



THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC



SECAF/CSAF Letter to Airmen: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force,

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) is observed nationally in April 2006 with April 6th highlighted as "The Day to End Sexual Violence." Your Air Force leadership has been aggressively addressing this national problem. We will continue to dedicate ourselves to preventing it, and if it occurs, responding deliberately to sexual assault within the Air Force.

Sexual assault is a crime and will be treated as such in our Air Force. Every single Airman is important to the combat capability of our United States Air Force. We value each and every member of our team. Our Core Values are built on themes of respect and mutual dependence. But with sexual assault, everybody loses--the victim, the perpetrator, the entire squadron. It is up to all Airmen to help prevent this heinous crime.

We have made significant strides in our prevention and response efforts over the past year with mandatory awareness training to over 360,000 Airmen, worldwide. Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) and Victim Advocates have been trained and are actively working to educate us on how to prevent this crime, while providing dedicated and caring assistance to its victims. We've implemented a restricted reporting option, which allows Air Force military members who have been sexually assaulted to confidentially receive medical treatment and support without automatically triggering a criminal investigation. Similarly, victims who would like for the case to be investigated can make an immediate unrestricted report, and still receive the support of the sexual assault prevention and response team.

Remember, integrity involves responsibility, accountability and self-respect. Airmen with integrity are dependable and consistent...they behave in a manner that brings credit to themselves, their unit, and the Air Force. Airmen who value their teammates and our Air Force more than their narrow self-interests display fundamental respect for others as well as discipline and self control. Airmen who are committed to excellence apply that standard to their personal lives, community involvement and operational initiatives.

Let us continue our rise to that higher plane where every Airman is treated with respect and protected from harm. Our mission and our Core Values demand nothing less




Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force


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