THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

MAY 3 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTOR, FORCE TRANSFORMATION
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

We have completed the first phase in establishing a comprehensive sexual assault prevention and response policy for the Department of Defense. The Department does not tolerate sexual assault of any kind. Such acts are an affront to the institutional values of the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Sexual assault harms individuals, undermines military readiness, and weakens communities.

All leaders—civilian and military—at every level must maintain a workplace environment that rejects sexual assault and attitudes that promote such behaviors. Leaders will ensure that each and every individual understands their role in combating this crime.

The Military Departments are now implementing these measures to enhance our response to incidents of sexual assault and will make them a permanent and integral component of military standards of conduct.

Your leadership and emphasis on effecting a concerted, successful implementation of the Department's sexual assault policy are essential.

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