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PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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SUBJECT: Training Standards for Pre-Deployment Information on Sexual Assault and Response Training (JTF-SAPR-012)

This directive-type memorandum establishes Department of Defense (DoD) guidelines in the development of training standards on sexual assault prevention and response to be given to service members whenever they are to be deployed to foreign areas, as required by Section 577(b) (1) and (2) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005, Public Law 108-375, October 28, 2004. These guidelines are part of DoD's comprehensive policy on the prevention and response to sexual assaults involving members of the Armed Forces.

DoD is committed to preventing sexual assaults on its service members. It is imperative that service members be aware of the unique cultural and operational factors that apply in areas outside of the United States. Knowledge of these factors is key, especially awareness of the customs of the host country and any coalition partners. The policy objective is to establish training standards that ensure service members are provided meaningful situational awareness in their pre-deployment briefings.

Effective immediately, each Military Service shall develop regulations that require pre-deployment training that includes information specifically related to sexual assault prevention and response. The regulations shall include training requirements that:

1. Ensure that service members who deploy to locations outside the United States are cognizant of sexual assault issues, as well as DoD and specific Service policies addressing sexual assault prevention, prosecution of offenders, and the care of victims. This training will include risk reduction factors that are tailored to the specific deployment locations;

2. Focus on the specific foreign countries or areas anticipated for deployment. It will include customs, mores and religious practices, and a brief history of the foreign countries or areas. The cultural customs and mores of coalition partners will also be addressed;

3. Address procedures for reporting a sexual assault to ensure that service members are aware of the full range of options available; and

4. Identify support systems that will be available during the deployment, to include victim advocates and chaplains.

All Military Services shall submit a copy of the implementing guidance conforming to these requirements 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 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