

State of New Jerzey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Post Office Box 340 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0340

CHRIS CHRISTIE Governor Commander-in-Chief ☆ MICHAEL L. CUNNIFF Brigadier General The Adjutant General

## **TAG POLICY LETTER 12-12**

15 May 2012

## THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR) POLICY

1. References:

a. Department of Defense Directive 6495.01, dated 23 January 2012.

- b. Department of Defense Instruction 6495.02, dated 23 June 2006.
- c. Army Regulation 600-20, Army Command Policy, Chapter 8, dated 7 June 2006.

d. Department of the Air Force Policies and Procedures for the Prevention of and Response to Sexual Assault, dated 8 June 2005.

e. National Guard Bureau Policy of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPR) (J1-06-014), dated 12 June 2006.

2. Sexual assault is a crime. We will foster a climate of mutual trust and respect. We must look upon each other as "brothers and sisters in-arms" and treat each other with the same dignity and respect as our own family members. Commanders are responsible for the climate within their commands. When leaders allow a climate in which sexually derogatory remarks or sexual harassment is tolerated, they are setting the conditions for potential sexual assaults to occur. Keep in mind that sexual assault is NEVER the victim's fault.

3. The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program is a DoD wide initiative designed to eliminate sexual assault as an issue in the military. The purpose of this policy is to prevent sexual assault as well as to provide a mechanism for alleged victims to receive both services and confidentiality in reporting these types of allegations The intent of the program is to take proactive steps toward reducing the incidents of sexual assault through education and the proliferation of values that teach military members to respect and safeguard one another. At the same time, a clear message must be sent to everyone that victims of sexual assault are our number one priority. DoD has made this a top priority for all commanders and I expect our commanders to realize the vital importance of this policy to our service members and their safety.

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4. Commanders at Battalion/Group level and above will appoint a minimum of two Soldiers to serve as Victim Advocates. Regulatory guidance requires a minimum rank of SSG or higher, or 1LT/CW2 or higher. The VA will provide advocacy support to victims of sexual assault at the unit level and can provide crisis intervention, referral, and ongoing non-clinical support to the victim of a sexual assault. In addition they will oversee routine management and conduct follow-up of cases through an established process, as well as the development and execution of training related to sexual assault. VAs should not begin responding to sexual assaults until they receive initial training. Initial VA training will be addressed in a separate memorandum.

5. All prevention and response will be coordinated through the SAPR program which is managed by the JFHQ SARC, to include initial, refresher, annual, mobilization and de-mobilization training.

6. Point of Contact for this policy is CPT Amy Glatz, JFHQ Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, at (609) 562-0854 or 24/7 Hotline 1-877-640-1209.

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