DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 15TH REGIMENTAL SIGNAL BRIGADE
606 BARNES AVENUE
FORT GORDON GEORGIA 30905-5729

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATZH-TB

28 October 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL ASSIGNED AND ATTACHED MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Policy Letter #10: Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program

1. Reference:

a. AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, 18 March 2008/RAR 20 September 2012, Chap 7 and 8

b. TRADOC Regulation 350-6, June 12, Chap 2.

c. DODD 6495.01.

d. EXORD 221-12, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program Synchronization Order.

e. ALARACT 007/2012, 121650Z JAN 12, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program Implementation Guidance.

f. ALARACT 123/2011, 041214Z APR 11, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Training.

g. MILPER Message 12-092, 21 March 2012.

h. Army Directive 2011-XX 9Expedited Transfer or Reassignment Procedures for victims of Sexual Assault).

i. ALARACT 188/2014

2. This policy applies to all service members and Department of Defense (DOD) personnel within the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade (RSB) units or within units assigned, attached or tenant units to the Brigade. It applies before, during and after duty hours, regardless of location and environment. This policy will remain in effect until rescinded.

3. Sexual Assault is a criminal offense that: degrades mission readiness, devastates a unit's ability to work effectively as a team, and is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

4. Sexual assault and sexual harassment now fall within the parameters of Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program.

a. Sexual Assault is a crime defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

b. Sexual Assault includes rape, forcible sodomy (oral or anal sex), and other unwanted sexual contact, abusive, or wrongful (to include unwanted and inappropriate sexual contact), or attempts to commit these acts.

c. "Consent" means words indicating freely given agreement to the sexual conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent.

(1) Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the accused use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent.

(2) A current or previous dating relationship by itself or the manner of dress of the person involved with the accused in the sexual conduct shall not constitute consent.

5. I expect personnel in my command, supervisory, and leadership positions at every level to be personally committed to and involved in our efforts to eliminate incidents of sexual assault governed by the sexual assault prevention and response program.

6. Commanders must:

a. Eliminate risk-factors which threaten a safe environment throughout the command.

b. Ensure there is an available response system for all victims of sexual assault with prompt, professional, and compassionate care.

c. Ensure that trained SHARP personnel execute prevention and awareness training to their unit.

7. Responsibilities.

a. Soldiers must react immediately to stop assaults before they start and take steps to ensure their battle buddies avoid situations where such assaults occur. It is the duty of each of us as teammates to intervene and protect one another from harassment and the risk of sexual assault.

b. Battalion Commanders will:

(1) Designate a collateral duty SARC and VA to perform Battalion Level Duties and ensure they receive proper training.

(2) Be responsible to provide victims the care and compassion they deserve. Leader involvement is the key to getting victims the care they need to return to health.

8. Commanders and their respective Command Sergeants Major and First Sergeants will complete the provided sexual assault awareness training within the first 45 days of assuming the command position.

9. Unit Organic Sexual Assaults assets must be available to:

a. Execute effective Sexual Assault Training.

b. Manage Unit programs and awareness efforts.

c. Advise commanders and respond to victims.

10. Victims, using either the restricted or unrestricted reporting: Will be paired with the VA/SHARP immediately. The Fort Gordon Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Hotline is available 24 hours per day/7 days per week, CONUS (706) 791-6297, International dial toll free (Dial all 11 numbers) (800) 3429-6477, and international collect (484) 530-5947 for the purpose of victim support, information and referrals.

11. I expect all personnel to be familiar with the DoD Confidentiality Policy and the options of restricted versus unrestricted reporting.

a. The DoD's Confidentiality Policy permits victims of sexual assault to report a crime to specified individuals who can then ensure the victim receives medical care, treatment, advocacy, and counseling without notifying command or law enforcement officials.

b. Covered individuals include the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

(1) Credentialed Victim Advocates (VA/SHARPs)

(2) Healthcare providers

(3) Chaplains

c. Leaders must educate Soldiers on how to access covered individuals without divulging information that might preclude their report from remaining restricted if the reporting option they prefer.

d. Leaders should encourage Soldiers to contact the SARC/VA in order to ensure that the Soldiers make an educated decision regarding their options.

e. All members of this command will be protected from reprisal or retaliation from filing complaints. No employee or Soldier may take or threaten to take an unfavorable personnel action, or to withhold or threaten to withhold a favorable action, in reprisal against any person for filing a complaint.

12. The 15th RSB SARC can be contacted at (706) 791-3816 and the VA can be contacted at (706) 791-8609.

Marcus Reese
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COL, SC
Commanding