



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY EUROPE
UNIT 29351
APO AE 09014-9351

AEPE-RRD

4 April 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR All Army in Europe Military and Civilian Personnel

SUBJECT: 2016 Observance of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

1. The chain of command is the framework for all we do in the Army. No one understands our Soldiers better than the squad leader. This young leader has platoon sergeants, first sergeants, and platoon leaders who he or she coaches, mentors, and provides with purpose and direction. Company commanders understand and influence their Soldiers directly and have battalion and brigade commanders to emulate what "right" looks like. I trust the chain of command to serve our Soldiers and to ensure they remain ready for all our Nation asks them to do.

2. Each year in April, we observe the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM). The Army's focus on the SAAPM provides a special opportunity to develop our leaders and to address a key threat to our readiness.

a. Sexual harassment/assault response and prevention (SHARP) violations can break the bonds of trust and confidence between our Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members. One of my enduring priorities is leader development. The complex issues surrounding SHARP are a chance for chains of command to reinforce their expectations and authority to address sexual assault in their formations and shine the light on unacceptable behavior.

b. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. The chain of command must ensure the safety and security of the USAREUR team so that we can ensure all five pillars of USAREUR thrive. Each unit and environment has its own unique challenges; I have confidence in each unit's chain of command to be creative in developing innovative ideas to combat sexual assault in a manner that makes sense for its team. Your Soldiers trust you, and I am confident that you will step up to this task.

3. I am responsible for the readiness of USAREUR. A component of readiness is ensuring that all USAREUR military and civilian personnel operate in a secure and honorable environment. I expect and trust that our chains of command will address SHARP challenges head-on and eliminate behavior that chips away at the readiness of our great Army. Take care of each other and do the right thing—I know you are up to this task.

4. *Army Strong! Strong Europe!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Hodges", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

FREDERICK "BEN" HODGES
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding