing baseline training for first responders safeguards investigative sufficiency, enhances the commander's ability to take appropriate actions, and improves the quality of administrative processes involving chain of custody requirements (evidence seizure, logging/documentation, storing, and disposal).

DoD will develop baseline training standards for first responder groups. First responder groups are to be comprised of personnel in the following disciplines or positions:

- Healthcare
- Law Enforcement and Criminal Investigators
- Judge Advocate General (JAG) Officers
- Chaplains
- Victim Advocates

First responder baseline training standards will address, but not be limited to, sensitivity to sexual assault victims, timeliness of care, collection of forensic evidence, provision of general medical care, victim advocate assistance, reporting guidelines and procedures, and availability of mental health resources for victims. Emphasis will be placed on training to standards, not to time requirements.

To determine the first responder baseline training standards, the Joint Task Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (JTF-SAPR) will convene meetings in January 2005 for each of the above-referenced representatives of the first responder group. Each Military Service is expected to send appropriate subject matter experts to these meetings who are qualified to comment on the strengths and weaknesses of their Military Service's current sexual assault response training. The working groups will leverage best practices, address areas for improvement, and develop first responder baseline training standards.

First responder baseline training standards and implementation guidance will be provided to all Military Services not later than 28 February, 2005. My POC for this action is Brigadier General K. C. McClain, Commander, Joint Task Force for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response.

This guidance establishes DoD policy on training for sexual assault matters. This memorandum is effective immediately. This and other sexual assault policies will be consolidated in a DoD issuance within 180 days.

David S. C. Chu