

**NEWS RELEASE**

**DEOMI RELEASES 2017 SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS  
AND PREVENTION MONTH (SAAPM) POSTER**

**MARCH 28, 2017**

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In observance of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM), observed each year during the month of April, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) and the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO), announce original artwork available for download from the DEOMI public website [www.deomi.org](http://www.deomi.org), the SAPRO website [www.sapr.mil](http://www.sapr.mil), or via SAPR Connect on [www.milsuite.mil](http://www.milsuite.mil).

SAAPM is recognized in April by both civilian and military communities. The Department of Defense observes SAAPM by focusing on creating the appropriate culture to eliminate sexual assault and requiring a personal commitment from all Service members at every level.

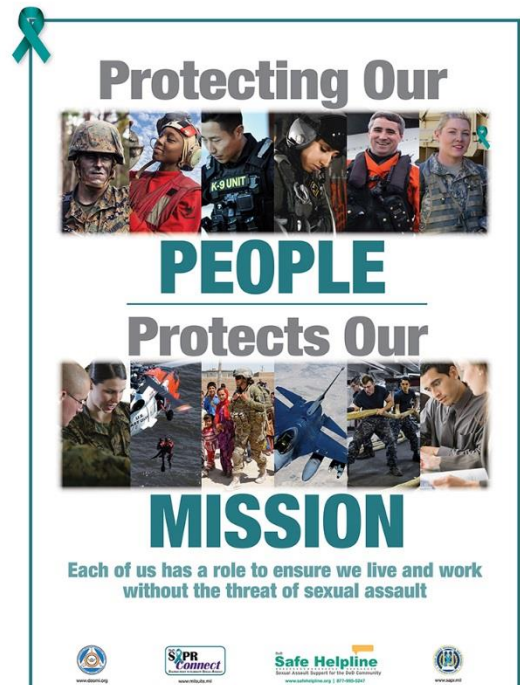
“We all have a part in combating sexual assault, and SAAPM offers an excellent opportunity to focus attention on our individual roles,” said Dr. Suzanne Holroyd, the Senior Prevention Lead at DoD SAPRO. “In addition, SAAPM activities are a great way to extend this message.”

The 2017 theme is: “Protecting Our People Protects Our Mission,” which promotes the following:

**“Protecting our People...”** Each of us has a role in ensuring the men and women around us can live and work free from the threat of sexual assault.

- Each Service member—regardless of rank—must know, understand, and adhere to Service values and standards of behavior in order to eliminate sexual assault and other inappropriate behavior.
- Addressing sexual harassment in a unit is an important step to preventing sexual assaults, since many victims of sexual harassment, especially men, later experience a sexual assault.
- Understanding how to recognize opportunities for intervention is vital to stopping unsafe behavior, to include any form of retaliation.

**“...Protects our Mission.”** In addition to the devastating impact on an individual, a sexual assault can severely impact a unit’s readiness to perform its mission.



- We must encourage positive behaviors by recognizing acts that contribute to a supportive command climate.
- We can protect our mission by ensuring everyone within the Department of Defense is committed to advancing an environment where sexist behaviors, sexual harassment, hazing, bullying, and sexual assault are not tolerated, condoned, or ignored.

The DoD Safe Helpline provides five ways for DoD community members affected by sexual assault to get help. Safe Helpline is confidential, anonymous, secure, and available 24/7 worldwide—providing victims with the help they need. Call the Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247. For more information please visit [www.safehelpline.org](http://www.safehelpline.org).

The SAPR Source webpage (<http://sapr.mil/sapr-source>) serves as a one-stop shop for SARCs, SAPR VAs, and other SAPR professionals to access timely updates on victim assistance and prevention efforts, activities and events, tools and guidance, and important program and policy updates. SAPR Source is updated monthly or as-needed with key information and resources.

All DEOMI Observance Month poster files are in the public domain unless otherwise indicated; however, please credit DEOMI if used. Please note that users may take the hi-resolution poster image file accompanying this news release to a preferred printing facility for display. All poster images are high-resolution and may be used to print posters up to 30 X 40 inches. DEOMI does not have the capability to print posters and mail them out to customers upon request. The DEOMI website offers a wide variety of new products to help EO/EEO professionals in the field with their support of the special observance and awareness months' posters, PowerPoints, and Facts of the Day.

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