MEMORANDUM FOR USPACOM STAFF

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) 2015

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month in April is recognized across the country by civilian and military communities. We are observing the eleventh annual Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month with the theme “Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know Your Part. Do Your Part.” Sexual assault is a crime and can only be stopped when we each understand our role in combating it.

Eliminate Sexual Assault: Every Service member, at every level in our AOR, must know, understand and adhere to Service values and standards of behavior in order to eliminate sexual assault and other inappropriate behavior. Underpinning our entire program is the need for every Service member – from new recruit to General Officer – to live the core values of our profession: integrity, trust, dignity, respect, fidelity, and courage. Let’s continue to strive for an environment where professional values, team commitment, and respect define how we treat one another at every command, workplace, and throughout our military community.

Know Your Part: We all have a unique role in preventing and responding to sexual assault. We must recognize our part in stopping this crime, starting with our own awareness and knowing when and where to intervene. One of the most effective methods of preventing sexual assault is through bystander intervention: we can help to identify and stop unsafe behavior. Take steps to foster a culture of dignity and respect.

Do Your Part: We have to act. If we see a crime or inappropriate behavior unfolding, we need to step in and prevent it. We each need to add our voice to the call to end this crime. We must all be committed to advancing an environment where sexist behaviors, sexual harassment, and sexual assault are not tolerated, condoned, or ignored.

USPACOM’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program Managers can provide you with additional information and resources; contact information is available at www.pacom.mil/Resources/QualityofLife.aspx. The DoD Safe Helpline is another resource. Safe Helpline’s specially-trained staff is available 24/7 at 877-995-5247 or via www.SafeHelpline.org to provide support and resources, and to connect you to Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and Victim Advocates (VAs) near you. I encourage you to contact the Safe Helpline, a SARC, or a VA with your questions and concerns.

Let’s observe Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month with the rest of the DoD community, but remain vigilant all year to eliminate this crime from the Armed Forces.

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